



✠ Cape Town Caledonian Society ✠

Established 1881

Reg. No 036-264-NPO

www.capetowncaledoniansociety.org.za

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June to December 2013 NEWSLETTER



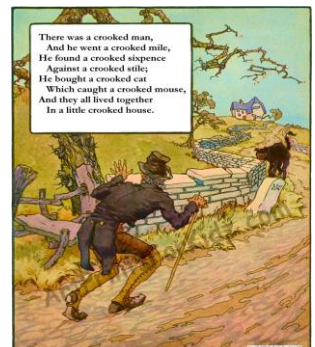
Dear Members and Friends

I've started this newsletter a number of times over the months and now this has to be the one that goes out to you all. It began to get a bit like that song Capetonians know so well, "January, February, March, April, May, June, July....." except that this time it started as June, then July, then August and now on to December instead.

The last Newsletter opened referring to the phrase, "No News is Good News!" Well, as it turned out that may not be such a true statement after all. What do I mean? Well, have you ever heard of the "silent killer"? All of us have the potential to suffer from it but, luckily, some of us experience only a silent "attack" instead. Soon after sending out the March/April/May issue by email I had a "silent attack" but didn't realise it – that's how silent it was!

As the Americans say, *"I'll cut to the chase....."*, I'd suffered a 'small' stroke!!! It's affected my left arm and leg which are still somewhat weak. You all know the kiddies rhyme. *"There was a crooked man...."* Well, that's often what I feel like at times, which is, I assure you, extremely frustrating.

In fact the whole thing is frustrating but I won't let it beat me! However, I have to be sensible and not 'overdo' it and I must 'take it easy' – easier said than done on both counts! All in all, they say I was lucky it wasn't a lot worse. Anyway, you haven't seen the last of me yet.



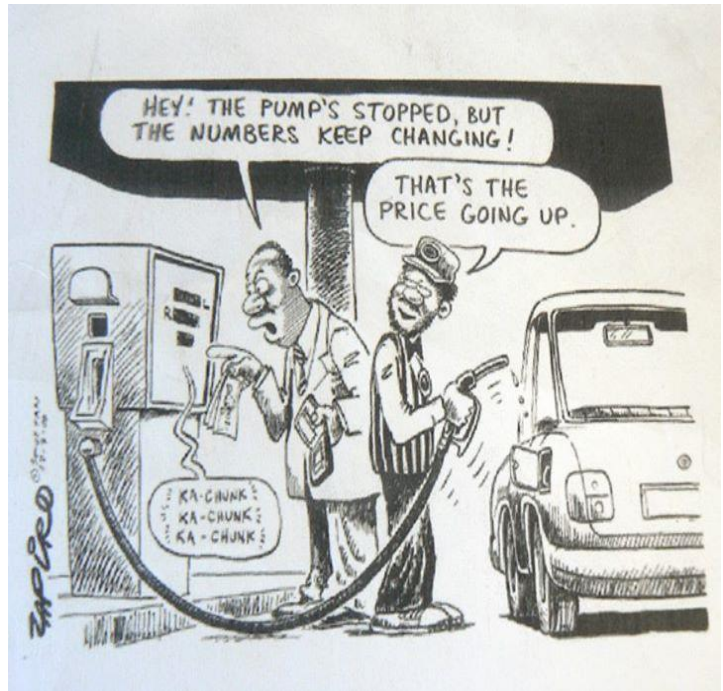
Regarding future editions of the Newsletter I will endeavour to keep you up-to-date with the Society's news, as much as possible, but not with such a long gap in between. Well, after all that let's have a laugh or two:



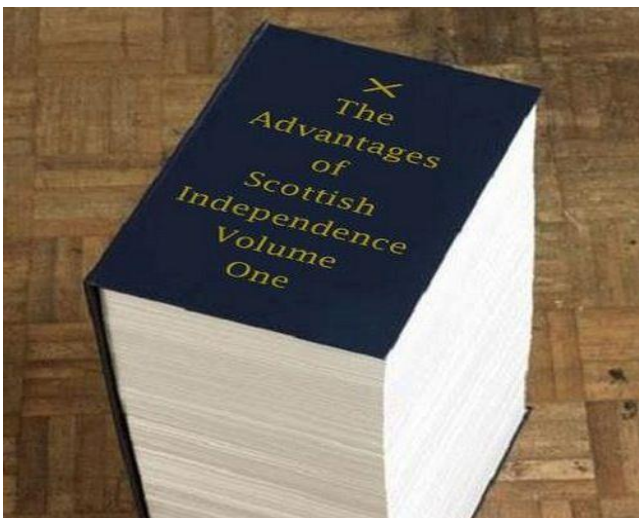
TIME FOR A LAUGH



No Comment!



Even more – No Comment!



(Submitted by Will Carter)



Scottish Ingenuity

At an art auction in Edinburgh, a wealthy American lost his wallet containing £20,000 (R340000). He announced to the gathering that that he would give a reward of £200 to the person who found it.

From the back of the hall a Scottish voice shouted, **“I'll give £250!!”**



MEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS

Since the last Newsletter many of you will have celebrated your Birthday and we hope that you had a simply wonderful day. If you're still looking forward to yours, let it be the best ever. We wish you all very many happy returns. We'll start listing birthdays again in the next Newsletter.



MEMBER'S NEWS

Alistair Ross, son of Nicky Ross and Peter Ross, has, at last “popped the question”!! We wish them well as they plan their wedding and future together. Hopefully there will be some tartan on the big day.

Margaret Currie has been poorly for some time but is now, hopefully, throwing off the shackles of whatever was ailing her. Margaret, we wish you a speedy return to full health. Both Tommi Offret and Vicki Mackenzie have been suffering over the past few months and we hope that you will both soon be over the discomfort you're going through.

Colleen Rennie has just returned from an extended trip in the UK visiting her family. Welcome back Colleen, it's good to have you back with us once again.

Sadly, we have to report the passing away of Doug Geddes and Keith MacFarlane during the past few months. We reach out to both Nana and Carol and their families and extend our condolences to you all.

Will Carter has beautiful new merchandise, both local and imported from Scotland, in stock. If you're still looking for that last minute Christmas or Hogmanay gift call in at Staghorn, 16 Gabriel Road, Plumstead and you won't be disappointed.

Giving a card is not just a Christmas 'thing'. Jacinta, Ina Steyn and Marie Archer make the most delightful cards for all occasions. If you want to send a special message in a special way, call them and they will show you what they can do for you.

Please forgive me if I've left out anyone or any news. Keep in touch and I'll make sure that we let the membership and friends know.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The good life starts only when you stop wanting a better one.

If you want to put the world right, start with yourself!

In spite of the cost of living, it's still popular.

The hardest thing to learn in life is which bridge to cross and which to burn.

Live for today, dream of tomorrow, learn from yesterday.

Life is like playing the bagpipes in public –

and learning the instrument as one goes on.

Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived *forwards*.

It's never too late to be what you might have been.

You only live once, but if you work it right, once is enough!

Life is an occasion to be celebrated.



PAST EVENTS

It seems amazing that, after such an active few months until May (see the last Newsletter) things slowed down so dramatically from then on. I know that my stroke in June put paid to some activities but, with the permission of the medical fraternity, Jacinta and I were able to visit Port Elizabeth and

East London in our dual roles – representing the Society, and as Provincial Chieftain and Lady President – in July.

JULY: We met up with the Federation Chief and Lady President, Gavin and Ida Wilson, in Port Elizabeth and we travelled together to East London. It was the Federation Chief's official visit to both Societies, the Port Elizabeth Scottish Association and the East London Caledonian Society. Our official visit to Port Elizabeth, as Provincial Chieftain and Lady President, was in January, and our official visit to East London was on this trip. I must say that Gavin, Ida, Jacinta and I were royally treated by both Societies and their generosity, friendship and support, as well as all the fun times we had, will be remembered for many a long year by all of us.

Just a little aside – Jacinta and I stopped off in Mossel Bay both ways on this trip. We discovered that there is a Munro Bay, Munro Cottages and even a Munro Manor in Mossel Bay. One of my ancestors must have made an impression there at some time in the past but I have no idea who or when.

AUGUST: In August the Annual General Meeting of the Society was held.

Your elected Council Members for the 2013/2014 term of office are:

Stuart Munro	Chief and Society Scribe
Jacinta Munro	Lady President and Executive Secretary
Jane Mitchell	Administrative Secretary
Janice Duff	Honorary Treasurer
Peter Ross	Senior Chieftain and Society Auditor
Colleen Rennie	Chieftain and Immediate Past Lady President
Heather Hodgson	Chieftain and Website administrator
Andrew Hodgson	Chieftain and Website administrator
Trish Meyer	Councillor

SEPTEMBER: Together with Andrew and Heather Hodgson, we represented the Society at the annual Battle of Britain Service held in the little church in the Naval Dockyard at Simon's Town. It was a very moving and uplifting service. Next year I hope that we'll have more notice of the service and we can let you all know about it in good time. We can then have a good representation of Cape Town Caledonian Society Members to support the slowly dwindling numbers attending these annual services.

Eddie and Anne Stevenson have been re-elected as Chief and Lady President of Pinelands Caledonian Society and we were able to support them at their Chief's at Home celebration held in the Pinelands Catholic Church Hall.

OCTOBER: The South African Irish Association held their Annual General Meeting at Kelvin Grove. We were invited to attend and were surprised at the brevity of the 'business' aspect of the meeting (about twenty minutes), including the financial report (about one minute) and the election of office bearers (about three minutes). The rest of the evening was filled with talks and the presentation of special awards to various people by the Irish Ambassador who had flown down from Pretoria for the occasion. Afterwards, everyone tucked into buffet snacks and drinks.

Later on in the month the 89th Congress of the Federated Society of Southern Africa was held in East London. Unfortunately, at the last moment,

Jacinta and I were unable to attend but, thankfully, Peter and Anne McLeod were able to act as our representatives and 'courier service' taking various parcels to East London on our behalf.



Group photo at Congress. The delegates were from all over Southern Africa.

The Federation Chief for the next year is Sandra Rankin who will be visiting us on Saturday 5th April 2014. The Provincial Chieftain and Lady President of the Cape Province for the next year are David and Maureen Rankin who will be with us on Burns Night, 1st February 2014.

NOVEMBER: This month turned out to be very busy. On Sunday 3rd was the Kirkin' O' the Chief in the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Meadowridge where all Members of your Council pledged to serve the Society. The service was conducted by our Honorary Padre, Rev David Gray and the Members of the Society were piped into the service by our Honorary Piper, Peter Odendaal. The Chief's at Home was held on the same day at the home of Rev David and Mrs Rosemary Gray where Council Members were 'Badged' and a relaxed time was spent enjoying a Brunch put together by the ladies. Thank you all for your hard work. We were privileged to have Eddie and Anne Stevenson, the Chief and Lady President of Pinelands Caledonian Society, with us for the day.

The evening of Thursday 7th saw us, together with Eddie and Anne Stevenson, representing the Scots in South Africa at a reception aboard HMS Richmond which had arrived in Simon's Town earlier in the day.

The next day a very poignant Remembrance Day Service was held at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. The attendance at this annual service is growing and it was with the assistance of Jacinta that the order of service was put together and correct protocol observed. A surprise, unexpected and delightful addition to the guests was about 25 little children who came marching in, each carrying their own little chair, and sat in a row in front of everyone just before the start of the service. A mini-band from the Cape Field Artillery Pipes and Drums added great support to the proceedings.

Sunday 10th was Remembrance Sunday and it was also the re-dedication of the Cenotaph at its new position. We was our privilege to be able to lay a wreath on behalf of the Scottish community in Cape Town.

On Sunday 17th, together with Members of their own Society, we attended the Kirking of the Chief, Dedicating and Blessing Eddie and Anne Stevenson in their work as Chief and Lady President of the Pinelands Caledonian Society. The service was held at the Presbyterian Church in Pinelands.

The Pinelands Caledonian Society's St Andrew's Nicht celebration was held at the Pinelands Catholic Church Hall on Saturday 23rd. The Pipes and Drums, The Dancing displays and community dancing, the toasts and other entertainment was really top notch and a grand evening was had by all.

DECEMBER: It was late in the evening of Thursday 5th that we heard of the sad news that Nelson Mandela had died. Preparations were well on the go for our own Cape Town Callies St Andrew's Nicht celebration to be held on Saturday 7th and we were determined to toast and celebrate Madiba's life as well.

The St Andrew's Nicht celebration was held in the Vista Nova School Hall, Rondebosch. An extremely good time was had by everyone – without exception the toasts and talks were excellent as was the sing along. Our MC for the evening was outstanding. We gave a tribute and a toast to Madiba while Pipe Major Andrew Imrie piped a lament. The Cape Field Artillery Pipes and Drums did us proud – they had 18 members in the band that night, including 9 Pipers! What a magnificent sound and it was significant to us that they were enjoying themselves as they entertained us. They also played for the country dancers who also excelled themselves. There was much participation by the guests in the dancing, ably assisted by Heather Hodgson calling so we all (well, mostly all) knew what to do when! Andrew Hodgson delivered an entertaining and informative Toast to St Andrew. The food was good the atmosphere was good and we all had fun – even a couple just arrived from Scotland on holiday who really appreciated home from home and gave us a brief reflection on the connection between Madiba and Glasgow.

By the time you receive this newsletter the South African Irish Association will have held a "Salute to Nelson Mandela" at The Gateway in the V&A Waterfront on Sunday 22nd. We'll be there to support this initiative together with Colleen Rennie and Trish Meyer and her daughter Tracy as well as Andrew Imrie and his wife Luzette. A maximum of only 50 guests will be able to attend because of space restrictions and we were lucky enough book just in time. We'll let you know what it was like in the next newsletter.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The shortest scheduled flight in the world is one-and-a-half miles long from Westray to Papa Westray in the Orkney Islands of Scotland. The journey takes 1 minute 14 seconds to complete.
- Scotland has approximately 790 islands, 130 of which are inhabited.



FUTURE EVENTS

BURNS NIGHT SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY



- * Don't forget to book your tickets for this outstanding event. Burns Night 2014 is going to be another event **NOT TO BE MISSED** and **NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN!** **PLEASE BOOK NOW-BOOKINGS LIMITED TO 70 MAX** Burns Night will have all the expected traditional Burns songs and poetry, together with the "Address to a Haggis" and, of course, "The Immortal Memory" plus there will be plenty entertainment to tickle the fancy of everyone there including dancing and the skirl of the pipes.

This time the celebration will be held in a restaurant so the **seating is limited to a maximum of 70** so it's VERY important that you book as early as possible and we're offering you a choice of one of three delicious meals:

- Option A:** Starter: Haggis with Tatties and Neeps
Main Course: Chicken Schnitzel w Vegetables and Roasted Tomatoes
Desert: Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce
- Option B:** Starter: Haggis with Tatties and Neeps
Main Course: Mushroom Pasta
Desert: Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce
- Option C:** Starter: Haggis with Tatties and Neeps
Main Course: Line Fish of the Day w vegetables and Roasted Tomatoes
Desert: Ice Cream and Chocolate Sauce

FOR CATERING PURPOSES NO FURTHER BOOKINGS CAN BE ACCEPTED AFTER MONDAY 27TH JANUARY 2104. The above options are not on the restaurant's normal menu and they require adequate time to prepare for your special choice. Please be good enough to have a good look at the menu and be ready to **ORDER YOUR CHOICE OF MEAL AT THE TIME OF BOOKING.**

Details of what, where and when etc.:

- Date:** Saturday 1st February 2014
Time: 18h00(6pm) for 18h30(6.30pm) until whatever.....
Dress: Smart/Tartan
Venue: The Italian Kitchen
Address: Newlands Quarter, cnr Dean and Main Streets, Newlands.
(Where the first Spur used to be - directions below.)
Tickets: R150.00 per person – Members
R165.00 per person – Non Members
Cash Bar facilities available on the night

Directions:



Driving on the M3:

Take the Princess Ann off-ramp towards Newlands. Keep to your right and turn right into Newlands Avenue. Shortly after turning there is a pedestrian crossing with traffic lights – continue to the next set of traffic lights at Dean Street and turn left into Dean Street. Continue down until you reach the corner of Main Street and Dean Street on your left.

(Main Road is at the end of Dean Street at the traffic lights. If you get that far you have gone too far and passed Main Street two roads up Dean Street from Main Road.)

Driving on Main Road, Newlands:

From Claremont, turn left into Dean Street at the traffic lights.

From Rondebosch, turn right into Dean Street at the traffic lights.

Main Street is two roads up from Main Road, on your left.

Please be aware that parking is at a premium in both Dean and Main Streets so arrive a little early to avoid a long walk.

Tickets are already started selling **FAST** to those in the know, so I recommend that you **BOOK NOW** to avoid being disappointed – when we reach 70 we cannot accept any more bookings and we **MUST** have your booking by Monday 27th January for catering purposes and to ensure you will have a place at a table. A Booking Form is at the end of this Newsletter.

VISIT OF THE PROVINCIAL CHIEFTAIN AND LADY PRESIDENT:

David and Maureen Rankin will be joining us on Burns Night.

QUIZ EVENING: This will be an exciting and interesting evening and is open to members and as many friends you can bring along. This fun time is planned for the evening of **Friday 7th March** – more details in a later newsletter.

VISIT OF THE FEDERATION CHIEF: Sandra Rankin will be visiting us over the weekend of **5th/6th April 2014**. We’re planning a function to welcome her in style so please take out your new diary NOW and diarise the date – particularly **Saturday 5th April**.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN 2014:

New Year’s Day	January 1 st	Youth Day	June 16 th
Human Rights Day	March 21 st	National Woman’s Day	August 9 th
Good Friday	April 18 th	Heritage Day	Sept 24 th
Family Day	April 21 st	Day of Reconciliation	Dec 16 th
Freedom Day	April 27 th	Christmas Day	Dec 25 th
Public Holiday	April 28 th	Day of Goodwill	Dec 26 th
Workers Day	May 1 st		



AND NOW FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT



With thanks to Colin Wing



KINDRED SOCIETY NEWS:



PINELANDS CALEDONIAN SOCIETY:

Burns Night: The Society's Burns Night will be held on Saturday 25th January in the Catholic Church Hall in Pinelands 18h30 for 19h00. Contact Anne Stephenson for bookings at 021 554 0302.



CAPE WELSH SOCIETY

St David's Day (Welsh: *Dydd Gŵyl Dewi*) is the feast day of Saint David, the patron saint of Wales, and falls on the 1st of March each year. The first day of March was chosen in remembrance of the death of Saint David. Tradition holds that he died on that day in 589. The date was declared a national day of celebration within Wales in the 18th century.



IRISH SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION



(Irish: *Comhluar Eireennach An Afric Theas*)

In collaboration with the Cape Town Historical Society the Association is hosting a talk by Ciaren Rielly on "How South Africa helped win the Irish War of Independence". This will be on 16th January 2014 at the Josephine Mill, Newlands. Snacks and Drinks will be provided. For further information please contact Roisin Kelly-Laubscher on 076 192 9111 or 021 713 0145.

For-warned is for-armed. Their special Saints feast day is St Patrick's Day on 17 March. We'll be hearing from their Chairperson, Roisin Kelly-Laubscher, soon to tell us what, where and when they will be celebrating this event.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Hamilton Mausoleum in South Lanarkshire has the longest echo of any man-made structure in the world; a whole 15 seconds.

Scotland has more than 600 square miles of freshwater lakes, including Loch Ness.

Edinburgh was the first city in the world which had its own fire brigade.



5 PEARLS OF SCOTTISH WISDOM TO REMEMBER:

1. Money cannot buy happiness but somehow, it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes Benz than it is on a bicycle.
2. Forgive your enemy but remember the b@\$*&d's name.
3. Help a man when he is in trouble and he will remember you when he is in trouble again.
4. Many people are alive only because it's illegal to shoot them.
5. Alcohol does not solve any problem, but then neither does milk.

(Don't know where this lot came from!!)



A ROUND TUIT



Tuit's are hard to come by... Especially round ones. After years of searching I have finally managed to obtain a round Tuit. So guard this one and never lose it. Don't let anyone take it away from you. Now that you have one, there should be fantastic results.

I have heard people say, *"I'll be faithful to the Lord just as soon as I can get around to it."* Thankfully, it's finally here! And now that you have your very own round Tuit, many things that have been needed to be done for the Lord should finally get done.

Have you ever said, *"I'll go visit a Friend as soon as I get a round Tuit."* Or, *"I'll read my Bible when I get a round Tuit"?*

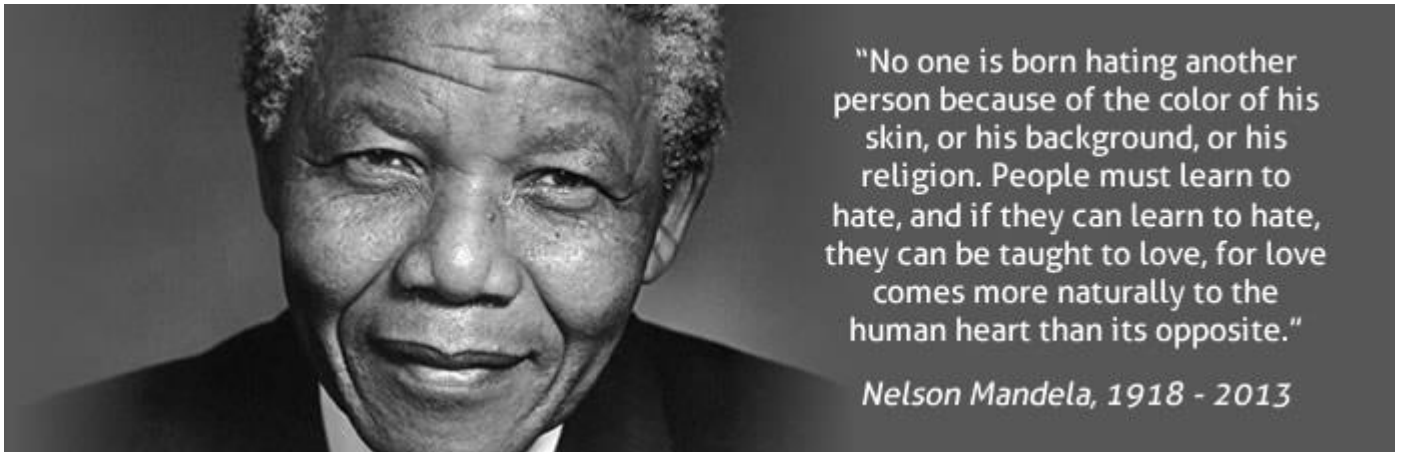
Perhaps you have used one of these, *"I'll go to church or join an organization if I get a round Tuit."*

Or, maybe, *"I'll help my parents or neighbours....I'll help the needy....I'll say a prayer for someone....I'll do a good deed....I'll tell a friend about God....I'll tell someone 'I love you'....I'll visit a sick friend.....if I get a round Tuit!"*

These are all in the past. FOR NOW YOU HAVE YOUR OWN ROUND TUIT!



A TRIBUTE TO NELSON ROLIHLAHLA MANDELA



Madiba was a Man of the people and it was the people that made the Man. He was a fighter for freedom from oppression and domination. As he said from the dock when he was facing the death penalty, *"During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to see realised. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."* Strong words – words that kept him alive and, as I said on St Andrew's Night, *"If it wasn't for him we wouldn't be here today."* I liken the struggle in South Africa over the centuries, to the struggle of the Scots over the centuries. History tells us that the Scots were fighting against domination and for a free society with equal opportunities in their own land of Scotland not only from outside forces but among themselves as well. If only we had had a Madiba to pull it all together when it mattered!

U.S. President Barack Obama delivered a powerful tribute to Nelson Mandela at the Memorial service in the FNB Stadium in Johannesburg on Tuesday 10th December 2013. He ended with these words:

"We will never see the likes of Nelson Mandela again....."

*After this great liberator is laid to rest, and when we have returned to our cities and villages and rejoined our daily routines, let us search for his strength. Let us search for his largeness of spirit somewhere inside of ourselves. And when the night grows dark, when injustice weighs heavy on our hearts, when our best-laid plans seem beyond our reach, let us think of Madiba and the words that brought him comfort within the four walls of his cell: *"It matters not how strait the gate, how charged with punishments the scroll, I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul."**

What a magnificent soul it was. We will miss him deeply. May God bless the memory of Nelson Mandela. May God bless the people of South Africa."



FAREWELL TO 2013 – WELCOME TO 2014

2013 has had its highs and lows in so many ways and has been stressful and compelling at the same time for most of us, no matter what our station in life. Whatever our circumstances may be we have to look towards the future with a positive outlook and a glint in our eye. It's not always easy but, hey, that's LIFE!

One of the quotes of Madiba that I hold dear is the following:

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.”

What difference have you or I made to the lives of others? It's a compelling question and one that needs some introspection to see if the life we are living is, indeed, significant. I don't think we must get all maudlin about it because that will pull us down. No, I believe we must stand tall and remember all the good things in our lives over the years, know where we are today, and look to the future with a happy heart. After all, there's nothing we can do about the past, we can only deal with what's going on today, and the future is in God's Hands.

So, let's look forward to the future and welcome 2014 with open arms knowing that each new day is a new chapter in our lives given to us by God Who's Son's Birthday we celebrate at Christmas. We wish you all a safe, Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Fulfilling New Year 2014.



From your Chief/Scribe and the Council, *“See you next year”!*

If it's easier for you, please use the form below for confirmation.

BOOKING FORM FOR BURNS NICHT – SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2014

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT NUMBER: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

No. of Adults: @ R150each = R.....

No. of Adults: @ R165each = R.....

Please tick if paying by Cash at the door: []

Meal Options:

Option A: Name/s.....

Option B: Name/s.....

Option C: Name/s.....

Direct internet payments (EFT) can be made to:

Cape Town Caledonian Society

First National Bank, Rondebosch, Branch code: 201509, Current a/c No.: 55161140154

(Reference: Surname + Burns2014)

Cheque and Cash deposits are not encouraged due to the high bank fees your Society is charged.

PLEASE FORWARD THIS COMPLETED FORM TOGETHER WITH PROOF OF PAYMENT TO JACINTA

BY E-MAIL TO: jaybirdmunro@gmail.com OR SEND A FAX TO: 086 511 2045

Important

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE PAID – ALL MEALS ARE
PRE-ORDERED AND ANYONE BOOKING BUT NOT ARRIVING WILL BE
CHARGED THE FULL BOOKING FEE UNLESS CANCELLATION RECEIVED BY**

27TH JANUARY 2014