



The East London Caledonian Society

Founded 1876

(All Correspondence to be Addressed to the Secretary)

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MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Fellow Caledonians,

At our last meeting, your Committee took a serious look at our aims for the coming year.

We decided that a priority was to improve communication with Caledonian members, between Caledonian Societies and between us all and the Federation. After all **“United we stand, divided we fall !”** It is possible to be both proudly South African and also proud of our Scottish heritage. However to successfully uphold and promote the heritage and traditions of our forbears, we need to all pull together and support the Committee and the activities of the Society.

To achieve this end, we therefore need to start asking not only the question, **“What can the Caledonian Movement (Federation) do for us?”** ... but also the question, **“What can we do for the Caledonian Movement (Federation)?”**

A first step is to bring along a friend and get involved in our upcoming functions (see *Entertainment*). I especially urge you to join us for the Official Visit of the Federation Chief, Fred Brokenshire, on Saturday 22 April.

Before that we will be having an informal **“bring and braai”** at the Parklands Boma on Saturday 25 February. We realise that last year was a heavy fund-raising year for the Society and its members – so there will be no charge at this function. So bring along your friends, some braai meat, your favourite tipple and enjoy an evening with us !

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Sandra Rankin will be away in New Zealand for four weeks to visit her sister. Britney Middleton played in the Stirling High School water polo team that won its competition in Grahamstown. Britney & Emily were also in the U/16 water polo team that went to Port Elizabeth; while Tumi Macdonell was in the Stirling Primary School water polo team that recently competed in Knysna. Andrew and Claude Macdonell have returned from their official visits to Cape Town and Port Elizabeth as Provincial Chieftain and Lady President. Beryl MacIver is recovering from flu, while Ken Scott is recovering from bronchitis. Finally our thoughts and prayers are with John Forbes, who is receiving intensive care in hospital.

Roxanne Piderit bringing in the haggis at Burns Night



ENTERTAINMENT

- Saturday 25 February Braai at Parklands Boma. 18.30.
No charge – just bring your own meat and drink!
- Sunday 26 March “Music in the Park”. Join us at the concert in the Berea Gardens.
Our Pipe Band and Dancers will, no doubt, be performing
- Saturday 22 April Federation Chief Visit. Barge Trip on the Nahoon River at 15.00
followed by a “Bring and Share” Ceilidh at Parklands. R100 pp.

PIPE BAND Band Members played at the Society’s Burns Night. Unfortunately not enough members were available for the Band to participate at the Knysna Celtic Festival. However Rob Rankin competed as a member of the Knysna & Districts Pipe Band. As from 21 February, band practice will take place at Hudson Park High School, where there is the prospect of new learners. The Band will be at Music in the Park on 26 March and the Urban Run on 21 May.

LADIES GROUP First meeting of 2017 at Rose Thompson’s home went well. Next meeting will be at 9.30am on Tuesday 7 March 2017 at the home of Agnes Cowie, Cottage J2, Fairlands.

S.C.D.C The dancers were joined by the Grahamstown Club at Burns and did a demonstration of six dances. The weekly meetings have resumed on Tuesdays at the Hams Club from 4pm - 5.30pm on Tuesdays. 12 dancers were at the first meeting of the year, which was encouraging.

HIGHLAND AND IRISH DANCERS Piderit Highland Dancing Studio held a “Year in Review” Concert at Port Rex THS and the Aloe Awards were held at Pine Creek on 11 February. Highland Dancers were at our Burns Night and at the Knysna Celtic Festival. Congratulations to Jada, who won the Beginners Section and to Kristen and Tanya, who were respectively runners-up in the Premier and Novice Sections at Knysna.

BIRTHDAYS

February 2017			March 2017		
Date	Name:	Contact:	Date	Name:	Contact:
12	John Fyfe	datnis@border.co.za	6	Nadege Rankin	082 773 9549
20	Kim Mathieson	083 373 5864	11	Nookie Middleton	084 693 2836
25	Peter McCausland	082 649 5528	14	John Stoddard	082 466 7095
29 *	Maureen Illingworth	043 721 1727	16	Edgar Willis	
			28	Claude Macdonell	084 742 8156

* Sorry no birthday for Maureen again this year!

COMMITTEE Next meeting of the Committee will be on Thursday 9 March 2017 at 7.30 pm at Nookie Middleton’s house, C5 Parklands. Berea

Yours aye,



Maureena ‘Nookie’ Middleton (Chief)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	START	NOTES
25 Feb 2017	Braai	Parklands Boma	18.30	BYOB / Meat !
26 Mar 2017	Music in the Park	Berea Gardens	TBC (PM)	Join us !
22 Apr 17	Fed Chief Visit	Nahoon River / Parklands	15.00	Barge trip / Ceilidh