

# CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Established 1881 NPO Reg No 036-264

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2007

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Dear Member

*All glory be to God on high,*

*And to the earth be peace;*

*Goodwill henceforth from heaven to man,*

*Begin and never cease.*

With the hope that this Christmas message gladdens your heart. This weary world of ours needs a reminder and perhaps never more than now, as we enter the Silly Season. Perhaps we can push our materialistic values aside and find the warm happy zone where life is more simple. Here I am, taking on Myra's portfolio - sorry Myra.

With love in our hearts we send you s Christmas greeting. God bless you one and all.

## UNDERCOVER IN EDINBURGH (finale)

*Ref Scots Magazine*

Like many an undercover operative before him, Defoe seems to have tried to tell his paymasters what they wanted to hear. He wrote to Harley "the Scots clergy were haughty and insolent - the aristocracy displayed sham, pride and jealousy and even the common people were surly, haughty and vain." However, in letters to friends he wrote more kindly saying "the Scots are a sober, religious and gallant nation." Much more accurate, if I may say so. One of the dangers as an undercover agent is that he will go native and perhaps Defoe's anti-Scottish comments to Harley were a shrewd attempt to convince him of Defoe's loyalty to England. In another letter to Harley he wrote "I am looked upon as an Englishman that designs to stay here and I think I am perfectly unsuspected."

After much debate and unrest he was finally able to advise his employer "I am now with joy to acquaint you that the Treaty of Union received the touch of the sceptre this day and an universal joy of the friends of both nations runs through the city."

He returned to Scotland on several occasions, his special knowledge of the country being of value to the British Government. These late visits were not of the same undercover nature or perhaps as significant as his stay in those critical months of **1706** and **1707**.

## FROM THE CHIEF

Nicolette, Vicki MacKenzie and I represented your Society as delegates at the Federation Congress which was held in Durban in October. The event was well attended by societies from across the land and was a very well organized affair. Not much time for lounging on the beach but the hotel was on the beachfront and had lovely views out to sea. Congress is always an opportunity to get to know many fellow Caledonians and this year was no exception. A lot of time was spent during the formal meeting discussing constitutional changes. This was my experience last year and for the second year in a row I recorded my protest and made it clear that I felt that the time could be better spent "workshopping" and discussing the real issues facing all of our societies – dwindling membership and support at functions amongst others. I am sure that these issues will receive more attention at next year's congress.

Thanks to those of you who submitted your completed questionnaires which were included in last month's newsletter. For those of you who have not done so please send these in as soon as possible. Not only will this result in us getting to know more about you but you also stand in line for winning a bottle of scotch!

Two flagship events appear in our diary in the next two months which we urge to attend with as many family and friends as you like. Our prices for both functions have been kept rock bottom – at cost to ourselves – to encourage greater attendance. If you need lifts please give Ian a call – see below. Our speaker at St Andrews Nicht is Gabriel Athiros, editor of the Cape Odyssey which I am sure is familiar to most of you as an absolutely excellent journal. Please make the effort to come!

Yours aye,  
PETER

## FUNCTIONS

Our **Chief, Peter Ross**, has given you an account of Congress, so it remains only for me to thank those who served the Federation during the last year, to congratulate the new appointees and wish them everything of the best in the coming year.

Those of us who attended the **Seniors' Lunch** enjoyed a really happy time together. We were served a delicious lunch in lovely surroundings and our every need taken care of. There was, of course, lots of chatter as we old folks enjoyed seeing one another again. Several walkers were parked to hand, indicating that time and tide wait for no one. Many thanks to all concerned.

### ST ANDREW'S NICHT

**Date** Saturday 1 December

**Time** 19:00 for 19:30

**Venue** Rondebosch Golf Club (access from Klipfontein Road)

**Tickets** R90

A final reminder of this important event where the **Toast to St Andrew** will be proposed by **Gabriel Athiros**, a two course meal will be served and a cash bar will be available. To book, please telephone **Margaret Currie at 021 671 3674** or **Mary Moodie at 021 762 4710** or use the enclosed booking form.

### BURNS' NICHT

**Date** Saturday 26 January 2008

**Venue** Kelvin Grove – Grill Room, Newlands

**Time** 19:00 for 19:30

**Tickets** R175

We understand there is the serious business of Christmas to deal with before the Burns' Supper. Remember our suggestion in the last newsletter that you retain sufficient *siller* ((money) to ensure your presence at the above. Kelvin grill room is the perfect setting and the dinner is always of a similar high calibre, with the traditional entertainment such as the Immortal Memory, Address to the Haggis, Burns songs and poems, the pipes, etc., - so give your kilt a shake put it out to air in preparation for the time of your life. To book, please telephone **Margaret Currie at 021 671 3674** or **Mary Moodie at 021 762 4710** or use the enclosed booking form.

### PINELANDS SOCIETY

**Christmas lunch** at Mowbray Golf Club Sunday 2 December; **Burns' Nicht** 26 January 2008. For further information and to book please telephone **Anne Miller at 021 591 1499**.

Should you require transport to functions please telephone our Secretary, **Ian McWalter, at 021 685 6000 (a/h)** to arrange this.

## MEMBERS' NEWS

In taking replies for the Seniors Lunch it was a great pleasure to hear voices from the past - **Edna Higgins**, 88 in January, living with family and still cooking. Edna always was a wonderful cook. **Ishbel Mulvey**, just retired and full of her customary breezy good humour. We hope to see her at St Andrew's Nicht and that her broken thumb, which prevented her from attending the Seniors lunch, is healing well. **Reinette and Basil Keller**, who supported the Society with great enthusiasm whilst

resident in Kenilworth - now living in Villiersdorp. Lovely to talk to them. **Joan Liefeldt**, sadly, no longer a member, but sends greetings to all of us.

We send our love and good thoughts to **Claire Horn** who has recently undergone yet another orthopaedic operation and has high hopes that this will improve her quality of life. We join her in this and send our love to her sister **Myra** who is her mainstay and support.

We say *bon voyage* to **Phyllis Cruickshank** who will soon be off to spend Christmas with her family. Enjoy your new great grandchild, Phyllis, and have a wonderful time. Also to **Rose and Duncan MacMillan** who leave in December to visit Rose's sister in Australia.

We welcome **Brian and Mary Fitzpatrick** to Cape Town in early December to spend Christmas with family and a new granddaughter. Have a wonderful visit and hope to see you.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

We draw your attention to the questionnaire which was included with a replied paid envelope in your last newsletter. If you haven't done so already, we urge you to complete and return it as soon as possible.

## SMALL BUT SPIRITED

*Marie McBean*

For almost 150 years the use of a so-called *small still* to produce whisky has been prohibited in Scotland. For the first time since **1860** a couple in the North West Highlands has challenged the law - and won.

**John and Frances Clothworthy** found a loophole and are now the only people legally allowed to use a small still to produce whisky. They are likely to remain the only ones - should you have any ambitions - because as soon as the government became aware of the loophole they changed the law!

John and Frances have been owners of **Drumchork Lodge Hotel** in **Aultbea, Wester Ross**, since **1997**. Goog luck to them!

## GUISING

*Rosemary Wilson of Perth*

We have just had Hollowe'en a short time ago and reports of this event having become an excuse for hooliganism and worse are still circulating. My recollection of this slightly scary but happy event is dressing up in any costume we could find and going, in small groups, from door to door to sing or perform in the hope of a handful of sweets or coins in return. Being the smallest I was always the one to say "Her am I, wee keekum - funny - I'm the one that takes the money." The age of Innocence has surely passed.

## A SMILE

*Highland clearings* were a big sheep sale.

*The capital of Scotland* is 'S'.

A *solicitor* is someone who breaks up your marriage and charges you for it.

*May the best ye've ever seen,*

*Be the worst ye'll ever see.*

Happy Christmas.

From your Chief, Lady President and Council,

And your scribe