



# The East London Caledonian Society

Founded 1876

(All Correspondence to be Addressed to the Secretary)

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## SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Fellow Caledonians,

This is our first newsletter since the Chaining and Kirking, and I'd like to thank those members who were in attendance. While the venue was not our first choice, it did serve its purpose in getting us into the public eye and generating some interest. The pipe band definitely ensured that we could not be ignored – and we had a few curious onlookers trying to sneak in a video or two. For those not able to attend, my inaugural address is summarised below:

*"This wasn't an easy address to write - I was unsure of what direction this should take, and how to live up to the many chiefs who have come before me, and who have spoken so eloquently of their vision for the society. But it is not just that which troubled me, I am taking the chair at a time where we are asked to questions the role of Caledonian Societies and the Federation - and in fact whether or not there IS even a future for Caledonian movements. You will have seen in my first two newsletters that our society has spearheaded this motion to critically analyse the role and need for a Federation, but at the same time taking a critical look at our own society and how we move it forward. It is clear that some change is needed in order to adapt to societal demands. We are not necessarily talking about radical change, but we do need your input in order to propose a way forward.*

***(The questionnaire is again included with this newsletter – please complete and send if not done already).***

*There is a quote attributed to Anthony Roberts, Albert Einstein, Henry Ford or even Mark Twain (depending where you read it), but regardless of who it came from first, it has value here and now for our society: 'If you always do what you've always done, you will always get what you've always got'. Now to be clear, this does not mean turf out tradition - that would be a bit like throwing out the 'baby with the bath water'. Our society exists to promote and extend the traditions of Scotland. But this does mean that we need to try something different. Our first attempt was to try a different location. We also plan to revive the Junior Society and hold some events focused at our younger members and those associated with the society through the band or dancing.*

*Lastly, I want to thank you for entrusting me with this position, I am honoured to serve as your Chief for the ensuing year. I shall endeavour during my year of office to continue to nurture our traditions, while enhancing and growing our society within this ever changing landscape, but only with your assistance. As Hellen Keller said: 'Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much' "*

**NEWS OF MEMBERS** Sue Piderit & Duane Sweeney were recently in Benoni with the Border Masters Hockey teams. Meanwhile Britney & Emily Middleton (aged 16 years) have been selected for the Border U/21 hockey team. They are also in the academic top 10 of their school grade, achieving over 80% in 7 subjects. Tumi Macdonell won two trophies at her swimming club's prize-giving; while Andrew Macdonell passed his project management exam. Liezel Cilliers is travelling to a conference in China – her 4th international meeting for 2017. Callum & Beryl MacIver's daughter (Lynn) and grandson (Andrew) visited from the UK and attended the Chaining. Jean Sansom is recovering from a recent fall and Agnes Cowie's daughter (Linda) has not been well. Finally congratulations to our outgoing Chief, Nookie Middleton, on winning a bottle of whisky for being the first delegate to sign up for Congress !

Our new Chief being 'chaired'



## ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday 2 September Visit of the Provincial Chief of the Cape Province  
"Travelling Lunch" starting at 9 Nelson Avenue at 11.30am  
Bring own crockery & cutlery. R50pp.  
Numbers to Dave Rankin or Sandra Rankin by Friday 25 August

Saturday 9 September Greensleeves Children's Home will host a fundraising tea at Hudson Park Primary School from 15.00. R50pp - but bring own eats.  
Society will take a table and dancers / band may be attending.  
Numbers required by Friday 1 September.

**PIPE BAND** The Knysna & Districts Pipe Band won the South African Grade 3 championship for 2017 and has been promoted to Grade 2. The Grade 4 band also competed this season. Upcoming parades: Python Park on 26 August, the visit of the Provincial Chieftain on 2 Sept, Jikeleza Festival 2 & 3 Sept, Battle of Britain Parade on 10 Sept and the Komga Show in October. November parades include Remembrance Day (TBC) and St Andrews' Dinner.

**LADIES GROUP** August meeting hosted by Sheila Godfrey at the Coelacanth Café went well. September meeting has been brought forward into August to discuss Provincial Chieftain's Visit and will be on Tuesday 29 August 2017 at 09.30 at Dot Com Café, hosted by Rose Thompson.

**S.C.D.C** Weekly meetings continue on Tuesdays at the Hams Club from 4pm - 5.30pm on Tuesdays. Club is working to attract new members.

**HIGHLAND DANCERS** The dancers received mixed results at the recent S.A. Championships and in the dancing exams. Upcoming performances: Border Highland Dancing Festival at 12pm on Saturday 26 August at Port Rex Tech HS, the visit of the Provincial Chieftain on Saturday 2 September, Jikeleza Festival on 2 & 3 September, and the Eastern Cape Highland Dancing Festival on 16 September.

## BIRTHDAYS

August 2017			September 2017		
Date	Name:	Contact:	Date	Name:	Contact:
15	Sue Piderit	082 924 1078	6	Riona MacKenzie	072 432 3174
20	Jamie Gibson	043 721 3272	21	Rose Anley	<a href="mailto:randr@hyperlink.co.za">randr@hyperlink.co.za</a>
25	Iris van der Zee	043 726 5000	23	Sheila Godfrey	082 510 3863
			30	Freddie MacFarlane	083 351 2696

**COMMITTEE** Next meeting of the Committee will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30 pm at the Macdonell Residence, 17 Fitzmaurice Road. Baysville.

Yours aye,



Roxanne Piderit (Chief)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	START	NOTES
2 September	Prov Chief Visit	Starting at 9 Nelson Ave	11.30	Travelling Lunch, R50pp
9 September	Greensleeves Tea	Hudson Park Primary School	15.00	R50pp fundraiser
28 October	Halloween Braai	MOTH Hall	TBC	
4 November	Halloween	McClelland Home	TBC	
25 November	St Andrews	TBC	TBC	

# “Future of the Caledonian Federation” Questionnaire

1. Why did you join your Caledonian Society?

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2. What Caledonian activities do you enjoy the most and what do you get out of being a Caledonian?

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3. What do you think your Society could do to attract new members?

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4. Does your Society have a Succession Plan to encourage, potential future Chiefs? Explain?

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5. How long do you think the term of a Chief should be? ..... years

6. Is your Society .... More active / Less active / About the same ..... as 5 years ago? Explain:

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7. Financing large events such as Gatherings and Congresses is an ongoing challenge. Have you any ideas how Caledonian Societies can improve their fund-raising efforts?

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8. What are the benefits to your Society from belonging to the Federation?

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9. What do you think your Society could do to improve its support for the Federation and improve its relations with other Societies?

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10. What do you think should be the role of the Federation and the Central Council?

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11. How could the Central Council of the Federation improve the way that they perform their duties?

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12. What do you think the Central Council of Federation could do to improve its relationship with the constituent Societies?

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13. Any other Comments or Suggestions for improving the health of your Society and/or the Federation?

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<b>YOUR CALEDONIAN SOCIETY</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <p>1. ....</p> <p>2. ....</p> <p>3. ....</p> <p>4. ....</p> <p>5. ....</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <p>1. ....</p> <p>2. ....</p> <p>3. ....</p> <p>4. ....</p> <p>5. ....</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPPORTUNITIES</b></p> <p>1. ....</p> <p>2. ....</p> <p>3. ....</p> <p>4. ....</p> <p>5. ....</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THREATS</b></p> <p>1. ....</p> <p>2. ....</p> <p>3. ....</p> <p>4. ....</p> <p>5. ....</p>

<b>FEDERATION</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <p>1. ....</p> <p>2. ....</p> <p>3. ....</p> <p>4. ....</p> <p>5. ....</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <p>1. ....</p> <p>2. ....</p> <p>3. ....</p> <p>4. ....</p> <p>5. ....</p>
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Please complete and return to: Andrew Macdonell Email: [macdonel@iafrica.com](mailto:macdonel@iafrica.com) ASAP