



CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Established 1881 NPO Reg No 036-264

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY /MARCH 2008

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Dear Member

December and January were two very busy months in the Society with St Andrews Nicht and Burns Nicht respectively being held. These two functions take a great deal of effort and time to plan and stage and your Council were really busy as a result. Taking account of this and the need to obtain more clarity regarding our next function meant that the February newsletter was delayed and hence this two-months-in-one newsletter you see before you!

With the distraction of the silly season safely behind us let's get on with 2008. We hope you will come along with us to support your Society, as we embark on a Once upon a time, lang syne, were folk in Scotland called **Pechs**, or as some say, **Picts**. Queer wee folk they were - wilder far than even the wild Highlanders, and that's saying a lot. And the Pechs didna even wear a kilt - they wore nothing at all except a bit of paint, and that is how they got their name, so some folk say, from the Romans who tried to beat them and to get the country. But the Romans couldna frighten the Pechs - not they - and the Pechs were the only people in the whole world that the Romans couldna beat, as a matter o' fact, the Pechs beat the Romans and such licks they gave them that the Romans were frightened out of their wits and built a great wall across the North of England to keep out the Pechs! And that just shows!

Well, after a while the Pechs were beaten - they were beaten by the Scots and

programme of smaller, less high profile functions, over the next few months. We need you there with us to ensure success.

We have looked at the place of the Scot in the world today, and in the past, which was instrumental in creating what we have become. Before we abandon this subject I would like to give you the following from the Scots Book (on loan from Brian Fitzpatrick).

SCOTTISH FOLKLORE

these two wonderful races mixed and mingled - just think o' that - the two bravest races in the world, the Pechs and the Scots! And those were the people we are descended frae.

The only trouble is we are still kind of fond of quarrelling amongst our-selves, just as the Pechs and the Scots lang syne - and that's where we're done, silly - but there it is! And we're a stubborn lot and thrawn!!

FROM THE CHIEF

It was with great sadness that we record the passing of my fellow clansman Past Chief Neville Ross this past week after several months of illness. Neville played a

major role on this Society and will be fondly remembered by many of us as someone who was always cheerful and in the mid Eighties, Neville oft told us how happy he was that a fellow Ross had joined with a familiar tartan.

Your Council had their annual "Bosberaad" (Strategic planning session) on 23rd February. This is part of a three year process which we are calling "Operation PIG" – Planning in the 1st year (2007), Implementation in the 2nd year (2008) and Growth in the third year (2009). As we are currently in the year of implementation we will keep you posted as Operation PIG unfolds!

March is another celebratory month for us. Nicky and I have been invited by the Cambrians for their St David's celebration (1 March), and then the Irish SA Association for their St Patrick's Dinner on 17th March. A few days later we have the pleasure of a visit by the Chief of the Federated Caledonian Society of SA, Margaret Lake and her husband. Details of this functions and events relating to her visit are highlighted below. She is a charming person, (coincidentally being another member of my Clan Ross) and it would be wonderful if we can pay her tribute by your attendance.

Yours aye,
Peter

FUNCTIONS

The skirl of the pipes, the fragrance of *reekin* haggis, the sweet notes in song and music, and the power of the spoken word to move us in joy, laughter, compassion, enlightenment and the deepest feelings of pride and admiration, our **Burns' Supper** filled the bill. The tone of the evening was of excellence in every area. We **Video/Fish & chips evening - 23 February** - includes Edinburgh Tattoo 2007. Federation and Provincial Chief's visits will be jointly to PCS and CTCS - see above. 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.

QUESTIONNAIRE

MEMBERS' NEWS

We send our condolences to our **Chief, Lady President and family** on the death of the Chief's aunt, sister to Peter's mother who is currently hospitalised for the

thank you all, each and every one, who supplied the entertainment. I am trying not to get into the long list of names of those involved but feel that the organising committee must be commended for putting it all together. So hats off to Peter Ross, Lance Wiseman, Narina Gilder and Mary Moodie for a job well done!

During the month of February the entire Council will meet for a Bosberaad at the home of our Chief and Lady President. We shall be planning the year ahead and will take a long hard look at our strengths and weaknesses. We shall need lots and lots of coffee and sandwiches!

Visit of the Federation Chief, Margaret Lake, and her consort – Celtic Evening

Date 22 March

Venue

Time

Tickets

Kirkin' of the Federation Chief

Date Sunday 23 March

Venue

Time

Visit to the Sonderland Museum

April - tea and coffee to follow.

We shall provide you with full details for the above - and future events - after the Bosberaad. Watch this space!

PINELANDS SOCIETY

purpose of undergoing tests. Our thoughts are with all of you at this sad and difficult time.

Congratulations to Past Provincial Lady President, **Isobel Ormondy**, on the birth of a little granddaughter who will surely bring joy to the whole family.

We draw your attention to **Bob Ritchie**, a past chief and treasurer of the Society who has obtained 49 years of membership and welcome him to **Life Membership**. Well done, Bob, we appreciate all your hard work in the past on our behalf.

We also express our sincere grati-tude to **Helen Johnston**, another long serving member, who is retiring from the Council for health reasons. Helen and her daughter, **Louise**, and, on occasion, her grand-son, **Ashley**, have, over many years, been responsible for the wonderful lunches for the Seniors who are no longer as active as they used to be. This has always been a gracious, much enjoyed function which remains in the heart for a long time.

Mieke Gordon has kept in touch with **Jo and Don Reid**, one time members of our Society, who returned to Scotland a long time ago. For those who remember them, Jo, whose mother in 100 years old and still going strong, has been diagnosed with motor neurone disease.

We welcome home Past Federation Chief and Lady President, **Duncan and Rose MacMillan**, who have been visiting family in Australia We trust your stay was a happy one.

Ian Aldcorn, who had a nasty fall, breaking an arm and leg, at the same time incurring internal injuries, is making good progress. He had a hip replacement and is progressing well, walking on crutches - even venturing without them sometimes! He is still bright of spirit and planning great things in the near future with his wife, **Rosemary**. Unfortunately they could not join us at the Burns' Supper but we hope to see them soon at one of our functions.

Bon voyage to **Leonard McLeod**, who is off to Scotland, with freezing, blizzard conditions forecast! Come home safely.

KILTS FOR SALE

Kim Irvin is offering her father's kilt - Irvin, he is 5'11" tall and XL around the waist - and belt (?Sam Brown) for sale. Contact her on 076 452 9297.

Ladies kilt – McLachlan Tartan, size 16 – excellent condition. Price R200 o.n.o. To enquire, please telephone Nicky Ross 021 712 2506.

I BEG TO DIFFER....SCOTLAND (FINALE)

by Alan Cochrane

Courtesy of Doug and Marlene Bonner

While the English are a large enough race to be self-effacing about their attributes, we're small enough to get away with boasting about ours. As any Scot will tell you, we have given the world telephones, television, tarmacadam, penicillin, pneumatic tyres - the list of inventions is almost endless. Our inherent canniness means that we also proliferate in the world of business.

However, perhaps where we're most visible is in the area where our desire for an argument is augmented by a genuine belief in public service. The current Prime Minister and the last (of the UK) were Scots, the leader of the third party is a Scot and even Etonian David Cameron is of Scottish lineage. With a name like that he couldn't be anything else.

The new devolved administration in Edinburgh has recently abandoned its predecessor's favourite slogan that "Scotland is the best small country in the world" - not because it is so obviously boastful but because , despite our size, we

don't really think of ourselves as small. We're Scots, after all!
(In association with Ardbeg single Islay malt Scotch whisky)

May the best ye've ever seen,
Be the worst ye'll ever see.

From your Chief, Lady President and Council,

And your scribe