



Cape Town Caledonian Society

Established 1881 Reg. No 036-264-NPO

NEWSLETTER JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2009

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

Dear Members,

As this is our first newsletter this year, Happy New Year, and if we have not seen you yet this year we hope you had a happy festive season! We were so busy in January with our Burns Night that we decided to combine the January and February newsletters into one!

As you all January was the month in which we celebrated 250 years since the birth of Robert Burns. Just in case you were not able to attend our Burns Night, he was born in Alloway on the 25th January 1759, where his father was a gardener and later became a tenant farmer. After his father's death in 1784 the family moved to a farm near Mauchline. This is where Burns started to write in earnest and his first volume 'Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect' was published in Kilmarnock in 1780.

While in Edinburgh in 1786-87 he was asked to collect, write and re-arrange two volumes of songs set to traditional Scottish tunes. These volumes, James Johnson's Scots Musical Museum and George Thomson's Select Scottish Airs, contain the bulk of his songwriting and it is on them that Burns' international reputation rests, with Auld Lang Syne, Coming through the Rye to name but a few. He died in Dumfries on 21st July 1796, at the young age of 37.

FEEDBACK REGARDING FUNCTIONS HELD

For the second time in the space of two months members gathered at Rondebosch Golf Club to celebrate the life of someone else whose very image is so representative of our Scottish traditions. Firstly it was Scotland's patrons St Andrew and now more recently probably the best known Scotsman of all time, Robert Burns. A fabulous night was held thanks to those who played a role, as performers or otherwise. Renfrew Christie was our very capable MC - at short notice. The Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band performed excellently, Hugh Veitch did the Address to the Haggis ably assisted by whisky and haggis bearers Jason and Fiona Lightfoot, new members Peter and Anne McLeod parried with one another in the Toast to the Lassies and the Reply, John Williams sang most beautifully to the accompaniment of our Past Honorary Padre Myra Horn and last but definitely not least a well sculpted Immortal Memory by Past Chief Lance Wiseman. What a delightful evening – such a pity if you did not make it!

SOME MEMBERS NEWS

Fiona Macfarlane, the eldest of Keith and Carol Macfarlane's three daughters, who has for the past four years been the managing partner of Ernst & Young's Canadian tax practice, has now been appointed the head of the Ernst & Young's tax practice for the Americas - Canada, the US, the Caribbean, Mexico, central and South America. Her husband, Iain Morris, is a partner at Pricewaterhouse Coopers. Their daughter Kate was the under-11 Canadian climbing champion. The eldest Macfarlane grand daughter, 16-year-old Caitlin Cooke, who lives in South Queensferry just outside Edinburgh, plays the violin in the Bathgate orchestra. Having finished her A levels she is due to leave school at the end of June. Quite a family with many achievements to their credit! You must be very proud, Keith and Carol!

Come on members, drop us a line with some of your news. An email to pross@iafrica.com or even snail mail will do!

BIRTHDAYS – JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Happy Birthday to the following members:

January	February
Edna Higgins 8 th Audrey Smith 8 th Narina Gilder 14 th Alfred Husband 22 nd	Will Carter 10 th Chelsea McMillan 21st Gloria McWalter 16th

FUTURE FUNCTIONS

VIDEO EVENING

Do come and join us on **Saturday 7 March, 2009** for a relaxing evening to watch the **2008 Edinburgh Tattoo**. (Please note that we changed the date to be week later than that previously advised as the Cambrians will be celebrating St Davids Day on 28 February and some of us will be there to join them!)

Some excerpts from the recent **SA Tattoo** will be shown as the curtain raiser. The venue will be at the Ross's home, **3 Welgelee Road, Constantia Hills**. (This is off Firgrove Way which can be accessed from Ladies Mile Circle). Some tasty fish and chips will be served. The evening will start at **18h30 and the cost will be R35.00 per person**, payable at the door. Please phone Lady President Nicky without delay on 021 712 2506 to book your place!

SENIORS' LUNCH

The Seniors' lunch is being planned for either the last Saturday (28th) of March or the first Saturday in April (4th). Details regarding date, time and venue are still being finalised but these will be included in our next newsletter and the invitation which will be sent to these very important members of our Society!

OTHER FUTURE FUNCTIONS

Our Provincial Chieftain, Sandra Rankin, of East London, has been in contact with our Chief, Peter, to discuss dates for the visits to our Society by herself and our Federation Chief, Norma Craven. The following dates are accordingly scheduled to host these two important personalities:

- ❖ Provincial Chieftain's function – Saturday 18 April, 2009.
- ❖ Federation Chief's function – Saturday 6 June, 2009.

We ask members to show their support for these functions. We are planning a good night of Scottish entertainment for both functions and will try to keep costs reasonable. Jot these dates down in the diary in the meantime. We encourage you and your friends to come to both functions to really get into the Scot's spirit. We are still looking at a whisky tasting and a Kindred Society quiz – hopefully on different dates! The Cambrians and the Irish say they are ready and waiting so let's get ready to give them a good Braveheart walloping!

FROM THE CHIEF

We wish to welcome Peter and Anne McLeod as new members of our Society who have settled in Fish Hoek. They join us from the Bloemfontein Caledonian Society where they were previously Chief and Lady President. In addition they are Past Provincial Chieftain and Lady President of the Free State and Past Federation Chief and Lady President. We bid them a hale and hearty welcome

and all the best for their first Cape winter! We are indeed very pleased that you have joined us.

And now for a little snippet from Past Chief Bob Ritchie entitled "Wha's Like Us?"

The average Englishman in the home he call his castle slips into his national costume, a shabby raincoat, patented by Chemist Charles Macintosh from Glasgow, Scotland.

En-route to his office he strides along the English lane, surfaced by John Macadam of Ayr, Scotland.

He drives an English car fitted with tyres invented by John Boyd Dunlop, Veterinary Surgeon of Dreghorn, Scotland.

At the office he receives the mail bearing adhesive stamps invented by John Chalmers, Bookseller and Printer of Dundee, Scotland.

During the day he uses the telephone invented by Alexander Graham Bell, born in Edinburgh, Scotland. At home in the evening his daughter pedals her bicycle invented by Kirkpatrick Macmillan, Blacksmith of Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

He watches the news on television, an invention of John Logie Baird of Helensburgh, Scotland, and hears an item about the U.S. Navy founded by John Paul Jones of Kirkbean, Scotland.

Nowhere can an Englishman turn to escape the ingenuity of the Scots.

He has by now been reminded too much of Scotland and in desperation he picks up the Bible, only to find that the first man mentioned in the good book is a Scot, King James VI, who authorized its translation.

He could take to drink but the Scots make the best in the world.

He could take a rifle and end it all, but the breech-loading rifle was invented by Captain Patrick Ferguson of Pitfours, Scotland.

If he escaped death, he could find himself on an operating table injected with penicillin, discovered by Sir Alexander Fleming of Darvel, Scotland, and given chloroform, an anaesthetic discovered by Sir James Young Simpson, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist of Bathgate, Scotland.

Out of the anaesthetic he would find no comfort in learning that he was as safe as the Bank of England founded by William Paterson of Dumfries, Scotland.

Perhaps his only remaining hope would be to get a transfusion of guid Scottish blood which would entitle him to ask:

"Wha's Like Us?"

Two blondes living in Oklahoma were sitting on a bench talking, and one blonde says to the other, 'Which do you think is farther away... Florida or the moon?'

The other blonde turns and says 'Hellooooooooooooo, can you see Florida ?????'

From your Chief, Lady President and Council

And your scribe.