



CAPE CALEDONIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY
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May 2026

INCLUDED IN THIS EDITION

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FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF/ EDITOR

As we move further into the year and the colder weather and storms begin to settle in, it is perhaps a fitting time to reflect on the importance of fellowship and tradition within our Society.

The Caledonian Society has always been more than simply a gathering of those with Scottish heritage. It is a community built on friendship, shared Scottish interests, music, culture, and the enjoyment of one another's company. Whether through formal occasions, pipe music, dancing, social gatherings, or simply conversation over a meal, these connections remain as important today as ever.

One of the encouraging aspects of recent months has been the enthusiasm shown by members for new activities, the revival of old ones, and fresh approaches to traditional events, as discussed at the AGM, while still preserving the traditions that have long formed the foundation of the Society. It is this balance between tradition and renewal that keeps organisations such as ours vibrant and relevant.

As always, thank you to all members who continue to support the Society through attendance, participation, and volunteer effort. Your contribution helps ensure that the spirit of the Society continues for future generations.

We look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events in the months ahead.

SCOTTISH HISTORY CORNER (continued from previous editions)

David II died childless in 1371, ending the direct Bruce line. The crown then passed peacefully to his nephew Robert Stewart, who became Robert II, the first monarch of the Stewart dynasty. This was a major turning point, for the Stewarts (later spelled Stuarts) would rule Scotland for centuries and eventually inherit the English throne as well.

The early Stewart period brought a measure of continuity after decades of war, but it was far from peaceful. Robert II (1371–1390), already in his mid-fifties when he became king, struggled at times to assert firm control over powerful regional nobles and ambitious members of his own family. Nevertheless, the succession itself was remarkably smooth by medieval standards, helping preserve stability within the kingdom.

He was succeeded by his son Robert III (1390–1406), whose reign was weakened by poor health and growing factional conflict among the Scottish nobility. Real power increasingly shifted to his energetic brother, Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany. During this turbulent period, Scotland also suffered one of the most dramatic royal setbacks in its history: in 1406, the king's heir, the young James Stewart, was captured by English forces while travelling to France and was held prisoner in England for eighteen years.

Robert III died shortly after learning of his son's capture, reportedly overwhelmed by grief. The captive prince eventually returned to Scotland in 1424 as King James I. Having spent much of his life at the English court, James was highly educated and determined to restore royal authority. He moved aggressively against corrupt nobles and sought to strengthen central government, but his reforms created powerful enemies. In 1437, James I was assassinated during a conspiracy led by disaffected nobles in Perth.

Despite these upheavals, the Stewart monarchy endured, and Scotland in the 15th century remained an independent and culturally vibrant kingdom. Trade with continental Europe continued to grow, universities were founded at St Andrews, Glasgow, and Aberdeen, and the distinct identity of Scotland as a nation separate from England, became more firmly established.

HISTORY OF THE CLANS. This month I highlight Clan Chisholm.

Clan Chisholm is a Highland Scottish clan with origins that are believed to trace back to the Norman family of “de Chesholm,” who arrived in Britain after the Norman Conquest. The family first established itself in the Scottish Borders near Roxburghshire before later moving north into the Highlands. By the 14th century, the Chisholms had settled in Strathglass in Inverness-shire, where they became an influential Highland clan.

The clan was strongly associated with the Jacobite cause and supported the Stuart kings during the Jacobite uprisings of the 17th and 18th centuries. Chisholm clansmen fought at battles such as Culloden in 1746, where they played a committed, though relatively modest role, supporting Prince Charles Edward Stuart (“Bonnie Prince Charlie”) in his attempt to restore the Stuart monarchy to the British throne. The chief at the time, Roderick Chisholm of Chisholm, raised clansmen from Strathglass in the Highlands and joined the Jacobite army. At Culloden, the Chisholm regiment suffered significant casualties. Tradition records that Roderick Chisholm himself was too ill to fight, but his son, also named Roderick, led the clansmen into battle and was killed during the fighting.

DID YOU KNOW

Hidden deep beneath the streets of Edinburgh lies a mysterious underground world known as Mary King’s Close. A “close” is a narrow alleyway or lane, and this particular one dates back to the 17th century. Over time, as Edinburgh expanded, new buildings were constructed directly over sections of the old streets, effectively burying them underground and preserving them almost exactly as they were centuries ago.



Today, visitors can walk through these remarkably preserved passageways and rooms, gaining a rare glimpse into everyday life in medieval Scotland. The close is associated with stories of plague victims, hidden homes,

merchants, and even alleged hauntings, giving it an almost eerie atmosphere. While some legends have become exaggerated over time, the site offers a fascinating and very real snapshot of old Edinburgh beneath the modern city. I have visited this twice and highly recommend anyone visiting Edinburgh, does so too. Going on the late night tour adds to the atmosphere!

NEWS

<https://www.youtube.com/live/1WEIf4AQM4E>

ORDER OF PLAY
SATURDAY BANDS LINE-UP

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE LIONS CLUB OF AMANZIMTOTI

The Highland GATHERING

2 May 2026
HUTCHISON PARK, AMANZIMTOTI

POWERED BY
 Amanzimtoti

MARCH SELECTION	MEDLEY SELECTION	MARCH STRATHSPEY REEL	
<p>Novice Juvenile Ensemble : Robert du Toit Piping 1 : Craig Paxman Piping 2 : Richard Poyrn Drum Corps : Clinton Miles</p> <p>08:00 - Jeppe 08:10 - De La Salle 08:20 - Pretoria Boys 08:30 - St Benedict's 08:40 - Benoni 08:50 - King Edward VII 09:00 - St Andrew's</p> <hr/> <p>Grade 4 Ensemble : Joshua Hogg Piping 1 : Craig Herwill Piping 2 : Sean Maher Drum Corps : Jeremy Coult</p> <p>12:10 - Transvaal Scottish 12:20 - Knysna & Districts 12:30 - St Andrew's 12:40 - KZN Caledonian 12:50 - Benoni 13:00 - African Skye 13:10 - Pretoria Highlanders</p>	<p>Juvenile Ensemble : Roger Davies Piping 1 : David Harris Piping 2 : Graham Whitley Drum Corps : Trevor Wilson</p> <p>10:40 - Pretoria Boys 10:50 - St Benedict's</p> <hr/> <p>Grade 3 Ensemble : Roger Davies Piping 1 : David Harris Piping 2 : Graham Whitley Drum Corps : Anthony Evans</p> <p>11:40 - African Skye 11:50 - De La Salle Combined 12:00 - Pretoria Highlanders</p> <hr/> <p>Grade 2 Ensemble : Roger Davies Piping 1 : David Harris Piping 2 : Sean Maher Drum Corps : Jeremy Coult</p> <p>15:20 - Transvaal Scottish 15:30 - Còmhlan 1645 15:40 - Durban Caledonian Society 15:50 - Benoni Mactalla</p>	<p>Novice Juvenile Ensemble : Roger Davies Piping 1 : David Harris Piping 2 : Graham Whitley Drum Corps : Trevor Wilson</p> <p>09:10 - Jeppe 09:20 - De La Salle 09:30 - Pretoria Boys 09:40 - St Benedict's 09:50 - Benoni 10:00 - King Edward VII 10:10 - St Andrew's</p> <hr/> <p>Juvenile Ensemble : Robert du Toit Piping 1 : Craig Herwill Piping 2 : Richard Poyrn Drum Corps : Clinton Miles</p> <p>10:20 - Pretoria Boys 10:30 - St Benedict's</p> <hr/> <p>Grade 3 Ensemble : Robert du Toit Piping 1 : Craig Herwill Piping 2 : Craig Whitley Drum Corps : Clinton Miles</p> <p>11:10 - African Skye 11:20 - De La Salle Combined 11:30 - Pretoria Highlanders</p>	<p>Grade 4 Ensemble : Roger Davies Piping 1 : Craig Paxman Piping 2 : David Harris Drum Corps : Willem Theron</p> <p>13:20 - Transvaal Scottish 13:30 - Knysna & Districts 13:40 - St Andrew's 13:50 - KZN Caledonian 14:00 - Benoni 14:10 - African Skye 14:20 - Pretoria Highlanders</p> <hr/> <p>Grade 2 Ensemble : Joshua Hogg Piping 1 : Craig Herwill Piping 2 : Sean Maher Drum Corps : Jeremy Coult</p> <p>14:30 - Transvaal Scottish 14:40 - Còmhlan 1645 14:50 - Durban Caledonian Society 15:00 - Benoni Mactalla</p> <hr/> <p>PBASA Representatives - Rory Bellingan Recorder - Rosemary Atwell</p>
<p>16:00 - Dress Inspection Adjudicator - Anthony Evans</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Heat 1 Andrew Nixon (Transvaal Scottish) Kallin Lopes (Benoni) Oliver Kakarik (King Edward VII) Semi Makhubela (Pretoria Boys)</p> <p>Heat 2 Clayton Collis (Pretoria Boys) James Ernsden (King Edward VII) Kai Keikens (Pretoria Boys) Reabetswe Tsoele (Benoni)</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Open Drum Major Duty Band : Durban Caledonian Society</p> <p>Andrew Nixon (Transvaal Scottish) Callan Stephen (Benoni) Kai Keikens (Pretoria Boys) Reabetswe Tsoele (Benoni)</p> <p>Junior Drum Major Duty Band : Durban Caledonian Society Adjudicator : Anthony Evans</p> </div> </div>			
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>17:00 MASSED BANDS PERFORMANCE</p> </div> </div>			

The Amanzimtoti Highland Gathering

was held on 2nd May and was live steamed on YouTube and is still available - the link is above.

Left is the program of order of play.

**Thank you
Caireen Alston
for sending this to us.**

But wait, there's more! On 9th May, there was the Edinburgh Tartan Parade



The Edinburgh Tartan Parade is an annual outdoor celebration of Scottish heritage that typically draws over 2,500 participants, including pipe bands, dancers, and clans. The event brings the city centre to life as marchers process in full Highland dress. You can watch on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NZ6Dfr5SCg>

Haggis in America

An interesting fact is that Scotland's national dish has been illegal in the US since the 70s. Now the tartan rebellion has begun, with one of Scotland's leading butchers leading the charge. After all, how can Scotland be expected to compete (and win) if Haggis isn't on the menu?

NEWS OF MEMBERS

We have received the sad news of the passing of one of our oldest members, Audrey Marshall. Audrey was a long-standing and valued member of the Society, and our sincere condolences are extended to her family and friends. Her daughter sent the following eulogy:

Our beloved mother passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday 25th April aged 97.

Audrey was an amazing mother, granny, great granny, wife and business lady.

She arrived from London in her late teens in Durban immediately after the war with only her sister, neither of whom had jobs. From those humble beginnings, Audrey became the matriarch of the Marshall family & a successful business lady.

She'll be remembered for her fiercely independent spirit, always retaining her English class & poise, enjoyment of traveling well into her 90's, and love for her family.

She retained all her faculties & up until about a month previous to her passing and was still doing financial accounts & driving.

BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

A very happy birthday to all our members who celebrate their special day this coming month:

Frances Rogers 2 June

Cecillia Barfield 19 June

Fiona Hutcheon 26 June

Andrew Hodgson 7 June

Elizabeth Hele 19 June

Heather Hodgson 28 June

Anne Stevenson 12 June

Nicholas Hoferichter 21 June

Andrew Robson 28 June

Edward Cruickshank 16 June

Heidi Kruger 22 June

ITEMS FOR SALE/ WANTED: Callies Scottish Marketplace

In this section, members can buy and sell Scottish items — anything from clothing eg a kilt, Prince Charlie Jacket, etc to memorabilia. If you're looking for something in particular, you can also post a request here. Since this is within our own community of friends, it provides a safe and trusted platform where you don't need to worry about scams. Email me your "advert" or item request and I will include it in the following Newsletter. Nothing wanted or for sale this month.

PIPE BAND

If anyone has a yearn to learn the bagpipes and join a band, contact Pipe Major Grant Scheffel of the Nelson Mandela Artillery Pipes & Drums (Grant can be contacted by clicking the link: grant@bagpipes.co.za)

The band plays one Saturday each month outside Mitchells Scottish Ale House at the Waterfront, at 4PM.

HIGHLAND DANCING

The following are three Highland Dance studios that can be contacted for anyone who might be wanting to try out Highland Dancing:

1. Celtic Dance Tapestry: Contact Hayley 083 2852825 (they often perform at our events)
2. Claddagh Irish & Highland Dancing: 083 564 6717 (Heather)
3. Lucas Highland Dance Studio: Contact Lesley 082 448 6335

COUNTRY DANCING

Anyone interested can contact Heather Hodgson (info@scd.za.net) for dancing in the Fish Hoek area (Wednesday nights at 7:45PM, at St Margaret's Anglican Church in 5th Avenue).

Dancing also at Lynfrae Scottish Dancing Club (Wednesday nights at 7:30PM, at the Congregational Church Hall, Main Road, Claremont). Anyone interested can contact Hilary Kerr (hilary@kerr.za.net).

PIPER FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS & EVENTS

If anyone requires a piper for a wedding, funeral, or other event, please contact me via email (Andrew.bosch@uct.ac.za) or 081 742 3706 to discuss your needs.

KILT MAKER

If you need a kilt made, or repairs to a kilt, contact Kathy. I can highly recommend her work. She can be contacted on 076 342 5371.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Soup & Quiz Evening 20th June

This will be held in the hall of the Presbyterian Church in Gardens at 6:30 for 7PM. More details will be sent via email, WhatsApp and YouTube.

Whisky Tasting – July. (To be confirmed)

Members asked for a Whisky tasting. I have made initial enquiries about this and have sent an email to all members requesting feedback as to whether you would attend the event. Response has been poor, despite this being specifically requested! If you have intended to respond but it has slipped your mind, please send an email to me saying that you are interested. Andrew.bosch@uct.ac.za

Tattoo & Fish and Chips evening – end August 2026

Details will be confirmed in the next Newsletter

Heritage Day – September 2026

Details will be confirmed in August's Newsletter

Annual General meeting – November

Yes, we know we've just had the last one in March this year, but that was because of exceptional circumstances. The Constitution says it should be within 6 months of the end of the financial year (31st May)

St Andrews Dinner – 28th November 2026

Final details will be advised closer to the time

Yours aye

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