



Cape Town Caledonian Society

Established 1881 Reg. No 036-264-NPO

JULY & AUGUST 2009 NEWSLETTER

Chief Peter Ross	021 689 9450 (W)
2 Tweed Road	021 689 9240 (Fax) / Email: peter@activpro.co.za
Newlands 7700	021 712 2506 (H)
Secretary Nicky Ross	021 712 2506 (H) / Email: pross@iafrica.com
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) / Email: pross@iafrica.com

Dear Members,

The Trossachs are often described as the Highlands in miniature. The Trossachs area boasts a magnificent diversity of scenery, with dramatic peaks and mysterious forest-covered slopes. It is a country ripe for stirring up tales of brave kilted clansmen like Rob Roy McGregor, the seventeenth-century outlaw. The Trossachs normally translated as either “bristly country” or “crossing place” originally referred to the wooded glen between Loch Katrine and Loch Achray, but today it is taken as being the whole area from Callander right up to the eastern banks of Loch Lomond. Sir Walter Scott’s novels Lady of the Lake and Rob Roy were set in and around the area.

The area is very popular with hikers and mountain-bikers who enjoy the easily accessible richness of scenery. Autumn is a better time to visit the area, when the hills are covered in rich, rusty colours and the crowds are thinner!

News from Mieke Gordon – the EU has banned the use of seal products thus bringing to an end sporrans which have been made from sealskins for more than 100 years. Efforts to replace the skins with synthetic materials have not worked well. The chairman of the Kilt Makers’ Association, Duncan Chisholm, was quoted saying that manufacturers would probably have to switch to pony hair and rabbit skins. (Perhaps they should ask our member, Will Carter, of Staghorn, what animal skins he uses for his thriving sporran business!)

MEMBERS NEWS

Sadly, two of our long-standing members passed away in June. They were Frank McWalter on the 19th June and Eleanor Wiseman on the 28th June. Our condolences go to their families.

A thank you letter has been received from Gloria, Ian and Gwynne McWalter on behalf of their family thanking the Society for their thoughts and wishes and the lovely pot-plant.

Past Chief Lance Wiseman would like to extend his thanks for all the phone calls, cards and flowers that were received from members of the society on the passing of his mother, Eleanor. The support and kindness shown by the Society is appreciated at this time.

An e-mail was received from Frank and Maaïke Duk to say how much they enjoyed a very happy and memorable evening, when we celebrated the visit of the Federation Chief, Norma Rankin. Yes indeed it was a lovely evening and we so enjoyed seeing so many members at the function.

Member Peter Odendaal writes that he is currently teaching three grade 9 youngsters to play the bagpipes, at Parel Vallei High School. Still early days, but he thought he should be pro-active and start looking for good used bagpipes for them! He has asked if anyone has or knows of anyone who has bagpipes for sale could they please contact him on 021 8534473 or cell 083 6598246. Keep up the good work Peter, this is fantastic! When you feel they are ready to have a blow at one of our functions let us know. We should really encourage these youngsters!

FUTURE EVENTS & FUNCTIONS

Annual General Meeting

Yes indeed it is that time of the year again when we get together for the AGM to elect the new Council. A notice will be included with this mailing but briefly the details are as follows:

- Date: Saturday 29 August, 2009.
- Time: 09h30 sharp
- Venue: Claremont Congregational Church Hall, Main Road Claremont (next to Claremont public gardens)

Please do come along. The Society needs your support and participation. We are hoping to attract some new younger members onto Council and it will be a great opportunity for you to meet them. Please note: We expect proceedings and the tea that follows to end by 11h30 in time for you to get home to watch the rugby so do not be concerned!

Chief's at Home and Kirkin' of the Chief

An afternoon tea is being planned as the Chief's at Home to celebrate the election of the next Chief of our Society. This is likely to be held on Saturday afternoon 19 or 26 September. The Kirkin' of the Chief the following Sunday morning will then take place as well. More details in our next newsletter which will be despatched in early September.

Federated Caledonian Society Congress:

Congress for the Caledonian Societies of SA will be held at Carnival City in Gauteng from the 9-11 October 2009. If any of our members wish to go please contact the Chief for further details. Bookings are still open.

Kindred Society Evening

For sometime we have been speaking to our Kindred Societies about doing a joint evening. Well, last week a convening committee representing your Society, Pinelands Caledonian Society, Cambrians Society, the Male Welsh Voice Choir and the Irish SA Association got together and the project is on it's way! We will be reconvening again shortly to wrap up the details once everyone has done their bit of research. Briefly however the following has been agreed:

- A date in either mid or late October has been agreed
- A venue seating approximately 150 people is being sought
- Each Society / Association will be responsible for entertainment in a proportionate slot in the evening's programme so be assured that there will be plenty of variety!
- Each Society / Association will market the event amongst it's members. With 5 organisations participating this means that seats will be limited to about 30 persons each from each. Talk about hen's teeth!
- Guests will be bring their own eats, drinks and glasses which means that ticket prices are going to be really low (definitely below R50 each!)

This function will be advertised in our next newsletter which will be despatched early September. Get ready to book fast to avoid disappointment!

St Andrew's Nicht

Another important function in our calendar, this is planned to be held on Saturday 28 November. More details will follow in the next newsletter. Please keep this date diarised in the meantime.

Burns Supper

Yes the functions for the next few months continue unabated. Burns Supper is scheduled to be held on Saturday 23 January, 2010, two day before the Bard's birthday on 25 January.

FROM YOUR CHIEF

Well I suppose that you can say that things have been a bit quiet from your Society over the past 2 months or so. I think we all needed a bit of a winter break because we had quite a hectic schedule before that!

Anyway things are not always quite what they seem and in fact a lot has been happening with regard to the functions that lie ahead of us on the calendar as evidenced by the Events and Functions summary above!

While we have been holding back to get more clarity on the future plans we really need to get this long overdue newsletter out now so I will try and refrain from being too verbose!

One event that is not reflected above is the Western Cape Highland Gathering which will be held on Easter Saturday 3 April which returns to Cape Town in 2010, the same year as the FIFA Soccer World Cup. Pity we cannot access some of their marketing budgets to promote the Gathering. The Gathering is held in Cape Town every third year as Port Elizabeth and East London each get their turn to host the event. The organising committee has just held their first meeting to start planning the event. This is a joint event organised by us together with Pinelands Caledonian Society, the Judy Lucas School of Highland Dancing and the Cape Town Caledonian Pipeband.

We will be pushing for some big corporate sponsorship for this event as this will go along way into making it a success. If any of our members are interested in participating on the Organising Committee please let me know.

BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

10th – Colleen Rennie (a big one this year!)

Definitely a quite month for birthdays amongst our members but three cheers to Colleen who celebrates her 60th!

From your Chief, Lady President and Council

And your scribe.