



Cape Town Caledonian Society

Established 1881

Reg. No 036-264-NPO

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JUNE/JULY 2011 NEWSLETTER

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Dear Members,

The winter coldness has set in. However, I noticed that our dams are at their lowest compared to the past five years. So, rather than yearn for some sunshine, we should be hoping for torrential downpours of rain to help us during summer. I still believe that we are far colder in our houses over winter than they are in the U.K., as most residents seem to have double glazing and central heating. Maybe there is an opportunity here for someone to start up a double glazing business.

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

I read the front pages of some newspapers in June and found the following articles:

A Dundee woman (54) said she felt "violated" after catching a man ransacking her home. She then chased the would-be thief out of her home.

The Evening Telegraph 1st June.

A 22-year old man was rushed to hospital with a head injury today after a three-car pile-up in Dundee's west end. The accident took place at 08:15 a.m.

The Evening Telegraph 1st June.

Police Probe "Lost" Money At Club.

Front page headline in Edinburgh Evening News 1st June

Councillors told to turn worried teachers away – education cuts.

Front page of Edinburgh Evening News 1st June.

It just goes to show that we are not the only place where there are house break-ins, road accidents, accounts of corruption, and, lastly, where teachers are retrenched.

TIME FOR A LAUGH

The following jokes were taken from Scottish Jokes edited by Chris Findlater, 1998.

A visitor to the Isle of Mull lost his way in the mist and wandered about the squelching mountainside for three days. At last the mist lifted slightly and in the distance he saw a man striding along with a shepherd's crook in his hand.

"Help, help," he called. The man waited for him to come stumbling along.

"What's the matter?" he asked.

"I'm lost," said the visitor pitifully. "I've been lost for three days."

"Is there a reward out for ye, do you think?" asked the local.

"Oh, I shouldn't think so."

"Well, ye're still lost," said the local, and walked off into the mist.

Old Angus was taken to hospital with splinters of glass in his tongue.

"How did it happen?" asked the nurse.

Angus's tongue was too full of splinters for him to explain. Helpfully the nurse gave him a pencil and a sheet of paper. He wrote:

"I dropped a bottle of whisky on the kitchen floor."

A howling baby was causing a great disturbance in the supermarket. A lady shopper saw that the child was being pushed in a trolley by a small man who kept murmuring,

"It's okay, wee Jockie, just keep quiet. It'll be all right. Don't worry, don't lose your head. Keep calm, wee Jockie, keep calm."

The lady was impressed and said, *"It's a shame wee Jockie isn't being quieter when you're being so good with him."*

The man looked at her indignantly.

"What do you mean?" he said, "His name is Donald. I'm wee Jockie."

MEMBERS' NEWS

We wish Keith MacFarlane everything of the best on his 80th Birthday, on 29th June, and hope that he enjoys his very special day surrounded by family and friends!

Welcome to the following new members who joined our Society in April:

Tony (Our Honorary Piper), Lesley and Brogan Reis;

Colin, Pamela, Bradan and Kajun Wing;

Gerald and Jayne Stark.

We trust that they will find our events interesting and enjoyable and look forward to their involvement in our Society.

Tony and Lesley were married on the 19th March at Fort Wynand. Close friends and family gathered to witness our Pipe Major and his wife tie the knot. The sounds of the pipes and drums were prominent, significantly showing the importance of the Scottish tradition in their lives. Chief Stuart Munro and Lady President Jacinta Munro attended the wedding and sent them greetings on behalf of the Cape Town Caledonian Society. We wish them many happy years ahead, filled with many blessings.

We send condolences, as well as our deepest prayers and support to **Myra Horn** on the passing of her sister, Claire. We are pleased to welcome her back onto our Committee.

We continue to think of **Audrey Smith** as she recovers from her operation and hope that her recovery will be 100% successful.

We wish **Vicki Mackenzie** a happy and exciting trip to the U.K. and look forward to hearing her news on her return.

Colleen and I have been blessed with a sixth grandchild on 8th June. Her name is Sophie, Jemima and she was born to our youngest daughter, Sarah-Jane, at Kingsbury Hospital. We are very pleased to have a grandchild born locally, at last. All these

grandchildren are giving us a busy schedule, as we will be going to the U.K. in July and August to attend our fourth grandchild's christening.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following members:

June

1st Andrew Hodgson
9th Brogan Reis
11th Steve Horwood
12th Anne McLeod
13th Lynda Smith
18th Laura Henry
25th Jane Mitchell
26th Stuart Rennie
27th Louise Offret
Gordon Smith
28th Heather Hodgson
29th Keith MacFarlane
Hannah MacMillan

July

21st Colin Wing
30th Kajun Wing

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

It's been a busy couple of months for me and Jacinta what with the Easter Bonnet Tea Party, celebrating our wedding anniversary, two surprise birthday parties for me (arranged by Jacinta – and what a surprise they were!), being present at the Gun Push around the centre of Cape Town (more of that later), enjoying the Dinner/Dance arranged by the Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band (on the 4th June), attending functions arranged by our sister Society, the Pinelands Callies, and visiting with their Chief and Lady President, our friends Eddie and Anne Stevenson, for a chat and a bite to eat on a couple of occasions. We attended 2 funerals, to remember and celebrate the lives special people who died, and to support the families at a difficult time. Of course there were Council Meetings as well, sending out Email flyers to those on computer, arranging the moving and new storage premises for the dancing platforms used by the Highland and Irish Dancers during the Western Cape Highland gathering, and not to forget that we have to fit in some work in between all of the above as well as coping with colds and flu over the past three of four weeks which have left us both with coughs and wheezy chests. There were also all those holidays at the end of April and beginning of May to work around.

OK, Yea, Yea, Yea, I know – I can hear you say *“What’s he on about, why doesn’t he get down to telling us about the important things like ‘what happened and what’s going to happen’?”* “Alright already”, as my Jewish friends say, here goes:

Those of you that have received the latest ‘Scottish Standard’ edited by Rose MacMillan and sent out to various Caledonian Societies around South Africa, will have seen her-write up and pictures of the Easter Bonnet Tea Party. It was, indeed, a happy time. Our scribe will up-date you elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Saturday 28th May turned out to be a full day for us. At 10am was the Memorial Service for Myra Horn’s sister, Claire, conducted by Myra in the Gardens Presbyterian Church. After the service we chatted to Myra over tea and cakes. We had to leave early though to arrive at the Town Hall by 11am to represent our Society at the official opening of proceedings for the “South African Army Air Defence Artillery GUN PUSH 2011 Cape Town” in the Mayor’s Parlour. There were speeches by various high level dignitaries including a Brigadier General and the Officer Commanding, Cape Garrison Artillery, Major Vidius Archer.

The Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band were marching outside the Town Hall to the delight of the public and the Officers and men getting ready for the Gun Push. The Gun Push itself was a competition of thirteen teams from Cape Town, Pretoria, Kimberly, Brakpan and Ladysmith. The first team started off at the firing of the Noon Gun. All teams had to push 23mm ADA anti-aircraft guns (with no alterations or modifications) some 7.5Km around the streets of central Cape Town. It may seem like a simple race but without the benefit of fitness, teamwork, tenacity and endurance through camaraderie and team building, the teams would never have completed the course. A team from Kimberly won and CGA (Cape Garrison Artillery) came in second.

It's a really tough race. Two of the thirteen teams were ladies and they showed the guys just how tough women can be. Straight afterwards all the teams formed up on the Parade and were awarded medals and trophies while we watched from underneath a double gazebo (which blew over just before the proceedings began. It was righted and held down by troopies from then on – thank goodness!) Afterwards it was back to the Mayor's Parlour for a late lunch and a couple more speeches. We left to find Pipe Major Tony Reis, who was watching rugby on TV at the Castle with the band (Stormers won!!), and hand over some donations. We then drove home to change and rushed back to the Town Hall to be there by 6pm for the official reception hosted by the office of the Executive Mayor. We were entertained by the South African Army Band until the dignitaries were piped in by Pipe Major Tony Reis. After the speeches were over and we'd had a chance to talk to various people (as well as a bite to eat and a wee dram) we left for Pinelands in time to be piped in by a member of the Cape Field Artillery Pipe Band at the Pinelands Caledonian Society official function to meet the Provincial Chieftain and Lady President. Unfortunately, Jacinta began to feel poorly (she had dosed herself up with 'muti' in the morning so she could get through the day) and we had to take our leave before "Auld Lang Syne" was sung but, otherwise, we really enjoyed the evening with the Pinelands Callies. A really FULL day representing the Society and, other than Jacinta not feeling 100%, it was most enjoyable, fulfilling and entertaining.

One day I received a call from John Moulder advising that the hangers at Fort iKapa were about to be upgraded and he had been advised that unless the Dancing Platforms (I mentioned above) were moved within a week they would be destroyed. John, a member of Pinelands Callies, had kindly arranged the storage of the platforms at Fort iKapa after the Highland Gathering at Easter 2010. There are four main platforms in all and each platform consists of twelve pieces so there were forty eight 'mini', rather heavy, platforms to be moved somewhere in a hurry – but where to and how were we to going to transport them? After some thought, I contacted Danie Steyn, a Member of our Society, and also Regimental Sergeant Major of the Cape Garrison Artillery. CGA's Headquarters are at Fort Wynyard next door to the new Cape Town Stadium. I told him of our predicament and he said he would look into it and see what, if anything, he could do for us. To cut a long story short, Danie was able to arrange storage in a disused garage at Fort Wynyard and also arranged staff and transport from one place to the other. John was on hand to supervise loading at Fort iKapa and also arranged extra staff from the Dukes to help. I went to Fort Wynyard (just before a, brand new, heavily loaded army truck arrived) and was able to witness the offloading and storage of the platforms. It was the first time I had seen the platforms broken down to their individual pieces and was surprised at the size and heaviness of the load. Well, between John and the men from the two units of the Army, the platforms were offloaded and stored in their new home. I want to thank both Danie and John as well as the men from CGA and the Dukes for their willingness to help us so quickly and efficiently. A special thanks must go to the Officer Commanding of CGA, Major Vidius Archer, also a Member of our Society, for his permission to store the platforms at Fort Wynyard.

Birthdays are always special occasions and should always be celebrated but some are more special than others and are milestones reached in life. Special mention must be made of two Members. Keith Macfarlane, who joined the Society in 1994, will be celebrating his 80th Birthday on Wednesday 29th June and our Honorary Padre, Rev David Gray, will celebrate his 60th Birthday on Friday 24th June. On behalf of the Society I wish you both a wonderful day filled with good memories and blessings.

I have to make special mention, too, of other Members having reached special milestones in their lives during the year but to whom I didn't make special mention at the time. They are Will Carter who joined the Society in 1997 and celebrated his 60th Birthday on Thursday 10th February, and Alex Felton who reached 70 four days before me on Wednesday 27th April. Please accept my sincere apologies. If you had just half the surprises and celebrations that were given to me you must have had a really fantastic day on your Birthdays.

I wish to thank all of you for your wishes and for all the gifts you so kindly gave to me on my 70th on 30th April. I had a wonderful and unforgettable day with many of you, and the Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band really took my breath away when they marched in playing my favourite tunes (including "Happy Birthday").

But don't feel left out all of you others celebrating Birthdays in June and July. My wishes go out to you as well. May you all have a Great Day.

Just a word about the forthcoming Ceilidh. Most of you will, by now, know that it will be in the evening of Saturday 23rd July. It will be held at Fort Wynyard. This is going to be a fun filled evening of song and dance with a Scots flavour and good old sounds of now and then. In other words, a good old Ceilidh where everyone, and I mean everyone, can join in. It's only R50 for a great evening of entertainment. All you have to bring along are your snackies to munch on along the way as there will be a cash bar and coffee and tea available. Our scribe will be telling you more but please let Jacinta know if you're coming – and how many of you – by at least Monday 18th July.

Just a few words to think about – maybe to live by?

Never argue with an idiot – people watching might not know the difference!
When you're lying in bed at night looking up at the stars, don't panic when you suddenly wonder,

"Where the h!!'s the ceiling!"*

Before you criticise someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes –

That way, when you criticise them you're a mile away – and you have their shoes!
Light travels faster than sound – That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak!

There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither one works!
Dogs have owners. Cats have staff!

And Lastly:

Always remember you are unique – just like everyone else!

Until we meet again

Slainte

Stuart

LETTERS TO THE CHIEF

Email from Fiona MacMillan

Hi Stuart

You asked for letters, so here goes:

Dear Stuart

My daughter (Catherine) and I have been members of the CTCS for 20 years and 46 years respectively. I grew up in the Callies and have enjoyed participating in Scottish dancing, functions like Halloween parties and the like over the years. Catherine remarked that there seems to be a number of members dying off in the Callies. I replied that this was because many of the members are pensioners. What are we offering our young members? And that said what are we doing to attract young members into the Society?

Best regards

Fiona MacMillan

Dear Fiona

Thanks for taking the trouble to write in. It's pleasing to note that there are those who are prepared to put forward their appreciation of their time in the Society as well as voicing their concerns.

Fiona, it is, of course, a concern that not more folk have joined the Society but I have to say that since Jacinta and I have been Members – for about two years – we have had the privilege of introducing more than 12 new Members who were/are young and not so young. I'm not sure how many new Members joined over the previous years but I'm aware that more Members have either returned to Scotland, moved away from Cape Town or simply Passed away (as noticed by Catherine) than have been introduced to the Society over many years. I have to say that, as a pensioner (albeit a working one) I hope that I'm not going to die "*because I'm a pensioner!*"

To introduce more young people to the Society it's all a matter of commitment. Commitment to the Society and its purpose. Commitment to introducing folk to both the fun side and the traditions and culture of Scotland. Commitment to talking about the Society to everybody and show the pride you have in being a Member. Commitment by all Members, not only the Council.

I have to say that it is also about, firstly, Members supporting the functions arranged for them and, secondly, Members bringing along younger guests to those functions. Only then can younger folk interact and discuss what they expect the Society to provide for them. What can we offer them if we are not aware of their special needs. Then, of course, what can we offer younger folk if we never see them? Where are the children of the older generations? If they would bring them along and proudly introduce them to the Society, Scottish traditions, Scottish history and culture, then maybe, just maybe, we would have more and younger people joining. Until that happens we have no special things to offer, as we have no-one to offer them to.

I must mention that we are interacting with various Country Dance groups where many Members enjoy the pleasure of learning social and more intricate dance formations. Of course there is Highland and Irish Dancing where the dancers are trained by Members of the Society and the dancers really are excellent, winning many competitions. Should Society Members wish contact details I will be only too happy to pass them on. May I suggest that you come along to the Ceilidh on 23rd July and bring along as many younger folk as you can. They will have the best of both worlds, Scottish tradition and modern entertainment.

Lastly, I don't have the answers to everything but, Fiona, together we might be able to make great strides into the future.

Thanks again for your comments.

Stuart

PAST EVENTS

THE EASTER BONNET TEA PARTY

The afternoon tea was very well attended, and members and their guests enjoyed a happy sing-along and lovely tea-time treats. The highlight of the afternoon was the judging of the hats and bonnets, which involved more or less thirty-five people parading past the judges. It was surely difficult to choose the winners from such a variety of hats and bonnets, but you can see from the photograph that the judges made a good job of it. In the other photograph members and guests are seen enjoying the party. It seems to me that this party will become an annual event.



Jacinta, our Lady President, on the left, and Anne, Lady President of the Pinelands Caledonian Society on the right, seen here with the winners, were the judges.



A view of some of our members watching the action.

THE FUND-RAISER FOR THE CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN PIPE BAND

We did not hold a function this month as we were hoping that many members would support this fund-raiser. It was a very cold and misty drive to Edgemoor, but it was well worth it. The entertainment was good, the raffle prizes large, and there was ample food in the form of spit-roasted lamb, chicken and salads and malva pudding and ice-cream with custard. The function was well attended, and an enjoyable evening was had by all. Well done to Tony, Lesley, the band-members and all others who helped to organise the evening



Our Chief and Lady President, relaxing and enjoying the function



Highland Dancers of the Judy Lucas Dancing School entertained the audience



Members of the Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band watching the Dancers.

FUTURE EVENTS

A CEILIDH EVENING will be held on **Saturday 23rd July at 18:45 for 19:00 at Fort Wynyard. The Provincial Chieftain of the Cape, Gordon Wallace, and his wife, Mary, the Provincial Lady President, will be visiting us at this occasion.** It will be an evening to look forward to, as the entertainment will be quite varied. The Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band, as well as dancers from various groups, will perform to their usual excellent standard. We are also privileged to have a musical group, consisting of three sisters, called “Charmed”, entertaining us for the rest of the evening. They will be leading a sing-along with audience participation. Be prepared to oil your voices as you join in singing songs such as:

“Loch Lomond”, “Scottish Soldier”, “The Skye Boat Song”, “Scotland the Brave” and “Amazing Grace”.

Later in the programme, “Charmed” will feature popular dancing music from the 70’s, 80’s and 90’s, which is guaranteed to get everyone on their feet, so.o.o..- bring your dancing shoes along!

Bring your own eats, and money for the cash bar, which will be open for the function (I believe the bar prices are good) as well as tea and coffee for those who want something hot. The ticket price is only R50 per person for an evening of great entertainment. Please inform Jacinta by Monday 18th July should you be attending. (We hope that you will all attend as it looks like a fantastic evening is being prepared.)

Fort Wynyard is near the Waterfront in Granger Street, Green Point. Directions are on page 11, together with the booking form.

THE AGM OF OUR SOCIETY will be held on **Saturday 27th August at 10:00 at the Taiping restaurant in Dean Street, Newlands.** All Members are urged to attend, as it is your Society and we would like to hear your views. Should you like to get involved, and serve on the Council, please contact our Secretary, Jacinta. We particularly need to fill the positions of a) Principal Secretary and b) Treasurer. Please, if you are computer literate and have the interests of your Society at heart, please volunteer, or, if you know of

people you feel would be good at filling these positions, please nominate them. We also need more of you on Council so please contact Jacinta for more information. Nomination forms are available from Jacinta.

Refreshments will be served at the AGM, and afterwards, if you so wish, join others for lunch at the restaurant.

NEWS FROM THE CAPE TOWN CALEDONIAN PIPE BAND

Pipe Major Tony Reis will be travelling to Switzerland during July to take part on the Basel Tattoo together with the S A Irish Regiment Pipes and Drums. We'll miss him at the Ceilidh but he told us, *"Don't worry, the band will be there!"* Tony, we wish you good luck and God's speed. Come back triumphant to continue leading the band to new heights with their, already, excellent standard.

The band will be travelling to Benoni, near Johannesburg, just after the Ceilidh to take part in a graded competition for pipe bands. We wish them well and know that they will play their hearts out and return to us exultant with their accomplishments.

NEWS FROM PINELANDS CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

They will be holding their AGM on Saturday, 2nd July at 10:00, at the Pinelands Presbyterian Church Hall.

FEDERATION OF CALEDONIAN SOCIETIES

A page for the Federation has been created on facebook. It has just started and they will build up a bit of recent history as they go along.

For those of you receiving this Newsletter 'on line' click the link below and when the page comes up click "Like" or "Join". It's important to do this as they need 25 people who like it before they can arrange to get a user name.

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000483276946#!/pages/Federated-Caledonian-Society-of-South-Africa/239226126092527?sk=wall>

Many of you have asked for details regarding the 87th Annual Congress
The Congress is being held at the Welkom Inn, Stateway, Welkom from Friday 14th October until Sunday 16th October and the Congress Convenor is Cathy Bell

Goldfields Caledonian Society are the hosts this year and they tell us, *"Welkom Inn (formerly Holiday Inn) is situated in the centre of town with easy access to our new Goldfields Mall. Unfortunately we have no airport service in Welkom, the nearest being Bloemfontein which is two and a half hours away and we lack the man power to pick people up from such a distance. If there are any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Convenor, Cathy Bell on 057 392 1214."*

Should you wish to attend you will find a copy of the application form on page 12.

SOME SCOTTISH PROVERBS TO PONDER

"Be aye the thing ye would be."

"He who first tops the brae, can sit where he may."

"The best laid schemes o' mice and men gang oft agley."

"A' are guid lasses, but where do a' the ill wives come frae?"

(P.S. This does not include my wife!)

From your Chief, Lady President, Council and Scribe.

DIRECTIONS TO FORT WYNYARD, Granger Street, Green Point.

It's on the Town side of the new Cape Town Stadium. Granger Street runs between the Somerset Hospital and the Stadium. Travelling along Western Boulevard (behind the Gallow's Hill Traffic Offices and NOT along Main Road) towards Green Point, keep to the right-hand side of the three-lane highway. This lane will lead you to traffic lights which will allow you to turn right into Portswood Road towards the V&A Waterfront. Pass Breakwater Lodge Hotel on your right and proceed towards the V&A Waterfront. Turn left into Beach Road just before you get to the Waterfront, and drive past the Somerset Hospital on your left. At the traffic circle, just past the hospital, turn left into Granger Street. Just a short way along, there is a My City Bus station in the middle of the street and another traffic circle immediately afterwards. Drive three-quarters of the way around that traffic circle and turn left into the entrance of Fort Wynyard. You will be greeted at the gate by members of CGA who will point out where to park your car in the grounds of Fort Wynyard.

BOOKING FORM FOR CEILIDH AND VISIT OF PROVINCIAL CHIEFTAIN SATURDAY 23rd JULY 2011	
NAME(S): _____	CONTACT NUMBER: _____
ADDRESS: _____	E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
No. of Adults: @ R50 each = R.....	[] <u>Please tick here if paying by CHEQUE on arrival.</u> (If possible, please avoid paying by cash but don't let that stop you from coming!!!!!!)
Cheques to be made payable to: Cape Town Caledonian Society, and crossed: /Not Transferable/ Direct internet payments (EFT) can be made to: Cape Town Caledonian Society, First National Bank, Rondebosch, Branch code: 201509, Current a/c No.: 55161140154 (Reference: Your Surname + Ceilidh 2011)	
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	
OR E-MAIL HER A SCANNED COPY TO: jacinta.munro@uct.ac.za	
OR SEND HER A FAX TO: 021 761 0568	
THANK YOU FOR COMING – WE <u>KNOW</u> YOU WILL ENJOY THE EVENING	

SEE OVER FOR 87TH CONGRESS APPLICATION FORM

**87th Annual Congress of the Federation of Caledonian Societies, Welkom Inn,
Stateway, Welkom
Friday 14th October 2011 to Sunday 16th October 2011**

TITLE: _____

FIRST NAME: _____

SURNAME: _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

CODE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT NO.: _____

CAPACITY: Delegate / Official / Observer Delegate / Official / Observer
 (please circle one)

SOCIETY: _____

ACCOMODATION: (please circle one)
 DOUBLE / SINGLE
 NAME OF PERSON SHARING _____

BOOKING OPTIONS:		No of Persons	Amount
FULL CONGRESS PACKAGE:	R1700.00		
Per person sharing 14h00 Friday to 10h00 Sunday		_____	R_____
SINGLE SURCHARGE:	R2000.00		R_____
OR			
NON HOTEL RESIDENTS:	R600.00		
Per person (Includes Ceilidh, Conference and Ball)		_____	R_____
Only attend Ceilidh (per person)	R60.00	_____	R_____
Only attend Ball (per person)	R250.00	_____	R_____

Hair appointment to be made: YES / NO

I wish to attend Congress 2011, and choose to pay over 7 months. Deposit R500.00 per person, payable by the end of February 2011, balance at R200.00 per person per month by 31st August 2011.

Cheques can be made out to Goldfields Caledonian Society

Banking details for deposits or transfers
 Goldfields Caledonian Society Standard Bank Market Link Account
 Account: 144290960 Branch Code: 055535

Please email deposit slips to spitfire.one@live.com or fax to 057 - 3534303 (ATTENTION DEBBIE)
 or post to PO Box 1599, Welkom, 9460