



CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Established 1881 NPO Reg No 036-264

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2007

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Dear Member

It's wild and woolly outside right now – a good old Cape winter storm with the wind howling and the rain lashing down. What a contrast to the perfectly still golden and blue autumn days we enjoyed just a week ago. As in life, we take the rough with the smooth which, I suppose, is why the Stormers didn't feature in the rugby final in Durban. However, a South African team won – and that's great!

TWELVE LADIES WITH STRONG LEGS

M Dunlop

"I understand you require a table for twelve ladies with strong legs", read part of an email from the organiser of a choral event, to **Sgioba Luaidh Inbhirchluaidh**, (*Inverclyde Waulking Group*). Waulking is not a spelling mistake and has nothing to do with strong feminine legs – although it does require a strong table. Waulking is the process of finishing newly-woven cloth by thumping it to shrink and soften it. In the Highlands and the Islands this was women's work and songs were used to help keep the rhythm and brighten what was a long and arduous task. To shrink a piece of Harris tweed took several hours. A *Waulking* was an important social occasion eagerly anticipated as a chance to get together with friends and catch up on all the gossip, an occasion for fun and banter.

This is a very ancient tradition, some of the songs being centuries old, but it is only in Gaelic culture that songs were used, although this method of refining the cloth was common to all civilisations where cloth was woven. **Sgioba Luaidh** hopes to raise awareness of a precious part of our heritage. We wish them well!

FROM THE CHIEF

It is with great sadness that we inform our members of the very sad passing away of Hon Colonel Denzil Loveland of the Cape Town Highlanders. Denzil played an enormous role in our Society over the years and we will be paying tribute to him in our next newsletter but in the meantime express our condolences to his wife, Bobby, and the Loveland family.

Our deepest sympathy also goes to Ian Aldcorn and his wife on the tragic passing away of their son in Aberdeen, Scotland. They have just left for Scotland to attend the funeral. Ian served on Council for a few years. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

We would like to make an earnest appeal to members to attend more functions and to participate more actively in the Society. Council are giving voluntarily of their time in managing the Society's affairs and the setting up and convening of events. It is really disheartening when Council members have to get on their phones to drum up support to boost attendances. Without reasonable attendances events will often run at a loss which is demotivating for the convenors.

Your Council currently consist of 9 members. This is the smallest number, as far as I know, in the history of the Society. We need some more support and participation in Council, not only so that the load can be shared but so that new ideas and enthusiasm can be nourished. I will be standing for re-election as your Chief and if successfully re-elected would like to see the implementation of the various exciting strategies identified at our strategic plan session in February. So please diarise our AGM which is dealt with below and give serious consideration to making yourself available. I am sure that an exciting year lies ahead for the Society!

For those who have not already done so, I would like to remind members to pay their annual subscriptions which went out with the May newsletter. This is an important part of the Society's income. To send out reminders costs money. So please move this into your priority file!

Yours aye,
Peter

FUNCTIONS

Video Evening

Date 22 June

Time 19h00 for 19h30

Venue 3 Welgelee Road, Constantia Hills (Home of the Chief and Lady President)

Cost R25

This has been planned as a cosy, relaxed evening in the company of our *ain folk*. The curtain-raiser will be a video of our recently held Western Cape **Highland Gathering** followed by the main feature, the **Edinburgh Tattoo 2006**. Soup and rolls will be served. Booking is expected to be brisk so please book early to avoid disappointment by phoning **Nicky Ross on 021 712 2506**.

EVENTS IN THE PIPELINE:

Annual General Meeting

Date 28 July

Time 10h00

Venue To be confirmed in the next newsletter, but probably the same as last year (Claremont Presbyterian Church)

August: 26th Kirkin' of the Chief at Gardens Presbyterian Church

August: Whisky Tasting

September: Chief's At Home

October: Federated Caledonian Society of SA Congress, 12 – 14th in Durban

October: Seniors' Lunch

December: St Andrew's Nicht

More details of these functions to follow in our next newsletter. We are engaged in planning the year ahead. Watch this space for further information.

Pinelands

Lunch at Mowbray Golf Club – 24 June. AGM - 10:00 30 June, Pinelands Presbyterian Church Hall. Chief's At Home 28 July. Kirkin' of the Chief 19 August. For further details, please telephone **Anne Miller at 021 591 1499 or Anne Stevenson at 021-554 0302**.

Cape Field Artillery will celebrate their 125th Anniversary this year by a concert in Bellville Civic Centre in August with the Pipe Band and the S.A. Army Band will also be performing along with other artists. Once final details are to hand all will be advised.

Should you require transport to functions please telephone our Secretary, **Ian McWalter**, at **021 685 6000 (a/h)** to arrange this.

NEW MEMBERS

With much pleasure we welcome **Sharon Hyman, Frankie Burt and Gabriel and Louise Athiros** into our Society. Wonderful to have each of you on board! *Come ben the hoose and bide a wee.*

MEMBERS' NEWS

Bon voyage to **Ruth MacGregor-Clarke** who has left on her annual visit to the UK. Ruth is a swallow who follows the sun with regularity. *Haste ye back*, Ruth!

We send out best wishes to **Bob Ritchie** who served the Society for many years in the capacity of Treasurer, as well as Chief in the past. He has recently undergone a hip replacement and, as he was always a keen mountaineer, we hope he will soon be able to move around comfortably.

Lance and Eleanor Wiseman were both ill recently with the current variety of coughs and colds. I am certain that many more of you are in the same situation, so we send our love and best wishes for a speedy return to health to all who find themselves in this category.

We are most concerned to hear that **Councillor Helen Johnston** has been discharged from a stay in Hospital. Helen has also served the Society for many years, particularly in her organisation of the Seniors' Luncheon. Take care of yourself, Helen. We look forward to seeing you fit and smiling in the near future.

Most of our news this month has been concerned with sickness in the ranks. I'm sure there must be some happy events that have taken place. I would really love you to give me a ring when you have something you would like to share with us, bad or good! Most of the time I have to depend on keeping my ear to the ground.

SCOTTISH SHIPBUILDING A MATTER OF INTEREST

At the turn of the previous century Scotland was building 55% of the world's shipping tonnage. The shipyards were bursting with activity and there was employment for all. The **Clyde** was the most famous river in the history of shipbuilding, according to the **Sunday Post**.

This prosperity was bled through lack of investment. In a **1960's** report a skilled Japanese shipyard worker owned small tools to the value of **£200** whilst his Scottish equivalent owned **£18** worth. The difference in heavy capital investment was gigantic.

British dominance of world markets was awesome but capital, as well as goods, was exported at the expense of home industry – and so the decline began.

Sadly, today the yards are silent! Many unemployed shipyard workers walk the streets of **Glasgow** drawing the dole and losing their self-respect. What a tragedy!

DID YOU KNOW?

John Hunter, born in **East Kilbride 1728**, wrote the natural *History of the Human Teeth* and laid the foundations for dental anatomy and pathology.

There are three place names which contain only two letters – **Oa, Ae and Bu**.

Carrying the bagpipes was considered as much of a crime as carrying arms during the **Jacobite Rebellion**. They were described as an instrument of war!

According to the 1909 census the Scots were the tallest race in Europe. The carnage of the **First World War** changed that and by the **1930's** the average height of men in Scotland had been reduced by 9 inches!

A SMILE

Class Room Clangers – Scottish Style

Please excuse Mary for not being at school this week. I have been upside down with the painters.

In 1314 Robert the Bruce won the Bannock of Battleburn.

Twins are two things which come unexpectedly together.

Insects smoked in the clouds where the worshippers gathered.

For Family Planning couples can use all sorts of different contraptions.

From your Chief, Lady President and Council
May the nourishment of the Earth be yours.
May the clarity of light be yours,
And the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And your scribe