



# Cape Town Caledonian Society

Established 1881    Reg. No 036-264-NPO

## NEWSLETTER MARCH & APRIL 2009

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Dear Members,

I was amused to read in a book on Scotland about an ancient tradition that takes place in Lanark on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, called whuppity scourie. Local children race around the church beating each other with home-made paper weapons, to chase away winter or the warding off of evil spirits.

Lanark is a little market town in the hills above the River Clyde. It has the world's oldest bell in the Georgian Church of St. Nicholas. Early in June they have the lively Lanimer celebrations, one of Scotlands oldest ceremonies of riding the marches or boundaries, which dates back to 1140.

Talking about spirits, of a different kind, Pinelands Caledonian Society had a very successful whisky tasting last week at the Laughing Fig restaurant. Quite a few members from our Society were there.

Your Chief and Lady President attended the Cambrian Society's St. David's Day held at the Mowbray Golf Course recently. As usual it was a very jovial evening with lots of laughter and wonderful singing by the Cape Welsh Choir.

A really entertaining evening was spent by a small group of members at our Video evening on 7 March watching the **2008 Edinburgh Tattoo**. Over 1,000 performers from around the world provided a diverse selection of entertainment. The magnificent fanfare included: Massed pipes and drums, Massed Highland Dancers, Golden Eagles Marching Band, Singapore Police Force Band, Lochiel Marching Drill Team from New Zealand, Indian Army Chief's Military Band, His Majesty The King's Guards Band And Drill Team of Norway, and Her Majesty's Royal Marines and Massed Military Bands. This was one of the best tattoos ever and each act was magnificent. If you were not there you missed out on some really top-class Scottish entertainment and a delicious meal for only R35! One simply cannot beat this offering in terms of value for money! We were upset about a misunderstanding about bookings for the evening amongst some of our members. Lets all be more vigilant in future and let this not dampen the strong Scot's spirit to join together!

On the Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, the Irish SA Association are celebrating St. Patrick's Day. This is a very popular event so all tickets have already been taken. Peter has had the good fortune of being invited as a guest and will tell you about it in the next newsletter.

### MEMBERS NEWS

We welcome a new member Mrs. Janet Waters, and hope she will have many happy years as a member of our Society.

Congratulations to Duncan MacMillan on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 6<sup>th</sup> March! Great milestone Duncan!

Congratulations also go to Stuart and Colleen Rennie on the birth of a granddaughter on the 11<sup>th</sup> January and also to Phyllis Cruickshank who has a new great-grandson.

Joseph MacMillan, one of our junior members has just cut a CD and formed a 6-piece band. Well done Joseph! Perhaps one day you can entertain us at one of our functions.

### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES – MARCH

Sharon Hyman 1<sup>st</sup>

Duncan MacMillan 6<sup>th</sup>

Leonard MacLeod 12<sup>th</sup>

Ronald Conyngham 18<sup>th</sup>

Kerryn Farrelly 23<sup>rd</sup>

Frank Duk 26<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary – Peter and Beth Odendaal 2<sup>nd</sup>

Congratulations to you all!

## FUTURE FUNCTIONS

### Senior's lunch and Provincial Chieftain's function - merged:

After careful deliberation, we have decided that, rather than hold 2 functions 2 weeks apart, to roll these two functions up into one. Personal invites have been sent to our senior members inviting them to attend a Seniors' lunch on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**In view of the merging of the functions, please note that this date will now be changed to Saturday 18 April, 2009** so that our Provincial Chieftain, Sandra Rankin, of East London, who will be visiting Cape Town can join the party!

If you have received a personal invite no fee will be charged. All other members are also welcome to join us in which case a fee of R60 per person will be payable.

### **To recap, details of the event are therefore as follows:**

- ❖ Date: Saturday 18 April, 2009
- ❖ Time: 12h00 for 12h30
- ❖ Venue: Ross residence, 3 Welgelee Road, Constantia Hills (off Firgrove Way)
- ❖ Catering: Light lunch with coffee or tea.
- ❖ Please bring your own drinks and glasses
- ❖ Cost (not applicable to seniors): R60 per person (*Great value!*)

Please confirm your attendance with Margaret Currie (021 530 7232) or Narina Gilder (021 531 1820).

### Federation Chief's visit:

Our Federation Chief, Norma Craven and her consort, Patrick Craven will visit us on Saturday 6 June, 2009.

The planning committee will be meeting shortly and we will supply you with details in our next newsletter. A ceilidh with plenty of entertainment is envisaged. In the meantime please jot these dates down in your diary.

### Pinelands Caledonian Society functions

Pinelands will be hosting our Provincial Chief on 25<sup>th</sup> April and the Federation Chief on 12<sup>th</sup> June in both instances being the weekends after we host these dignitaries – so please ensure that your priorities are in place!

## FROM THE CHIEF

Some of you will know that Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and East London work on a 3 year revolving roster to host the Highland Gathering. We undertook the venture jointly with Pinelands in 2007, Port Elizabeth kept their hands down in 2008 and I am pleased to say that East London are putting their hands up this year by hosting the 2009 Eastern Cape Highland Gathering on 11 April (Easter Saturday) at Selbourne Primary School. Their Chief and Gathering convenor Dave Rankin has always been supportive of attending our events and I intend reciprocating this year and at the same time pay my sister and her family a visit close by at Fort Beaufort.

Our own Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band will be there too so we wish them and their members well in the various competitive events. I am told by Dave that a ceilidh is being planned after massed bands on Saturday, by the simple expedient of marching off the field and breaking at the beer tent! Well that's how things happen in the Eastern Cape and I know because I was born and raised in that Province!

Their dancers will also be hosting the Highland Dancing Oscars on the Saturday night and the Border Dancing Festival will be held on the Sunday. So if any of you are planning on being down that end at Easter do go along and enjoy the fun. They would love to have more of us Capetonians there! Let me know if you are interested in going and I will let you have more details.

We have now entered the "seasons of the Saints" once more, certainly as Kindred Societies go. Both St David's Day and St Patrick's Day are traditionally celebrated in March, on the 1st and 17th respectively. Did you know that St David is the only patron saint of the British Isles who was born in the same country in which he is celebrated as patron? Good question that!

But what of English? It is somewhat astonishing that, in the case of the English and their long suffering St George, comparatively little has historically been made of celebration or even acknowledgement! Over the years this became part of the English psyche but in today's political climate the English have noticed that the Irish, Welsh and Scottish are passionate about keeping and enjoying their national identity and parading their individuality. The English are now at last reawakening an important aspect of their culture and traditions by more actively celebrating their own patron St George, on April 23rd.

*An Englishman, a Scotsman, an Irishman and a Welshman were travelling in an aircraft that went out of control and was about to crash. To their dismay, they discovered that there were only three parachutes in the plane. The Irishman argued that he should be given a parachute as he was an important politician upon whom all hope of peace in Ireland rested. The Scotsman handed him over the first parachute and he baled out. Next the Englishman argued that he should be given a parachute. He was an important banker and needed to save the English banking system from collapse. The Englishman silently put the straps over his shoulders and he jumped out after the Irishman. The Scotsman now turned to the Welshman and handed him a parachute. 'Here you are' he said cheerfully. 'But what about you?' gasped the Welshman, amazed at this unflinching heroism. 'Oh, I'll be all right' said the Scotsman. The Englishman took my haversack'.*

### FOR SALE

Mr. Leslie Erins has contacted the Society regarding a kilt he has for sale.

It is a Morrison ladies kilt, size 34"/87cms waist. It was made in Scotland for his wife but has never been worn. Please contact him on 021 4346617 if you are interested, price negotiable.

From your Chief, Lady President and Council  
And your Scribe