

Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc.



Newsletter

Issue 251

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Meets at

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Committee

2019-2020

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Committee

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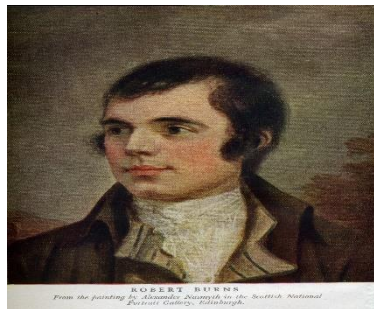
Vacant

Happy New Year Hunter Valley Scots Club Members,

The year has certainly not started off well for many people in NSW and Victoria, and as our thoughts and good wishes are with those who have been impacted badly by the fires, we hope our members in this area are safe and looking forward to a happy 2020.

The major activity for this time of the year is of course Burns Night/Supper. There are three such events happening in our area or close by. Note: You could actually attend all three if you wish

Hunter Valley Scots Club Burns Night



Saturday 1st February 2020.

Club Macquarie 6.30 for 7.00pm

See attachment to newsletter for more details

Also attached is information on

- **Central Coast Scots Burns Supper**
- **A Night with Robbie Burns Warners Bay**

St Andrew's Day Service

As usual Rev Kenneth Brown led an interesting St Andrew's Day service at The Willows at Warners Bay. There is no doubt that his strong Scottish accent sets the scene from the outset. Andrew MacPherson was the Piper and Grahame Pricter shared the organisation of the service with Kenneth Brown.

The service was followed by some highland dancing by Clare and Meredith, and because the church's annual luncheon was on the same day, we all joined in with some carol singing before lunch. Certainly a pleasant way to spend a Sunday.



If you attended Clans on the Coast or any other activity, and could give us a short report it would be great to share it through this newsletter with others who were not able to attend. Thank you

2020 Planning

It is time to plan the Scots Club programme for 2020.

The Committee is seeking feedback from members as to what activities they would like Hunter Valley Scots Club to provide throughout the year. For example:

Do we continue the Social Night bimonthly?

Newsletters?

Do we concentrate of two main events – the Burns Night, and the Caledonian Night?

How do we promote Scottish culture in the area?

What new /different initiatives can we develop?

Even just a few words, comments, suggestions will be greatly appreciated by the Committee as we endeavour to meet the members' concepts of their Club

Christmas Social

This was a most enjoyable night with about 60 people in attendance. We were privileged to be entertained by a number of performers from various groups.



Two young dancers, Lacey and Baxter from Bill's Ballroom who use the hall 6 days a week, demonstrated their ballroom skills. Oh to be that graceful! (particularly at their young age)

The Lake Folk Group who use the hall on a monthly basis displayed their wide range of skills.

- Poet Christie with some original poems including a nonet 'Ten Ladies Went for a Run', and the Quindo Quondo Bird
- Ross on the ukulele sang 'Still Haven't Found What I am Looking For'
- Alan recited 'Blue the Shearer' and the 'Crossed Eyed Bull'
- Mark played the Hawaiian slide guitar

Ian Robertson who teaches Scottish dance for U3A demonstrated Scottish Country dances

Flora's Highland Dancers danced 'A Sleigh Ride Together with You' to the tune of Jingle Bells.



And the small pipes and drum and guitar from the Mineworkers Pipe Band continued for a demonstration of the Postie Jig, and most in attendance joined in for the Caspian Circle, called by Margaret Kenning.

Shirley Keating and her daughter in law on the keyboard, led some carol singing and of course we finished with 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas'

A Supper including Christmas pudding followed with the opportunity to chat with friends.

Thank you to all who contributed in any way (including attending) and look what you missed if you weren't able to be there!!

The Aussie Haggis

1.

In Australia, when winds are keen,
It's then the Haggis start to scream,
At thocht o' Burns suppers soon,
The Haggis fate at the full moon.
It kens Tam, Dick or Harry,
Will not dither, wait or tarry,
Tae see wha's turn it is to slay,
The muckel beastie for the Day!

2.

Beauteous King o' every beast
It blesses the table at any Feast,
Honest, stodgy, stoot and fat,
There's certainly nae doot o' that!
On moonlicht nichts they say it haunts,
The kirkyard yonder, bale and gaunt,
It shrieks at midnight heard abroad,
A' doon the street, the Main North Road.

3.

In the year o' 20 twelve,
A' body thought things were well,
But ne'er a Haggis could be found,
From anywhere, for miles around.
Where had they gone? The usual flock,
Never a squeak and never a squawk.
Sabotage was suspected,
A Committee was elected.

4.

Yon bonny Jock then took control
Armed with trusty phone book,
Determined, keen and seeing red
A Haggis must be found, he said!
Tormented, desperate, this wee lad
Rang Haggis farms, baith good & bad
But the reply was aye the same,
The Haggises have a' left hame!

5.

A certain butcher caught his attention
His name I fear I canna mention,
Was heard to hae within his store, ,
A Haggis, captured years before.
It lay a' stiff inside his freezer,
Folk said "it wasnae hauf a breezer",
Could he be coaxed to let it go?
Or run the risk it turn to snow?

6.

In the end this lad surrendered,
His resignation nearly tendered,
At the threat from the Chief, oh my,
His sausages ne'er again they'd buy!
And so you see it on your plate,
A bonnier sicht ye never ate.
Having Toasted, no one spurns,
The Haggis, immortalised by Burns!



Does anyone know the author/origin of this poem? It was found among information for newsletters.

Whilst googling to try and ascertain an author, I discovered that in 2009 a food historian claimed that the haggis was invented by the English before it was hijacked by Scottish nationalists as their own.

A recipe book dated 1616 published at least 171 years before Robert Burns penned his poem "Address to the Haggis", referred to the dish. Gervase Markham in 1615 said "it is very popular among all people in England"