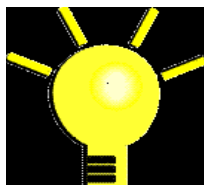


Hunter Valley Scots
Club inc

Hunter Valley Scots Club inc



June 2017



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

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AT
www.hvsc.org.au

Issue 231

RECENT EVENTS

Wednesday April 12th 2017—Club Members Night.

The Supper Room venue was a good choice for the April Club Members Night. Unfortunately our evening with the featured kiltmaker had to be postponed to a later date at fairly short notice. Instead we were treated to an evening of highland dancing and song. A video performance with the theme of the Mingulay Boat Song was enjoyed by all, featuring dancers of many age groups from the Central Coast. Our own girls followed up with several live sets, featuring Claire, Enya and Jessie, in their various hornpipe, kilt and Flora outfits, all under the watchful eye of Flora Carter. Gary Gray finished the proceedings off with a few songs, before a fine supper was tucked into by everybody.

Saturday May 6th 2017—Central Coast Burns Night.

A posse of members made their way down to Terrigal for an out of season Burns Supper, by invitation from our compatriots at the Central Coast Scots Club.

A Presidential flat battery threatened to spoil the evening for some, but overall some fine Scottish fare was prepared and served in the spacious home of hosts Ian and Trish Davidson, including the ubiquitous haggis. I'm told it was a grand night all round. Must keep my diary free and practice a few songs and poems for next year.

Sunday May 28th 2017—Soup & Damper.

A good crowd packed into the Supper Room on a glorious Sunday afternoon for what's becoming the annual sing-song, and a chance to tuck into a rare selection of hot home made soups. One of the soups got shaken not stirred, thanks to a pot-hole right at the street corner, so the spicy oriental Tom Yum was in short supply. Anyway a song booklet was specially prepared to help those who weren't so familiar with the songs chosen to highlight the theme of the afternoon—Scottish Islands. The repertoire featured songs from the Outer Hebrides, Skye and Islay, with snippets of relevant history and illustrations of island scenes, plus an Islay whisky distillery quiz.

During the break, a presentation was made to Margaret Kenning, in recognition of her tireless efforts in assisting at many of our events.

Only eleven months until the next Scottish Soup Karaoke—so keep your vocal chords in tune and your diaries free for the last Sunday in May 2018.

Wednesday June 14th 2017—Club Members Night.

An early 6pm start allowed a few stalwarts to fire up the barbecue and get the snags on before the starting gun was fired for a fiercely competitive games night. Teams of four (carefully selected!), and featuring quoits, carpet bowls, board games and memory challenges. The memory got challenged so much I can't recall who was the winning team in the end. But there were some prizes to dish out for the winners and losers.

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

Below are a couple of pictures from the Central Coast Burns Supper at Picketts Valley, where a haggis gets well and truly addressed, and some bagpipes get thoroughly blawn. Man, what could be better? Who said you have to have a Burns Supper in January. Your Newsletter Editor reckons they should be held every month, by law. Just imagine how haggis sales would rocket, kilts worn threadbare. and bagpipes burst with overuse. Books of Burns poetry would be all thumbled and dog-eared and people might actually start to remember the words of all these poems and songs they otherwise hear only once a year.



Left, Clare and Enya sport their naval uniforms for a lively Hornpipe at April's Member's Night; Below, Enya and Jessie mid way through their Blue Bonnets.



Below, In a break of the proceedings at the Soup and Damper Afternoon, President Andrew Smith presents Margaret Kenning with an award in recognition of her tireless efforts behind the scenes at so many of our functions.





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

gary.j.gray@aecom.com

0477 691 573

Calendar of Events— 2017

Note these dates in your diary now

Caledonian Night—Ceilidh: 15th July at Club MacQuarie. This should be another cracker, shine up your dancing shoes for a lively night of fiddle music and Scottish Country Dancing. Make sure you book your tickets—see the attached flier.

HVSC AGM on September 12th (see attached flier). 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

- 1st July—Aberdeen Highland Games (featuring a Pole Dancing competition, see photo)
- 29th July—City of Maitland Pipes and Drums —70th Year of Foundation Tattoo, Maitland Town Hall
- 2nd September—Gathering of the Clans, Norah Head (Maybe!)
- 16th September—Clans on the Coast, Nelson Bay



THE SCOTTISH BANNER

Most of us pick up a copy or two at one of the Highland Games events, or from the tables at

our annual Burns Dinner. Some may even get it delivered to their door. As part of their 40th anniversary celebrations the Scottish Banner has given the option of viewing online.

Simply visit: www.scottishbanner.com/sb40 . Enjoy the Banner where ever you may be on your PC, tablet or phone. You can or course choose to have the Scottish Banner delivered to your door or now your device.

The Scottish Banner

PO Box 6202

Marrickville South, NSW

2204, Australia



Hunter Valley Scots
Club inc

Contact us:

Hunter Valley Scots
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Kotara NSW 2289

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

A copy of a poem was handed in for inclusion in this Newsletter, very topical with the hundredth anniversaries of so many battles of the Western Front passing us month after month. The source of the poem was given at the bottom of the page:

SCOTLAND AND AUSTRALIA ("Lest we Forget!" 1914-1918)

*Across the southern seas, from sweeping plains
And rolling ridges blending with the blue,
Along those great cloud banners' gilded chains
With greetings peerless Pallas comes to you,
Renewing friendships formed in distant days,
When Love and Laughter, Death and Duty met,
Where poppy pictures told beside the ways
The silent story many now forget.*

*By Anzac Ridge, where Death terrific rose,
They slumber still like brothers side by side,
The gallant sons of Athol and Montrose,
Together with Australia's peerless pride.
The bond that sprang from dawn dyed poppies' tears
Out there upon the fields of sobbing France,
Increases still throughout the passing years
Along the winding ways of Circumstance.*

*And Scotland ! thoughts fraternal ever rise,
To swell the stream of memory anew
The kindly thoughts which sometimes fill our eyes
With mothers' blessings oft go out to you;
Because their sons are sleeping side by side,
Until the trumpet sounds the last advance
Along the ridges of the Great Divide
Far, far beyond the poppy fields of France.*

John Jas. Bull, Box Hill, Melbourne, Anzac Day, April 25, 1922

Although the failed Gallipoli campaign is regarded by many here in Australia as very much an Anzac affair, huge numbers of troops from all parts of the British Isles and beyond took part in the landings and subsequent battles. It is probably true that the main focus of the British public's WW1 interest seems to dwell on Flanders and the Somme, however, the Newsletter Editor became aware of a place by the name of Gallipoli from a very early age, as the interior wall of his Renfrewshire village church was adorned by a memorial to a fallen officer, who was the only son of a very influential family in the Parish. All the rest of the village losses had to make do with being listed on the War Memorial at the old tram terminus, and there were many of them. I can't say I'm ever comfortable with the celebration of glorious death and honour, as was maybe prevalent back in the early days of the twentieth century, only the tremendous sadness in recognising the colossal gaps that were created throughout the land by the loss of the nations' manhood, from which many of the more rural communities never really recovered. Several of the village church congregation were war widows or spinsters who never married after losing a fiancée in one of these battles. They still always wore black fifty years later.



Hunter Valley Scots
Club inc

Just in case you didn't catch them all at the Soup & Damper, here's the full list of Whisky Distilleries in Islay:

Ardbeg
Bowmore
Bruichladdich
Bunnahabhain
Caol Ila
Kilchoman
Lagavulin
Laphroaig

Some would add Port Ellen, but I understand they haven't fired up the still for a few decades there. Instead the building is just full of oak barrels.

We've been talking about having a whisky tasting evening some time, so there's a list of grand whiskies to get started with.

Closing Words:

After the last England v Scotland football match at Wembley, over 10,000 empty beer cans were left in Trafalgar Square by Scottish fans. Police stated that both fans had been arrested for littering.

THE HIGHLAND DANCERS

A group of our dancers from the Newcastle area travelled up to compete in the Glen Inness Celtic Festival, where the Celtic nation chosen for this year's theme was Ireland. The choreographed dance event was a keenly contested component, in which our Hunter Valley team were pipped for first place byyes, the Irish dancers. Ach well, I'm sure that if it was Cornish, Welsh, Breton or Manx, our girls would have tanked them.

Tailpiece:

With the Aberdeen Highland Games just around the corner, and all the other Highland Gatherings looming, here's a wee piece on that wonderful pastime unique to Scotland: *Tossing the Caber*. Who on earth invented such a daft way to play at pick up sticks anyway?

My old grandad used to talk about how they lofted gnarled old Scots Pine trunks around the glen in his youth, just for fun. Or chuck them over the hill into the next glen, in the hope that they might bowl down a few of these pesky MacPhersons. But more than anything, it was this carry on that led to the deforestation of much of the ancient Caledonian Pine forest, with every highland lad running around pulling trees out the ground just to throw them at each other.



So instead they made a proper competition out of it and drew up some rules. Straight logs only, same log every time, no prize for distance, just precision. Gradually the cabers got smaller and smaller until even a normal *Sassenach* could compete.

Away from all the tall tales from my youth, in reality, the word *caber* is from the Gaelic word for a wooden beam. Nowadays, the genuine championship version is typically made from larch, 19' 6" (5.94m) in length, 79kg total weight. The competition is understood to have origins with using cut logs to make temporary

bridges over rivers, most likely in the early days of forestry in the Highlands.

The objective is to toss the caber so that it turns end over end, falling away from the tosser. Ideally it should fall directly away from the tosser in the '12 o'clock' position. The distance thrown is unimportant.

It's maybe sad that today's champions and record holders all seem to be from Canada. I guess that's where all the lumberjacks are, so they get the most chance to practice.



The Hunter Valley Scots Club presents the
Peter Adams Caledonian Night

At Club Macquarie



**Saturday 15th July
2017**

7 pm for 7:30 pm start

An evening of traditional



Scottish dances and entertainment



Dance to the wonderful music of Bob McInnes
(fiddle) and Rhonda Langford (piano)

Tickets are (including Supper)

\$36 – Members

\$40 -- Non-Members

Bookings essential



For enquiries and tickets
phone:

Helen: 0439 492 568

Grahame: 0402 335 410

Robyn: 02 49595123

Hunter Valley Scots Club

Caledonian Night

**Club Macquarie, Argenton
Saturday 15th July 2017 7.00pm**

Cost \$36.00 per head for members; \$40 for non members Bookings close 8th July 2017
Please book early—limited tickets available

Please reserve _____ members tickets \$36 each total.....

Please reserve _____ NON members tickets \$40 each total.....

Over all Total.....

Enclosed is Money Order/Cheque for _\$ _____ (Payable to Hunter Valley Scots Club)

OR

Payment by bank transfer – please ensure that transaction shows your name and event
BSB: 012571, Account Number: 204568722

Your Details..

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone contact _____

Note: If purchasing multiple tickets please list all names on reverse of form, to assist with seating

Special Diet if required eg gluten free, diary free, vegetarian, vegan, nut allergy etc

I/we wish to sit at a table with _____

Send booking to Treasurer, Hunter Valley Scots Club, PO Box 34, KOTARA 2289

Phone enquiries Robyn Smith 4959 5123

A stamped self addressed envelope is required for return of tickets.

Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc.

Annual Fees 2017 – 2018

Annual Fees for the Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc. are due by 1st July 2017

Please complete the form below and return with remittance to the Treasurer. If you choose to pay by direct deposit, it would be appreciated if you could still return this form to ensure that your details are correct on our records

Enclose a stamped addressed envelope for receipt.

The Treasurer, Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc. PO Box 34 KOTARA 2289

The information below will be used only for the Register of Members as required by the Incorporation Rules and for mailing of information to members.

PLEASE DETACH

Name _____

Address _____

_____ P/Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is remittance of \$ _____ as Annual Subscription (No cash by mail) OR

Remittance of \$ _____ was made by Direct Deposit

Signed _____ Date _____

Ordinary members \$20.00 Pensioner \$15.00 Junior \$10.00 Two in one family
\$30.00

For Direct Deposit: Hunter Valley Scots Club Working Account ANZ BSB 012571
Account No. 2045 68722

Clearly indicate your name and deposit is for membership

Please note: An email address allows the Club considerable savings in photocopying and mailing costs

Failure to renew membership will result in the removal of your name from the Register of Members as required under the Constitution