



The East London Caledonian Society

Founded 1876

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SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Dear Fellow Caledonians,

This is our first newsletter since the Chairing and Kirking. For those not able to attend the chairing, the goals for the year, which I unpacked in my address to the society, are summarised below. You will note these are not all that different to those from the past year; and I do hope we can make some progress on these in 2019/2020.

- (1) **Increase our Membership:** *We have had a slight decline in membership over the last year, and so have not seen the growth in membership we envisaged. We often have decent support from non-members at our functions, but this has not translated into new members. We have already welcomed one new member this year; so we have at least started the year on the right foot. Any ideas for attracting new members are welcome.*
- (2) **Increase Participation in Charitable Endeavours and Elevate the Public Profile of our Society:** *In terms of charitable efforts and increasing the public profile of the Society; we had a significant increase in participation and donations for McClelland last year and the Ladies Group actively supported Breath of Life. We also started this year with a Mandela Day Beach Clean Up and Halloween at McClelland is coming up. So we are doing well on the charitable front, but we can always do more. Linked to this is increasing the public profile of the Society – I often find people who are of Scottish descent in all aspects of my life, but why are these people not joining our Society? Perhaps a key issue is that no one is all that aware of our existence, of what we do, of how they could get involved. So I think we will need to work on this aspect in this next year. Again any ideas and suggestions are welcome?*
- (3) **Celebrate the Band's Centenary in a Fitting Manner:** *The band is the flagship of our Society and as has been said in the past: one might not be sure if there is a Caledonian Society in town, but you can't help but know there is a Pipe Band. Plans are well underway for the centenary celebrations.*



Newly chaired Chief, Lady President with Past Fed Chief and Callies cleaning Nahoon Beach for Mandela Day

Upcoming events include the fundraising tea for the Band Centenary and the St Andrew's Gathering in Grahamstown. A reminder that next month is the annual Halloween event at McClelland. We hope that we can surpass the targets set at our 2018 event.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Congratulations to Elliot & Cynthia Murray, who recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary (see press cutting attached to newsletter). Also in the news ... Callum & Beryl MacIver, who recently donated a commemorative plaque to EL museum, which was given to E. L. Missions to Seaman in 1949 by the Athlone Castle. In sports news, Sue Piderit & Roxanne Piderit have been away on a masters' hockey tour; while Tumi Macdonell qualified for a semi-final at the SA Short Course Swimming Championships in Pietermaritzburg. Maureena Middleton and Ralph & Rose Anley will be mountaineering in Scotland at the beginning of September. Roxanne Piderit is busy selling her house and buying a new one in Berea. Emma Cowley has recently been in hospital. Callum & Beryl MacIver have enjoyed a recent visit by their daughter, Lynn, and grandson, Andrew.

ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday 7 September 2019: Fundraising Tea at Parklands. 10:15 for 10:30. R50 per ticket.
 Saturday 26 October 2019: Halloween at McClelland. 18:30 for 19:00. Bring & Braai. R20pp

PIPE BAND The Band has recently been seen at the Chairing, Kirking and Cambridge Presbyterian Church Bazaar. Upcoming Parades by the Band:

Saturday 7 September 2019: Fund-raising Tea at Parklands, Berea (10.15 for 10.30)

LADIES GROUP Ladies enjoyed a get-together at the Dot Com Café on 6 August and 3 September.

S.C.D.C Eight dancers in attendance on average. Enthusiastic meetings continue.

HIGHLAND DANCERS The dancers had a very successful exam and competition weekend and are preparing for the SA Championships. Kristen Stockenstrom danced the lead role in "The Tin Soldier".

CONGRESS / TASK TEAM East London has started planning for the 2020 Congress / Band Centenary.

BIRTHDAYS

August 2019			September 2019		
Date	Name:	Contact:	Date	Name:	Contact:
15	Sue Piderit	082 924 1078	6	Riona MacKenzie	072 432 3174
19	Peter McLeod	021 782 3415	20	Jamie Gibson	043 721 3272
25	Iris van der Zee	043 726 5000	21	Rose Anley	randr@hyperlink.co.za
			22	Agnes Cowie	081 588 9958
			23	Sheila Godfrey	082 510 3863

SUBSCRIPTIONS For those who have not paid, the following subscriptions are now due: Full Members: R100, Country Members: R75; Junior Members: R35. Please pay to the Committee (if not already done so) - thanks

COMMITTEE Next Committee Meeting will be at 19.30 on Thursday 12 September 2019 at the home of Sandra Rankin, 102 Parklands, Berea. Note: Meeting to be preceded by Congress / Centenary Meeting at 19.00.

Yours aye,



Roxanne Piderit (Chief)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	START	NOTES
7 Sept	Fundraising Tea	Oak Room, Parklands	10:15 for 10:30	Tickets R50 pp
26 Oct	Halloween	McClelland Home	18:30 for 19:00	Bring & Braai. R20 pp
30 Nov	St Andrews Dinner	TBC	18:30 for 19:00	Details to follow

A Shared Life of Love

Elliot and Cynthia Murray



GO!
& EXPRESS

Callum and Beryl Maclver

August 1, 2019



GRATITUDE FLOWS: Captain Callum Maciver and his wife, Meryl, pose with a special plaque given to the now-defunct East London branch of Mission to Seamen (now known as Mission to Seafarers) which was donated by the Athelcrown in 1949 (GO!, 'East London's saviour', July 25). The crew of the Athelcrown wanted to thank the staff of Mission East London for their assistance during the three-month period the ship spent delivering water to the city. The plaque was donated to the East London Museum on their behalf on Tuesday. Mission to Seafarers is an international Christian welfare group that assists merchant crews at various ports around the world

Picture: MATTHEW FIELD

Dr Elliot Murray, 88, and his wife Cynthia, 87, celebrate 65 years of marriage in their Selborne home where they have lived for 53 years. One of their four sons, Dr Sean Murray, also from East London, said the couple had met at the then Natal University where they were both studying. They married on July 30 1954, and moved to East London. They have 11 grandchildren. And what advice do they have for newly weds? Cynthia said: "You have to persevere, be tolerant, and don't hold a grudge. Make friends with each other before you go to bed. All as the Bible says."

Picture: ALAN EASON