



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc.

Naidheachdan

Issue 297

Newsletter

March/April 2026

'Oh! What a Night it was!!'

The Hunter Valley Scots Club is rapidly becoming 'The Talk of the Town' in the Scottish community, not only in NSW, but the news is spreading worldwide via social media with thousands of views and 'likes' following our amazing Burns' Night celebrations in January. Combining, once again, with Celtic Rock Band Highlander, the Newcastle Highland Dancers and the award-winning United Mineworkers' Pipe Band, the venue looked resplendent with magnificent lighting and table decorations thanks to our dedicated secretary, Linda with other committee members and supporters.



Many hours of rehearsal ensured that everything went to plan on the night and, along with our very special guest the Honourable Malcolm Buchanan (President of HASC), Scottish Banner representative, Sean Cairney and Richard Brown from Tartan Trail podcasts, the sold-out event attracted followers from all over the Hunter and Newcastle regions and as far afield as Sydney to the south and Port Macquarie to the north.



Robert Burns' immortal ode "Address to a Haggis" was once again performed by our talented young teenager, Lachlan King, already an accomplished actor, highland dancer and pipe band drummer.

HVSC Life member, Graham Adams, was presented with very special gift by our VIP Malcolm Buchanan, in recognition of his 65 years' as a piper and tutor and his dedication to The Hunter Valley Scots Club.

President, Andrew MacPherson, this year, re-introduced our HVSC scholarships which were created to assist talented young students who are interested to improve their skills in Scottish music and dancing, with grants also awarded those wishing to compete in national and international championships. Our 2026 Scholarship award was presented to Enya Price-Magennis who will be competing in Champion of Champions this weekend and in August travelling to Scotland to compete in a range of prestigious Highland dancing competitions, including the World Championships held at the Cowal Highland Gathering in Dunoon. We wish Enya the very best of luck with her upcoming competitions. Two more students will hopefully be qualifying for their Scholarships later in the year.



A Real Scottish Gem on Youtube

Whilst browsing recently, I came across a clip of Hollywood star, Donald O'Connor, singing and dancing a kilted version of 'Alexander's Ragtime Band'.

Take a look - you'll love it!!! [Google 'Donald O'Connor Alexanders Ragtime Band'](#)



2026
HUNTER VALLEY
SCOTS CLUB
BURNS NIGHT



Clan MacDonald

Clan MacDonald, also known as Clan Donald, is one of the oldest and historically largest of all Scottish clans. For nearly 400 years, the clan ruled the Western Highlands and the Hebrides as the powerful Lords of the Isles, governing a sea kingdom that was virtually independent of the Scottish Crown.

The clan traces its descent from Somerled, a 12th-century Norse-Gaelic warrior and "King of the Hebrides" who drove the Vikings out of the Western Isles Donald of Islay: The clan is named after Somerled's grandson, Dòmhnall (Donald), whose father Reginald was "King of the Isles" and who was killed campaigning against Malcolm IV of Scotland at the Battle of Renfrew in 1164. Clan Donald shares a descent from Somerled with Clan MacDougall, who traces their lineage from his elder son, Dugall Mac Somhairle (1145-1192). Their dynasties are together commonly referred to as the Clann Somhairle. During the Wars of Scottish Independence, Angus Og MacDonald supported Robert the Bruce and in recognition, the clan was granted the perpetual honour of fighting on the right wing of the Scottish army.



Godfrey James Macdonald of Macdonald (born 1947) is the 8th Lord Macdonald and has been the High Chief of Clan Donald since 1970. As the representative of the senior line (MacDonald of Sleat), he is recognized as the head of the entire clan overseeing the Clan Donald Lands Trust at Armadale Castle on the Isle of Skye.



The Chiefs of Clan Donald descend directly from the ancient Kings and Lords of the Isles. Clan Donald is the largest and oldest of all the Highland clans, and the only Clan to have a High Chief with independent Branches headed by Chiefs in their own right.



William St John
Somerville McAlister
Chief of the Name &
Arms of Macalister



Colin Patrick MacDonnell
24th Chief of Glengarry



Ranald Alexander
MacDonald 24th Captain &
Chief of Clan Ranald



The Right Hon Randal
Alexander St. John
McDonnell Earl of Antrim &
Chief of McDonnells



Sir Ian Godfrey Bosville
MacDonald of Sleat 25th
Chief of Sleat & 17th Baronet



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

Mailing Address

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Executive Committee

President

Andrew MacPherson

Vice President

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Secretary

Linda Baer
0434 617 842

Treasurer

Elizabeth Lewin

Committee

Matt Baer

Robert Findley

Helen Fulton

Robyn Smith

Andrew Smith

Toni McLean



Upcoming Events 2026

- Sat: 18th April** Brigadoon Highland Gathering at Bundanoon commencing at 9am with the Street Parade (on Erith St) featuring 25 Pipe Bands, Clans and Floats. Also enjoy the Ceilidh at Bundanoon Village Hall from 7.30pm. Both ticketed Events Checkout their website!
- Sat: 18th April** Hunter Multicultural Communities “FIESTA” at 2a Platt Street, Waratah, free family celebration with live entertainment, food and market stalls, displays and demonstrations and information. Commencing 10am to 3pm. Go to website
- Tues: 28th April** HVSC Members Social Night at Mr. Zhou's Chinese Restaurant at Teralba Bowling Club. Join us for a great Chinese menu and lots of good company. Play area for kids!
- Thur: 30th April to Sun: 3rd May** The 2026 Australian Celtic Festival is celebrating the Year of Scotland at Glen Innes. Weekend passes available. Check out their website and book early!
- Sat: 2nd May** MacLean Chief's Birthday Banquet at Bowling Club, 1a McLachlan St, Maclean. Gather at 5pm Cameron Park to enjoy Maclean & District Pipe Band followed by dinner at 6pm LynJoy52@bigpond.com
- Tues: 26th May** HVSC Members Social Night at Warners Bay Tavern Bistro, Hillsborough Road. Come and join your committee for a chat and a great meal. Menu to suit all budgets
- Sat: 30th May** Newcastle & Hunter Valley Folk Club presents a traditional Australian Bush Dance at the Community Hall, Anzac Parade, Teralba featuring Walcha Road Band.
- Sat: 6th June** Hunter Valley Scots Club ‘CALEDONIA NIGHT’ to be held once again at Club Macquarie, Argenton. Full details will be with you soon.
- Sat: 4th July** Aberdeen Highland Games featuring parade and massed Band Salute and Chieftain's Address. Highland and Country Dancing fun for all the family, Pipe Band displays, strong man events with the Kilted Warriors and the famed Kilted Dash, Clan representatives and Celtic Vendors