

# Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc.



# Newsletter

Issue 275

May 2023

## Meets at

Teralba Community Hall  
Cnr Margaret St &  
Anzac Pde  
Teralba NSW

For Hall Bookings  
Phone 0428618313

## Mail Address

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PO Box 34  
Kotara NSW 2289

## Email:

[hunterscots@gmail.com](mailto:hunterscots@gmail.com)

## Web Site

[www.hvscots.org](http://www.hvscots.org)

## Committee

2022-2023

### President

Andrew MacPherson

### Vice President

Grahame Pricter OAM

### Secretary

Vacant

### Treasurer

Robyn Smith

### Committee

Duncan Berry  
Helen Fulton  
Graeme Hamilton  
Maureen Kiss  
Cassie McKelvie  
Kim Nolan  
Lynne Pricter  
Andrew Smith

## Warm greetings to Hunter Valley Scots Club Members and friends,

Note the “warm’ greetings! Winter seems to have come and I am not ready for the colder weather yet.

It was very pleasing to catch up with a good number of you, and even some friends and relatives, at the Soup and Damper day. There seemed to be plenty of chat and laughter over the soup & damper, and slice for dessert, and some people were able to stay to enjoy a DVD of the 2022 Edinburgh Tattoo.

It was particularly pleasing in that an addition to the day was a Special General Meeting (SGM) to consider the required amendments to the HVSC Constitution. These were approved by the meeting attendees and yesterday I received confirmation from Services NSW/Fair Trading that our amendments were accepted and changes take effect from 17 May 2023. It was interesting that there was a comment in the letter that “the Association (ie HVSC) has made a number of changes to the constitution over time” – the changes were only made because HVSC was required under the Associations Incorporation Regulations 2022 to include some mandatory changes!

We will send a copy of the new Constitution to you in the near future.

**2023 - put these dates in your diary now**

## Hunter Valley Scots Club

*Caledonian Night* 15 July 2023 \*\* Further information included later in this newsletter\*\*

*AGM* 10 September 2023

*Christmas Social* 9 December 2023

*Burns Night* 3 February 2024

## Other local Scottish activities in 2023

27 May 2023 – Berry Celtic Festival

2 June 2023 – Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival

24 June 2023 – Hunter Multicultural Community are holding a Fiesta and HVSC is planning on an Information stand at this event. \*\* People to assist on the day would be very welcome\*\*

1 July 2023 – Aberdeen Highland Games

1 July -International Tartan Day - marks the anniversary of the repeal of the Act of Proscription that banned the wearing of tartan

29 July 2023 – Central Coast Scots Shin-jig, The Lakeview Room, The Entertainment Grounds, 4 Racecourse Rd, West Gosford.

23 September 2023 - Clans on the Coast will run at Raymond Terrace Lakeside Sports Centre with a Ceilidh that evening at the Raymond Terrace Bowling Club

### Members - Badges

Have you a Scots Club member's badge? We endeavour to give all new members a name badge but at times they have been missed. Should we be organising a name badge for you? There are 2 on order at the moment but I would feel sure there might be other people who need a badge. Just let us know.

The important aspect of name badges is too, that we should wear them at HVSC events – a great way to learn or be reminded of someone's name.

### Management Committee

Two new members have been co-opted onto the Management Committee as a result of the difficulty with ensuring a quorum for the meetings – the ill health or life demands of some members of the Committee has been an issue. We were therefore delighted to welcome Linda Baer and William Baer as committee members.

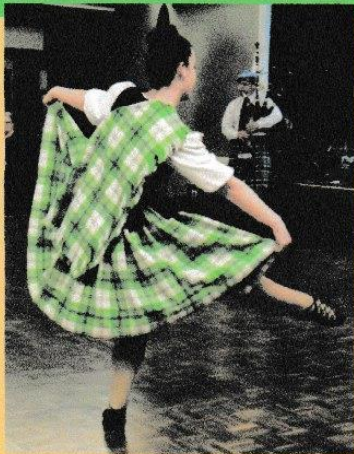
**Note: We still have an urgent need for a Secretary and a Newsletter Editor – offers will be very gratefully received!!**



On the evening of 1 April 2023 some of us were fortunate to be able to attend the Newcastle and Hunter Valley evening showcasing the band Kejafi. This band “blends the old with the new, offering a modern take on traditional Scottish and Australian folk music” It was certainly a most enjoyable evening – if you hear of them playing nearby, jump at the chance to go to hear them.

# The Hunter Valley Scot's Club presents the Peter Adams Caledonian Night

6:30 for 7 pm, Saturday 15th July 2023  
At Club Macquarie, Lake Rd Argenton



Come to the Ceilidh with music  
by Walcha Road,  
Scottish dancing displays, the  
Maitland Pipe Band and lots of  
Ceilidh dances for all!

Ticket price includes  
Supper  
\$40 - Members  
\$45 Non-Members  
\$10 Students  
Children under 12 free



Bookings at  
<https://www.trybooking.com/CIH00>  
or scan the QR code  
Enquiries: [hunterscots@gmail.com](mailto:hunterscots@gmail.com)  
Phone: 0400 096 005

[www.hvscots.org](http://www.hvscots.org)

With the cooler weather maybe you might like to try a Bannock

**Bannock** (a variety of flatbread or quick bread common in Scotland)

**Ingredients**

17g sachet of fast-action yeast

1 tsp caster sugar

500g strong white flour

125g unsalted butter, melted

250g dried mixed fruit

50g light muscovado sugar (can use dark brown sugar)

Beaten egg for glazing

**Method**

Mix together the yeast, caster sugar and 250ml lukewarm water in a large bowl. Stand for 10 minutes until mixture is frothy.

Add flour and butter and mix thoroughly. Tip onto a lightly floured surface and knead for about 5 minutes to form a smooth elastic dough.

Place the dough into a lightly oiled bowl and cover with a damp tea towel. Leave in a warm place for about an hour or until doubled in size.

When the dough has risen, punch the dough down. Tip onto a lightly floured surface and knead in the fruit and muscovado sugar until well combined.

Shape the dough into a round shape and place onto a baking sheet. Cover with a damp tea towel and leave to rise in a warm place for 30 minutes or until it has doubled in size.

Brush the Bannock with a little beaten egg to glaze. Bake in an oven at 180c for 45-50 minutes until risen and a rich brown colour. When the bread is ready it will sound hollow when tapped gently underneath.

Cool slightly before slicing and serving warm with plenty of butter.

**Is the Loch Ness Monster an eel?**

Sightings of the 'Loch Ness Monster' date back to 1933, but despite many attempts to prove its existence nothing has been proven.

I recall reading an article some years ago suggesting that maybe the Loch Ness monster is a large eel. I googled and found that in 2019 scientists from Otago University, New Zealand have been testing DNA from the loch and found that there were no reptilian sequences – so they are pretty sure there is not a giant scaly reptile swimming around in Loch Ness ie no plesiosaur or elasmosaurus which had survived the extinction of the dinosaurs.

The chief scientist reporting on the study, Gemmel, did say that they have come to understand more fully the biodiversity of Loch Ness but they had not totally killed off the legend of the Monster. They found a large volume of eel DNA but he was sceptical of the theory that 'eels would normally migrate to reproduce, but if they don't migrate they may continue to grow to a very large size'. He mentioned that the record catch for an European eel is 5.38kg, hardly a monster. But based on the evidence they have accumulated, they can't exclude it as a possibility.