



Cape Town Caledonian Society

Established 1881 Reg. No 036-264-NPO

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

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Secretary:	Jacinta Munro PO Box 1433 Cape Town 8000	021 761 0568 (H) Email: Jacinta.swarts@uct.ac.za
Treasurer	Stuart Munro PO Box 1433 Cape Town 8000	021 761 0568 (Home & Work)
Scribe	Nicky Ross	021 712 2506 (H) / Email: pross@iafrica.com

Dear Members,

We, the Ross family, visited Oban as a family on our tour to Scotland in 2004. What a lovely area it is. In fact the west coast from Inverness to Oban was a highlight for me. Will Carter, one of our members went to the Oban Games on the 26th August, and described them as stunning!

Just 8 miles south of Oban are the Slate Islands. The most northerly of the Slate Islands is Seil, a lush island, now an exclusive enclave (Princess Diana's mother Mrs Shand-Kydd is a resident). It is separated from the mainland by a very thin sea channel and spanned by the elegant humpback Clachan Bridge, built in 1793 and popularly known as the "Bridge over the Atlantic". The pub next door to the bridge is the Tigh na Truish (House of the Trousers), where kilt-wearing islanders would change into trousers to conform to the post-1745 ban on Highland dress!

The main village on Seil is Ellenabeich, which has neat white terraces of workers' cottages – featured in the film Ring of Bright Water – crouching below black cliffs on the western most tip of the island. Ellenabeich was once a tiny island separated from the mainland by a slim sea channel until intensive quarrying succeeded in silting it up.

The Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Centre is housed in one of the little white cottages. The best feature of the exhibition is the model of the slate quarry as it would have been at the height of its fame in the nineteenth century.

PAST EVENTS

Annual General Meeting:

Our AGM took place on Saturday 29th August 2009. As usual this was held at the Claremont Congregational Church Hall in Claremont. Thank you so much for those who took the time and effort to join us.

The following persons were elected onto Council:

- ❖ Chief And Lady President: Stuart and Colleen Rennie
- ❖ Chieftain: Myra Horn
- ❖ Honorary Secretary: Jacinta Munro

- ❖ Honorary Treasurer: Stuart Munro
- ❖ Councillors: Lance Wiseman, Trish Meyer and Nicky Ross (who is also your scribe)
- ❖ Past Chief (no election required): Peter Ross

The following office bearers were also appointed:

Honorary Piper: Tony Reis

Honorary Padre: David Gray (Trinity Presbyterian Church, Meadowridge)

Federation Proxy: Fred Brokenshire

We thank and congratulate all of the above persons who agreed to make themselves available for election. Well done to all of you and we wish you every success in the year ahead!

FUTURE EVENTS & FUNCTIONS

Federated Caledonian Society Congress:

Once again just for the information of those who are interested, the Congress of the Caledonian Societies of SA will be held at Carnival City in Gauteng from the 9-11 October 2009. While time is rapidly running out, if any of our members are interested in going, please contact Past Chief Peter Ross (Tel 021 689 9450 (W) or Cell 083 302 3791) for further details.

Kindred Society Evening

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, a convening committee representing your Society, Pinelands Caledonian Society, Cambrian Society, the Male Welsh Voice Choir and the Irish SA Association have been meeting regularly to plan a joint Kindred Society Evening. The English are also joining the fray! Each Society / Association will be responsible for entertainment in a proportionate slot in the evening's programme so be assured that there will be plenty of variety!

What fun we have had as an organising committee! While enough time is always spent discussing the business end, the rest of the time is spent with much joviality and laughter at the steady stream of wisecracks and the jokes over a few glasses of Old Brown sherry. So if the event is anything as good as the planning meetings, this should be a cracker!

Details of the function as follows:

- Kindred Society Gathering
- Venue: Vista Nova School Hall, Milner Rd, Rondebosch
- Date: Friday 23 October 2009.
- Time: 7pm for 730pm to 1130pm
- Prices: R20 per ticket (cheap!)
- NB: Guests to bring their own eats, drinks and glasses
- RSVP: Nicky Ross Tel 021 712 2506 (H) or Cell 083 302 3791

The number of tickets are being limited to 30 for each society / association so do not delay in making your booking with Nicky. In view of the limited supply we will need to restrict bookings to members of the Society and their spouses / partners. Once you have confirmed your booking telephonically with Nicky, please arrange for payment to be made as follows:

Cheques to be made payable to: Cape Town Caledonian Society and posted to our postal address (see top of newsletter)

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

All of our Kindred Societies are really pleased that the Cape Town Caledonian Society initiated this function! The demand for tickets is so high in the participating Societies and Associations that there is already talk about making this an annual (ore even more regular?) event and using a much bigger venue!

Kirkin' of the Chief and Chief's at Home:

The **Kirkin' of the Chief** will be held as follows:

- Time: 09h00 sharp (please arrive earlier)

- Date: Sunday 1st November 2009
- Venue: The Trinity Presbyterian Church, 22 Newton Drive, Meadowridge.

Please bring a plate of eats to share at the tea in the church hall immediately after the service. The Presiding Minister will be our Honorary Padre Revd David Gray.

The **Chiefs at Home** will be held on the same day and will follow the Kirkin'. This will take the form of a luncheon at the home of our new Chief and Lady President Stuart and Colleen Rennie who have kindly agreed to host the event and to provide the lunch. Details are as follows:

- ❖ Start time – 12h00 after the Kirkin' service
- ❖ Venue: The Rennies home – 84 Lympleigh Road, Plumstead
- ❖ Cost: R10 per person
- ❖ Please bring your own drinks (Glasses will be provided)
- ❖ RSVP: Nicky Ross: Tel 021 712 2506 or Cellphone 083 499 0888

St. Andrew's Night:

Date: Saturday 28 November, 2009

Time: 19:00 for 19:30

Venue: Rondebosch Golf Club

Tickets: R95 per person

An important event in our calendar in celebration of the life of our Patron Saint, St Andrew. A two course meal will be served and a cash bar will be available. To book, please telephone Jacinta or Stuart Munro on Colleen or Stuart Rennie on 021 7623253.

Kindly also complete the enclosed booking form.

Burns Supper

Yes the functions for the next few months continue unabated. Burns Supper is scheduled to be held on Saturday 23 January, 2010, two day before the Bard's birthday on 25 January. More details will follow.

FROM YOUR (PAST) CHIEF

As our new Chief and lady President, Stuart and Colleen Rennie, have only recently returned from their trip to the UK, I will give Stuart a break from doing his bit in this column for this newsletter. I am feeling somewhat ambivalent about standing down as your Chief after three years in office. For me to have stood for a fourth year would have required a special resolution at an AGM with some very special conditions attached! Fortunately all this trouble was circumvented by Stuart and Colleen Rennie making themselves available for these important positions in our Society once more. With their wealth of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm I have absolutely no doubt that they and their Council will do a great job going forward!

I tabled my Chiefs Report at the AGM but this mostly covered events over the past year. While I have time and space constraints to properly reflect back on what has happened during my past three years in office, what I can succinctly say is:

- It has been an incredible journey for both your Lady President Nicky and myself. Quite part from the pleasure of getting to know all of you, our members, so much better, we have met such a wide array of interesting, talented and passionate people. We have attended a considerable number of functions in our capacities as representatives of the Society and as guests of honour.
- We have had great support form Council both past and present and we would like to thank them sincerely for that.
- Holding office has not been an easy task especially when one is not retired and needs to meet the enormous demands and challenges of one's working life which in my case is my business advisory company, ActivPro Business Solutions. (Perhaps you don't even know

that ActivPro provides a range of business services from business plans and marketing plans to BEE and transformation programs.)

- I have at tried to focus on what is best for the Society and deliberately tried not to become involved in some of the differences of opinion between Councillors when I first became Chief (that is the Scot's character after all!). I am happy to say that Council - and members - all appear to be pulling in the same direction nowadays and have common goals.
- While we have lost some members, most of whom have been called to higher service, we have also gained a considerable number of young and younger members which is most encouraging for the future of the Society. Some of these new members are really passionate about their participation and I urge them to keep up their strong spirit and to enjoy their participation in the Society. If they would like to see some changes in the Society to move with the times then they should make that their goal and take us with them. The important thing is to have fun and plenty of laughter on the way!

Kind Regards to all of you, Slainte! PETER ROSS

NEWS FROM MEMBERS:

We are delighted to record three new members to our Society having been introduced by Stuart and Jacinta Munro. They are Mrs Maureen Fernandes, Mrs Norma Jergensen and Mrs Maureen Daly. I am sure that you will meet them at future functions but in the meeting to all three of you, welcome aboard.

It was noted by our treasurer that a payment of R300 was deposited into the Society's account from a certain Jennifer D B Davies. If anyone knows Jennifer or how we can contact her please could you contact our Treasurer Stuart Munro whose details appear at the top of this newsletter.

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS!!

August: (Whoops, we missed these ones in our previous newsletter! Apologies!

- ❖ Carol Macfarlane 16th
- ❖ Peter McLeod 19th

September:

- ❖ Lance Wiseman 5th
- ❖ Bob Ritchie 6th
- ❖ Helen Johnston 6th
- ❖ Maureen Lith 7th
- ❖ Richard Young 9th
- ❖ Patrick Leonard 17th
- ❖ Phyllis Cruickshank 24th

October:

- ❖ Peter Boyd 10th
- ❖ Nicky Ross 14th
- ❖ Clare Alexander 15th
- ❖ Judy Lucas 16th
- ❖ Catherine de Vries 23rd
- ❖ Peter Ross 30th

From your Chief, Lady President and Council

And your scribe.

**BOOKING FORM FOR St ANDREW'S NICHT
28 NOVEMBER 2009**

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 2 NOVEMBER 2009

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 STUART MUNRO: samunro@iafrica.com

Or a fax for his attention: Fax No 021 761 0568