



CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Established 1881 NPO Reg No 036-264

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2007

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Dear Member

Past midwinter – on our way to Spring – lovely thought! Right now the sun is shining warmly and Mr and Mrs Sunbird have reappeared in my garden. It's wonderful world!

GETTING WIRED TO THE WORLD

Reference The Highlander

Young **Angus Wilson** proceeds with care, concentrating on two bent wires held out in front of him. Slowly the left-hand wire swings sways and turns inward as, simultaneously, the right-hand wire moves slowly until both cross in front of his chest. "Hey, that's spooky!" he exclaims. "Is there really a body beneath here?" **Ian Orkney**, a former research engineer with three university degrees and a **Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland** and now a professional **douser** assures him that this is the case. "Cool – is this like Black Magic? Is it dangerous?" asks Angus. Again Ian reassures

him, explaining that dowsing is pure science.

It has been around for centuries, regularly employed to find coal seams or minerals. Multinational companies use it to find oil in remote areas. Often the divining is not done on site but by dowsers working from maps – doing a 'remote' as they call it.

It remains suspect, however, linked to **ley lines** and **earth magic** and seemingly to be rationally inexplicable. Yet, in the hands of skilled dowsers such as Ian and his colleagues the bent coat hangers, birch rods and swinging pendulums are revealing mysteries, hidden treasures and the ways of life of those who have long gone before us.

FROM THE CHIEF

Well the AGM which always marks the start of the new year for the Society was held on a bitterly cold

morning on 27th July so many thanks to those who put on their thermals and joined us. Fortunately Mieke brought her four-legged friend and in so doing we managed to get to the required quorum. The Council elected is reflected below. My thanks to each of them for agreeing to stand as we will all need to put shoulder to the wheel in the year ahead.

Our Honorary Padre Myra proposed a special vote of thanks to your Lady President Nicolette for the role she played in the last year and I would like to echo that sentiment in this forum. Whenever I need something done and do not know who to delegate the task to she is always the first one to spring to mind. So thanks from me too Nicky!

The Cape Field Artillery are celebrating their 150th anniversary this year making them the oldest volunteer Artillery Regiment in the Commonwealth. Last night (8 August) I went along to the "Music of the Night" concert at the Bellville Civic Centre where the Cape Field Artillery Pipes & Drums launched their CD entitled SALVO 150 - Voice of the Gunns - as one of the anniversary celebratory events. They were accompanied by the band Cross Over and later by the military band of the CFA. Great sounds all of which can be heard on their CD which retails at only R80. The Highland and Irish dancing display by students of the Lucas School of Dancing made the evening even more special. What a pity we were only advised of the event a week or so before as it was certainly something we could have featured in our last newsletter.

If you enjoy a wee dram, get on the blower quickly and reserve your seat at our whisky tasting. This event will be held soon after you receive this newsletter so don't delay!

Yours aye,
Peter

FUNCTIONS

Video (DVD) Evening

Despite seasonal 'flu and the weather, we finally spent a really great evening in our Chief's home watching the **2006 Edinburgh Tattoo** on dvd. There was hot soup and rolls to sustain us and excellent company to enjoy. We hope those of you who missed this happy time, due to winter ills will be able to attend the next one.

Annual General Meeting

We extend our thanks to those of you who braved the weather and came out in response to our call. The outcome of this event is as follows:

Chief and Lady President – Peter and Nicky Ross

Honorary secretary – Ian McWalter

Honorary treasurer – Lance Wiseman

Honorary padre – Myra Horn

Honorary scribe – Margaret Currie

Chieftains – Ian McWalter, Lance Wiseman, Myra Horn, Narina Gilder
Councillors – Margaret Currie, Mieke Gordon, Helen Johnston, Vicki MacKenzie, Mary Moodie.

We wish them well for the year ahead and in managing the affairs of the Society. The Chief gave an interesting and, at times, passionate report on the past year. It was agreed that the amendments to the constitution presented by Council and the audited financial statements

for 2006/2007 would be ratified at a special general meeting to be held before the end of the year.

Whisky Tasting – Best of Scotland
Date 18 August
Venue Officer's Mess, Cape Town Castle
Time 19h00 for 19h30
Entry R25 each

Do join us for this fun outing to learn more about and taste some fine Scottish Whisky in a great setting. The whisky will be presented by the College of Whisky. If you wish to attend please immediately call Peter on his cell 083 302 3791 or Nicky on 021 712 2506 as the event is in a few days time and numbers must be finalised.

Kirkin' of the Chief
Date 26 August
Venue Gardens Presbyterian Church
Time 10:00

This is a gentle reminder concerning the Kirkin' of the Chief. As the Kirk was always the centre of cultural activities in the *Auld Kirk*, so it must be for our Society. Therefore it is important to support the Chief in his acceptance of the great responsibility that rests on his shoulders during his time of office. I would urge you to try your utmost to join us for this event. After the service we shall serve refreshments in the Church Hall – if you decide to come and would like to bring something to eat, that would be most welcome! The other office bearers and Council will also be sworn in and badged at the same time. Hoping to see you there with any family and friends who also wish to come and

don't forget to *show the tartan*. With every blessing from *Myra Horn*, Honorary Padre.

25 August Freedom of the City Parade through Cape Town

26 August Church Parade at Wingfield, Goodwood

Chief's At Home
Date 15 September
Venue Vista Nova School
Time 19:00 for 19:30
Tickets R55

This is the evening we welcome our **Chief and Lady President, Peter and Nicky Ross**, and wish them well in another year of service to our Society. A piping quartet, Highland dancers and some other exciting entertainers in the pipeline, will entertain you. Alight supper will be served and please bring your own drinks and glasses. To book please telephone **Margaret Currie at 021 617 3674 or Mary Moodie at 021 762 4710** or use the enclosed booking slip.

October
Seniors Lunch

November/December
St Andrew's Night

January 2008
Burns' Night

The last three functions are still in the planning phase and details will be communicated in future newsletters.

Pinelands Society
Kirkin' of the chief – 19 August;

Seniors' afternoon 20 October. For details, please telephone **Anne Miller at 021 591 1499**.

Should you require transport to any of our functions please contact our Secretary **Ian McWalter at 021 685 6000 (a/h)** and we gladly arrange it.

MEMBERS NEWS

We send our sincere sympathies to **Chieftain Narina Gilder** who lost both her sister and her elderly aunt within two weeks of each other. May she find comfort in remembering them as she knew them in happier times.

Phyllis Cruickshank, who will be **89** in September, has been really ill with the current unpleasant winter 'flu – a very mild name for a hugely disagreeable ailment. Get well soon, Phyllis.

We send our congratulations to **Rev James Patrick**, a great favourite of ours, on achieving his doctorate. He is now Rev Dr James Patrick. Well done, James!

Congratulations and best wishes for the year ahead also goes to **Eleanor Wiseman**, mother of **Chieftain and Treasurer Lance**, who celebrated her **86th** birthday on 7 August. Keep well, Eleanor.

There are reports of our friend **Paddy Leonard** who, despite being very ill, remains in good spirits. Well done, Paddy, we think of you.

Bobby Loveland has recently undergone a leg operation and

needs our loving care and concern. She is a brave lady and very dear to us.

I beg your indulgence as I become personal and tell you of my eldest son's great achievement. He is **Paul Emsley** and recently won the highly coveted **BP National Portrait Competition** organised by the **National Portrait Gallery** in London. I am very proud of him and delighted that he has received substantial financial award as well as the prestige and benefit to his career.

WHO RULES BRITAIN

Courtesy Mieke Gordon

That this year marks the **tercentenary** of the **Act of Union** between **Scotland and England** seems to be slipping past unnoticed. Although it may have been signed by a *parcel of rogues*, to quote **Robert Burns**, and has clearly had its ups and downs since **1707**, it has been a remarkably enduring marriage, for all that.

This article, to make a comment, carries a picture of the **British bulldog** with his body completely covered with the **St Andrew's Cross** and carrying the caption – *Has the British bulldog become a Scottie? Is politics undemocratically dominated by a Caledonian cabal!?* The article refers to **Gordon Brown and his Scottish Mafia**.

Allegations of a Tartan Cabal in Westminster since **1977** when news-broadcasts developed a decided Scottish accent, swinging from the dour East Coast vowels of the then

Chancellor Brown to the Highland burr of **Charles Kennedy** for the Liberal Democrats, to the gritty urban patter of the Hon. Secretary **John Reid**.

And your scribe

Sounds as though the Scots are becoming an even greater and more noticeable force in the top structure of the **United Kingdom**.

Scots wha' hae!

A SMILE

Classroom Clangers – Scots style

People who work for the government are called *senile servants*.

In the North of Scotland *garlic* is spoken.

The King wore a scarlet robe trimmed with *vermin*.

Who wrote the Bible? *Wm Collins & Sons Ltd*.

Where are the Urals? *In the boys toilets, Sir*.

*May the clarity of light be yours,
And the protection of the ancestors
be yours*

From your Chief, Lady President and the Council