

CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Established 1881 NPO Reg No 036-264

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2007

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Dear Member

With the main event of our annual traditional calendar behind us and leaving a warm glow of happy recollection, we are now pressing ahead with plans for the remainder of the year.

We ask that you keep an eye on developments and make a point of not missing out on any of our functions. Your support is the life blood of the Society, maintaining its vibrancy and holding us all together as a large family with a shared background and interests.

ALL THE WAY TO THE BANK (cont'd)

By Bill MacDonald

At the time when Henry Duncan entered the historical arena with his Savings Bank, labourers earned a shilling a day and somehow Henry coaxed them into banking their spare monies - no credit cards and over-ready credit available in those days! His clients were reassured that their hard earned cash was safe when they saw the wealthy doing likewise. An account could be opened with sixpence and the accumulated funds were then deposited with one of the large institutions paying five percent interest. The bank flourished and by the end of the year £151 had been deposited - a remarkable sum for such hard times. It was the birth of a banking miracle.

Henry began to spread the word but soon found that media publicity was vital, so he used both his marketing skills and his newly launched newspaper to promote the venture.

The Bank's system of operation was simple to copy which gave it universal appeal. Henry published the details across the country and within five years many banks based on his model were in operation throughout Britain. (To be cont.)

FROM THE CHIEF

I was listening to a radio interview with our Mayor, Helen Zille, recently. My ears picked up because Nicky and I had previously met her and her husband, Professor Johan Maree at last years Celtic Evening in the City Hall, and had enjoyed their company. Johan had previously lectured me as a student in economics at UCT in the 1970's. Helen is a strong character but at the same time a charming person and loving wife.

Anyway in the interview she mentioned something, the significance of which I have reflected carefully on ever since. She said that your success depends on how well you do the smaller things in life. If you do the small things well the bigger things either sort themselves out or become a whole lot easier. It can be likened to building a house with strong foundations. Too often in life one has big ideas which one wants to realize immediately overlooking the little steps one needs to take in getting there in order to effectively realize your dream. Powerful thinking which one can use in your home or business life.

It was with this in mind that your council met on 17 February for a "bosberaad" to look at what little steps we should take to safeguard and grow our Society in the future. In the next newsletter I will

share with you some of the issues which we discussed and agreed as small positive steps which we can and will take.

Yours aye,
Peter

FUNCTIONS

Our Chief and Lady President who attended the **Kirstenbosch Concert** report a grand performance by the pipes and drums of the **Cape Town Highlanders**. They were pleased to enjoy a great afternoon in the company of members Peter and Beth Odendaal. The McWalter family were also there. The combination of the stirring sound of the pipes in such spectacular surroundings were memorable indeed.

MYSTERY AFTERNOON

Date Saturday 3 March

Venue Gardens Presbyterian Church Hall

Time 15:00 - 17:00

An afternoon of fun, laughter, stories, songs and quizzes. This will be an opportunity for members to get to know one another, and is free of charge - donations will be welcome, though, to defray costs. This is your chance to share any amusing story about a Scottish ancestor. Eats, tea and coffee will be served and a contribution of a cake or something to eat will be welcome.

IRISH NIGHT

Date 31 March 2007

Venue Pinelands Catholic Church Hall, Corner of Queen's Way and Union Avenue, Pinelands

Time 19:30

Cost R35

As this is a fund raising exercise for the Western Cape Highland gathering, we have been invited to join with Pinelands Caledonian Society. There will be lots of Irish dancing, music and, of course, laughter. Do come along and give your support. Please book by telephoning **Lady President Nicky Ross at 021 712 2506**. Please bring your own snacks and liquid refreshments. Tea and coffee will be served.

WESTERN CAPE HIGHLAND GATHERING

Date 7 April 2007

Venue Playing fields of Wynberg Boys' High School, Lover's Walk, Wynberg

Time All day

Entry free, programmes R10 and parking R10 per car.

A hall is available in case of rain. The pipes and drums of several bands, Scottish and Irish dancing, Interscholar Games such as tug-o'-war, etc., will be the order of the day. There will be various stalls and refreshments in abundance! Come along with your family and friends and enjoy the fun. Our Society will be running a stall and any donations of goodies to sell will be welcome - even better, if you could help in any way, please telephone our **Lady President Nicky Ross at 021 712 2506**. See you there.

FUNCTIONS BEING HELD BY PINELANDS CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Irish Evening - see details above.

Variety Evening 21 April. For further details please phone **Anne Miller at 021 591 1499** or **Anne Stevenson at 021 554 0302**.

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

NEW MEMBERS

To **Beth Hewitt-Coleman** we say *come ben the hoose an' gie's yer crack*. It's happy we are to have you with us and we hope to meet you soon.

A TRIBUTE TO BERYL GUTHRIE

Beryl left us on 31 January. Beryl was a very special lady who, with her husband, **Gordon**, served the Society for many years and left behind a wonderful example. Gordon was Beryl's first serious laddie

and after a suitable period of courting they were married in **1933** and spent **69 years** together. They leave behind three children, **their** children and grandchildren. Beryl gave Gordon her full support in his legal business life, his spiritual life and in his love of everything Scottish. They were an integral part of our Society for many years. Gordon learnt Scottish songs and dances and, at the slightest encouragement, delighted in performing. Beryl was a wonderful hostess, welcoming all to their home and producing grand dinner parties. She baked the best soda scones I have ever tasted - except for the batch when she misjudged the salt!

Beryl and Gordon were instrumental in instigating the **Blood Transfusion Service** and were honoured by the Mayor of Cape Town for this service to the city.

I recall their **65th wedding anniversary** - a wonderful occasion filled with joy and love. They are together now and have left us a priceless legacy.

MEMBERS' NEWS We say *bon voyage* to **Mary and Ian Moodie** who are spending an extended holiday with their family in **Auckland**. I am sure you will remember their granddaughter, **Ashley**, who came to functions when she was small and is now in Auckland with her parents. We wish them a happy time together and look forward to their safe return.

Our love and best thoughts go to **Phyllis Cruickshank** whose son, **Roy**, has been very ill and underwent surgery. He has been discharged and we wish him a speedy recovery. Phyllis herself, an indomitable spirit, has been indisposed recently, but is also on the mend.

We also hope that **Federation Lady President Rose MacMillan** is making a good recovery from what was a nasty accident. Take good care of yourself, Rose.

Past Chief Ishbel Mulvey has also been in the wars recently, having undergone major surgery. How well we recall how she entertained us with her grand rendition of *The Lights of Aberdeen*. With fond memories and best wishes. Get well soon, Ishbel

We thoroughly enjoyed sharing a table with new member, **Peter Boyd**, his fiancée **Jody** and their friends at the Burns' supper. What delightful young people. It was with interest that we learnt that Peter is actually based in Johannesburg as the newly appointed CEO of Virgin Mobile and that he travels around the country a great deal. We hope to see you at many of our functions this year, Peter and Jody.

A SMILE

My hairdresser, an Englishman who sings in the **Welsh Male Voice Choir**, was delighted to tell me the following Scots joke.

Jamie Urquhart, sorely depressed, arrived at the library counter. The librarian, a prim, severe lass, enquired what she could do for him. Jamie asked whether she had a book on *suicide*. After a moment's intense consideration back came the reply: *Naw, fur ye'll no bring it back!!!*

EILEAN MHOR - FLANNEN ISLES

A sinister tale is attached to this lighthouse which was designed by **Robert Louis Stevenson's uncle**. It has been documented and appeared in *Vanishing* on the History Channel a few months ago.

When the three-man replacement team arrived by boat at the lighthouse on Eilean Mhor there was no welcoming wave - only the mournful screech of the soaring seagulls carried on the wind and the crash of the waves. Greatly puzzled the little party climbed the steep narrow steps up the cliff side until they reached the lighthouse. Again there was no sign of human presence. The remains of a meal lay on the table and the chairs had been pushed back. They searched every corner of the island and found no trace of the vanished men.

There are many theories as to what befell the unfortunate men, from a supernatural abduction to a quarrel. In the absence of any evidence the most likely explanation appears to be a freak wave - although it is problematical as to why all three men would leave the lighthouse at the same time. Whatever, the veil of mystery still surrounds the island and lighthouse, which is today, of course,

automatic.

Greeting from your Chief, Lady President and Council
and your Scribe.