



# Cape Town Caledonian Society

Established 1881

Reg. No 036-264-NPO

[www.capetowncaledoniansociety.org.za](http://www.capetowncaledoniansociety.org.za)

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## Nov./Dec. 2011 NEWSLETTER

Scribe: Stuart Rennie Tel/Fax 021 762 3253 Mobile 079 534 8389

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Dear Members

Do you realize that we have just passed the “two months to Christmas” date and that we are motoring towards the end of the year? I hope that you are not going to get caught up in the usual, frenetic rush to get things completed by Christmas. It seems as if we all have a built-in clock which gets us wanting to finish this or that before Christmas. If you are in this position, I suggest that you work hard at the task/s during November so that you can then relax in December and have a peaceful run-up to Christmas.

### **THE PLANTATION IN ULSTER**

Ulster was the last province in Ireland to be brought under the control of the English Monarch. This was finally accomplished when James VI of Scotland ascended to the English throne as James I in 1603. In 1607 the English government embarked upon a scheme of plantation, whereby lands were confiscated and given to new landowners of English and Scottish origin, known as undertakers. Six counties, known as the “escheated counties” were to be settled. The undertakers were expected to plant ten families or 24 men for every 1000 acres they were granted. In north-east County Down, two Scots, James Hamilton and Hugh Montgomery acquired large estates and consequently, Scots settled on these lands. The largest land grant was the grant of the greater part of the four northern baronies in County Antrim – an area of well over 300,000 acres – to Randal MacDonnell in 1603. Randal invited lowland Scots to settle on his lands. The ruins of his castle are to be seen today at Dunluce. By 1630, Scottish settlements were heaviest in north Antrim, north-east Down, east Donegal and north-west Tyrone. The total Scottish adult population was estimated to have been just over 6,500.

### **NEWS FROM SCOTLAND**

This time I decided to move north and look at some articles in the Aberdeen Evening Express. See page two for some interesting and mind blowing information:

## **25 million people have visited Aberdeen's Union Square**

Published: 28/10/2011 and written by Niamh Burns

*'More than 25 million visitors have passed through the doors of Union Square since it opened two years ago in Aberdeen. An average of 240, 000 people have been shopping, dining and drinking at the £275 million complex every week since it opened on October 29, 2009.'*

This seems a staggering figure! It makes one wonder how many shoppers we have visiting Cavendish Square each week.

## **Scottish patients facing longest wait in UK to see their GP**

Published: 22/09/2011

*'Scottish patients are the least likely in the UK to see their GP within 48 hours, a new survey has revealed. Only 22% of Scots will get a visit to their GP within two days of calling. The survey also found that 35% of patients in Scotland said they had waited at least seven days to see their GP' with only Wales reporting more(39%) facing week-long waits. The online research showed overall four-fifths were happy with the quality of the treatment or advice they eventually received.'*

What patience they have! We are so spoiled here, at present.

## **BAA pledges to support Aberdeen Airport**

Published: 19/10/2011

*'Airport operator BAA pledged to continue to invest in Aberdeen after confirming its plan to sell the company's Edinburgh site. The firm, which operates six UK airports, including Aberdeen, had been ordered by the Competition Commission to sell either its Edinburgh or Glasgow operation.'*

*BAA said today it had decided Edinburgh Airport would be the one to be sacrificed and the sale could be agreed by next summer.*

Maybe our Competition Board should look at the monopoly held by ACCSA, and maybe our airport tariffs could decrease, instead of increasing drastically this year.

## **TIME FOR A LAUGH**

*What do you call six weeks of rain in Fort William? The summer holidays!*

*As a Christmas present one year, the laird gave his gamekeeper, MacPhail, a deerstalker hat with ear-flaps. MacPhail was most appreciative and always wore it with the flaps tied under his chin to keep his ears warm in the winter winds. Then one cold, windy day the laird noticed he wasn't wearing the hat.*

***"Where's the hat?"** he asked.*

***"I've given up wearing it since the accident,"** was the reply.*

***"Accident? I didn't know you'd had an accident."***

***"A man offered me a nip of whisky, and I had the earflaps down and never heard him."***

*Hector and his smarter brother Hamish were running a ferry service to one of the Hebridean Islands. One day it was particularly stormy and the boat was tossed about on the waves.*

*“We’ll sink, we’ll sink!” wailed Hector.*

*“Quick, then, get roond and collect the fares,” shouted Hamish.*

*“Otherwise we’ll all be drowned before they’ve paid!”*

(The jokes were all taken from “Scottish Jokes”:\_edited by Chris Findlater, Lomond,1998)

## **MEMBERS’ NEWS**

- We were sorry to hear of the passing of **Frank Duk**. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, **Maaike**, at this time.
- Our thoughts are with **Audrey Smith**, who was attacked in her home recently. We wish you all the best as you recover from the incident and pray that this will never occur again.
- **Welcome** to a new Member: **Philippa van Ryneveld**. We hope that you will enjoy many happy years in the Society.
- The **Ladies’ Group** will meet again in February next year as there are so many things happening at this time of the year. Details will be sent out in January 2012.
- Welcome back **Peter and Anne Mcleod and Vicki Mackenzie** from Welkom after attending the Federation Congress. Thank you for flying the Cape Town Callies’ flag for us. More news regarding the Congress will be reported in our next newsletter, as the three of them have just returned.
- We wish **Maureen Fernandes** well, as she travels to Australia, and look forward to hearing her news on her return.
- We wish **Colleen Rennie** a good recovery from her torn ligament in the ankle, and urge her to give the leg as much rest as possible. All the best as you negotiate the use of those crutches, Colleen!
- Thank you to **Heather and Andrew Hodgson** for getting our website updated and back online. Watch for the active link, to follow, so that you can view photos and news of the life of the Society, through its functions.
- Congratulations to **Rev David Gray and his wife Rosemary**, on the engagement and up-coming wedding of their son on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011. We pray for God to bless the happy couple and for the smooth running of their special day, plus all the planning that goes before it.
- We wish the mom of **Heather Hodgson**, a speedy recovery from her recent operation.
- We are so sorry to learn that **Margaret Currie** has had such a trying time with her sight. She’s had operations to deal with glaucoma and has had cataracts removed. Presently she’s feeling rather poorly with all the flu bugs going around as well. Margaret, we well know how you always put a strong face on things and don’t want to worry others but we hope

that you will call for help if you need it. Our prayers are with you. Get well soon.

- We've just heard that **Peter Mcleod** will be going into hospital at the end of November for an operation on his knee. He will be, literally, out of action for a few weeks afterwards so will miss the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on St Andrews Night – much to his disappointment. We will all be praying for a complete recovery **Peter**. **Anne**, please don't feel shy to call for help at any time.
- **Maureen Lith** has told us that she hasn't been at all well over the past weeks. **Maureen**, we're so glad that you now seem to be on the mend but please don't get too ambitious, just take it easy until you're completely well. Please let us know if we can be of any help.

## BIRTHDAYS

We hope that those who have already celebrated their birthdays had an enjoyable time on their special day and many more to come, and we wish the others many happy returns, on theirs. Enjoy the day!

### Nov.

1<sup>st</sup> Maureen Fernandes  
7<sup>th</sup> Beth Hewitt-Coleman  
10<sup>th</sup> Louise Athiros  
23<sup>rd</sup> Gordon Foulis  
24<sup>th</sup> Keith Griffiths  
28<sup>th</sup> Norma Harris  
29<sup>th</sup> Bruce McGregor-Clark

### Dec.

2<sup>nd</sup> Myra Horn  
4<sup>th</sup> Maaïke Duk  
5<sup>th</sup> Gabriel Athiros  
14<sup>th</sup> Megan Pettie  
17<sup>th</sup> Gerald Stark

## THE CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY RECIPE BOOK

The members of the sub-committee tasked with putting this together wish to thank all members who contributed their recipes and managed to acquire some sponsorships and/or advertisements. It looks as if we may have 130 recipes or more, which makes this a worthwhile keepsake to buy.

The recipe books will be sold at R50 each, and will make ideal gifts as well as be very useful in your own kitchen. We hoped to have them ready for the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary evening but unfortunately that won't be possible. They will be on sale early next year and orders have already been received. Please phone Colleen at 079 534 8389 or 021 762 3253 or our Secretary, Jacinta (see letterhead for her contact telephone numbers) to place your orders.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Will those members who have not yet paid this year's subscription, please do so as soon as possible. I remind you that cheques are to be made payable to: Cape Town Caledonian Society and can be posted to P O Box 442 Cape Town 8000. Direct online payments or telegraphic transfers can be made to: Cape Town Caledonian Society, FNB Rondebosch, Branch Code: 201509, Current Account: 55161140154 (Please use 'Subs' **plus your surname** as a reference).

## PAST EVENTS: KIRKIN' OF THE CHIEF

We thank our Hon Padré, Rev. David Gray for hosting the Kirkin' of our Chief on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Meadowridge. It was a special service, with a lovely message from David, and fantastic piping by the Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band. The Chief and Lady President and Council members had a Blessed time, as they pledged their commitment to running the Society. Afterwards members of the Society who attended, enjoyed a scrumptious tea in the hall with the congregation. This was followed by watching the semi-finals of the Rugby World-Cup in the company of the Pipe Band members at Café Dulcé in Plumstead.

We wish to thank Gordon and Mary Wallace for attending the Kirkin' on behalf of the Pinelands Caledonian Society, and also, we thank those members who assisted, by providing some of the lovely refreshments.



**Left:** Chief Stuart with Heather and Andrew Hodgson enjoying the early morning sun while watching the pipe band play before the service. **Middle:** Pipe Major Tony Reis piping in the Honorary Padre, Rev David Gray, the Chief and Lady President, Council and Special Guests. **Right:** The Pipe Major leads the Congregation in the hymn 'Amazing Grace' with his solo before the band join in. A most moving experience!



The Chief and Lady President, Chieftains and Councilors making their pledges to the Society before God in the presence of the Congregation of Trinity Church and the Honorary Padre, Rev David Gray.



Chief Stuart presenting Certificates of Honour to Pipe Major Tony Reis as the Society's Honorary Piper, to the Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band who support the Society at functions and in other ways, and to Rev David Gray as the Society's Honorary Padre.

## CHIEF'S AT HOME

The Chief was home on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November, at Mossop Hall, on the corner of Cheltenham and Roseberry Roads in Little Mowbray. It was an opportunity to enjoy a good lunch and a chance to interact with one another, besides having a "guid" time. See "A Message from the Chief" below for more details.

## FUTURE EVENTS

**CELEBRATION OF OUR 130<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ON ST ANDREW'S NIGHT**  
As you have all been notified, it will be on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, at 18:30 for 19:00 sharp, at Villa on the Beach, 7 Winkle Way, Sunset Beach.**

Tickets are R150 per person for fully paid-up members and R170 per person for others and non-members. This will include a gift, a sumptuous three course dinner with juice and table wine, entertainment and a night to remember. Please bring along your own drinks. There will be no corkage charged, and glasses will be provided. There may be a limited cash bar for various wines only. **Latest RSVP date is Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Please ensure that Jacinta has your booking on or before this date and that it is confirmed.** Payment may be made by internet transfer, direct deposit into the Society's Account, or by cheque at the door. There is seating for only 80 people so please make your booking as soon as possible because it won't be long before we have a 'sell-out' and a "**FULL HOUSE**" notice put up. Please see the booking form at the end of the newsletter.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Before I go any further, I must apologise to both our scribe, Stuart Rennie, and to all Members and Friends for the lateness of this edition of our Newsletter. Stuart had it ready at the beginning of November but I was caught with a bout of food poisoning and a severe viral infection and was out of action for a few days. It took some time to really get back on track again and then there was much to catch up on business wise etc. and, unfortunately, I've only now been able to get down to my contribution to the Newsletter.

I'm very excited about our new website. As Stuart has said, many thanks to Heather and Andrew Hodgson for the many hours and much hard work they have put in to create it for us. We say it's new, because it is! The old one is now closed and this one has a new address (name). Have a look :-

[www.capetowncaledoniansociety.org.za](http://www.capetowncaledoniansociety.org.za)

There is still some work to go into it so that we have it set up just as we want it to be but, never-the-less, I believe it's a great website which will evolve over the years. I particularly like the fact that we are linked to (or soon will be) Kindred Societies and Organisations. Try it out – I don't think you'll be disappointed.

Stuart had the Chief's at Home function listed under Future Events but, as I'm only now writing to you, it's now a Past Event! Never-the-less I must say that it was a most enjoyable time spent together with minimal formality and much discussion between the 30 or so folk that came along. Initially we had set out tables seating four at each. Well, we were told that this was too 'separating' for real social chit-chat so it was decided to make (in the end) two big tables out of the little ones and the decibel level increased substantially! Jacinta's spread was superb (although I say it myself) and was well rounded off with three – yes, THREE – home-made chocolate cakes from Myra. Well, of course, you know me and chocolate..... Thank you so much ladies. Thank you too to all Members of Council who helped so much in setting up the venue and for helping to clear up afterwards (see Stuart and Peter below). Thanks also to Maureen Fernandes and Trish Meyer for bringing along crockery, cutlery and glasses, and Maureen for the CD player so we could enjoy sounds of Scotland in the background, supplied by Peter Ross.



**Left:** Stuart Rennie (Immediate Past Chief) about to badge me as Chief for the year with Bradan Wing looking to see if he can find the right badge. **Middle:** Badging Colleen Rennie who had to 'sit it out' with her foot and ankle in a boot to keep her ankle secure after suffering a torn ligament a couple of weeks before. **Right:** Just checking (again) to see if we've got the correct badges.



**Left:** Our new Council with brothers, Kagun and Bradan Wing, standing in for Heather and Andrew Hodgson who were in Johannesburg at the time. **Middle:** Some of the folk who joined the Chief at Home and it was a real pleasure to welcome Eddie and Anne Stevenson, Chief and Lady President of Pinelands Caledonian Society. **Right:** Stuart Rennie (Immediate Past Chief of the Society and Past Provincial Chieftain) and Peter McLeod (Past Federation Chief) in the kitchen washing up afterwards – note the smiles!!

As you know the Chief's at home was on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November and, of course, the day before was Remembrance Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November. Jacinta's office is in Ward S4 (UCT Paediatric Research) at the Red Cross Children's War Memorial Hospital. We were privileged to be able to attend a very moving Memorial Service, held in front of the main entrance of the hospital, where Pipe Major Tony Reis of the Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band piped

the lament during the service. A young children's brass band accompanied us during the hymns. I have to say that the playing of The Last Post never fails to move me and I wept thinking of all those lives lost in the horrors of two world wars, and all the other wars before and afterwards, to protect us and preserve the freedom we now enjoy.

Members of The Dukes stood guard as sentries during the service and the Sergeant Major invited us to attend the Remembrance Day Sunday Memorial Service in the Cape Town Civic Centre on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November to represent the Society. After another moving service, on a much larger scale, we placed flowers, on behalf of the Society, with the wreaths laid by all arms of the South African Military past and present, the City of Cape Town, The Royal Navy, the Moths and others that had lost men and women in times of conflict. Next year we have determined that we will lay a wreath on behalf of the Society.

I've recently become the proud owner of a CD entitled "Second to None" featuring the Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers and Greys). The front cover is a little booklet that, among other things of interest, gives an historical review of the regiment.

Being Scotland's senior regiment it was formed in 1971 from the amalgamation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Carabiniers (themselves the result of the amalgamation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dragoon Guards and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Carabiniers in 1922) and the Royal Scots Greys, and can trace their history back to 1678. One striking episode of extreme bravery was at the battle of Waterloo in 1815. The Scots Greys took part in the famous Charge of the Union Brigade and it was here that Sergeant Charles Ewart captured the Imperial Eagle Standard of Napoleon's 45<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

Three battalions of Highlanders, part of Picton's Division, were being beaten back by the French when the Royal Dragoons, the Scots Greys and the Inniskilling Dragoons, who, together formed the famous Union Brigade, were ordered to charge. As the Greys passed through the Gordons many of the Highlanders grasped their stirrups and shouting, "**Scotland Forever**" were carried headlong through the ranks of the leading French Divisions. It was after a desperate fight that Sergeant Ewart captured the Imperial Eagle Standard and he later received a well-deserved commission.

The Eagle and Standard are on display in Edinburgh Castle and, in commemoration, the Eagle forms part of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards cap badge. The price of bravery that day was high. Out of 416 men who began the day, 200 men and 224 horses were killed or wounded. However, their charge has been described as the greatest thunderbolt ever launched by British Cavalry.

In 1937 the grave of Ensign Charles Ewart was discovered in a disused cemetery in Manchester and his remains were disinterred to be re-buried, in 1938, in a tomb on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle.

The reason for telling the above story in a specific part of history is to highlight the fact that men, and women, have been fighting and dying on our behalf for centuries and, even when displaying bravery and gallantry of the highest order they can be forgotten. This is why it's so important to pay homage on Remembrance Day to those who have fallen so that we DON'T forget and also to pledge ourselves to peace.

***“They shall not grow old, as we who are left to grow old.***

***Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.***

***At the going down of the sun and in the morning***

***WE WILL REMEMBER THEM”***

Until the next time. Sláinte. *Stuart*

## **SCOTTISH LILT STUMPS iPHONE**

The following article appeared on IOL on October 27<sup>th</sup> 2011:

*The release of the iPhone 4S was met by much fanfare for its voice recognition software, but hundreds of Scottish users have found that the technology struggles with their accent.*

*Siri, the feature which allows users to talk to their phones for everyday tasks such as setting appointments or searching the internet, has left a sour taste for some in the North with complaints popping up on forums and video websites such as YouTube.*

*One such video shows a Scottish user asking the question: “Can you dance with me?” That is interpreted as: “ Can you Dutch women?”*

*Another involves a user trying to set an appointment for 12 o clock, to which Siri replies that it does not understand “treblecock”.*

Well, as one would say in Scotland, when welcoming a visitor: ***“Nae ceremony, we’re a’ Jock Tamson’s bairns here”.***

## **ASSOCIATED SOCIETIES**

**1. Pinelands Caledonian Society** will be having their **St Andrew’s Function** on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at the Catholic Church Hall, 19:00 for 19:30 for more details, and to book, ‘phone Anne at 021 5540302. They will also be having a **Christmas Lunch** at Mowbray Golf Club on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 12:00 for 12:30, and for more details, and to book ‘phone Anne at 021 5540302.

## **2. Scottish Country Dancing – Upcoming Events**

Scottish Country Dancers are looking forward to participating in the upcoming St Andrew’s Night celebrations of both the Pinelands Callies and the Cape Town Callies.

Please do visit our web site [www.scd.za.net](http://www.scd.za.net) where you’ll not only find photos from recent functions but also details of upcoming dance events and

classes. Visitors, newcomers and spectators are always welcome and there are opportunities to dance across the peninsula on most evenings of the week.

Scottish Country Dancing is definitely active at the southern tip of Africa; we invite you to join in the fun, as seen in the collage of photographs, below.



**On Behalf of your Chief and Lady President and Council, I wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and a Guid New Year.**

***May the hill rise behind you,  
And may the mountain be always over the crest;  
And may the God that you believe in  
Hold you in the palm of his hand.***

*Yours Aye  
Your Scribe*

**BOOKING FORM FOR 130<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ON  
ST ANDREWS NICHT - SATURDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2011**

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Adults: ..... @ R150 each = R..... [ ] Please tick here if paying by CHEQUE on arrival.

No. of Adults: ..... @ R170 each = R.....

Total: = R \_\_\_\_\_

(If possible, please avoid paying by cash but don't let that stop you from coming!!!!!!)

Cheques to be made payable to: Cape Town Caledonian Society, and crossed: /Not Transferable/  
Internet Transfer payments (EFT) can be made to: Cape Town Caledonian Society, First National Bank,  
Rondebosch, Branch code: 201509, Current a/c No.: 55161140154 (Reference: Your Surname + 130th 2011)

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

THE SECRETARY, CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY, PO BOX 442, CAPE TOWN 8000

OR E-MAIL HER A SCANNED COPY TO: [jacinta.munro@uct.ac.za](mailto:jacinta.munro@uct.ac.za)

OR SEND HER A FAX TO: 021 761 0568

***THANK YOU FOR COMING – WE KNOW YOU WILL ENJOY THE EVENING***