

# Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc.



# Newsletter

Issue 257

February 2021

## Meets at

Teralba Community Hall  
Cnr Margaret St &  
Anzac Pde  
Teralba NSW

For Hall Bookings  
Phone 0490 419 570

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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 did 2020 go for you? Were you able to celebrate Christmas a little, despite the fact that for many people they were unable to gather with family and friends living in other states, countries etc?

The last couple of months have certainly been very quiet as regards Hunter Valley Scots Club. Only the AGM with a small Christmas Social and no Burns Night. I suspect that in the 40 years the Club has been functioning, that this is the first time that Burns Night has not been celebrated in the usual way. There were a few options for virtual Burns Nights.

As a result there is very little to report to you. The AGM and election of officers did not take place until November 2020. Fortunately we were able to form a Committee (see side panel) with two new members, Dr Duncan Berry and Graeme Hamilton and it was great to welcome these two new faces onto the Committee.

At the AGM there was a Brief Review of 2019-2020 (see a little later in this newsletter) and the usual audited Financial Report (available for any interested person). The AGM was followed by a small, pleasant get together of members having a meal together.

## **Committee Report**

The first Committee meeting was last Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

The major focus of the meeting was the discussion on the possibility of events in the future. At this stage the difficulties of finding a suitable venue, and the regulations against dancing, singing and pipe bands certainly curtailed the holding of a Burns Night. Although it may be possible to celebrate Burns Night later in the year the most likely scenario will be no Burns Night until 2021.

We optimistically hope that a Caledonian Night will be held in July.

Both these events have been booked with Club Macquarie.

## Put these dates in your diary

**Caledonian Night** 17 July 2021

**Burns Night** 29 January 2022

### HVS CLUB SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Monthly social activities do not seem possible until covid regulations ease somewhat. The Committee will certainly work towards our members getting together for a social event as soon as it is deemed feasible

**Do you keep up to date with Scottish activity in Australia?** Two good sources are **The Scottish Banner** monthly paper, and Facebook **Scots in Australia** . Worth checking on these two, plus our own website & facebook of course.

### *According to Google*

6 March **Liverpool Plains Military Tattoo**, Quirindi

2-3 April (Easter) **Maclean Highland Gathering**, MacLean

17 April **Brigadoon, Bundanoon Highland Gathering**, Bundanoon

29 April-2 May **Australian Celtic Festival, Year of Ireland & The Isle of Man**, Glen Innes.

23 – 30 May **Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival**

3 July **Aberdeen Highland Games**

?? **Clans on the Coast**

6 November **Central Coast Scottish Spectacular**

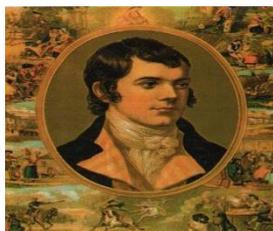
Let's hope these events can go ahead and all the planning the organisers put into these events does not go to waste.

### **Virtual Burns Night**

Were you able to watch any of the virtual Burns Nights? Information was sent out by email for three productions.

We found the production by Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Scotland interesting. The first part was a very traditional Burns Supper with an Address to the Haggis, the Immortal Memory and a Toast to the Lassies. Auld Lang Syne was sung and Tam O'Shanter recited. This presentation was then followed by a Scottish evening in Canada with dancing, fiddlers and other entertainment – a good balance.

I am not aware as to whether anyone from HVSC sent a photo to the Paul Malgrati Virtual Burns Night 2021. He aimed at holding a global celebration of Burns Night and apparently had a large number of responses from around the world. If you google the event there are many images relevant to Burns Nights.



## Annual Review 2019-2020

In the absence of the President a brief review of the year was presented.

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic activities were severely curtailed throughout the year.

15 September 2019 AGM followed by a BBQ and social gathering

1 December 2019 St Andrew's Day Service led by Rev Kenneth Brown at The Willows Warners Bay. Members who attended stayed for lunch with church members and enjoyed a highland dancing display and country dance display

11 December 2019 Christmas Social. Groups who hire Teralba Hall were invited to the evening and some displayed examples of their activities eg folk music, gardening display, ballroom dancing display etc. An enjoyable opportunity to meet the hirers of the hall.

Other local Scottish activities in 2019

6 July - Aberdeen Highland Gathering

17 September - Clans on the Coast Nelson Bay

2 November - Gathering of Celts, Wallsend Diggers

3 November - Central Coast Spectacular

October - Dedication of Cairn at Aberdeen celebrating the settlement of Scottish people in the community

1 February 2020 - Burns Night. A successful evening with maximum numbers of attendees, Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt's band, Mineworkers Pipe Band, Scotia Highland Dancers, RSCDS dancers.

There have been no activities possible since March 2020 except for a few Management Committee meetings

### Teralba Hall

Since 1989 Hunter Valley Scots Club has leased Teralba Hall. The Club certainly uses the Hall for some activities and storage of Club paraphernalia, but we effectively provide a community service for hirers of the Hall. It was resolved last year to renew the lease for another 5 years despite the workload involved. As well as taking bookings and the financial aspect eg invoices, the hall is cleaned very regularly (particularly under covid requirements). Last year we applied for a grant to have solar electricity at the hall, and airconditioning fitted. These grant applications were not successful unfortunately.

Sadly for a number of reasons, the bookings are down this year, so if you know of a group who would like to meet, hold a regular activity, in a well maintained hall, let them know about Teralba Hall. Contact Sue 0490 419 570.

## MEMBERS

Do you receive this newsletter by snail mail? If you have some access to an email service eg your child's, please let us know, as quite often information is sent out by email and it is either at too short notice eg virtual Burns Night information, or is too large to copy to send eg Scottish Australian Heritage Council newsletter. It is a real pity if you miss out on great Scottish cultural activities.

One of the many things we miss with the covid pandemic and the restrictions on activities is the great music from our various local **pipe bands**.

As a bagpiper I play information many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologised to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I had never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played 'Amazing Grace' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car I heard one of the workers say "I have never seen anything like that before, and I have been putting in septic tanks for twenty years"

Apparently I was still lost .... It's a man thing



And unlike the bear we encourage all our pipers and band members to keep tuned up so we can enjoy your music in 2021 sometime.