



# Cape Town Caledonian Society

Established 1881

Reg. No 036-264-NPO

Secretary: Mrs Jacinta Munro Tel/Fax: 021 761 0568 Mobile: 072 602 6144

Post: P O Box 442 Cape Town 8000 Email: jacinta.munro@uct.ac.za

## APRIL/MAY 2011 NEWSLETTER

Chief & Treasurer:	Stuart Munro	Tel/Fax 021 761 0568 Mobile 084 028 2402 Email: samunro@iafrica.com
Lady President	Jacinta Munro	Tel/Fax 021 761 0568 Mobile 072 602 6144 Email: jacinta.munro@uct.ac.za
Scribe:	Stuart Rennie	Tel/Fax 021 762 3253 Email: scrennie@telkomsa.net

Web Address: <http://www.capetowncallies.co.za>

---

Dear Members,

We have ended the month of March with some welcome rain, but unwelcome news of petrol, general municipal and electricity price increases! We shall all have to tighten our belts in the months ahead, and in good old Scottish tradition, face these increases head-on and look at all ways of decreasing our expenditure. It seems as if saving water and electricity will become imperative, from not only a conservation perspective, but also as a commercial necessity.

The recent earthquake in Japan and the resultant problems with their coastal nuclear power stations have hopefully focused attention on other forms of power supply in our country. An important development is occurring at this very moment in the Western Highlands which could possibly be followed by our country, as well.

## NEWS FROM THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND

### TIDAL FARM OFF SKYE

BBC News from Scotland reports that a Bristol-based company has secured the lease of part of the seabed off Skye to deploy four tidal turbines. The turbines are to be installed at Kyclerhea, narrows between Skye and the Scottish mainland, by 2014. It is stated that the four units could potentially generate enough electricity for 8,000 homes.

### ISHBEL MACASKILL HAS DIED

The well known Gaelic singer has died at her home in Inverness at the age of 70. She came from the Point area of the island of Lewis and was brought up with the rich heritage of centuries old Gaelic music and songs which still survive all over the island of Lewis. Known as "the golden voice of Gaelic Song", Ishbel did much to further the knowledge of Gaelic culture throughout the world.

## **TIME FOR A LAUGH**

Three men had been for a day's fishing. When one of them reached home he told his wife of his grievance. "We agreed", he said, "that the one who caught the first fish should pay for drinks round, and each of these two fellows deliberately refused to pull their lines out of the water whenever they had a bite".

"And what did the drinks cost you?" asked his wife.

"Nothing", he replied, "I didn't put any bait on my hook".

*Now, I wonder what nationality they were!*

Mrs Brown had gone away and the following morning her neighbour received a note from her. "Dear Mrs Smith – I'm so awfully sorry to trouble you, but I've gone away without putting anything out for the cat. Would you please put something out for it. It will eat anything, but don't put yourself out".

## **MEMBERS' NEWS**

**Norma Harris** recently had a short spell in hospital. We were pleased to see her back to cracking jokes after her operation, and hope that she is now back playing badminton.

**Audrey Smith** had a hip operation about a month ago. We wish her every success in her recovery and hope that the operation has made a great difference to her.

**Colleen and I** will be going to Johannesburg for just over three weeks to assist our daughter and her husband look after their two children while she gives birth to her third child.

I apologise to **Patricia Meyer** for leaving her off the Birthday list in the last newsletter. I ask members to ensure that they have given us their birthday date.

Congratulations to Nicole, the grand-daughter of **Maureen Lith**, who took part in a Highland and Irish Dancing competition in March and won five gold medals, plus the Judy Lucas Trophy.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following members:**

### **April**

1<sup>st</sup> Alan Duff  
Peter Odendaal

5<sup>th</sup> Vicki MacKenzie

10<sup>th</sup> Rita Scott

19<sup>th</sup> Margaret Currie

27<sup>th</sup> Alan Felton

30<sup>th</sup> Stuart Munro

### **May**

11<sup>th</sup> Basil Kellar

12<sup>th</sup> Daniel Offret

13<sup>th</sup> Clive Blackie

14<sup>th</sup> Pamela Sandenburgh

23<sup>rd</sup> Jennifer Amm

26<sup>th</sup> Joseph MacMillan

28<sup>th</sup> Dennis Shillitto



## CONGRATULATIONS CHIEF!

We wish our Chief a Blessed and happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday for the 30<sup>th</sup> April.  
May you enjoy the day with friends and family – from everyone in the Society.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF APRIL 2011

April 1<sup>st</sup> has come and gone – did you get caught this year? I heard a couple of good ones on 567 Cape Talk and read some in the papers but I thought that one of the best was when Helen Zille declared that they were preparing to declare the Independence of Western Province – she sounded so convincing!!

Ach, weel, far be it from declaring Independence, it was good to share an afternoon with the good folk of the Pinelands Caledonian Society and senior citizens from various retirement homes. We had great fun with sing-alongs and tripping the light fantastic (emphasis on ‘tripping’ – me in particular) when we were taught line dancing. The folk tucked into the tea and cakes with gusto.

Don't forget our own Easter Tea Party on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April starting at 3pm (15h00) at MOSSOP HALL on the corner of CHELTENHAM & ROSEBERRY ROADS in 'LITTLE' MOWBRAY, and **ENTRANCE IS FREE!!** This is for all Members, Pensioners and Friends of any age. I'm hoping the Ladies will wear their best Easter Bonnets and the Gentlemen to be able to Doff their Hats – and there will be prizes to be won for the best Bonnets and Hats as well as for the Best Dressed Couple. We'll have a sing-along and as much fun as we can generate. There will be finger snacks and tea, coffee and juice but if you can bring along a plate of eats we would be grateful. Please let Jacinta know the number of guests by Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April for catering purposes.

The evening at Tai Ping on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March was a great success. We were supported by the Chief and Lady President of Pinelands Caledonian Society, Eddie and Anne Stevenson, and other members of the Society, as well as the Provincial Chieftain and Lady President, Gordon and Mary Wallace. There was plenty of food – it was even suggested that pillows be supplied to sleep it off! The decibel level was incredible with all the verbosity (in other words the noise was loud!) and it was a happy crowd that left after singing “Auld Lang Syne”. A good time was had by all, and those of you that couldn't make it will have another opportunity later on in the year.

Jacinta and I were privileged to be invited to attend the St David's Day celebration with The Welsh Society (formerly “The Cambrians”) in St Georges Cathedral on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March. It was a very special service – in both English and Gaelic – and the singing of the Cape Welsh Choir was outstanding. Afterwards there was a rounding off of the day at a local hotel and when we left it was to the rather raucous rendering of, *“You take the high road and I'll take the low road and I'll be in Scotland afore ye....”* As we were walking down the road to our car (me in the kilt) a passing remark by a security guard was (with a smile), *“Where's my Lunch Bar?”* I replied, *“Now you've spoilt the friendship!”* and we all had a good laugh.

The Irish South African Association extended an invitation to us to celebrate St Patrick's Day with them on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Pigalle Restaurant in Sea Point. The Irish Ambassador was there – arriving a little late after flood-lighting Table Mountain in green – and we were entertained by SIAMSA Duo (actually a trio) playing Irish music, the Limited Edition Drum Corps as well as some really top notch Irish dancing. An auction was held of rugby memorabilia – signed rugby shirts, tickets etc. – and a holiday at a top class hotel, which raised some R22000 for charity. Of course, we all sang songs of Ireland and, after dinner and the formalities, the dancing started. I'm sure, the next day – in the true Irish tradition – there were quite a few sore heads from all the fun and games the night before.

Both the Welsh and the Irish send their warmest greetings to all of us in the Callies and expressed the sincere hope that we would all be meeting again at a Kindred Evening later in the year. Various options are already being explored to see what can be planned for those who love the Celtic traditions (including the English and the French if they want to join us) to get together and enjoy our separate yet similar customs and entertainment.

A little bit of news we were told at the Irish evening was from Tom Purcel. He proudly told us that his wife is expecting and their new baby is due in the next six months. A seriously 'little' bit of news – if you know what I mean! Congratulations Tom and Linda. We'll be expecting bigger things later on in the year.

The Honorary Piper to the Cape Town Caledonian Society, Tony Reis, married his long time love, Lesley, on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March in the grounds of the headquarters of the Cape Garrison Artillery Regiment, Fort Wynyard, situated next to the new Cape Town Stadium. It was a great occasion and the weather played its part to perfection. Their reception was held at the Royal Cape Yacht Club. We shared a table with other Members of the Society, Prof. Vidius Archer and his wife Marie, and Danie Steyn and his wife Ina. Vidius Archer is a Major and the Officer Commanding, and Danie Steyn is the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Cape Garrison Artillery (CGA) and, with much banter and discussion, we were told that they considered the Callies as part of their "family". Another part of their 'family' is the Cape Town Caledonian Pipe Band, with Tony Reis as their Pipe Major. The band practises every Tuesday evening in Fort Wynyard and also plays for them at various functions. Watch this space – there may well be a 'family' get together in the future. Let's wait and see.

Actually, CGA held a Family Potjiekos Day at Fort Wynyard on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April and we were invited. The band was well represented but I didn't have time to organise a team from the Callies to take part in the competition. Even so, I called in for a while in the morning – it looked like great fun with each family team having a theme and dressing up for the part but getting quite serious about their potjie because there were prizes to be won!

So, what with one thing and another, it's been quite a busy time representing and promoting your Society, and the Caledonians in general, as well as, I must say, enjoying the experiences. Seeds have been planted and hopefully they will grow in such a way that you, the Members, will benefit in the future. All I ask of you is, that you support your Society in its endeavours to provide you with exciting new opportunities to socialise with others and enjoy life with us in and outside the Society. Don't forget to tell everyone that you are a proud Member of the Cape Town Caledonian Society and suggest that they join you at a function. If you aren't too sure or don't feel comfortable doing that, yet you are sure that they would enjoy being part of the Society, call me and I will get in touch with them for you (or ensure they are contacted) and let them know how much fun it can be to be part of the Callies.

We are now in the Lenten period before Easter and I hope that this lead up to the most important celebration in the Christian calendar is offering you the opportunity to reflect on the incredible sacrifice made for you on Good Friday and the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. Please feel free to join me on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April as I conduct a special service of Music at Mossop on Palm Sunday at 9.30am. This is the same venue as the Easter Tea Party but on the next day.

Please drive safely over the holidays and we'll see you, hail and hearty, at the next function.

I end with this well known Scottish Toast: "*May you have lots of happiness and lots of luck too. May your blessings be many, and your troubles few.*"

*Slainte Stuart*

### **LETTERS TO THE CHIEF**

**There hasn't been a great influx of letters for me to publish – in fact only one!! Yes – you read correctly – only one.**

#### **Email From Louise (Tommi) Offret:**

Hi Stuart,

Please when you give the venue of an event, please give the full address as well, to assist us finding the place. e.g. Catholic church in Pinelands, Tai ping restaurant - I think that it is in Dean Street.

Thanks for all your hard work organising the various events - most enjoyable.

With all my best wishes to you 🌹

Love Tommi

**Hi Tommi,** Thanks for your suggestion, I think it's a good one because I've received a couple of requests for directions in the past. You will, I'm sure, have noticed that directions have been in the latest reminders of functions and afterwards I didn't receive ANY requests for directions. Yea! Yea! Yea! Thanks for telling me what I should have done in the first place. I like your style.

In all honesty I can't take the praise for the organisation of events – only a small part of it. Jacinta is the pivot around which most of the events are organised, together with all members of the Council. Each Council member has a task to do for each function and, often, it's Jacinta who then pulls it all together – and then tells me! It may look as if I do a lot but that's because I'm usually in the middle of things, making the biggest noise, 'on the night' so to speak. Thanks for the praise Tommi, but it must go to all the Council members for all their hard work on behalf of the Members.

Kind regards

**Stuart**

**Comment:** I'm waiting for more letters from you all – come on, let's see if we can get something good and communal going here. Let's have some more suggestions or thoughts on how we can improve or do things more effectively. I have to say that many folk do 'phone and tell us that they had a good time and enjoyed themselves but it would be nice to have it in writing so that others can agree or disagree. Often, Members see things from a different perspective and that's what I need to hear. It's over to you. *Stuart*

### **PAST EVENTS**

#### **THE COMBINED DVD EVENING WITH PINELANDS, AND FED. CHIEF'S VISIT**

This was a most enjoyable evening where the Edinburgh Tattoo was up to its usual exceptional standard and the fish and chips helping was plentiful and warm. The Chief of the Federation, Francis Dixon paid tribute to the two Societies during her visit. She sent an e-mail to our Chief, thanking us for our hospitality and raving about the book we gave her as a gift. Thanks go to all those in the two Societies who assisted with the preparations and clearing up.

## **THE FUND-RAISER EVENING AT TAI PING**

See the comments in the “Message from the Chief”

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

A **CEILIDH EVENING** will be held on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June at Vista Nova School**. Please mark this date in your diaries as it will be an evening of varied entertainment. Furthermore, we are hoping to keep costs down. More details will be given to you in the next newsletter.

*Here’s health to the sick,  
Stilts to the lame,  
Claes to the back,  
And brose to the wame!*

(claes –clothes; brose- soup; wame – stomach).

**From your Chief, Lady President, Council and Scribe.**

---