



The East London Caledonian Society

Founded 1876

(All Correspondence to be Addressed to the Secretary)

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APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Fellow Caledonians,

As you will read in this newsletter, we have had an “up and down” month with both good & bad news. But that’s life, I guess

The sad news is extensively covered in our ‘News of Members’ section below; so I would rather dwell on the good news that we are looking forward to the visit of Fred Brokenshire, our Federation Chief, next month.

Fred has served the Caledonian Movement with dedication for many years and is an inspiration to us all. Our planned cruise up the Nahoon River with Fred promises to be a memorable trip. Who will forget ever all that wonderful bird life - accompanied by the sound of bagpipes? Not to be missed !

In the evening, we will be having a ceilidh at Parklands and there will be a surprise draw open to anyone who joins us for both the cruise and the ceilidh so hurry and get your tickets now !

Watch Celtic Harpist & Singer Christy-Lyn on MNET’s “The Voice SA” on Sundays from 5.30pm (Channel 101)



Christy-Lyn, who performed at the recent Knysna Celtic Festival, has made it through the ‘blind auditions’. Watch her journey....

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Firstly the sad news this month is that the society said goodbye to John Forbes, who passed away on 24 February. A true gentleman - John was an active supporter of the Society for many years and will be sorely missed. John’s obituary from ‘The Daily Dispatch’ is attached to this newsletter. The Society was also extremely touched that John’s family named the Society as a beneficiary in lieu of memorial flowers – a very generous gesture indeed. Since the last newsletter, we also received word that former member, Mary Boyd, passed on recently – our thoughts are also with her family.

Other sad news is that Margaret Murray - 102 years old – has had to undergo a serious operation. An inspiration to all who know her, Margaret holds the record for the longest-serving EL Caledonian. Margaret has been a member for some 67 years and was Secretary of the Ladies Group for fifty of those years. In other news from the doctor’s surgery, Marrian Mathieson recently had a cataract removed, while Sue Piderit recently fell and broke her arm. We wish them all well as they recover.

Nookie Middleton will be travelling to Johannesburg shortly to celebrate her daughter's silver wedding anniversary – a milestone that will also be reached by Dave & Maureen Rankin in April.

In sports news, Tumi Macdonell swam in a field of over 200 competitors in the 9-13 age group in the Merrifield Mile Open Water Swimming Challenge and came in second, beating all the boys in the process. Finally Roxanne Piderit has just bought a house in Cambridge West – and we assume that the invitations to the 'house-warming' party must be in the post !

ENTERTAINMENT

Sunday 26 March “*Music in the Park*” Join us at the concert in the afternoon at Berea Gardens. Our Pipe Band and Dancers will be performing. R30 pp entry.

Saturday 22 April Federation Chief Visit. Barge Trip on the Nahoon River at 15.00 followed by a “*Bring and Share*” Ceilidh at Parklands at 18.00. (BYOB) R100 per person. (*Names and payment to Dave Rankin by 15 April*)

PIPE BAND Band practice now taking place at Hudson Park High School, where the band has acquired 6 new learners (3 pipers and 3 drummers). The Band will be at ‘Music in the Park’ on 26 March and at the Urban Run on 21 May.

LADIES GROUP March meeting at Agnes Cowie’s home went well. Next meeting will be at 9.30am on Tuesday 4 April 2017 at the Coelacanth Café (hosted by Jean Sansom)

S.C.D.C Weekly meetings have resumed on Tuesdays at the Hams Club from 4pm - 5.30pm on Tuesdays. Recent average turnout of eight - which is fairly encouraging.

HIGHLAND AND IRISH DANCERS East London dancers did well at the Aloe Awards and at the Knysna Celtic Festival. Dancers will be at “*Music in the Park*” and will be competing at the South Coast Highland Gathering. A dancing workshop is scheduled for 26 April and the East Coast Dancing Festival will be held on 13 May 2017. Finally congratulations to Emily Frauenstein, who has been nominated for a Protea Award.

BIRTHDAYS

March 2017			April 2017		
Date	Name:	Contact:	Date	Name:	Contact:
6	Nadege Rankin	082 773 9549	9	Sandra Rankin	043 726 1500
11	Nookie Middleton	084 693 2836	13	Liezel Cilliers	083 518 4009
14	John Stoddard	082 466 7095	19	Roxanne Piderit	082 455 8661
16	Edgar Willis		19	Hannah Weymouth	076 572 9390
28	Claude Macdonell	084 742 8156	30	Rose Thompson	072 431 7391

COMMITTEE Next meeting of the Committee will be on Thursday 13 April 2017 at 7.30 pm at Roxanne Piderit’s new house, 7a Dartnell Road, Cambridge West. However note that the meeting will be preceded by a Gathering “*Wrap-up*” Meeting from 7pm.

Yours aye,



Maureena ‘Nookie’ Middleton (Chief)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	START	NOTES
26 Mar 2017	Music in the Park	Berea Gardens	14.30	Join us ! R30pp
22 Apr 2017	Fed Chief Visit	Nahoon River / Parklands	15.00 / 18.00	Barge trip / Ceilidh

John Forbes
(July 12 1931 - February
24 2017)

City's farewell to 'doyenne' of pharmacy

By **BARBARA HOLLANDS**

DESCRIBED as a pillar of society, doyenne of pharmacy, dedicated member and past president of Rotary Arcadia and a compassionate pharmacist, John Forbes was laid to rest yesterday.

Former Selbornian Forbes, 85, was known to generations of East Londoners as the owner of John Forbes Pharmacy, an Oxford Street landmark.

He died last Friday at Life Beacon Bay Hospital following a short illness.

His daughter, Gail Vlok, said her father had joined the family business in 1954 after qualifying as a pharmacist at the Durban Technikon.

John Forbes Pharmacy was established by Forbes' uncle - also John Forbes - in 1903.

John Forbes Senior's twin brother, James, was also involved in the pharmacy after the twins emigrated from Scotland. Forbes's Scottish roots were evident in his dedication to the Caledonian Society and his passion for the sound of bagpipes.

Forbes was also an committed member of the Rotary Club of Arcadia, which he joined about 45 years ago after first serving as a Round Table member.

"He was passionate about being involved in Rotary projects and had a very good sense of humour, so he was the compère at many events," Vlok said.

Vlok said her father, who met her late mother, Alette van der Merwe, when she was a Clarendon pupil and he was at Selborne College, was also very dedicated to the Old Selbornian Club.

She said her father loved people and spent time advising customers.

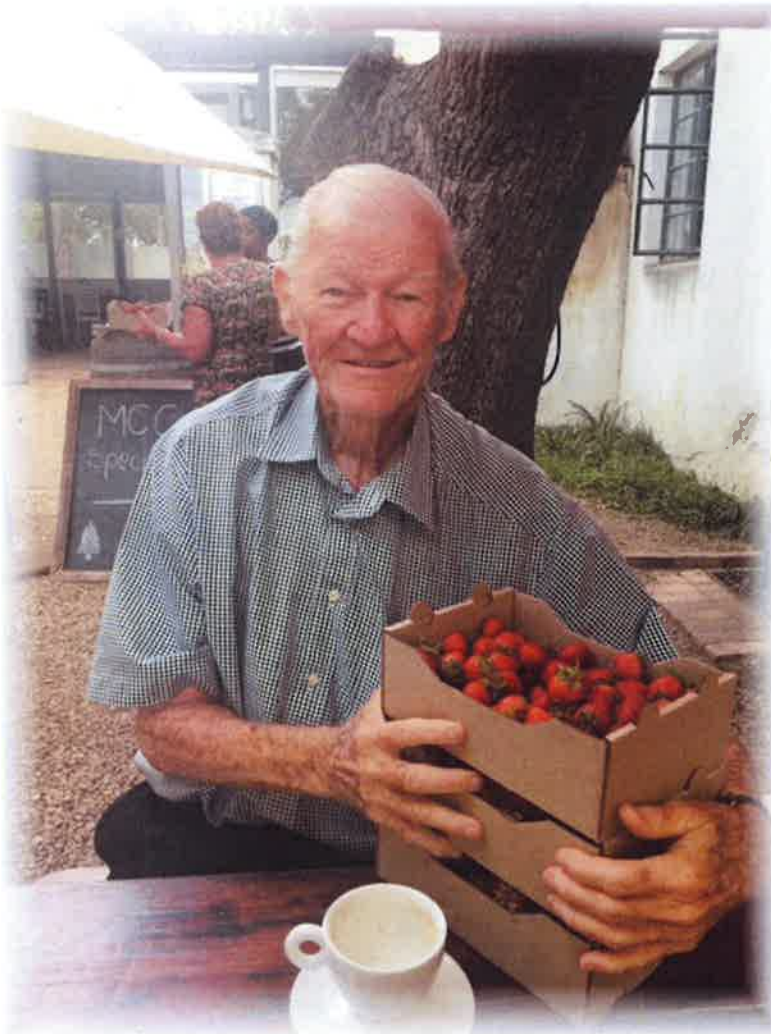
"He really cared. He was a very compassionate man and would work on Christmas Day morning so his staff could have the day off."

Pharmacist Jackie Hendricks, who bought John Forbes Pharmacy when Forbes retired in 2002, said Forbes had been known as the "doyenne of pharmacy" in the Border region in the 70s and 80s.

"His pharmacy was the biggest in East London at that time and he was a leading light in pharmaceutical circles," she said. "He was a very good businessman and was very customer-orientated. He spoke Xhosa fluently which endeared him to many of his customers."

Forbes is survived by his daughters Vlok, Lysette Clercq, Joanne Solomon, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His funeral was held at Stirling Presbyterian Church yesterday afternoon. — barbarah@dispatch.co.za

In Loving Memory of John Forbes



12.07.1931 - 24.02.2017

Celebration Service for the life of John Geddie Forbes

*Held in the Stirling Presbyterian Church,
Cecil Lloyd Street, Stirling, East London
on Thursday, 2 March 2017 at 2.30 pm.*

**Donations in lieu of floral tributes may be sent to the:-
Caledonian Society**