



THE CALEDONIAN



The artists who entertained at the Annual Royal Caledonian Society Concert held at Rosefield Uniting Church Hall on Sunday 2nd August. Our own P.M. Dan Meehan, Pipers Julie Sniedze, James McKenna, Ian Richardson, Highland dancers Nyssa Patterson & Emily Dow, Flautist Robert Brown, Pianist Jessica Joseph, Pianist William Helm and Pianist Margaret Minney.



Life Memberships presented to **Isabella Greig & Margaret Minney** by **Chief Ann Miller**.
RCS Annual Concert at Rosefield Uniting 2nd August



New Members of the Society Dr Stephen Morris and Meri Pappas being welcomed by Chief Anne Miller at the Burns Centenary Celebration which was held on Saturday 18th July at the Illingworth Hall, Goodwood.

**September
2009**

**"The Caledonian" is the official journal of
The Royal Caledonian Society of SA Inc.**

ABN 67103 096 385

Patron of the Society:

His Excellency Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR Governor of S.A.





FROM THE CHIEF

Recently I had a conversation with one of our members who imparted to me two thoughts which meant so much to her during her lifetime (1) her father taught her there is no such word as 'can't'. (I recall my father saying 'can't' is two words – 'can' and 'not'; meaning 'Can' says I am able and 'Not' says I refuse). It tells us there is nothing we cannot do if we but try. (2) How very proud she is to be a member of The Royal Caledonian Society. It was truly wonderful to hear the delight in her voice as she spoke.

We all know the joy and pride of membership in our great Society, but do we say it aloud as this member did? Perhaps we could all aim to do this. And often.

How quickly time has passed. We are at the close of another year. One which has proved fruitful for the Society.

The AGM is upon us and it promises to be lively this year.

Nominations

We have 2 nominations for Chief as follows:-.

- (1) **Me - to enable me to complete my 3 year term as Chief.**
- (2) **Director Roselee Bruce.**

There are 7 nominees to fill 4 directorships.

Chieftain Ann Wickham, Directors Malcolm Orchard and Pipe Major Dan Meehan, offer themselves for re-election.

Asst. Banner Bearer Brian Spencer, Mr. Don McQueen, Band Secretary Heather Pennell and Piper Catherine McKenna seek election. Each has written a profile to assist you make your decision about who can best serve our Society.

I wish you well in your choice.

The **Scotch College Project** is no more. Communications with the College were few and far between this year. The 'Licence to Occupy' we received from them made several unreasonable demands upon us, and in particular, the Pipe Band. Written in similar vein as our letter to the College, displayed at AGM 2008, it was much more restricting. Council voted unanimously in July to cease negotiations with Scotch College. I thank **PC Lennox Pawson** and **Chieftain Christina Cockerill** for their endless hours of negotiation with Scotch College. I thank members **Margaret Minney** and **Paul Cuthbertson**, who examined this document for us and gave their considered legal opinions at no cost to us.

The Society is indebted to these members for their generosity.

But all is not lost. Council is still considering the purchase of a suitable property. We are currently looking at the possibilities of a property at Edwardstown. There are several things which need checking into like the change of use with the council and the prospects of being able to let out the remainder of the property. Ideally we require a property which has a large function room for ourselves and a rentable space which will cover all our operating costs, and we would still like to have some funds invested.

Our secretary has also been looking into the possibilities of having a somewhat underused area at the **Kensington Park RSL Hall** renovated for use as a small storage space and an extra practice room for the **Pipes and Drums** who use this hall twice a week for their practice sessions. They are very happy with this venue.

Membership has increased and functions were good.

We had several delightful functions during the last 3 months.

Hamy Marcelin spoke for an hour about his 40 years in the Diplomatic Service. He served in so many countries that one might say he has literally piped his way around the world.

Tartan Day Service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Nth. Adelaide was again heart-warming. Following **Chief's Piper Hamy Marcelin** and our Saltire, carried by **Chieftain Wickham**, our beautiful Banner, carried by **Banner Bearer Spencer**, led the Scottish community in procession into the church. **Our Honorary Pastor, Rev. ten Broeke**, conducted the service, after which we were again invited to luncheon as guests of the church. As Chief, on behalf of our society I welcomed and extended greetings to all present at the service. **Burns night** in the Illingworth small hall was warm. The Band and Highland Dancers entertained us with their performances.

John McDouall Stuart Scy. Memorial Service to the explorer took place in beautiful sunshine. **Director Malcolm Orchard, Asst. Banner Bearer Spencer** and **Chieftain Cockerill** accompanied me to the Adelaide Town Hall & Afternoon Tea .

I produced a **2nd. Winter Concert**. This was successful. Our members, with representatives of other societies and organizations, attended. I have been asked to produce another concert next year. **Mesdames Margaret Minney** and **Isabella Grieg** were presented with their **Honorary Life Membership certificates** and we welcomed new members into our Society. There was much friendliness at the High Tea afterwards. **All performers gave their talents Gratis. I thank them all.**

I attended **The Royal Presidents' Dinner** and **Director Malcolm Orchard** accompanied me. It was held in the Banqueting Room of the Adelaide Town Hall, in the presence of His Worship, The Lord Mayor, Mr. Harbison, and was delightful. It was hosted by the Royal Lifesaving Society, S.A. Branch to celebrate their Centenary. Letters of apology and good wishes from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and His Excellency, Kevin Scarce, Governor of South Australia, were read.

I thank you all for the support you have given me during the year and I look forward to seeing you at the AGM on 14th. September. I wish you well as you make your selections for the 2010 Council.

BETWEEN OURSELVES

Best wishes to the following

Adam Gifford had another major operation. Recovering well.

Wally Wickham has been in Ashford hospital and is now back at home recovering from an operation.

Audrey Andrews has been quite ill.

Grant Andrews has been in bed with 'flu.

Ron Modra has had an operation and is now home recovering.

Condolences to

Life member **Helen Fawcett** on the sad loss of husband Bob on 27th July. Bob was also a long time member of the Society.

Welcome back to

Lennox & Robin Pawson have just returned from three weeks holiday on cruise to Bali, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

MEMBERS: Cufflinks with the Society Crest are currently being made and will cost \$25 a set.

If you are interested would you kindly contact **PC Lennox Pawson on 8379 1949**

SOCIETY TIES – McGREGOR TARTAN with Society Crest are available from the Secretary \$25 each.

Eulogy for RCS Member Dr. Robert Fawcett – delivered by his eldest son Jon Fawcett

Born on 1 October 1927 in Kapunda, Robert Graham Fawcett was the only child of Len and Margaret Fawcett.

Len's farming business was significantly impacted by the great depression and as a result Dad's family did it tough financially through his childhood. Despite this, however, it is clear that Dad grew up in a loving and supportive family.

His teenage years were very different from those of his grand children today. This week I was reading his "financial ledger" he kept as a teenager in which he kept detailed records of his income and expenditure. Income from rabbit skins and expenditure on cartridges were regular entries. He often rode a horse to school. It was hard work to get it moving to school, and even harder work getting it to slow down returning FROM school. He often trudged up the road long after the horse had arrived back in the stables. He bought a push bike as soon as he could.

Dad worked hard at school and his teachers really encouraged him with his maths and chemistry, sparking his interest in science early on.

Funded by a partial scholarship and his mother's savings from nursing, he gained entrance to Roseworthy College in 1945. For the next three years he studied agriculture, boarding at the College during the week and riding home to Kapunda on his pushbike on the weekends. He graduated in 1948 with a Diploma of Agriculture and was dux of the college. He then chose to pursue a career in agricultural research rather than farming. This was a major decision point in his life and launched him into a career that became his passion for the next 40 years. I can remember him commenting with amusement how good it was to be paid to do something he loved so much.

In 1948 he joined the CSIRO based in Canberra as a Technical Officer and continued in this role for this next 6 years. Realising he needed more qualifications to progress up the research ranks so resigned and came back to Adelaide University to complete a Bachelor of Agricultural Science which he achieved in 1958.

While studying he boarded at the home of three sisters, Eida, Bird and Claude Naismith who lived at 131 Glynburn Rd and who were active members of Knightsbridge Baptist. They also had a very pretty young niece called Helen Newbold who often visited her aunts.

One thing led to another and the happy couple were married on 26 March 1959 in this very church by Rev John Hughes. For Dad, the balance of 1959 was taken up completing an honours degree in agricultural science which he achieved with first class honours in soil science.

In late 1959 Dad was appointed as a Research Agronomist at the North West Wheat Research Institute in NSW. This meant packing up and driving 4 days, often on unsealed roads, to Narrabri, then a small country town in north west NSW where the pubs still had hitching rails.

Dad and Mum seemed to have quickly adapted and thrived in their new community. They bought land and built their first house. I was born in June 1961 and David followed in October 1963. The family was actively involved in the local Baptist Church, the swimming club, the lapidary club, debating groups and the Narrabri primary school parents & friends association. Dad qualified as a senior swimming instructor and taught many kids at the local pool for a number of years.

In 1968 Dad received his PHD from Sydney University. His thesis, titled "Factors influencing the development and grain yield of spring wheats grown on the northwest plains of NSW with special reference to soil-water-plant relationships" had taken 6 years to complete. It was a huge team effort. Mum typed up the 500 page document on a manual portable typewriter with 6 carbon copies over a 6 month period between December 1966 and July 1967. No laptop computers back then!

In 1972 when Dad accepted a position with the Australian Foreign Affairs Department to work in Thailand as part of the Colombo Plan, one of the major Australian development aid programs which had been in operation through the 1960s and into the 1970s. In September 1972 we left Australia for Chainat, another small country town but in the middle of Thailand about 160 kilometres north of Bangkok on Chao Praya River.

For the next three years Dad worked with local Thai research scientists and farmers to develop systems for growing soya beans as a dry season cash crop in otherwise fallow rice paddies. This not only supplemented farmers' otherwise subsistence level income but being a legume also helped put nitrogen back in the soil. He developed a strong rapport with the local farmers, making a point of sharing lunch with them when out in the fields and continually working on his written and spoken Thai. By the end of his time in Chainat, he had been promoted to team leader and was the only Australian to deliver his entire farewell speech in Thai to a standing ovation from the locals.

Upon returning to Australia in 1975, Dad took up a position as a research scientist in the Land Management Section of the SA Department of Agriculture based out at the Northfield Research Laboratories. In 1991 he and his team were recognised for their significant contribution to sustainable farming by being awarded a South Australian Landcare Award. Some of his team are here today.

During this time the family lived at 38 William Rd, Klemzig where he enjoyed his vegetable garden and chooks and spent many happy hours tinkering in his shed. He and Mum worshipped regularly at Broadview Baptist Church where they made many friends. Upon retirement, when not travelling overseas with Mum, Dad re-discovered his passion for wood carving, making a number of beautiful pieces of furniture and other utensils. He also enjoyed researching his family history, and organising a family re-union in Kapunda back in 2001 which many here attended.

Along with Mum, he was also an active member of the English Speaking Union and the Caledonian Society for many years through which he made many friends.

Dad's death from cancer caught us by surprise but its speed and his lack of pain throughout the process is in our mind a blessing. With his passing I have lost not just a father but a life long friend whose quiet counsel and consistent, loving support I shall greatly miss.

Rest In Peace DAD

The society was represented at Bob's funeral by Chieftain Christina Cockerill and Brian Spencer, Chieftain Ann Wickham and Wally Wickham, Eunice Porteous and Past Chief David Porteous who was one of the Pall Bearers, along with family members.



Picture of Bob in earlier years.



A Grace Disguised

The problem of expecting to live in a perfectly fair world is that there is no grace in that world, for grace is grace *only when it is undeserved*. Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables* tells the story of Jean Valjean, who spends 19 years in gaol for stealing a loaf of bread. His sentence and suffering are obviously undeserved, the result of living in an unjust society.

His bitterness only increases when he begins to suffer the ignominy of being an ex-convict in nineteenth-century French society, which rejects disreputable people like Valjean.

In desperation he seeks lodging one night at the home of a Catholic bishop, who treats him with genuine kindness, which Valjean sees only as an opportunity to exploit. In the middle of the night he steals most of the bishop's silver, but he is caught by the police as he tries to flee. When the police bring him back to the bishop's house for identification, they are surprised when the bishop hands two silver candlesticks to Valjean, implying that he had *given* the stolen silver to him, and says, "You forgot these." After dismissing the police, the bishop turns to Valjean and claims him for God. "I have bought your soul for God," he tells him. In that moment, by the bishop's act of mercy, Valjean's bitterness is broken.

The rest of the novel demonstrates the utter power of a redeemed life. Valjean chooses the way of mercy, as the bishop had done. He raises an orphan who is entrusted to his care at her mother's death, spares the life of a parole officer who has spent fifteen years hunting him, and saves a young man, his future son-in-law, from death, though it almost costs him his own life. He fulfills his destiny with joy, returns good for evil wherever he goes, and then longingly enters heaven. Valjean's story is a picture of what God has done for us in Christ- Undeserved Grace- Amazing Grace!

Blessings
Rev Chris



Hamy Marcelin (Chief's piper) piping in guests Trevor & Pauline Powell at the 250th Burns celebration at Illingworth Hall on Saturday 18th July. Trevor did an excellent job of the Address to the Haggis and then followed up with a very entertaining "Toast to the Lassies".

LENNOX'S LOONIES



Scotch will two drops of water

A lady goes to a bar on a cruise ship and orders a Scotch with two drops of water.

As the bartender gives her the drink she says, "I'm on this cruise to celebrate my 80th birthday and it's today."

The bartender says, "Well, since it's your birthday, I'll buy you a drink, In fact this one is on me." As the woman finishes her drink, the woman to her right says, "I would like to buy you a drink, too."

The old woman says, "Thank you, Bartender, I want a Scotch with two drops of water."

"Coming up," says the bartender.

As she finishes that drink, the man to her left says, "I would like to buy you one, too"

The old woman says, "Thank you. Bartender, I want another Scotch with two drops of water."

"Coming right up," the bartender says. As he gives her the drink, he says, "Ma'am, I'm dying of curiosity. Why the Scotch with only two drops of water?"

The old woman replies, "Sonny, when you're my age, you've learned how to hold your liquor. Holding your water, however, is another issue."



Guest speaker Rosemary McKay at Robbie Burns 250th celebration at Illingworth Hall Goodwood on Saturday 18th July.



Robyn Wolgar (Sayers) & Louisa Young who put on a marvellous display and many costume changes at Burns 250th celebrations.



Interested in learning the Pipes or Drums?

The Royal Caledonian Society Pipes and Drums are always looking for persons to swell their ranks

Contact — Alf Payne Mob. 0413 319 738

Society Contacts

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**BOOK REVIEW:
MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS.**

by Carol Schaefer

According to the dust jacket for Carol Schaefer's "Mary Queen of Scots" everyone "who has seen movies like "Shakespeare in Love" knows the story: Queen Elizabeth I, wise and even-tempered ruler fighting against the threats of betrayal, infighting, and the treasonous plots of her beautiful but power hungry cousin, Mary Queen of Scots. "But was Mary really "a seductive witch" as she "ambitiously fought for power and the crown of England?" Schaefer thinks not. Indeed, she discovered, through research, that Mary was a remarkable leader, a visionary, a poet and a woman of letters.

However, she realised there are still unanswered questions, even after some 400 years: was she, Mary, saint and martyr as so many believed, or simply a murderess and adulteress as so many others thought? (Her tomb in Westminster Abbey, Schaefer notes, is "held sacred by many" and "tourists make pilgrimages to palaces where she lived and hire boats to transport themselves to Lochleven Island, her first place of imprisonment": and "wearing clothes of Mary's time, Scottish women hold seances on the anniversary of her death".)

Reviewed by Dryades.



Baby Andrew William John Crowley, baby son of Carolyn and Aaron, born on 7th July 2009. Baby brother to Patrick Eric who is now 5 and Grandson to Margaret & John Minney.



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