



Cape Town Caledonian Society

Established 1881 Reg. No 036-264-NPO

FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Dear Members,

Our Burn's Night on Saturday the 23rd January in the Palmyra Room at Kelvin Grove, was a great success. From the beautifully painted programme covers by Margaret Currie, the delicious haggis, the singing, and the reciting of Burns' poetry, the toasts to the Lads and the Lassies, and the Toast to the Memory of Robert Burns by Prof. Renfrew Christie, of which we all received a copy, to the Caledonian Pipe Band, lifting the roof! I am sure the members that were there, will agree, that it was a wonderful evening.

I wonder how many of our members know that Robert Burns died in Dumfries, where he worked as an exciseman for the last five years of his life. There is a white Carrara marble statue of Burns in the High Street. Just southeast of High Street in Burns Street, is a simple sandstone building, now called Burns' House, where the poet died of rheumatic heart disease in 1796, a few days before the birth of his last son, Maxwell. Burns lived here for just three years before he died, but his wife Jean Armour stayed on until her death, 38 years later.

Inside is a collection of Burns memorabilia, letters, and his nutmeg grater. On one of the bedroom windows, is his signature scratched with his diamond ring. As a member of the Dumfries volunteers, Burns was given a military funeral before being buried in a simple grave at St Michael's Church.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Edna Higgins a long standing member of the Society, passed away on the 2nd October 2009. She had been a member for sixty-two years!

Frank and Maaiké Duk have just returned from a wonderful trip to the Antarctica.

The Chief and Lady President visited Phyllis Cruickshank this week and found her sitting up in her lounge and very pleased to receive visitors. She has our newsletter read to her and is keen to know what is happening, despite no longer being able to attend functions.

NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome Mike and Gail Walker to the Society and hope they have many happy years as members, and look forward to meeting them.

FUTURE FUNCTIONS

1. CHINESE MEAL AT TAI PING CHINESE RESTAURANT on MONDAY 22nd FEB..

In order to raise funds for the forthcoming Gathering, the Committee invites you to join them at the Tai Ping Chinese Restaurant for a delicious 5 course meal plus Chinese tea on Monday 22nd February 2010 at 7pm for 7.30pm You will enjoy some of the best Chinese cuisine in Cape Town at only R85 per person. The Restaurant is situated in Newlands on the corner of Dean and Wilkinson Streets. To secure your early booking please contact Jacinta and/or Stuart Munro by 17th February 2010.

Banking details for direct deposits for this function:

Name – Western Cape Highland Gathering

Bank – First National Bank

Branch – Rondebosch

Branch Code – 201-509

Ac. No. – 62128030921

Please fax or email a copy of your proof of payment, with your name to Jacinta.

2. THE WESTERN CAPE, HIGHLAND GATHERING at EDGEMEAD PRIMARY

SCHOOL on SATURDAY 3rd APRIL. This is a combined event organized by the Cape Town and Pinelands Caledonian Societies, Judy Lucas School of Dance and the Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band. The WCHG Committee has been hard at work organizing what promises to be a wonderful event. There will be at least 6 pipe bands competing from around South Africa, as well as Scottish and Irish dancers. There will also be craft stalls, food stalls, and a tea garden, where help will be needed by members. Please come and support your Society!

More details in your next newsletter.

3. A LUNCHEON FOR THE VISIT OF THE FEDERATION CHIEF at MOWBRAY GOLF COURSE on SUNDAY 4th APRIL

Cape Town and Pinelands Caledonian Societies will be hosting a lunch for the new Federation Chief, Jean Kelly and her Consort, Andrew Kelly at Mowbray Golf Course. All members are welcome. The Sunday lunches at Mowbray Golf Course take the form of a lovely four- course meal, plus tea or coffee, with the dessert served in buffet style. Use this opportunity to celebrate Easter Sunday with family and friends by booking a whole table with us! The cost of the luncheon is R100, as it is Easter Sunday, and they are providing a special Easter lunch. Please telephone Jacinta, our Secretary, and complete the booking form, below, to confirm a booking.

FROM YOUR CHIEF

I cannot believe that Burns' Nicht has come and gone for this year and that we are into our second month of the year already. It is as Robert Burns wrote to Miss Logan: "Again the silent wheels of time Their annual round have driven", that one realizes that time flits by without a sound. In case

you were so busy over the start of the New Year that you had no time to plan what you are going to do this year, I suggest that you sit for a while and plan certain goals for yourself before the year tumbles inexorably on, and you find that you wasted time. Well, your committee members are aiming to develop new and exciting functions for this year, so if you have any ideas, please let us know by e-mail or telephone. Our Burns' Nicht was a huge success thanks to the hard work carried out by the convenor, Peter Ross, and the entire committee, and the Chinese Evening set for 22nd February is going to be great.

The following e-mail was sent to me at the start of the year, and I thought it appropriate to send it to all of you:

MY WISH FOR YOU IN 2010

May peace break into your house and may thieves come to steal your debts.

May the pockets of your jeans become a magnet for R100 notes.

May love stick to your face like Vaseline and may laughter assault your lips!

May happiness slap you across the face and may your tears be those of joy.

May the problems you had forget your home address!

In simple words, may 2010 be the best year of your life!

Yours Aye
Stuart

BIRTHDAYS - FEBRUARY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS!!

10th Will Carter

“ Leigh Reinecke

16th Gloria McWalter

21st Chelsea MacMillan

23rd Jacinta Munro

KILT FOR SALE

Norma Edwards, a friend of Phyllis, has a McKenzie tartan, kilt, size 16, for sale. She says that it is in perfect condition. Please telephone her at 021 6857410, should you be interested.

ASSOCIATED SCOTTISH FUNCTIONS

1.THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY – Cape Town Branch, is having a Diamond Jubilee Celebration at Kelvin Grove, Newlands, on Saturday 8th May at 19:30.

It will take the form of a **Celtic Ceilidh**, and it is hoped to bring together the Scottish Country Dancers, the Caledonian Societies, the Cambrians and the Irish Association. Various artists will perform, and include: members of the Welsh Male Voice Choir, Pipers, Highland and Irish Dancers, Ishbel Mulvey, who will take you on a tour of Scotland in song, and lead community singing, and Tom Kerr who has a fund of witty stories and poetry. Past Chief, Bob Maich will be MC for the night. The Scottish Country Dancers will perform favourite dances, and there will be four dances that everyone will be able to take part in. **Tickets cost R180 to Caledonian Society Members, and R200 to other members of the public.** Should you wish to book, please telephone Peter Ross's Secretary, Nicola Jaftha at 0216899450 or e-mail at: business@activpro.co.za. A class will be held in the Claremont Congregational Church Hall on Thursday 18th and 25th March for all Caledonian Society ticket holders who would like to learn the 4 dances which will be danced by everyone.

2. THE CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN PIPE BAND will be performing as follows in February:

7th – 10:30 – Border Campaign Memorial Parade at Bergvliet Moths Shellhole.

7th – 17:00 – Opera in a Convent Garden, Springfield Convent, Wynberg.

Tickets are R100 Adults, R20 Scholars and under 10 Free. Bookings can be made during school hours at 021 797 99637 ext. 200 or 021 689 8345. Picnic areas of 10 or more can be reserved at: OperaConventGarden@mweb.co.za.

28th – 17:30 – Helderberg Nature Reserve Concert, Somerset West (Combined with the SA Army Band). All concerts start at at 17:30. Tickets at the gate: R30 Adults, R10 Scholars, Free for children under 5. Enquiries: 021 851 4060 www.helderbergnaturereserve.co.za/events.

**From your Chief, Lady President and Council
And your scribe.**

**BOOKING FORM FOR FEDERATION CHIEF'S LUNCHEON AT MOWBRAY GOLF C.
4th APRIL, 2010**

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

No of persons: @ R100 each = R.....

If you have a specific seating requirement, please state it:

If you require vegetarian food please indicate Yes / No

KINDLY ARRANGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Cheques to be made payable to: Cape Town Caledonian Society
Direct online payments or telegraphic transfers can be made to: Cape Town Caledonian Society, FNB
Rondebosch, Branch code : 201509, Current account : 55161140154 (Please use surname as reference)

**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**

ALTERNATIVELY EMAIL A SCANNED COPY TO MS JACINTA MUNRO: jacinta.swarts@uct.ac.za

Or send a fax for her attention: Fax No 021-7610568