



**CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY**  
Established 1881 NPO Reg No 036-264  
**NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2008**

<b>Chief</b> Peter Ross	<b>021 689 9450 (W)</b>
3 Welgelee Road	<b>021 689 9240 (F)</b>
Constantia Hills, 7806	<b>021 712 2506 (H)</b>
<b>Secretary</b> Nicky Ross	<b>021 712 2506 (H)</b>
PO Box 1433	
Cape Town 8000	
<b>Treasurer</b> Lance Wiseman	<b>021 689 2235 (H)</b>
9 Albert Road	<b>021 686 7104 (W)</b>
Mowbray, 7700	<b>021 686 7300 (Fax)</b>
<b>Scribe</b> Nicky Ross	<b>021 712 2506 (H)</b>

Dear Member

The buds are swelling on my vine and the days are lengthening – albeit slowly and a little at a time. There is a promise of better days ahead as we drag ourselves out of the depths of winter. Somehow, when the sun shines, whatever befalls us, should it be less pleasant, feels less dire. So we look forward to good days ahead.

*Now in her green mantle blithe nature arrays,  
And listens the lambkins bleat o'er the braes,  
While birds warble in ilka green shaw.*

*Robert Burns*

### GETTING UP STEAM

*By Bob Jackman*

The River Clyde's startling success in ushering in the 19<sup>th</sup> century steamships began a glorious era that lasted a hundred years.

The outbreak of the **American Civil War** in **1861** did much to increase the industry as the Confederate 'rebels' of the South needed ships with enough speed to outrun the Yankee clippers. Clyde-built steamers were ideal and one day they could be plying peaceful trade between **Dunoon and Rothesay** and the next racing across the Atlantic under hostile fire.

New ships were bought as quickly as they could be built and the Confederates paid handsomely. The Clyde's reputation for shipbuilding grew rapidly and its yards and engine works prospered. From building engines to running them was but a short step and Scots engineers were soon renowned the world over.

When the **Titanic** was sinking, every engineer on board went down to the engine room to provide light and power up on deck for the loading of passengers into the lifeboats. They remained on duty as the doomed ship sank further underwater, even when boiler furnaces spewed their burning coals and steam pipes burst as bulk heads

buckled. Each engineer knew exactly what his ghastly end would be but none left his post.

And so the proud heritage of Clyde-built shipping was born!!

### FROM THE CHIEF

Thank you to members and especially those who came along to the **AGM** for "giving me the rope" to serve as your Chief for a **third term of office!** As I was preparing the Chief's Report (see enclosed) I realised just how many activities there have been in the past year. As someone pointed out to me there was **only one month** when nothing happened! So I am sure another exciting year lies ahead and we hope that **attendances at functions** will all be good. That is where you fit in!

There are several **outgoing Council members** this year. While we are deeply indebted to each of them there are two who I would like to pay special tribute to in this newsletter, for contributing so much of their time and effort. In many ways the **newsletter is singularly the most important** aspect of our Society as it serves as our primary communication mouthpiece. The newsletter which you are now reading is **Scribe Margaret Currie's** last. Her writing style has always been **friendly, informative and flowing**. Being such a wonderful artist I am sure helped her to express herself in an easy going style. **Many, many thanks Margaret!**

Someone else who has contributed so much is **Chieftain and Honorary Padre Myra Horn**. Myra who is standing down due to many other commitments has always shown **100% dedication** to any project she engaged, and there have been several. She has worked tirelessly at bringing our **membership records** up-to-date. In addition to being a great entertainer at some of our

functions, she has also been the primary link between the Society and yourselves, always having a **sympathetic ear, offering support and willing to give advice** in a relaxed and unrushed way. So important in this fast paced world that we live in! **Thank you Myra for being our Honorary Padre.** You have played a really wonderful role and I am not sure what we will do without you!

Sincere thanks in no small measure also go to the **other Councillors** who have stood down this year, for all of their efforts, in particular, **Mieke Gordon, Mary Moodie, Helen Johnston** and **Ian McWalter.** I am sure that each one of you will continue to make yourselves available to help if required. Please stay close to your phones!

Your Lady President, Nicky, attended a **Celtic Service** last Sunday. Here is a **Celtic Blessing** especially for you:

***Deep peace of the running wave to you  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you  
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.***

Hope to see you at the whisky tasting. Lekker!

Yours aye,  
Peter

### **FUNCTIONS**

We thank those of you who gave of your time to come out to the **Special** and **Annual General Meetings** and take part in the important business to be dealt with. Although still very cold, it was mercifully not as brutally cold a day as last year. All the proposed amendments to the constitution were passed with minor changes to two of the amendments. In line with the amendments agreed to, provisionally reviewed financial statements for 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 were tabled and the incoming Council was

given the mandate to approve the financial statements once finalised. A financial summary will be sent to members once this is done.

The following were elected to Council:

**Chief & Lady President:** Peter & Nicky Ross

**Treasurer:** Lance Wiseman

**Secretary & Scribe:** Nicky Ross

**Chieftain:** Narina Gilder

**Councillors:** Vicki MacKenzie, Trish Meyer, Stuart & Colleen Rennie, and Pam Sandenbergh – portfolios to be finalised at the first Council meeting in August.

We express our heartfelt thanks to those of you who have just accepted a year of service for the Society and also to those who have remained in office carrying the flag for another year. It is a selfless undertaking, one for which the only reward is to see the continued existence of the Society in a very different world from that which gave it birth. We owe a debt of gratitude to all who are prepared to undertake this task – let us not forget this!

### **WHISKY TASTING**

**Date** Thursday 4 September 2008

**Venue** Palmyra Room, Kelvin Grove, Newlands

**Time** 18h30 for 19h00

**Cost** R40 per person for the tasting

Those of you who recall a similar event last year in the historic surroundings of the Castle will endorse how much the evening was enjoyed. This time **Jack Hetherington**, Brand Ambassador for **Glenmorangie**, will be our host as we explore the history of the range of malts born in the **Glen of Tranquility.** The skirl of pipes will add to the atmosphere and a selection of light snacks will be served. A meal at our own cost will be available at the Barn when the whisky has given out. See you there. Book early as 60% of available tickets are already sold! **Please call Peter at work on 021 689 9450 or on his cellphone (083**

302 3791) or alternatively Nicky on (021) 712 2506.

### FUTURE FUNCTIONS

**Kirkin' of the Chief** – 28 September

**Chief's at Home** – 26 October

**St Andrew's Nicht** – 29 November/6 December.

All are still in the planning stage and details will be supplied in future newsletters.

### TRANSPORT

Should you require transport to functions, please telephone our Secretary, **Nicky Ross** at **021 712 2506** to arrange this.

### PINELANDS SOCIETY

The news from our kindred society, **Pinelands Caledonian Society** is not good. **Lady President Ann Miller** is still in poor health and our thoughts and prayers are with her and **Chief Shirley** at this very trying time for them. In addition, **Gordon Wallace's wife, Mary, and their son** are both having major surgery later this month so please keep their family in your thoughts as well.

### CLAN LAMONT

This tartan is worn by Chieftain **Narina Gilder** and her late husband, **Stewart**. The clan was, traditionally, founded by **Ferchar**, who lived about the time of **1200**. In the year **1238** we find his son **Duncan** and grandson **Lauman** granting to the monks of **Paisley the Church of Kilfinan** "*with its patronage as well as those three half-penny lands which they and their ancestors had at **Kilmun***". The clan moved on and at one time owned the greater part of **Cowal** and are known as a clan of great antiquity.

*Crest* – a dexter hand couped at the wrist proper.

*Supporters* – Two savages wreathed about head and middle with laurel and holding in

their exterior hands clubs resting on their shoulder all proper.

*Arms* – azure, a lion rampant argent.

*Lyon Register* – XX, 24:XXXIX, 116

### MEMBERS' NEWS

We congratulate **Phyllis Cruickshank** on a remarkable achievement next month, reaching the great age of **90**. Phyllis has been an active member of the Society, serving in various capacities, as required, with her late husband, **Noel**, and in her own right. We salute you, Phyllis, thank you for all you have been to us. We love you for your strength and generosity of spirit.

We extend congratulations to **Chelsea Farrely**, granddaughter of **Duncan and Rose MacMillan**, who recently celebrated her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. She has been a junior member of the Society since she was a wee, wee lass – so now we take much pleasure in welcoming her as a full member. *May the best ye've ever seen be the worst ye'll ever see.*

Welcome back to **Helen Johnston** who has just returned from her annual visit overseas. We hope to see you at one of our functions soon.

Both **Margaret Currie** and **Edith MacNab** have fallen foul of the nasty 'flu bug doing the rounds at present. Hope you, and anyone else down with the 'flu, will soon be fighting fit again!

On one of our particularly cold, wet winter days **Mieke** kept herself occupied by clearing out her archives. She uncovered the dates of three sets of wedding anniversaries which fall around now – so further congratulations are in order – to the following members: **Past Provincial Chief and Lady President Stuart and Colleen Rennie** who have just celebrated their 37<sup>th</sup> (if I am correct); **Past Chief and Lady President of the**

**Federation Duncan and Rose MacMillan** their 55<sup>th</sup> and **Isobel and Gilly Potter** their 49<sup>th</sup>. We wish them all many happy years together in the future.

### JUST FANCY THAT!

Leading Nazi's were obsessed with medieval legends, while members of the **Thule Society**, a Teutonic antiquarian group that flourished under the Third Reich, made regular visits to **Roslyn Chapel** near **Edinburgh** throughout the 1930's because they were convinced the *Holy Grail* was encased in the building's **Apprentice Pillar**. One believer was **Rudolf Hess** whose nickname was **Parsifal**, after the Wagnerian knight who went in search of the myth-enshrouded chalice used by Christ at the last supper.

### FOR SALE

Girl's McLachlin tartan skirt. Excellent condition. Price R200, ono. To enquire, please phone Nicky Ross at 021 712 2506.

### A SMILE

Classroom Clangers

1. In 1314 King Robert the Bruce won the Bannock of Battle burn.
2. The Highland Clearances were a big sheep sale in the North of Scotland.
3. After Culloden Prince Charlie wandered the moors disguised as a pheasant.
4. We hear that the Highland Fling is **not** an Aberdonian under the influence casting his bawbees out into the street.
5. During the Black Hole of Calcutta one hundred and forty six men were confined all night with one widow. In the morning only 23 staggered forth alive – and they were romantic with thirst.

From your Chief, Lady President and Council we say -

Keep warm and dry  
*And lang may yer lum reek.*

**And your (outgoing!) scribe – Margaret Currie**

