



## CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

Established 1881 NPO Reg No 036-264

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2008

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### Dear Member

Another month gone rushing past and here we stand at the halfway mark of a year which had its beginning a few days ago! In no time at all we shall, once again, draw up our blueprint for the following twelve months – itemising our requirements and resolutions. Like Hire Purchase, in a way, one never seems to catch up!

### RELAXING ON THE FRONTIER

*By Keith McLeod*

An exhibition called *Digging up the Past* held recently at **Motherwell Heritage Centre** investigated how early settlers lived in Scotland with particular emphasis on **Lanarkshire**. The big discovery was that two thousand years ago the vital requisites for a reasonable lifestyle were central heating, games and lots of good wine. Not much has changed, one could reasonably deduce!!

Lanarkshire, where Motherwell is situated (and where I spent ten of my formative

years and was the home of **Eddie and Anne Stevenson**) is currently plagued by snowy winters, bookies and Bingo halls, not to mention considerable consumption of **Buckfest Tonic Wine** (80% of UK sales). On the Northern Frontier of the Roman Empire, before becoming the **Kingdom of Strathclyde**, it was here that Roman legionnaires relaxed in central heating, gambled and drank copious amounts of wine.

The archaeology of this inhospitable area has produced parts of wine urns, drinking vessels, gaming chips and tiles unearthed from beneath the under-floor heating system of a bathhouse which is now Strathclyde Park. Going back even further the area has yielded a remarkable collection of axes and arrows used by the ancient tribes of the area for hunting and to defend themselves. Burial urns have been found placed beside a body at internment and were often filled with beer to help the dead have a pleasant journey as they passed over into afterlife. (To be continued)

## FROM THE CHIEF

Well, if you missed the Provincial Chief's evening, you missed our last formal function before the AGM. The Provincial Chief, our very own Past Chief Lance Wiseman, reigns supreme (in the Caledonian context anyway) over the old "Cape" stretching from Cape Town to East London. We are very proud to have one of our own in this position! In paying tribute to him in my speech I mentioned that Lance joined our society in May 1999. Mmmm, still a newcomer when compared to some of our other longstanding members. He served as Chief of our society from 2003 to 2006. It was a pleasure having him as our special guest. Lance is dedicated to the Caledonian movement with so much to share and contribute and I have relied heavily on his experience and knowledge in the past.

In preparation of the AGM which is scheduled to be held at the end of July, Lance, as our honorary treasurer, and I have tasked new accountants – Browne & Associates - to bring the books up to date after the resignation of Sindlers Inc. Your Council has lost 3 members for various reasons over the past year, the most recent being emigrant Honorary Secretary Ian McWalter who was a big loss given the pivotal role he played. Hopefully the AGM will yield some dynamic new councillors with fresh ideas, and enthusiasm, as our objective is to get back to a council of 12. This will ensure that there is an even spread of portfolios and workloads which is vital. We will soon be sending out nomination forms with the AGM notice so please give this some thought in the meantime.

The Cape Town Caledonian Society has a wonderful history. Many of the old records

of the Society have found their way into the cupboards of our home which are currently serving as a temporary archives.

Trawling through the old minute books has provided me with some interesting reading during those rare free moments over weekends. The hoy paloy of Cape Town society of yester year feature prominently. In my view these old journals have historical significance and should be carefully preserved. Perhaps one day they can be reduced to electronic form and be accessed as link from our website (still pending).

A Scotsman visited London for his annual holiday and stayed at a large hotel. However, he didn't feel that the natives were very friendly. "At three o'clock every morning," he told a friend, "they hammered on my bedroom door, on the walls, even on the floor and ceiling. Sometimes they hammered so loud I could hardly hear myself playing the bagpipes.

Yours aye,  
Peter

## FUNCTIONS

A pleasant social evening was spent by all who attended our **Provincial Chief, Lance Wiseman's** visit at the Azure Restaurant at the Blue Route Mall. Another change from our usual venues for functions. A good meal was served and **Ralph MacArthur** entertained us with some heart-stirring pipe playing, including requests from the audience. It was good to see old friends like **Pam Sandenberg, and Gunther and Isobel Reuels** back in the fold. Lance indicated that the Society needs to ensure that it serves the interests of its members when organising functions, in order to attract better attendance.

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### TOUR of GROOTE SCHUUR ESTATE

**Date Tuesday 17 June**

**Time 10:00 – 12:00**

**Cost R25**

A mid-week date is being used for this event to give those who are retired an opportunity to join us. As with the Söderland Museum outing, this is a new departure for us – so we hope you will come out and enjoy the tour which is of great historic and artistic interest. Tea and coffee will be served on completion of the tour. Please supply your full name and ID number when booking and carry your ID book with you on the day of the tour. Bring some friends along with you. To book, please telephone **Margaret Currie at 021 761 3674 or Narina Gilder at 021 531 1820 by no later than Monday 9 June.**

The AGM, a whisky tasting, Chief's at Home, Kirkin' of the Chief, and St Andrew's Nicht are in the planning stage. Keep your eye on this space.

### PINELANDS SOCIETY

Mowbray lunch – **29 June – R77 pp.** AGM **5 July.** For further information and to book please telephone **Anne Stevenson 021554 0302.**

Should you require transport to functions, please telephone our Secretary, **Narina Gilder at 021 531 1820** to arrange this.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are happy indeed to welcome back into the fold **Pam Sandenberg**, a past member remembered well by many of us. Included in the welcome are **Anne and Keith Stewart** – no doubt about their claim to membership! *Come ben the hoose and bide a wee.*

As we have just paid tribute to our **Chief of the Province**, our own **Lance Wiseman**, on his official visit, we give you his family crest and motto. The tartan he wears is that of the **Buchan** family who are a sept of the **Clan Cumming** of Norman origin (**Comyn**), who emigrated from England to Scotland in the reign of **David I.** Through various strategic marriages and royal descent, **John, Lord Badendoch**, styled the **Red Comyn**, stood in possession of formidable claims to the Scottish crown when succession was in abeyance.

He died by the dagger of **Robert the Bruce** in the **Church of the Minorities, Dumfries** – a well known and crucial event in Scottish history.

The crest is a lion rampant, or holding in dexter paw a dagger proper. Supporters: two wild horses argent, their manes, tails and hoofs. Motto: **Courage – Lyon register 1 281 567.**

We congratulate stalwarts **Eddie and Anne Stevenson**, Past Chief and Lady President of the Province on the occasion of their **50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.** A good excuse for a rare *ceilidh!*

**Phyllis Cruikshank** and **Eleanor Wiseman** are still not as hale and hearty as we would like them to be – so we send them our assurances that we think of them and wish them well.

Past Lady President **Narina Gilder** is retiring from over 40 years involvement with the SA Physiotherapy Society, the past 16 years as Chair of the Ethics portfolio – that is a lifetime commitment. We congratulate her on her unfailing and loyal service and wish her joy in a more leisurely time,

although she has taken on the task of writing the 84 year history of the SAPS!

Sylvia Ross, the mother of **Peter Ross**, our Chief, who is a grand old lady of 94 years, has been ill on and off in recent months, needing hospitalisation and finally admission to frail care. Our thoughts are with the family during this difficult time.

**Anne Miller**, mother and consort of **Shirley Miller**, Chief of Pinelands Caledonian Society has been very ill with cancer and is Currently receiving chemotherapy, which has left her totally debilitated. We wish Shirley strength and courage in dealing with this harrowing situation.

That seems to be all the news for the time being. Keeping my ear to the ground has been very unproductive. Please let me have any news you would care to share with your extended family. Keep warm and dry!

### **GREAT SCOTS!**

*Courtesy of Ian McWalter*

**Alexander Bell** – Discoverer of the world's first commercially available telephone, manufactured by the Bell Company in the USA.

**William Murdoch** – as well as pioneering the use of gas lighting in the house he developed the gas meter.

### **FROM THE ECONOMIST**

*Submitted by Mieke Gordon*

“Scotland has been the site of some epic battles – none more important than the fight against cancer. The discovery of the P53 cancer suppressor gives us just one

example of Scottish ingenuity! The CAT scan, MRI and stem cell research , they all get their start there – in fact, the latest advances in life-sciences, such as the world's leading developments in translational medicine are happening across our land.”

### **TIME FOR A SMILE**

Classroom Clangers

- The capital of Scotland is ‘S’.
- Who wrote the Bible? Wm Collins & Sons Ltd.
- Insects smoked in the church during the service.
- People who work for the Government are called senile servants.
- A solicitor is someone who breaks up you marriage and charges you for it.

### **A Celtic Blessing**

*On the day when the weight deadens on  
your shoulders,  
And you stumble,  
May the day dance to balance you,  
To bring you safely home.*

From your Chief, Lady President and Council,

And your scribe