



The East London Caledonian Society

Founded 1876

(All Correspondence to be Addressed to the Secretary)

CHIEF: Maureena Middleton 084 693 2836

E-mail: mdm@comoffice.co.za

SECRETARY: Dave Rankin 082 900 0948

E-mail: drankin@vodamail.co.za

Website: <http://eastlondoncaledoniansociety.wordpress.com/>

P O Box 19570

TECOMA

EAST LONDON

5214

OCTOBER 2016 "GATHERING" NEWSLETTER

Dear Fellow Caledonians,

What an exciting time it has been for East London Caledonians? Sandra, Rose and I were speaking just this morning about how we appear to have more time on our hands after our recent, hectic Caledonian schedule

Despite the best efforts of East London's notoriously fickle weather, our Garden Party to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday was a great success. *"Our Royal Highnesses...."*

A success that can be mainly put down to our "Queen Elizabeth" for the day (*a.k.a. Beryl MacIver*). Beryl had clearly done her homework and was every inch a queen down to her pearls, handbag and gloves. Her Consort, "Prince Philip" (*Callum MacIver*) was equally resplendent in his naval uniform and made sure to always walk the required two steps behind his "Queen" down the red carpet. I wonder how many men would be able to fit into a uniform last worn 43 years ago ... well Callum did with ease. It was also special that Callum and Beryl's daughters and grandsons could be with us for the day. The event was also blessed by a splendid array of eats from our Caledonian ladies.



Two weeks later, we hosted Patrick & Norma Craven, Federation Chief and Lady President, at our Eastern Cape Highland Gathering.

On Friday evening, Past Chiefs, Lady Presidents, the Ladies Committee and Caledonian Committee all gathered at my cottage to welcome Patrick and

Norma. The next morning, bright and early, we all 'gathered' at Cambridge High School for the Gathering. David, Andrew and Ken Scott & his merry men had been hard at work the day before getting the venue ready and assembling the dancing platforms.

Despite some ominous grey “Scottish” weather, the morning went off well. With numerous stalls, pipe bands, highland dancers, Scottish country dancers, dog teams, the Boys Brigade Band and even some Ninjas – there was something for everyone.



All good until the great storm hit just after lunch. The heavens opened and a strong gust sent the marquee tent tumbling down on top of a band. Fortunately no one was hurt; but all had to rush for cover. The resilient souls who remained then adjourned to the Aloe Room, where competitions were completed and we were then treated to the most wonderful concert by the 1st Medical Battalion Band from Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Patrick and Norma Craven – Fed Chief and Consort



The rain eventually eased off and we were able to have our braai. A jolly good time was had by all and no one left until the bar (if not our clothes) was dry!

Special congratulations to Dave Rankin, the Gathering Convenor. Despite everything thrown at him, he put on a terrific show. He told me that it took three days for his kilt and shoes to dry; while Sandra was unable to get her car out of the mud until Monday! Thanks too to our Federation Chief, Patrick and his good lady, Norma; who both entered into the spirit of things. Both said it was a Gathering they would not forget and neither, I am sure, will we ?

NEWS OF MEMBERS Tumi Macdonell danced in the “Disney Adventure” Dance Show, which had a sell-out run at the Guild Theatre recently. Iris van der Zee is making a good recovery; while Elizabeth Weare is convalescing at her daughter's home after her recent heart attack. Sandra Rankin participated in the Spring Musicale; while Ralph & Rose Anley have been hiking the Whale Trail. Ken Scott & Linda Herman are about to move house. Sue & Roxanne Piderit have just returned from Portugal, where Roxanne was presenting a paper.

ENTERTAINMENT

29 October Halloween. 1800 for 1830 at McClelland Institute. Bring & Braai. R20 pp donation to McClelland. Details in next newsletter

26 November St Andrews Dinner – save the date! Oak Room, Parklands

PIPE BAND The Band were on duty at the Port Rex Shellhole Open Meeting, at the Battle of Britain Parade and also at the Airfest. Looking forward the band will perform at the Kennersley Park Bazaar on 1 October 2016.

LADIES GROUP Ladies’ Sept meeting, hosted by Sheila Sanderson at Rose Thompson’s home, went well. Next meeting will be hosted by Sheila Godfrey at 9.30am on Tuesday 4 October 2016 at the Coelacanth Café.

S.C.D.C Country dancers performed at the Gathering (before the rain came). Country Dancing continues at the Hams Club from 4pm - 5.30pm every Tuesday.

HIGHLAND DANCERS Well done to all the dancers who competed at the EC Highland Gathering. Special congrats to Kristen and Tanya, who were “front page news” recently in “*The Daily Dispatch*”.



BIRTHDAYS

September 2016			October 2016		
Date	Name:	Contact:	Date	Name:	Contact:
6	Riona MacKenzie	072 432 3174	7	Cynthia Murray	elliott@murrays.co.za
21	Rose Anley	randr@hyperlink.co.za	7	Jim Gibson	083 443 3680
23	Sheila Godfrey	082 510 3863	8	Robert Rankin	082 897 8571
30	Freddie MacFarlane	083 351 2696	14	Evelyn Stoddard	072 248 5510

CONGRESS 92nd Congress of the ‘Federated Caledonian Society of Southern Africa’ will be hosted at Cedar Woods in Sandton, Johannesburg from 7 to 9 October 2016.

COMMITTEE Next meeting of the Committee will be on Thursday 13 October 2016 at 7.30 pm at Dave & Maureen Rankin’s house, 9 Nelson Avenue, Cambridge.

Yours aye,

Maureena ‘Nookie’ Middleton (Chief)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	START	NOTES
29 Oct 2016	Halloween	McClelland Home	6pm	Bring and braai. R20pp donation
26 Nov 2016	St Andrews	Oak Room Parklands	TBC	Celebrate our Patron Saint !