



Cape Town Caledonian Society

Established 1881 Reg. No 036-264-NPO

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2008

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Dear Members,

There is nothing quite like home! I have been away for a lovely three week holiday with fanatic birders or, as they have become more popularly known, twitchers! We went to the Golden Gate National Park, beautiful scenery but freezing weather. Then on to Wakkerstroom, a great birding area, also very poor weather. We then drove to the Kruger Park where it was boiling hot. Almost lived in the swimming pools at the various camps! I think my companions must have photographed every bird in Kruger, fortunately for them, I did see a lot of animals!

Thanks for the continuing flow from members with the dates of their birthdays, anniversaries and email addresses. Hopefully, this month, the newsletter will go out by email to those members who have requested it! If you would like to change the way you receive it, please let me know.

Edna Higgins was one of the members who responded with her details. She told me that she and her husband joined the Society in 1947, and that she has very happy memories of the Society. I looked up other members who joined about this time and found Duncan and Rose MacMillan who joined in 1946 and 1949 respectively, and Bob Ritchie who joined in 1948. What experience we have in our Society! If any of you would like to share a humorous or interesting story about the Society in times gone by please drop me a line.

As we are just about to celebrate St. Andrew's Night I would like to tell you about St. Andrews, Scotland's oldest university town and a pilgrimage centre for golfers from around the world! The town is situated on a wide bay on the northeastern coast of Fife. St. Andrews University is often compared with Oxford and Cambridge universities. The student population, at St. Andrews, has a significant proportion of English undergraduates, among them, famously, Prince William, who was responsible for a substantial increase in the intake of female art history students during his time there!

According to legend the town was founded pretty much by accident, in the fourth century by St Rule, a custodian of the bones of St Andrew in Patras in southern Greece. In a vision he was ordered to carry 5 of the Saint's bones to the western edge of the world where he was to build a city in his honour. Struggling ashore after being shipwrecked, close to the present harbour, he built a shrine to the Saint, on what became the site of the cathedral. St. Andrew became Scotland's patron saint and the town its ecclesiastical capital. To hear more, come along to our St Andrew's evening on 6 December – details below.

CONGRESS:

Congress was hosted by Bloemfontein Caledonian Society at the Protea Sun Hotel (Thaba 'Nchu) and Lynette Johnson and team obviously put in a lot of hard work.

Friday's Ceilidh had a very varied programme, including an impromptu Irish dance by the incoming Fed. Chief.

The atmosphere at Saturday's meeting was positive and practical and focused on growing the Societies. The East London Caledonian Society was awarded the Ken Johnstone Trophy for highest percentage increase in members for the past year and Eastern Johannesburg was awarded the Harare Trophy for the biggest increase in membership.

The Federation Chief for 2008 / 2009 is Norma Craven and the Provincial Chieftains are Sandra Rankin (Cape), Michael Jackson (Natal), John Bell (Free State) and Andrew Kelly (Highland).

After Saturday's Ball the after party was hosted by Patrick & Norma Craven, with high spirits, Scotch spirits and much hilarity. Sunday's church service was conducted by past Fed. Chief Robin Kelly.

(Feedback courtesy of East London Caledonian Society)

FROM THE CHIEF

We have a number of kindred societies in Cape Town. Sadly some, like The Sons of England, no longer exist. One of the more remote societies with whom we have been in contact from time to time is the St Andrew's Society of Mexico. One of our past Chiefs whom some of you will remember is David Shepherd has

recently agreed to be their Chief. Lady President, Elaine, is also the scribe of their newsletter "The Doublet" and we recently received an email from her. I am sure she won't mind if I include an extract there from as I know some of you will be interested.

Hello Peter, Hope this finds you and Nicky well. David and I are coping with his retirement - quite a challenge!! I keep encouraging him to go off on either motorbike trips or car tours. David jnr is still with ICI in London, he is doing well. He and Zoshia have recently celebrated 10 years together. Alicia having completed her round the world working trip, worked for 6 months with a student travel company in Spain and is now in California trying to get a study visa. David snr is chief of the St. Andrew's this year and has been promoting regular Ceilidh's. We also had a whisky tasting courtesy of Dewar's with 120 people- fortunately we did not run out!

If any of you would like a recent copy of "The Doublet" to be emailed to you please let me know.

Some of our kindred societies (unfortunately not Mexico!) will be joining us for our St Andrew's Night function. This promises to be a fun evening with lots of entertainment so please make an effort to be there. This will be our final function of the year.

Yours aye, Peter

BIRTHDAYS - November

Happy Birthday to the following members:

Beth Hewitt-Coleman 7th

Louise Athiros 10th

Gordon Foulis 23rd

Keith Griffiths 24th

Norma Harris 28th

Ruth McGregor-Clark 29th

FUTURE FUNCTIONS

Kirkin' of the Chief - 09h00 on Sunday 16th November 2008 at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 22 Newton Drive, Meadowridge. Please join us for this important event. It will be a good opportunity for you to meet our new Honorary Padre. Kindly bring a plate of eats to share after the service. Presiding minister: Honorary Padre Revd David Gray.

St. Andrew's Night

Date – Saturday 6 December 2008

Time – 19:00 for 19:30

Venue – Rondebosch Golf Club

Tickets – R95 per person

Come and join us for this important and fun evening to celebrate the life of our Patron Saint, St Andrew. A two-course meal will be served and a cash bar will be available. Pipers from the Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band will be there to create the right atmosphere and we will be privileged to have a great turnout by the Lynfrae Scottish Country Dance group to entertain us with their dancing. Chief Peter Ross will deliver the Toast to St Andrew this year. We expect to have some super prizes to be won on our raffle! To book, please telephone Colleen or Stuart Rennie on 021 7623253.

Burn's Night

Date – Saturday 24th January 2008

Venue – Grill Room, Kelvin Grove, Newlands

This is another hallmark evening at a lovely venue. More details will appear in our December newsletter. To confirm your interest in the meantime please call Chieftain Narina Gilder Ph 021 5311820.

OUTSTANDING SUBSCRIPTIONS

We would like to make a special appeal to those of you who are in arrear with your subscription payments to please bring your outstanding accounts up-to-date. This is an important source of income to your Society. Reminders will be sent out shortly by our treasurer but should you wish to check in the meantime, please contact our treasurer, Lance whose contact details at the top of this newsletter.

PROMPT AND PRACTICAL

Reverend Stranger. " My good man, can you tell me the nearest way to the cathedral ? "

Scottish Cabby. " Jist inside the cab here, sir."

A bloke walks into a Glasgow library and says to the prim librarian, 'Excuse me Miss, dey ye hiv any books on suicide?' To which she stops doing her tasks, looks at him over the top of her glasses and says, 'Push off, ye'll no bring it back!'

From your Chief, Lady President and Council
And your scribe

**BOOKING FORM FOR St ANDREW'S NICHT
6 DECEMBER 2008**

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

No of persons: @ R95 each =R.....

If you have a specific seating requirement, please state it:

If you require vegetarian food please indicate Yes No

KINDLY ARRANGE BY PAYMENT BY 30 NOVEMBER 2008

Cheques to be made payable to: Cape Town Caledonian Society

Direct transfers to: Cape Town Caledonian Society, FNB Rondebosch, Branch code : 201509, Current account : 55161140154 (Use surname as reference)

PLEASE FORWARD THE COMPLETED FORM(S) TOGETHER WITH YOUR REMITTANCE OR PROOF THEREOF TO:

THE SECRETARY, CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY, PO BOX 1433, CAPE TOWN 8000

ALTERNATIVELY EMAIL TO MR LANCE WISEMAN: wiseman@ddconstruction.co.za

Or a fax for his attention: Fax No 021 686 1957