



Cape Town Caledonian Society

Established 1881

Reg. No 036-264-NPO

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September/October 2012 NEWSLETTER

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Monday 5th November 2012

Dear Members and Friends

As you know our dear friend Stuart Rennie passed away suddenly on Wednesday 10th October. He was the scribe for our by-monthly newsletter and we worked together on the final product that you always receive every two months. Well, the following, after this message from me, was the detail that Stuart sent to me just a week before he died. I didn't have the time to complete the newsletter and send it off to you all on his behalf before his death and was originally hoping to send the letter off to you after returning from Congress in Johannesburg which was over the weekend of 12th to 14th October.

On return from Congress, where many, many Caledonians from around the Country wrote messages in the "Book of Memories" that we took with us, I simply couldn't complete the newsletter and, in the afternoon of Thursday 18th October, we said farewell to Stuart at his funeral. To all of you that came along to support Colleen and the family, and there were many of you, wearing the tartan as well, I pass on a very sincere "Thank you" from Colleen for your love and support. Many of you have written in the "Book of Memories" and have sent photographs as well, some from many years back. Again, Colleen sends her heartfelt thanks to you all for those wonderful memories that you all shared. If you would still like to send a message and or a photograph, please feel free to do so to this email address: samunro@iafrica.com, or post it to P O Box 442 Cape Town 8000 and I will ensure that it is inserted in the book on your behalf.

Farewell to our Caledonian Friend. Past Chief and Provincial Chieftain.



Quite honestly, I haven't had the courage to 'do the necessary' until now but here's Stuart's last Newsletter - enjoy:

Dear Members

There is a magnificent show of wildflowers out, already, up the West Coast, and whales have just appeared in False Bay, close in to St James and Fish Hoek. These two phenomena herald the start of Spring, although the weather is struggling to change for the better!

Congratulations to Stuart and Jacinta Munro who were unanimously elected for their third term in office as the Chief and Lady President, respectively, of our Society.

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

The following article was published in the Daily Record on 29/08/2012.

Edinburgh Airport to introduce "naked" scanner

Bosses at the country's busiest airport say that passengers "must comply" with the bare-body scans. Passengers are to be given bare- all body scans before boarding flights. From Saturday, anyone traveling from Edinburgh airport will have to agree to a scan if requested by security. Passengers will be selected at random for checks or if suspicions of security staff are raised, and those who refuse will be not be able to board their flight.

The body scanners – which use low-level X rays – can detect ceramics, plastics, liquids and drugs hidden under clothing.

Security staff will assess risk based on a mannequin-style diagram shown on a small screen attached to the scanning machine. The scan is quick, simple and safe for everyone. It does not compromise an individual's privacy as the image taken is deleted straight after it is assessed.

In response to the attempted attack on Northwest airlines flight 253 to Detroit on Christmas Day 2009, the UK Government held a review of aviation security. A package of additional measures to enhance security was announced, including the use of body scanners. They were introduced in February 2010 at Heathrow and Manchester airports, with the intention to roll out the process nationally.

Comment: Leon Schuster's prank in a Department store in one of his films a few years ago wasn't far off the mark – then – although there the people were exposed as far as their underclothes!

Emergency Workers attacked three times every day in South Ayrshire *The Ayrshire Post , Aug 24th 2012, by Jennifer Buchanan.

More than 180 emergency workers were attacked in the line of duty in South Ayrshire last year. That is more than three assaults every single week. But shockingly only 41 of these attacks were ever reported to the procurator fiscal, and only 17 of the thugs responsible were convicted. The worrying statistics were revealed to the Post under the Freedom of Information Act. Doctors, nurses,

police ambulance staff and paramedics were all victims. Unfortunately Strathclyde Fire Service failed to respond to requests for their assault figures.

Most of the attacks are classed by the emergency services as “minor”, although one attack on a police officer was categorized as a serious assault. The attacker was never traced.

There are 11 “no go” addresses without police assistance, in South Ayrshire. Of the 181 attacks, 137 of them happened in Ayr, with 107 attacks on police and 30 on medical staff. The majority of these were on nurses. There were 15 attacks on police in Troon last year, with seven in Maybole and six in Prestwick. Five policemen were assaulted in Girvan, five in Dundonald, four in Monkton and one each in Mauchline and Dunure. The problem has become so bad in Ayrshire accident and emergency departments that police patrols have been introduced on the wards on Friday and Saturday nights.

*Inspector Sean Mangan from Ayr police office explained that all assaults on emergency workers are taken seriously. **“As Communities Inspector for Ayr and the surrounding area I find any form of aggression against police officers and other emergency personnel abhorrent, and will always use the full weight of the justice system to bring such attackers to justice.”***

Comment: As abhorrent as these assaults are, they show that the attacks that have been reported in Johannesburg over the past few years, do not only occur in South Africa. It would be interesting to study this type of statistic in the Western Cape.

New flats for Prestwick – but residents pledge to fight.

**The Ayrshire Post, 18th June 2012, by Stuart Wilson*

A Housing giant has won its battle to build new flats in Prestwick but faces a war with nearby residents. Councillors on the planning panel were split down the middle, but the panel chairman had the casting vote and chose to back the council’s planning officials – who gave the nod for the house builder. That means 23 socially affordable flats for Shawfarm road – and a huge fallout from furious residents.

A stack of objections and an impassioned speech from Shawfarm spokeswoman had threatened a shock twist. Mr Hunter had earlier described the idea of building on green space in Shawfarm Road as “criminal”, and he told council colleagues sitting on the panel that a new housing development could lead to “appalling problems.” Ms Bain added: “two thirds of residents from Monkton Court and Shawfarm Place have objected to the proposal.” “I would suggest the council adheres to its motto of “ne’er forget the people” and duly listens to them now.” And with passions running high at the meeting in County Buildings, it looked like David may sink Goliath. Residents have argued from the outset that the plot of green space was always earmarked as protected land, but the house builder has refuted those allegations and is determined to build on the site.

Comment: This all sounds familiar, somehow!

TIME FOR A LAUGH

PREMATURE

Husband: **"I've got twa tickets for the Palace."**

Wife: **"Oh, that's fine. I'll awa' an' get ready."**

Husband: **"Aye, do that. They're for the morn's nicht."**

DEAR AT THE PRICE

Crank, buttonholing an Aberdonian. **"I say, would you care to join the Anti-tipping Society? The subscription is only a shilling a year."**

Aberdonian: **"Na, na, it'd be cheaper tae tip."**

PSYCHOLOGIST

A young "skiffle" enthusiast went into a pawn shop where amongst other things there was a large stock of guitars and pistols.

Said he: **"Hoo much for the guitars?"**

Shopkeeper: **"The price is twa pounds ten, and ye can tell yer faither the guns are five pounds if he wants ane".**

FLY IN THE OINTMENT

Mrs Broon: **"An' hoo's your new merit dochter getting on?"**

Mrs Black: **"No' bad. She's got a braw hoose wi' a' the latest gadgets and ony amount o' fur coats an' things, but she disna' get on wi' her man."**

Mrs Broon: **"Aye, there's aye a something!"**

FAMILY PARTY

Jean was becoming utterly fed up with her husband's drunken habits, and resolved to teach him a lesson. So, next Saturday night, having wrapped herself in a sheet, she set off to meet him as he came staggering homewards on his merry way.

"Oho!" she greeted him in a sepulchral voice, **"I am the De'il and I've come to claim my own."**

Sandy, deliriously happy and unabashed, merely replied – **"Gie's a shak' o' yer hand – I married yer sister!"**

The previous five jokes were taken from Tell me Another; published by Colourmaster, Sussex.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Congratulations to the following members of our Society who were nominated and accepted on our Council, to join the Chief and Lady President: Chieftains Peter Ross and Colleen Rennie, Immediate Past Chief Stuart Rennie, Treasurer: Janice Duff, Secretary: Philippa van Ryneveld, Councillors: Trish Meyer, Andrew and Heather Hodgson.

BIRTHDAYS

We hope that those who have already celebrated their birthdays had an enjoyable time, and we wish you all many happy returns!

September

17th Patrick Leonard

October

11th Helen Botes

14th Nicki Ross

16th Judy Lucas

24th Edith McNab

30th Peter Ross

PAST EVENTS

A CEILIDH

This was held at Rosedale in Newlands in July, and was attended by more or less 70 people. A grand time was had by all, and evidently a highlight of the evening was the singing by two of our new members, Philippa van Ryneveld and Kim . Well done, to the two of them!

THE VISIT OF THE FEDERATION CHIEF AND PROVINCIAL CHIEFTAIN

A highly successful luncheon was enjoyed by around thirty people at the Clovelly Golf Course. Our Lady President excelled herself by presenting our honoured guests with gifts that had been embellished with metallic work done by her. She creatively used the bunches of proteas on the tables as further gifts. Well done, Jacinta! Our guests enjoyed the fact that they were moved from table to table for the different courses. This enabled them to talk to more of our members.

AGM

This was held at the Tai Ping restaurant in Newlands at 14:00, and went so smoothly that it was finished by 15:15. Our Chief gave a lovely, interesting report of the various happenings in our Society over the past year, and it was evident that our Chief and Lady President have been making big strides in advertising our society in Cape Town. A big thank you is extended to them for their sterling service, and also to those members who attended, enabling our quorum to be attained. It was good to see a number of new members there, and I urge more people to make the time to attend, next year. Those members who came early, enjoyed a good lunch before the commencement of the meeting.

FUTURE EVENTS

KIRKIN OF THE CHIEF

This will take place at the **Trinity Presbyterian Church at 22 Newton Drive, Meadowridge at 09:00 on 28th October**. The service will be conducted by our Honorary Padré, Rev David Gray. Members who attend, are asked to join us for tea afterwards. We encourage you to come along and support the Kirkin of your Chief and Lady President.

CHIEF'S AT HOME

Please note that this is taking place immediately after tea, on the same day, viz. Sunday 28th October, at the home of our Honorary Padré, Rev. David Gray and his wife Rosemary. Please note that this is a free event for all members and their partners, so, join us all in making this a memorable occasion

for our Chief and Lady President. **Please let Jacinta know by Wednesday, 24th October should you be attending.**

TRAVELLING IN SCOTLAND

The following excerpts are taken from an article called, “**A Night in Lochinver**”, which appeared in **AM Bratach No. 250** of August 2012:

Written by Madeleine Ferrar.

It was freezing cold, pouring with rain and the wind was so strong I could hardly stand up. Just a normal spring day in Ullapool, it seems, and especially disappointing because it was the weekend of their annual book festival. I had driven cross-country from Helmsdale, and was already soaked to the skin, having tramped the streets trying to find the festival’s venue.

After the reading in the village hall had come to an end, we all filed out of the hall, back into the driving rain. The ferries had been suspended due to “adverse weather conditions” and the gift shops remained closed. I abandoned my plans to explore, and made for Tesco’s to stock up.

I felt a homing instinct coming on after that, but I had booked a bed in the new community owned hostel in Lochinver and felt under an obligation to honour the arrangement. Having been advised that, apart from me, there were only five male walkers booked into the hostel, I was looking forward to having a whole female dormitory to myself.

What I hadn’t bargained for was the fact that the atrocious weather had forced all the wild campers out of their sodden tents, so that when I arrived, I discovered that the hostel was almost full and that I was the only female guest. There was to be no female dormitory; I’d just have to muck in with the boys, but, I didn’t mind, I was warm and dry, that was the main thing.

In bed later that night, I listened, in the dark, as my room-mate, Paul, talked and talked. When he eventually fell asleep, he snored all night long. I lay awake, trying to persuade my brain that the snoring was a soothing lullaby that would send me to sleep. Of course, it didn’t work – it never does.

*In the morning Paul offered me a peppermint as a farewell gift. We both agreed that we hadn’t done justice to Lochinver, and that we would have to return one day. **“I’ve been told April sometimes brings better weather in these parts”** he ventured. I might just put the statement to the test.....*

Lang may your lam reek

Yours Aye



Your Scribe