

Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc.



Newsletter

Issue 261

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Meets at

Teralba Community Hall
Cnr Margaret St &
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Teralba NSW

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Committee

2020-2021

President

Andrew MacPherson

Vice President

Grahame Pricter OAM

Secretary

Vacant

Treasurer

Robyn Smith

Committee

Sue Donald
Duncan Berry
Helen Fulton
Graeme Hamilton
Kim Nolan
Lynne Pricter
Andrew Smith

Hi All Hunter Valley Scots Club Members,

How are you all? Enjoying the Spring weather? No matter what weather you prefer – warm or cold, wet or fine, this month you have been able to enjoy your preference. I do have a feeling though that most of us would prefer the wind to stay away.

It has been great to get out and about a bit (if you are double vaccinated) seeing friends and family and getting back into some sort of routine.

We are hopeful that we can proceed with the next two activities

Put these dates in your diary

HVSC Annual General Meeting 5 December 2021 4pm,
Teralba hall. All welcome (within covid requirements).

After a brief meeting there will be a meal which will be an opportunity to catch up with friends we haven't seen for a long time. PLEASE come along and join in.

Calling for nominations for committee members particularly a Secretary, Newsletter Editor or even just a committee member. We need more younger members on Committee with fresh ideas. You will be welcomed with open arms!!

BURNS NIGHT

Saturday 29th January 2022. Club Macquarie, Argenton

We understand that at that time we will be able to do most of our usual activities eg a meal, dancing. Any covid requirements will of course have to be met. Start planning who you might invite to come. Ticketing and more details soon.

Central Coast Scots

Burns Night Ceilidh, Friday 21st January 2022

Panorama Lounge, The Entertainment Grounds, 4 Racecourse Rd, Gosford

Tickets available through Trybooking on the following link <https://www.trybooking.com/BVFTZ>

More information to follow closer to the date

Do you keep up to date with Scottish activity in Australia? Two good sources are ***The Scottish Banner*** monthly paper, or ***The Scottish Australian Heritage Council newsletter***. Worth checking on these, plus our own ***HVSC website & HVSC Facebook*** of course. There are also a few other facebook's with a Scottish flavour eg Family Fun and Memories Scottish Style

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Have you realised we haven't called for membership fees for 2021-2022? Although we still have costs such as insurance and the audit etc we acknowledge that we have been unable to provide any social activities so have refrained from reminding members of their fees. You can have a freebie for 2021-2022 and those members who have already paid will have their membership extended for another 12 months.

Hunter Valley Scots Club is not holding a **St Andrew's Day Service** this year, so I thought I would remind you of

A History of the "Kirkin' of the Tartans (my apologies to whoever wrote this article. I cannot find a reference on it, and I can't even recall who gave it to me some years back)

This noble ceremony that is called the Kirkin' of the Tartans, has its roots in the defeat of heavily outnumbered Scottish forces at Culloden on April 16, 1746 at the hands of the English troops. The Scottish forces under Prince Charles Edward Stuart were defeated by the English led by William Augustus, the Duke of Cumberland. The devastating slaughter of the Scots who lost 1,000 men in 45 minutes, was the result of the opening cannonade and subsequent tactics of the Redcoats during the Scottish attack, when each English soldier, instead of attacking the Highlander directly in front of him, bayoneted the exposed side of the man to his right instead with devastating results. While the Scots lost 1,000 dead in 45 minutes, the English lost only 50 of their 9,000 troops who were opposed by a mere 5,000 Scots, most of whom, were weak and starving and very short of food.

That particular British campaign had been inspired by strategic considerations. It was intolerable to the English that a region of Britain should be a stronghold of Jacobite ambitions. This military assault was but a prelude to the attempted destruction of highland society by legislative means at the hands of the English.

No Bagpipes Allowed!

The Highlanders were disarmed and the military and judicial powers of the chiefs over their clans were abolished by law. No bagpipes were allowed. The wearing of highland dress was outlawed and highland men now complained of the unmanly dress they were required to wear under English law. As a symbol of their personal defiance the Highlanders used to secrete under their churchgoing clothes a piece of the offending tartan, which was then blessed or dedicated at a particular point in the Scottish church service on one Sunday a year, to make the very important point that the basic

Scottish rights and freedoms were still very much alive and well in Scotland. The offending Act was virtually repealed in 1782 and the Highlanders were soon fighting in the plaid once again.

The following is a translation of the Gaelic proclamation intimating the appeal of the law in 1782 of the Act of Parliament passed in 1746 prohibiting the wearing of the highland dress:

Listen, men, this is bringing before all the sons of the Gael that the King and Parliament of Britain have forever abolished the Act against the highland dress that came down to the clans from the beginning of the world to the year 1746. This must bring great joy to every highland heart. You are no longer bound to the unmanly dress of the lowlander. This is declaring to every man, young and old, commons and gentles, that they may after this put on and wear the trews, the little kilt, the doublet and hose, along with the tartan kilt without fear of the law of the land or the jealousy of enemies.

Kirking Prayer

God, our Father, we praise and thank you for your goodness to us in our Scottish heritage. We dedicate to you our tartans- the symbols of unwavering loyalty, steadfast hope and the great achievements of our Scottish forebears.

Today we pray that we, their descendants in Australia may remain true to these great ideals, we pray that we may be true to the faith handed down to us, a faith which has played such a large part in the building of our country Australia. May we, and our fellow Scots everywhere, help to bring peace, goodwill, equality and justice to the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Of interest. As an indication of how Scots are valued in Australia, I have been advised that in the World Cup Qualifying game between Saudi Arabia and Australia during this week at Parramatta, 2 of the Australian team were Scottish and one of these had never before actually been to Australia but Australia claimed them as Aussies for the game.

A Quiz for Quarantined People (again I am sorry I don't know who to credit this quiz to)

Only 9 questions. This is a quiz for people who know everything and I soon found out I didn't. These are not trick questions. They are straight questions with straight answers.

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several of more growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name 6 or more things you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 's'.

Answers next page

1. Boxing
2. Niagara Falls – the rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.
3. Asparagus and rhubarb
4. Strawberry
5. The pear grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe they are snipped off at the stems
6. Dwarf, dwell, dwindle
7. Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation mark, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.
8. Lettuce
9. Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts