

# Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc.



# Newsletter

Issue 260

August 2021

## Meets at

Teralba Community Hall  
Cnr Margaret St &  
Anzac Pde  
Teralba NSW

For Hall Bookings  
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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

## **Greetings Hunter Valley Scots Club Members,**

How are you all? Keeping well we hope.

What are you doing during lockdown? Listening to lots of Scottish music?  
Practising your country dances? Watching Scottish movies or travelogues?

Gardening? Spring cleaning?

**Perhaps you might like to prepare a short item of interest to go in the next Hunter Valley Scots Club newsletter.**

Unfortunately most activities both of our Club and other Scottish groups around the area have been cancelled or deferred.

We are hopeful that our next two planned activities will be able to go ahead.

## **Put these dates in your diary**

**Scottish Night** 23 October 2021 7pm \$10 Teralba hall

Featuring Kent Daniels and his Celtic music, Highland Dancers, small pipes, Mineworkers Pipe Band and more.

BYO nibbles and drinks, tea and coffee later in evening.

**HVSC Annual General Meeting** 19 September 2021 4pm

Followed by a BBQ which will be an opportunity to catch up with friends we haven't seen for a long time.

**Calling for nominations for committee members particularly a Secretary or even just a committee member. You will be welcomed with open arms!!**

**Aberdeen Highland Games** – the website is indicating this event is now planned for 2 October 2021.

***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*

**Glasgow International Piping Festival** is on in Scotland this week but events can be seen online. See [www.pipinglive.co.uk](http://www.pipinglive.co.uk). Some of the concerts sound interesting. Tickets for individual concerts £17.50 for online viewing

### **Queensland Pops Orchestra – Celtic Spectacular**

If you are planning a trip to Queensland maybe you can get to this event.

Saturday 9 October 2021 2.30 and 7.30pm Concert Hall QPAC. [www.qpac.com.au](http://www.qpac.com.au)



**Sue at the Christmas party December 2020**

### **Vale Sue Donald**

Sue was a valued member of our HVSC committee and carried the role of Teralba Hall manager. She was wife and assistant to Bill of Bill's Ballroom, a regular hirer of the hall.

She was always a bright sparkly person, and always had a smile on her face even during the time of her illness. She will be greatly missed by family, HVSC, and Bill's Ballroom dance members.

Andrew and I with a couple of other committee members, were honoured to be able to attend her funeral and enjoyed the fact that it was a real celebration of her style, with colour and sparkle in dress and atmosphere rather than a darker outlook.

## ***A Few Bits and Pieces (found in the newsletter file)***

### **Traditional Scottish Recipes**

#### **DUNESSLIN PUDDING** (please excuse the old weights and measures)

Ingredients:

4 tablespoons jam or stewed fruit

2 eggs well beaten

½ cup flour

2 tablespoons sugar

1 ounce butter

½ pint milk

1 teaspoon vanilla

Butter the inside of a two pint dish and place jam or fruit in the bottom.

Mix flour and sugar in a thick saucepan over low heat, and gradually add the milk, stirring well.

Cut the butter into small pieces, add to the mixture and stir until it boils and thickens. Cool slightly, add vanilla and eggs. Beat until smooth and pour evenly over jam/fruit. Brown in a moderate oven for about 20 minutes. Serve hot.

#### **CALEDONIAN CREAM**

Refreshing dessert using marmalade, a popular ingredient in Scottish invention, since its invention in Dundee in 1797.

Ingredients for cream:

½ cup double cream

1 tablespoon thick marmalade

2 tablespoons brandy or rum

2 teaspoons lemon juice

Sugar to taste

Blend all ingredients until smooth.

Ingredients for base:

4 oranges segmented, seeds and pith removed

Place oranges in 4 long stemmed glasses, add a teaspoon brandy or rum. Spoon over the cream.

Garnish with some orange zest (boil for a few minutes in water to reduce bitterness)

Serve chilled.



**Image from Burns Cottage, Alloway, Ayrshire**

## THE SPORRAN

The 'sporrán' is the Scottish Gaelic word for 'purse'. The origin of the sporran goes hand in hand with the traditional highland kilt. Since the attire did not come with the convenience of pockets, a leather pouch became the means of keeping together items such as money, food, musket balls and the teeth of any unsuspecting rival clansmen! The opening of the sporran (the cantle) was hinged and fastened at the top and this was secured to the sporran by leather thongs. These are represented by the leather tassels and chains which can be seen in the modern sporran design.

As early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Highland warriors were described as being "bare-legged, with shaggy cloaks and a hanging scrip (small bag)". Early sporrans were made from leather, deerskin and calfskin and were gathered at the top by basic drawstrings or by thongs with small tassels.

From the 17<sup>th</sup> century, they were generally fitted with clasps. Made of brass or occasionally silver, the metal work of some existing clasps from this period are seen as works of art. The goathair variety, sporran molach (hairy sporran) was introduced by the military in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Such sporrans often have flap-tops and large tassels with a shaving-brush appearance.

"Day sporrans" are usually simple brown or black leather pouches with little adornment, often with three leather tassels and some Celtic knots embossed in the leather. "Semi Dress sporrans" tend to be more elaborate in design, but not so spectacular as the full Dress sporran, having a silver or chrome cantle and a fur covered face, but of shorter fur than the full Dress variety. "Dress sporrans" have chrome or silver cantles, a fur-covered face with fur or hair tassels. The cantle may contain intricate filigree or etchings of Celtic knots. The top of the cantle may have set stones, jewels, or emblems such as Saint Andrew, or a thistle.



### **When you are bored, just think about a few things that don't make sense ...like;**

1. If a poison use by date expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
2. Which letter is silent in the word "scent", the S or the C?
3. Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?
4. Do twins ever realise that one of them is unplanned?
5. Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it takes 75-100 years to fully work.
6. Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
7. The word 'swims' upside down is still 'swims'
8. 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
9. If you replace W with T in What, Where, and When, you get the answer to them.