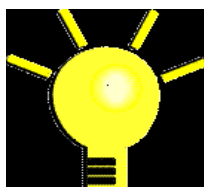


Hunter Valley Scots
Club inc

Hunter Valley Scots Club inc



October 2017



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

In this issue

**RECENT
EVENTS**

**PHOTO
GALLERY**

**WHAT'S ON:
OTHER
SCOTTISH
EVENTS**

**SCOTTISH
CULTURE**

TAILPIECE

A WEB PAGE
FOR THE
CLUB CAN
BE FOUND
AT
www.hvsc.org.au

Issue 233

RECENT EVENTS

Sunday September 10th 2017—HVSC AGM.

The key committee members presented their Annual Reports for the year just completed, the committee stood down and nominations for the various positions were reviewed and endorsed by the members present.

With the business over and a few snags munched, another year beckons for the club and its newly elected committee. We thank retiring committee members for their efforts throughout their term and a hearty congratulation goes round to those who have been elected or re-elected to the various positions.

We especially welcome our new committee member, Sue Donald, to the fold and look forward to seeing her at many of our forthcoming meetings and functions. As they say, many hands make light work.

Still vacant however, is our position of Secretary. So we are keen to enlist an enthusiastic individual to help with the smooth running of our affairs.

Special thanks go to Margaret Kenning for conducting the formalities at the election of the various office bearers.

The newly elected committee are listed on Page 3.

Wednesday October 11th 2017—Club Members Night.

Another Club Members Night success with the Supper Room resounding to the contrasting vibes of bamboo reed and vocal chord. The shrill of the pipes met the gentle timbre of the poet, so there was something for everybody. Ron Brown and Jenny Markwell from the Bush Poets provided us with a range of subjects, and Ailsa the piper made sure nobody was dropping off as the minutes sped by. Where else can you get a full night's entertainment for the cost of a litre or two of petrol.

As always, the evening was rounded off with a good chat over some munchies and everybody looking forward to the next one. There's a few photos of the evening on the Gallery Page and Ailsa apparently has some fund raising calendars to sell.

Watch this space for more information on that.

Urgently needed: Hunter Valley Scots Club Management Committee is seeking a Secretary. Please contact President, Andrew Smith 0419633267 if you would like to assist. Meetings first Tuesday of the month 7pm

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



Snapshots from the Club Night:

Above—Our President tries to enlist a new cleaner for the hall;

Above left—Ailsa gives 'em a blow.

Left—The performers for the evening—Jenny, Ailsa and Ron.



Below: For those that went along to the annual tartanfest at Nelson Bay, Clans on the Coast didn't disappoint.





Hunter Valley Scots
Club Inc

Positions 2017-2018

President:

Andrew Smith

Vice Presidents:

Gary Gray

Grahame Pricter OAM

Secretary:

Position Vacant

Treasurer:

Robyn Smith

Committee Members

Helen Fulton

Joan Elliott

Mike Elliott

Nance Adams OAM

Kim Nolan

Peter Tranter

Lynne Pricter

Sue Donald

Hall Manager

Graeme Auchterlonie

Newsletter Editor

Gary Gray

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0477 691 573

Calendar of Events— 2017

Note these dates in your diary now

St Andrews Day Church Service—26th November 2017, St Stephens, East Maitland.

Club Social Night—Wednesday 13th December 2017—Christmas theme to be confirmed. Maybe even a few carols to sing.

Burns Night 2018 is on Saturday January 20th. Bob MacInnes confirmed as the band for the night. Keep your diaries free for this one and stand by for ticket orders. Numbers are limited!

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

Saturday 28th October—Budburst Festival

The McLeish Estates Wines are hosting their spring festival with the usual Scottish flavour never far away. Bob might even get out his pipes.



“Bring your picnic blankets and indulge in great wine and regional food at the Budburst Festival at McLeish Estate Wines. The popular event provides a great day for Wine Partners, friends & family to relax, unwind and enjoy live entertainment, activities and our famous country hospitality. “

“During the day various wines will be showcased alongside gourmet regional produce at the winery. Local Chef Matt Dillow will be cooking up a feast for guests. The exciting program of events will include the famous “Semsational Oyster and Semillon Masterclass”, barrel rolling and wine tasting will run throughout the day. “

Bob, Maryanne & Jessica McLeish and the McLeish Team have extended the invitation to Pipe bands. If the event is anything like their midwinter Celtic Feast Wine Dinner it will be one not to be missed.



McLEISH ESTATE

Gourmet lunch of regional produce prepared
by Chef Matt Dillow
Fantastic live entertainment ALL DAY amongst the vineyard
Semillon & Oyster tastings
Pipe Bands & Highland Dancers
Dancing into the late afternoon.

TICKETS \$10/person

(FREE entry for guests under 18 years old)

We ask that you don't BYO to this event.

RSVP: 16th of October- McLeish Estate Winery E: info@mcleishestatewines.com.au P: (02) 4998 7754

BUDBURST FESTIVAL TICKETS are \$10/person (FREE entry for guests under 18 years) and can be purchased through the McLeish Estate Wines Cellar Door .

E: info@mcleishestatewines.com.au

P: (02) 4998 7754



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Club inc

Contact us:

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Club
PO Box 34
Kotara NSW 2289

Website:
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Email
scots@hvsc.org.au

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

SCOTS RECIPES

In the absence of any suggestions for recipes, I came across this tip for Halloween which also doubles up as a means of improving the diet of today's kids:

Buy a couple of boxes of Ferrero Rocher, eat the contents and keep the wrappers. Then melt some cooking chocolate and cover some brussels sprouts in the chocolate before wrapping them in the leftover Ferrero Rocher wrappers to hand out to those pesky 'Trick or Treaters' who call. It's one way of encouraging children to eat their greens.

SCOTTISH CULTURE—STICKY-WILLIED!!



Out for a Sunday walk in Sale, Eastern Victoria a few weeks ago, I came across a familiar looking plant growing round the edges of a pond in a public park. I couldn't resist picking a few bits and waiting for a likely target to walk by. I had rediscovered the urge to *stick-willy* somebody. But before I elaborate any further on an age-old Scottish pastime, I did a bit of botanical research first. Sticky Willy (or *Galium aparine*) is a herbaceous annual plant of the family Rubiaceae and also goes by the common names of cleavers, goose-grass, kisses, stickyweed or stickybud. The plant can be found growing in hedges, gardens and waste ground, and is occasionally a problem weed in crops. The species is native to a wide region of Europe, North Africa and Asia and is now naturalized throughout much of the Americas, as well as here in Australia and New Zealand. It is considered a noxious weed in some places (such as Western Australia).

The whole plant is edible, though not particularly tasty, and its leaves and stems can be cooked as a leaf vegetable if gathered before the fruits appear. In times of war or famine it has been eaten

possibly out of desperation rather than as a delicacy.

It is also well known by herbalists for its medicinal properties. Poultices and washes made from the fresh plant juice were traditionally used to treat a variety of skin ailments, light wounds and burns. As a pulp, it has been used to relieve poisonous bites and stings. Making a tea with the dried leaves is most common, although belonging to the same family as coffee, its fruits have often been dried and roasted, and then used as a coffee substitute which contains less caffeine. In Europe, the dried, matted foliage of the plant was once used to stuff mattresses. Several of the bedstraws were used for this purpose because the clinging hairs cause the branches to stick together, which enables the mattress filling to maintain a uniform thickness. Its roots can be used to make a permanent red dye.

It is well known by children for its 'stickiness', owing to its covering of hooked hairs. So as kids (and *big kids*) we would indulge in the relatively tame prank of attaching it to an unsuspecting individual's back as they innocently walk along, where it can remain undetected as passers-by mutter 'oh look at him, he's been *sticky willied*! Always good to get someone on the way to church, with their Sunday best on, and I have witnessed a kirk beedle ceremonially march up the aisle carrying the bible to the pulpit before the minister made his majestic entry, with a steady and stifled snigger following him the length of the congregation, particularly among the juvenile ranks of the Sunday School in the front ten rows. Me? I reckon it was the minister what dun it. I was shocked to read on one website article "*of a rather cruel Scottish children's game involving this plant. The trick is to persuade somebody to allow a piece of it to be put in their mouth – then pull it out fast. The hooks being rather sharp, the game is called 'bleedy tongues*!'"

Ooyah!...that last one could only have happened in Fife or somewhere equally medieval!!

Tailpiece:

I reckon about ninety percent of bagpipe jokes just go on about how terrible they are and obviously come from the lowly Sassenachs amongst us who simply don't appreciate the finer things in the universe. The remaining ten percent laugh at the pipes from a different perspective.

Young Donald MacDonald from the Isle of Skye went to study at an English university (or maybe it was St Andrews) and was living in the hall of residence with all the other students there. After he had been there a month, his mother came to visit him (no doubt carrying reinforcements of tattie, salt herring, oatmeal and whisky).

"And how do you find the English students, Donald?" she asked.

"Mother," he replied, "they're such terrible, noisy people. The one on that side keeps banging his head on the wall and won't stop. The one on the other side screams and screams all night."

"Oh Donald! How do you manage to put up with these awful noisy English neighbours?"

"Mother, I do nothing. I just ignore them. I just sit here quietly, playing my pipes."