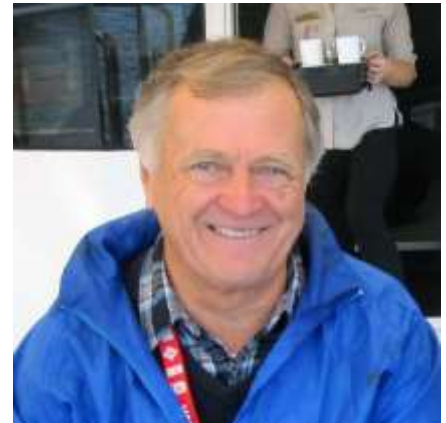




History of our Caledonian Night

Peter Adams was the man responsible for the initiation of the annual Hunter Valley Scots Club Caledonian Night, his idea being to have a casual evening of Celtic culture with entertainment in the form of Scottish dance demonstrations, a Pipe Band, Highland Dancers and plenty of Ceilidh-style dances and, in addition, a chance to introduce the younger generation to Scottish music and dance.

When the Scots Club was inaugurated in 1981, Peter was one of the foundation members and, although not Scottish himself, he had an endless passion for Scottish culture. This was mainly inspired by his uncle, Eddie Arthur, who lived next door to the family during Peter's childhood.



The late Peter Adams

His love of everything Scottish included a passion for traditional country dance and music. He qualified as a Scottish country dance teacher and set up the St Andrews dance class. He even wrote a dance called "St Andrew Jig" which will be included in our Caledonian Night programme.

Peter also was part of the band "Harp and Claymore" which comprised of Chris Duncan on fiddle, Ruth Riley on flute and Peter on piano. They recorded a LP of Scottish dance tunes, called "Australian Ladies."

He was also an accomplished fiddle player and performed several times at Scots Club nights and at the Bonnie Wingham festival. His appetite for Scottish culture was so contagious and, in appreciation for all he had done for the Scots club, Peter was made a life member in 2015.

So, at our Caledonian Ceilidh on Saturday 13th July, we will be duly honouring Peter Adams for his insight and vision for the future of the Hunter Valley Scots Club.

This Caledonian Night will be slightly different to others, with a focus on Scottish Country Dancing and Cabaret, for which we are delighted to welcome Scottish entertainer, John MacDonald, who came to Australia in the early seventies becoming an instant success. A recording Artist, with many of his albums going Gold, his 50th album has just been released and includes some of his most requested songs ranging from the Scottish (*of course!*) to Irish (*River Dance*), semi classical & French musettes!



John MacDonald

I'm sure that John will have CD's available, so grab one while you're here and tak' a wee bit o' auld Scotland hame wi' ye!

Calling All Scots

.....and those with Scottish ancestry. I'm very keen to gather information from anyone who would care to share the history of their Clan.

As a McLean, by marriage, I have become very absorbed in the history of the Clan MacLean and have regularly visited the Isle of Mull in Scotland to attend Gatherings at Duart Castle – the seat of the Macleans worldwide. In 2010 I was privileged to be invited by the, then, Clan MacLean NSW, to host a Sydney reception for the Chief, Sir Lachlan MacLean, 28th Chief of the Clan MacLean, 12th Baronet of Duart & Morvern, and 8th Lord MacLean.

It was back in 1912 that Sir Fitzroy MacLean, who had become very wealthy in the Caribbean producing sugar, returned to Mull and bought back the ruins then spent most of his fortune rebuilding the Castle for future generations.



Duart Castle 1912



The Castle today

The MacLeans are one of the oldest Gaelic Scottish Highland clans with a history that goes back through the Loairn kindred of Dálriada noted around the 13th Century. Throughout most of its history, the Clan MacLean was concentrated around the Isle of Mull in Argyle and the Inner Hebrides. Following the Jacobite Uprisings in the 18th century, MacLeans spread across the globe, particularly to Americas, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa creating the migration we know today. It is conservatively estimated that there are 308,000 MacLean families in 132 countries around the world.



In 2012, at the Gathering celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the return of Duart Castle to the Macleans, I had the pleasure of meeting Dougie MacLean, composer and singer of one of Scotland's most beloved songs "Caledonia".

This is just a brief summary of my Clan. In future issues I'd love to be able to research yours. Email your Clan details to me hunterscots@gmail.com

On the 29th June I attended the **Newcastle & Hunter Valley Folk Club Bush Dance** at Teralba Community Hall. What a great roll up, despite the bitter cold outside. Folks of all ages including teenagers and children were happily strutting their stuff to the likes of The Gay Gordons, Pride of Erin and many new and interesting dances accompanied by expert dance callers, including our own committee member and treasurer, Elizabeth Lewin. We'll keep you posted with their programmes too.

Social Nights

Over the next few months, I am hoping to get our members together every few months for a social night, inviting you to attend, what I like to call "soiree's", (*just a posh name for a 'gathering' or 'get-together'*), along with your families and friends, at a venue to suit most and that possibly have play areas for the children.

I will announce the first 'soiree' at the Gathering on Saturday week at Club Macquarie. Cheerio the Noo. Sincerely Toni McLean (President HVSC)

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

Mail Address
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PO Box 34
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Web Site
www.hvscots.org

Committee

President
Toni Mclean

Vice President
Andrew MacPherson

Secretary
Margaret Kenning

Treasurer
Rosalind Elizabeth Lewin

Committee
Linda Baer

William Baer

Robert Findley

Helen Fulton

Dr Duncan Berry

Grahame Pricter



Upcoming Events

- Tuesday 9th July:** HVSC Committee Meeting at Club Macquarie, Argenton 7pm
- Saturday 13th July:** HVSC Caledonian Night at Club Macquarie, Argenton (see flyer page 4)
- Saturday 3rd August:** Scaled down version of Brigadoon at Bundanoon (No Ceilidh).
- Saturday 21st September:** Clans on the Coast, Raymond Terrace
Call for details
- Saturday 24th August:** Hunter Valley Highland Games
Saltire Estate Lovedale Long Lunch.
- Saturday 16th November:** Clan McLean Chief's Birthday Banquet
at NSW Masonic Club, Sydney

And there are other events slightly further away. Hope you can attend some (or all!) to enjoy the Scottish culture and activities. If you do attend any of these Gatherings the newsletter editor would really appreciate a report/photos for this newsletter.

HVSC Membership More Inviting

Membership renewal commenced on the 1st of July and has been reduced to \$15 per annum for all existing and new members, plus \$20 for a badge, if required. If you know of someone who would like to become a member, membership forms are available via email, post or at the Caledonian Night. Renew now and stay informed!

All members are welcome to attend the committee meetings, held on the second Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in attending, we start at 7pm in a venue room at Club Macquarie. Before the meeting some members have dinner in the bistro if you wish to join us you are most welcome from 5.30pm.

**Just a few tickets left now for our
Caledonian Night next Saturday 13th July,
so don't miss out book now. See page 4**

Piping Hot!!

The United Mineworkers Pipe Band had a very successful day at the Aberdeen Highland Games, being awarded overall second place, winning the open piping and winning the quintet competition. Congratulations to all band members. Well done!

The Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

PRESENTS

Caledonian Night



on **Saturday 13th July** at

Club Macquarie

458 Lake Rd, Argenton

Featuring Walcha Road Band

The United Mineworkers' Pipe Band

Highland Dancers and very special guest

Scottish Entertainer & Recording Artist **John MacDonald**

Supper included and the cost is only

\$40 for members: **\$45.00** non-members and **\$20**

concession for wee yins age 5-12years

Further enquiries can be made through the organizer on 0400 096 005

Bookings can be made through Trybooking

Link for tickets <https://www.trybooking.com/CRZFR> or use QR code

*So come along, bring your
partners, your family and
your friends, have fun and
be thoroughly entertained
in true Gaelic style*

