

CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Established 1881 NPO Reg No 036-264

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2006

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Dear Member

Our beautiful city is in festive mode - her customary end of the year *party time*. Adderley Street is ablaze with glittering lights and Christmas carols can be heard on all sides. Let's forget the many trials and tribulations which have assailed us during the past year and wish her a Blessed Christmas with the accent on *Blessed*.

EDINBURGH 'TULZIES'

Clan feuding was common in old Scotland, in both the glens of the Highlands and along the sweet valleys of the Borders, but occasionally the conflicts were continued in the closes and wynds of the Capital. To the citizens of Edinburgh these encounters were known as *tulzies* whether they involved only two duellists or scores of armed men and in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries they reached their peak.

Perhaps this was because of the general lawlessness created by the breakup of the **Clan Donald Federation** in the West and the **Black Douglas** in the South - or perhaps Edinburgh was becoming more recognised as a place to settle disputes, civil or otherwise. Whatever the reason, *tulzies* became one more hazard to add to the burden of the good neighbours of Edinburgh.

At this time Edinburgh was hemmed in by the **Flodden Wall** with defensive lochs to the North and the **Netherbrow Port** separating the burgh from the **Canongate**. A city of tall tenements, narrow wynds and closes sloping down from the High Street ridge to **Cowgate** and the **West Bow** and curving steeply from **Castlehill** to the **Grassmarket**. There was not much space to in the *auld town* of Edinburgh. (To be continued)

FROM THE CHIEF

I am sure that those of you who were able to join us for St Andrews Nicht on 2 December at Kelvin Grove will agree that it was a memorable evening. Thanks to those councilors who helped in a number of ways behind the scenes. Well done to our able MC Will Carter and expert guest speaker Brian Ingpen who spoke on matters maritime. Many of us would have liked a bit more detail on the Society's history in the course of the evening especially seeing this was our 125th anniversary. Anyway this is a great subject to include in our future newsletters as it is really interesting. A pity about the disappointing turn-out (80 persons in total) as we would have loved to have more than 100 present! A lot of effort went into promoting the event from being interviewed on radio, posters in libraries to a juicy article and photograph being featured in some of the community newspapers. It was wonderful having the Duk family there and I am pleased to say that Frank and Maaike have since joined the Society as new members.

We are now actively promoting Burns Nicht which will be held at the end of January – see details below. This is being held at a different venue to keep our pricing reasonable. This will be a fun

evening to commemorate our bard so please come along. As usual visitors will be most welcome. Haggis will be served as a starter. Don't fret - if you prefer to decline this superb dish, you definitely will not go hungry as there will be much more in store!

Council and I have decided to defer the planned think-tank session to the new year (probably around February) when we will all hopefully have fresh legs. You will be kept informed of the outcomes. In the meantime if you have any thoughts and ideas on what the Society should do to attract more members and to promote more participation / attendance at our functions please drop me a line or give me a call. All my contact details are at the top of this newsletter so I am very accessible! I am of the opinion that increasing our membership is one of the key ways to getting better attendance at our functions. So we need all of you, our members, to play a role in this endeavour. Encourage those friends with Scottish surnames, connections or interests to come along to one of our functions.

FUNCTIONS

The Pensioners' Lunch

A group of *not so young* happy members of the Society gathered on Saturday 11 November at the gracious home of our Chief and Lady President to enjoy time together. Not having gathered like this for a few years you can imagine how much catching up there was to be done. We were served a delicious lunch and treated as Kings and Queens for a day. We express our heartfelt gratitude to all who worked so hard, in any way, whatsoever, to make it all happen. A day to remember!

BURNS' NICHT

Date Saturday 27 January 2007

Venue Gardens Presbyterian Church Hall (151 Hatfield Street, Cape Town)

Time 07h00 for 07h30

Tickets R85 per person

AFTERNOON OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Date Sunday 17 December 2006

Venue Gardens Presbyterian Church

Time *To be obtained*

Gardens Presbyterian Church invites everyone to attend an **Afternoon of Christmas Music** on Sunday 17 December. Varied items will be presented and refreshments served after the function. A collection in aid of the **Social Concern Fund** will be taken.

WESTERN CAPE HIGHLAND GATHERING

Date Saturday 7 April 2007

We draw your attention to the above forthcoming event and request your assistance and support to make it a resounding success. There will be the usual competitions between the various Pipe Bands and Highland Dancers from around the country. We shall, of course, be rooting enthusiastically for Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band led by Pipe Major Tony Reis. There will be several stalls with items for sale and lots of food and liquid refreshment. Gatherings are hungry and thirsty events! We ask you to put your thinking caps on and think of what you can do which will be a meaningful contribution. Please telephone our secretary with the good news! .

PINELANDS SOCIETY

To follow

We remind those of you who require transport to functions that we are always on hand with lifts. Please telephone our Secretary, **Ian McWalter**, at **021 685 6000 (a/h)** to arrange this.

MEMBERS' NEWS

With great sadness we tell of the passing of **Wally Smith**, a staunch supporter of the Society together with his wife **Audrey**. Wally had a severe stroke about two years ago and made a remarkable recovery. He attended the Chief's At Home, smiling and happy as always. To meet him along life's way has been a blessing. We shall miss his smiling presence and extend our condolences to Audrey and the family.

We hear also of **Beryl Guthrie** who, with her late husband **Gordon**, gave so much to the Society for many years. She has reached her **96th** birthday and we salute her. She has also broken her hip, so this greeting includes our best wishes that she be more comfortable.

Audrey Young has also been in the wars again; she recently fell and broke an arm, but is now recovered.

Eleanor Wiseman has been having a difficult time with her leg. We send her best wishes.

Past Chief, **Lance Wiseman**, has also had some health problems and faces a busy 2007 with training and examinations to qualify as a judge of cats. We wish him well on both counts.

At the moment we seem to be the walking wounded. Lets hope our news is soon much more cheerful - perhaps some good exam results.

Hurrah! Some cheerful news was gleaned at the Pensioners' lunch.

Norma Harris was unable to attend as she was called to Johannesburg to meet her new great grandchild. Congratulations, Norma!

In the same vein we hear **Richard Young** has recently become a grandfather. What a joy! He is very keen to fly to the UK to meet the little lad. Congratulations, Richard.

A GAELIC LULLABY

(For both babies)

*Grey falls the mist on the crest of the mountain,
Deep fall the shadows on moorland and lea;
Dark roll the waters of torrent and fountain,
Gloomy the pass into lonely Glen Shee.*

Despite the scary undertones our intention is to cheer and comfort.

We remind you of the wonderful Christmas gift of membership of the Society for your friends and relatives. Please contact **Nicky Ross at 021 712 2506** for more detail.

Don't forget to contact me with your news. We really appreciate being kept up to date.

BURSARIES

We draw your attention to the fact that it is now time to think about application for the bursary for tertiary education . For further information please telephone the **Chief at 021 712 2506 (a/h)**.

BAG PIPES

Courtesy of Mieke Gordon

The Zulu word for a piper is *ululu bulala ikati* - the one who is killing the cat!

On Mieke's journey next to the lighthouse in **Corunna** a piper was playing a lament - perhaps for a large number of horses shot on the beach by the British due to a lack of hammers and nails when Corunna was abandoned during the **Peninsula War** in **1809**.

TABLE MOUNTAIN

With acknowledgement to Peter MacKenzie of Burnt Island

I can only think of one mountain known as the above - our own well-loved beautiful mountain - but found the following interesting. I hope you do.

Peter says "Whilst sailing by yacht to visit **Ailsa Craig** we dropped anchor off the Craig and went ashore by dinghy. We decided to race to the summit and, as we reached our goal, we were surprized to see a large helicopter from **HMS Gannet** appear in view with dangling from the undercarriage a large snooker table. After skilful manoeuvring it winched the table onto a relatively flat surface on the summit - then returned to the mainland to pick up a troupe of Boy Scouts taking part in a 24 hour

game of snooker to raise funds for a new kidney unit in a West of Scotland hospital. We hoped the gannets didn't mistake the cue ball for one of their eggs!"

We remind you again that we are very happy to receive your contributions for the newsletter.

With season's greetings from your Chief, Lady President and Council,

And your Scribe