



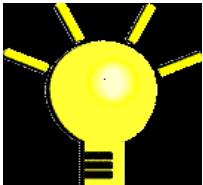
Hunter Valley Scots
Club inc

Hunter Valley Scots Club inc



March 2018

Issue 235



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

In this issue

RECENT EVENTS

PHOTO GALLERY

SCOTTISH STUFF

WHAT'S ON: OTHER SCOTTISH EVENTS

SCOTTISH CULTURE

TAILPIECE

A WEB PAGE
FOR THE
CLUB CAN
BE FOUND
AT
www.hvsc.org.au

RECENT EVENTS

Saturday 20th January 2018 — BURNS NIGHT DINNER

Another full house for the big event of the year, with Club Macquarie once again excelling in their support for our annual evening of music, song, speech, and dancing.

As always, your committee have pulled out all the stops to ensure we had a full program for the night, as we celebrated the anniversary of our national bard.

The United Mineworkers Pipe Band cooked up another varied selection of tunes, this time complete with guitar arrangements to accompany several of their sets. No sooner had the dust settled and they were marching back in to provide the stirring music for a feisty Strip the Willow.

The Scottish Country Dancers put on a display of coordinated movement around the dance floor I got dizzy just watching them.

As always, the Scotia Highland Dancers gave us a selection of choreographed dances, with Cara Gray showing us that a couple of years away at uni haven't stopped these dainty feet from functioning. Club Piper Adam Harvey piped for them in a masterly fashion.

The haggis was piped in by Adam Harvey and addressed in its rightful manner by Angus MacGregor, washed down with a toast of the finest malt (this year we managed to prevent the bottle falling into the clutches of some light fingered sorts from 'next door').

Kathryn Auchterlonie played her Celtic Harp and sang us beautiful versions of a number of melodies from the Burns songbook.

In his Immortal Memory, Gary Gray gave us a hint of what might have happened had Burns gone ahead and emigrated to Jamaica in 1786 when things were piling up against him.

Of course, we had the full range of traditional speeches of toasts we have come to expect in our annual Burns Night celebration.

Bob McInness reminded us that he is still one of the finest Celtic fiddlers on this side of the world, with his playing for the dancers and incidental music throughout the evening.

And once again Grahame Prictor worked his socks off as MC, thanks Grahame for a sterling job on your feet all night.

HVSC COMMITTEE - MONTHLY MEETINGS



Just a glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes every month at the committee meetings—your hard working committee need a good few hours to get through all the ~~booze~~ agenda items. Hence the need for an extra refuse collection to remove all the ~~empties~~ waste from our working bees. So anyone considering putting themselves forward to assist really has to be very ~~thirsty~~ dedicated and prepared to ~~take the bus home~~ muck in.

Actually we were making the most of a rare opportunity to celebrate a birthday (no escape for the wicked), then it was heads down and back to business - Happy belated birthday Lynne!

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



Action from our recent Burns Night at the Club Macquarie—anti-clockwise from above:

The dancers warm up with a Gay Gordons;

The Scottish Country Dancers add some heat with a display of fine footwork and coordination;

The United Mineworkers Pipe Band keep the temperature rising with a selection of pipe tunes;



Near boiling point as the revellers get stuck into a Strip the Willow, to the stirring music of the pipe band;

Mr Auchterlonie makes a bolt for the door to escape the heat—and a tongue-lashing (and reply) from Mrs Auchterlonie— following his 'Address to the Lasses;'

The Scotia Highland Dancers keep the pot boiling with a reel, to Adam Harvey's piping;



Kathryn Auchterlonie, fresh from her 'Reply on behalf of the Lasses' soothes the audience with a few songs by Robert Burns.





Hunter Valley Scots
Club Inc

Positions 2017-2018

President:

Andrew Smith

Vice Presidents:

Gary Gray

Grahame Pricter OAM

Secretary:

Position Vacant

Treasurer:

Robyn Smith

Committee Members

Helen Fulton

Joan Elliott OAM

Mike Elliott

Nance Adams OAM

Kim Nolan

Peter Tranter

Lynne Pricter

Sue Donald

Hall Manager

Graeme Auchterlonie

Newsletter Editor

Gary Gray

0477 691 573

OTHER SCOTTISH STUFF

If you have a bit of spare time over the Easter Weekend, head down to the NEC (Showground) in Broadmeadow, where the Champion of Champions (Australasia) International Highland Dancing Competition is taking place. This is really the biggest event in the dancing calendar on this side of the globe and is a biannual event, rotating around the major capitals, only reaching Newcastle once in a blue moon. You will see the highest standard of competition there, with some of the biggest names in the world of highland dancing competing. Real pipers playing all day!

All day Saturday 31st March and Sunday 1st April.

Admission is reasonable. Below is a picture of dancers doing the fling the last time the competition came to Newcastle back in 2008.



Calendar of Events— 2018

Note these dates in your diary now

Other Social Activities for 2018

- ♦ 11 April – Social Night –Newcastle & Hunter Folk Club
- ♦ 27 May – Soup and Damper
- ♦ 13 June – Social Night – McEwan Pipe Band (tbc)
- ♦ 11 Aug – Caledonian Night
- ♦ 9 September – AGM 4pm
- ♦ 10 October – Social Night
- ♦ 25 November – St Andrew's Day Church Service
- ♦ 12 December – Christmas Social Night

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 Celtic Activities 2018

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| • Maclean Highland Gathering | 30, 31 March 2018 |
| • Bundanoon Highland Gathering | 7 April 2018 |
| • Australian Celtic Festival Glen Innes | 3-6 May 2018 |
| • Berry Celtic Festival | 26 May 2018 |
| • Bonnie Wingham | 31 May- 3 June 2018 |
| • Aberdeen Highland Gathering | 7 July 2018 |
| • Maitland Tattoo | ?July |
| • Clans on the Coast, Nelson Bay | September 2018 |
| • Central Coast Spectacular? | |
| • Irish Festival Sydney | 10-11 November 2018 |



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Facebook
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Scots Club

SCOTTISH CULTURE— HIGHLAND DANCING

With this issue of the Newsletter coinciding with highland dancing's Champion of Champions Competition in Newcastle, it is worth looking into the background of this most Scottish of pastimes.

Modern highland dancing evolved in the 19th and 20th centuries. Prior to this, Scottish regiments used highland dancing as exercise to keep the troops fit for battle. Until the early 1900s only men entered highland dancing competitions, where the skills were as much combining athleticism and fleetness of foot with solid, macho thumping of the ground to almost frighten any observer.

This tradition changed as the century progressed, but probably accelerated at times when the men went off to fight in world wars. Nowadays the girls competing outnumber the boys by as much as a hundred to one.

Every year, the World Championships take place at the Cowal Highland Games at Dunoon in Argyll. Our own Flora Carter (nee Grubb) of course, was the first non-Scot to win the World Championships, way back in the days when it took months to travel to Dunoon and back from Australia.

The dances themselves evolve continuously. Most recently, as the Canadians increasingly dominate the ruling bodies of the sport, there is movement towards incorporating more and more ballet into the competition dance steps, which certainly suits those who have a ballet background, but will also more than likely scare away all but the most persistent of young lads.

Some traditionalists say there may even be moves afoot to form a breakaway 'traditional' or 'real' highland dancing association, with a reversion to the more original form.

It would certainly be good to see the dance form benefit from the kind of shot in the arm that Irish Dancing got from *Riverdance* (not to mention *Titanic*). Numbers attending Irish Dance classes the world over are booming, while the opposite seems to be true of Highland dancing in many areas, even though it is vastly superior in every way (according the author, with not a hint of bias).

Tailpiece:

In the six step Highland Fling, a dancer will jump vertically 192 times (the equivalent of running a mile) on one foot at a time, while performing complicate and intricate footwork, and using the muscles from head to toe.

Highland dancing is therefore akin to sprinting, so go and run a mile with your arms above your head, on your toes, in soft shoes, while wearing 7 to 10 pounds of wool clothing...

.....Oh and *don't forget to smile*.....



How athletes look
when they're
exhausted



How Highland
Dancers look when
they're exhausted

