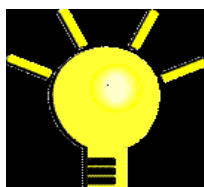


Hunter Valley Scots  
Club inc

# Hunter Valley Scots Club inc



August 2017



Have an idea?  
Maybe a new  
event or place to  
go?  
Then please  
Tell us about it .

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CLUB CAN  
BE FOUND  
AT  
[www.hvsc.org.au](http://www.hvsc.org.au)

**Issue 232**

## RECENT EVENTS

### **Saturday July 15th 2017—Peter Adams Caledonian Night.**

It's certainly preferable for those of us who like to strut the floor to a class Celtic fiddle band not to have to put up with too many poems, speeches and other dull interruptions. So the Peter Adams Caledonian Night is one night not to be missed at any cost. Although one or two of the regular country dance leaders were missing due to prior commitments, Angus MacGregor called the dances expertly, ably assisted by several deputies.

We had a few breaks in the dancing program to enjoy displays by the Scottish Country Dancers and the Scotia Highland Dancers (who danced to Adam Harvey on the pipes). And of course there was a thunderous piping exhibition by the Newcastle RSL Pipe Band, also accompanied by highland dancers on several of their numbers. The pipe band also marched back out to play the Strip the Willow towards the end of the evening.

As well as providing solid and entertaining dance sets, Bob MacInnes and Rhonda played some pleasant music at the interludes.

We had only a few wee short speeches, compared to the compulsory drone of Burns Night. And we enjoyed an excellent selection of sandwiches and hot snacks at half time. Truly a wonderful program to warm up a winter Saturday evening.

### **Wednesday August 11th 2017—Club Members Night.**

A fascinating presentation of tartan kilts in various stages of completeness was served up to an inquisitive audience on our mid winter Club Members' Night at Teralba Hall. Our expert guest for the evening, Mr Ian Robertson, provided us with a varied and highly informative description of the enormous amount of work that goes into the making of our principal item of national dress. He even unpicked a few carefully sewn pleats on one unfinished example, just so that we could feel the pain of what it must be like when hours of effort still result in a seam which is less than perfect. Gary Gray sang a song with a kilt theme before supper was enjoyed over a good blether to finish the evening in style.

### **McLeish Estates Wines Celtic Feast Wine Dinner—Saturday 22nd July.**

Your Newsletter Editor was lucky enough to be invited at short notice to come along and address a haggis at the McLeish Estate Wines annual Celtic Feast Wine Dinner. It might have been cold outside amongst the vines at Pokolbin that night, but inside the venue it was roasting, with wonderful food, a fabulous selection of McLeish Estate wines, highland dancing, bagpipes and fine company. Our host for the evening, Bob McLeish, was joined at the top table by MC Peter 'Fab' Fenton OAM and special guest Dr Fred McConnell, who shared the platform for a very entertaining after dinner speech, both having travelled all the way down from the Northern Territory. If you are a wine drinker, and enjoy your Scottish flavours—keep your diary free for this event next year.

## PHOTO GALLERY—(check out our Facebook page for more)

It's never easy to capture the enthusiasm of the participants in the country dances held in a big venue like Club MacQuarie.



Anti-clockwise from above:

*The girls go through their reel;*

*Dashing White Sergeant;*

*Getting dizzy now;*

*Strip the Willow with the New-  
castle RSL Pipe Band playing;*

*Birling so fast it's all blurry.*



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Below: Ian Robertson shows off some of his handiwork at the Club Members Night







Hunter Valley Scots  
Club Inc

## Positions 2016-2017

### President:

Andrew Smith

### Vice President:

Gary Gray

### Secretary:

Lynne Pricter

### Minute Secretary:

Grahame Pricter OAM

Tel: 0402 335 410

### Treasurer:

Robyn Smith

### Committee Members

Helen Fulton

Joan Elliott

Mike Elliott

Graeme Auchterlonie

Nance Adams OAM

David Graham

Genevieve Graham

Kim Nolan

Peter Tranter

### Newsletter Editor

Gary Gray

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# Calendar of Events— 2017

**Note these dates in your diary now**

**HVSC AGM on Sunday September 10th at 4pm. One or two key committee members have indicated their positions will become vacant at the end of this term. We are always looking for fresh faces to step up and fill the gaps. Don't shy away, it's actually good fun!**

**St Andrews Day Church Service—26th November 2017, St Stephens, East Maitland.**

**Burns Night 2018 is on Saturday January 20th. Keep your diaries free for this one.**

***If transport to HVSC events is a problem for you, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will endeavour to arrange some assistance for you***

## OTHER SCOTTISH ACTIVITIES

- 16th September—Clans on the Coast, Nelson Bay

### **MAITLAND TATTOO (AND SOMEBODY WAS 70 YEARS OLD)**

I wasn't quick enough to organize tickets for myself, so Robyn and Andrew gave me the run down from their evening out in Maitland Town Hall for the Tattoo on the last Saturday in July. The Town Hall was packed for the Mayor of Maitland, Cr Peter Blackmore (one of our own Club patrons) to honour the 70th anniversary of the founding of the City of Maitland Pipes and Drums. A short history of the band was provided, and present in the audience was the lady involved in their foundation. The birthday band were joined for the massed bands resounding opening performance by the Cessnock RSL, United Mineworkers and Newcastle RSL Pipe Bands.

The entire evening was a blend of fabulous Scottish culture, with African and Irish flavours added for good measure. The line up included Nancy MacLennan's Highland Dancers, String Loaded (formerly Pumpkin Juice), Voyage of Irish dancers, Eastern Rhythms African drumming, a drill display from the 308 Squadron Cadets, plus absolutely tons of piping, featuring our own Adam Harvey, who was introduced as the leading piper in the Hunter Region.

Get in early next time and don't miss out on a grand, piping hot night out.



Greetings from your Newsletter Editor, let me know your suggestions for articles to write up on, photos to include, what's on in your area. Anything with a Scottish connection, however tentative.



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Facebook  
Don't forget to  
'like' Hunter Valley  
Scots Club

### SCOTS RECIPES

Send them in!! Here's  
mine:

#### Cup of Tea:

Boil the kettle;  
Place teabag in cup;  
Pour hot water into  
cup;  
Leave to stew a bit;  
Remove spent teabag  
and add sugar and milk  
to taste.  
Next month—how to  
make tea in a pot.

PS I'm sure someone  
can do better than that.

## THE HVSC AGM—GET YOURSELF ALONG—4pm SUNDAY 10th SEPTEMBER



Grab your hat and coat and come along to the Hunter Valley Scots Club AGM. We need as good a turnout as possible.

Last year a huge crowd made their way through Teralba (left) and into the hall for the mass meeting (below), and the newly elected committee posed later in front of the pie shop. (Pictures from the *Boolaroo Bulletin*).

The retiring committee will present their various annual reports before standing down and there will then be elections for a new one. Although we have nominations for most positions, there is always room for fresh faces at our monthly committee meetings!

We will be having a barbeque afterwards.

### THE PIPE BAND WORLDS

I hear that a Scottish band has finally won the World Pipe Band Championships, held recently at Glasgow Green, after years of watching the blue ribband of piping vanish across the water. The Inveraray and District Pipe Band beat the much fancied (and last year's winners) the Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band from Northern Ireland to the prestigious Grade 1 Trophy (and a band from Dublin into third place). Around 8,000 musicians making up 219 pipe bands from 15 nations took part in the two day competition, which marked the 70th year of the world championships. I hope it didn't pour down with rain for the whole weekend, but that might have been to Inveraray's advantage. Where they hail from on the shores of Loch Fyne, I'm sure it rains every single day.

I know there were a few pipers from our own part of the world made their way to Scotland to take part in the event, including one of the pipers who played at our Caledonian Night—I hope they weren't disappointed with their efforts. It's a truly huge competition in the pipe band calendar. My own recollections of this event, go back to when it was held at Bellahouston Park back in the late 1970s, and when the trophy was almost the personal possession of the Glasgow Police (their pipe band that is). My ears are still ringing from spending the Sunday night in the Park Bar on Argyll Street, experiencing the winning band, plus just about every other piper in town, celebrate their hotly contested victory. Countless pipers playing in the confines of the cosy wee Lounge Bar would make Status Quo playing at the Apollo sound like a public library. And as you all know, once these guys start playing their pipes, wild horses couldn't stop them (and certainly not the local constabulary at closing time!).

### Tailpiece:

At the Mod in Oban, a few years back, three old piping friends met and had a dram together, then the hotel bar closed, so they retired to the room one of them had booked, along with their pipes and a bottle of whisky. However, there was only one glass in the room, so one of them set out to search for glasses in the other rooms, and eventually found two. He was on his way back when the Night Porter spotted him and said with a warning tone in his voice 'I hope you're not going to be doing any loud singing at this time of night'. 'Och no' he replied, 'we're just going to have a quiet tune or two on the pipes'.