



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc.

Naidheachdan

Issue 293

Newsletter – April/May 2025

Caledonia

Caledonia was the Latin name used by the Roman Empire to refer to the forested region in the central and western Highlands of Scotland, particularly stretching through parts of what are now Lochaber, Badenoch, Strathspey, and possibly as far south as Rannoch Moor, known as Coed Celyddon to the native Britons). Today, it is used as a romantic or poetic name for all of Scotland and during the Roman Empire's occupation of Britain, the area they called Caledonia was physically separated from the rest of the island by the Antonine Wall. It remained outside the administration of Roman Britain. *Celyddon* means 'The Forested Region'. It is derived from the Welsh word '*celydd*' meaning 'a sheltered place, a retreat, a woody shelter'. Latin historians, referred to the territory north of the River Forth as "Caledonia", and described it as inhabited by the Maeatae and the Caledonians (*Caledonii*).



The Romans first invaded the district under Agricola about 80AD and later won a decisive battle at Mons Graupius. They established a legionary fortress at Inchtuthil, near Dunkeld, in Perth and Kinross district Tayside region, as well as several auxiliary forts in strategic highland passes. But they were forced to evacuate Inchtuthil and all the sites north of the Earn River about 90AD and all of Scotland during the rule of Trajan (98–117AD). Although the frontier between Roman territory and Caledonia was fixed south of the Cheviot Hills by the emperor Hadrian, the Romans subsequently pushed the frontier northward again to the Firth of Forth, building the Antonine Wall by about 144AD to guard the new border. They retreated a decade later but reoccupied the wall temporarily later in the 2nd century and made temporary military occupations of regions farther to the north in 209 and 296. Excavations of the area have revealed native lake dwellings and weems, the original underground stone houses containing Roman objects of trade.

Caledonia – The Song Caledonia is a modern Scottish folk ballad written by Dougie MacLean in 1977. The chorus of the song features the lyric "Caledonia, you're calling me, and now I'm going home". The song has been covered by various artists, including Jimmy Barnes, and is often dubbed Scotland's "unofficial national anthem".

In 2012, I had the pleasure of meeting Dougie MacLean at the 100th Anniversary Gathering at Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull to commemorate the Castle being returned to the MacLean Clan after hundreds of years.



It's ironic that two of the places I am about to visit from the end of July are Budapest, where you would find a Scottish Pub called "The Caledonia" and Inverness which is significantly connected to Caledonia, primarily through the Caledonian Canal and its historical association with the region.

So why do we celebrate Caledonian Night? Whereas our Burns' Night Supper is dedicated to the Bard himself, our Caledonian Night is to commemorate Scotland's diverse history and culture and we are delighted to announce that tickets for this year's event on Saturday 7th June, featuring Highlander Celtic Rock Band, the Mineworkers' Pipe Band and Newcastle Highland Dancers are virtually sold out so, if you wish to attend, I would advise you to contact Trybooking asap to save disappointment. Come and join us again for a night of fun, food & festivity the Caledonian way!!

Hunter Valley Scots Club Members' Social Night



Members Monthly Social Soiree for April

As those who have joined us in the past will attest, and these photos will tell, we are a happy and friendly lot at Hunter Valley Scots Club and look forward to welcoming you for dinner and a good chat at our **Members' Social Night on Tuesday 29th April in Mr. Zhou's Chinese Restaurant at Teralba Bowling Club from 6pm.** So how about you come join us and let us have the pleasure of your company too. To book for this one please call **Linda** on 0434 617 842.

Upcoming Events 2025

The Committee meets
at Club Macquarie
Argenton at 7pm on
the second Tuesday of
each month

Mailing Address
Hunter Valley Scots Club
PO Box 34
Kotara NSW 2289

Email:
huntermvalleys Scots@gmail.com

Web Site
www.hvscots.org

Committee

President
Toni Mclean

Vice President
Andrew MacPherson

Secretary
Linda Baer

Treasurer
Elizabeth Lewin

Committee
William Baer

Robert Findley

Helen Fulton

Kim Nolan

Robyn Smith

Andrew Smith



Tuesday 29th April

HVSC Members Social Night Mr. Zhou's Chinese at Teralba Bowling Club, 2a York Street. To book in call Linda on 0434 617 842

Sunday 18th May

Bush Dance Workshop at Teralba Memorial Hall, Anzac Parade, Teralba. Learn some Bush Dance steps and movements. For more details call Margaret Kenning 0413 229 740

Saturday 24th May

Rotary Club of Berry, Celtic Festival at Berry Showground. Includes jousting and other Medieval re-enactments (See website for info)

Tuesday 27th May

HVSC Members Social Night at Pippi's at the Point, 99 Main Rd, Speers Point. To book in Call Toni on 4970 5105.

Saturday 31st May

Bonnie Wingham Highland Fair at Wingham Showground from 9am (See website for info)

Saturday 31st May

Newcastle & Hunter Valley Folk Club Bush Dance at Teralba Community Hall from 7.30pm to 10.30pm with popular Bush Band 'Walcha Road' and dance caller John Short. NHVFC Members \$15; Non Members \$20; Concession \$17; Children under 16 with adult Free. BYO mug and a plate to share for supper

Saturday 7th June

HVSC Caledonian Night at Club Macquarie Argenton from 6.30pm. Go to Trybooking for reservations.

Tuesday 24th June

HVSC Members Social Night. Venue TBA

Saturday 5th July

Aberdeen Highland Games at Jefferson Park New England Highway, Aberdeen. This is a ticketed event. (Check their website)

Tuesday 29th July

HVSC Members Social Night. Venue TBA

Saturday 23rd August

Saltire Estate Highland Games 113 Wilderness Road, Lovedale. Tickets available shortly. Check their website

Saturday 20th Sept

Clans on the Coast Celtic Festival at Raymond Terrace. Details to be confirmed shortly. Keep an eye on their website.

Our annual memberships are due on 1st July 2025 but become a member of Hunter Valley Scots Club NOW and take advantage of the extra two months and your fee of \$15.00 will take your membership through to 30th June 2026. See page four



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc.

Membership Application & Renewal

The Secretary: Hunter Valley Scots Club, PO Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289

Email: huntermvalleyscots@gmail.com

I, _____ (full name of applicant)

Address _____ D.O.B _____

_____ Post Code _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Mobile _____

Hereby apply to become a member of the Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc (HVSC). In the event of my admission as a member I agree to be bound by the Constitution and By Laws of the Association.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please note: The following is to be completed only for new members

NB: Information provided on this form will only be used for the Register of Members as required by the Incorporation Act and for mailing HVSC information to members.

I, _____ a member of Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc, nominate the Applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the Association.

Proposer's Signature _____ Date _____

I, _____ a member of Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc, second the nomination of the Applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the Association.

Seconder's Signature _____ Date _____

FEES: Annual Membership & Renewals for Adults **\$15.00:** Name Badge (additional) **\$20.00** (opt)

Junior Membership: 5-12 yrs **\$10.00** Family Membership (Two Adults & two Children) **\$ \$40.00**

SUMMARY: Adult Membership (\$15.00)\$.....

Junior Membership (\$20.00) \$.....

Family Membership \$40.00) \$.....

Badge/s (\$20.00) \$.....

Total \$.....

Direct Deposit:

Hunter Valley Scots Club (ANZ)

BSB 012-571

Acc. No. 2045 68722

ID: Please use your Surname

Be sure to return your completed form to the above address

Please do not send cash by mail

BADGE NAMES: (Please print clearly)

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