

## FORESHORE

# Wedded bliss for Safe Space couple

**W**edding bells rang at the City's Safe Space for newlyweds Llewellyn Jenniker and Cecilia Absolom, who exchanged vows during a ceremony at the facility in the Foreshore on Tuesday 14 August.

Jenniker is 45 and has been living on the street for 30 years. His bride Cecilia is 42 and has been on the street since the age of 14. They've been together for their entire stay on the streets.

The couple were living in Dock Road before moving to the overnight Safe Space. The facility

opened in July ("City accommodates street dwellers", *People's Post*, 10 July) and has been run on a small scale for two weeks to test the intake system and site operation.

The site is now fully operational, and situated underneath the Culmborg Bridge on the Foreshore, is a transitional shelter facility where up to 230 street people will be able to spend the night. They will also be able to access ablution facilities, water and storage space for their belongings ("Homeless

space opens", *People's Post*, 24 July).

The newlyweds were among the first group of people to start using the facility.

Their 12-year-old son lives with his paternal grandmother and the couple hope to find more permanent accommodation for themselves in due course. For now, they continue to use the facilities and services that the Safe Space offers. Soon, they will also start working via the Expanded Public Works Programme.

"Llewellyn and Cecilia's big day first came up when we officially launched the Safe Space in the latter part of July.

"I'm so happy that now, just a month later, their dream has become a reality. There were a number of people and organisations who committed to help make this day possible and, on behalf of the City, we thank them," says Mayco member for safety, security and social services, JP Smith.

"We will continue to work closely with Llewellyn and Cecilia. They've both been on the streets for a very long time, but they are looking to the future.

"Our Social Development Department is on hand to help guide them and anyone else living on the street along the path of reintegration. This is a fairytale day for the couple and I want to see them have the fairytale ending too."



Llewellyn Jenniker and Cecilia Absolom, who married at the City of Cape Town's Safe Space on Tuesday.

PHOTO: CITY OF CAPE TOWN