



Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc.

Naidheachdan

Issue 298

Newsletter

July/August 2026

All Things Bright & Beautiful at Bonnie Brigadoon

Unlike some previous years, the weather gods shone down abundantly upon this year's event at Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. It is widely known as the "Premier" Gathering in Australia and, no wonder, when thousands of excited followers and their families enjoyed the amazing atmosphere and participation of twenty nine pipe bands from all over NSW, and as far afield as Launceston Tasmania, a host of muscley strong men ready to toss the heaviest rocks and tree trunks, scores of colourful market stalls displaying quality Scottish merchandise, many clan representative marquees ready to provide ancestral information and a plethora of food and beverage outlets (even the Haggis outlet was three times it's usual size!!).



Of course, The Hunter Valley Scots Club was represented there too, warmly welcoming all with our newsletters, Clan heritage and information.

'Bundanoon is Brigadoon', from its humble beginnings in 1978, with a handful of pipe bands and spectators, it is now recognised worldwide and has grown into one of the finest Highland Gatherings in Australia.

Each year the chosen Chieftain of the Day oversees the activities and presents awards to the winners of the competitions. This year's Chieftain was the High Commissioner & Lieutenant of Clan Gregor Australia, Frank McGregor accompanied by his first lady Fiona, travelling from Tasmania to officiate.

From 9am, the Oval hosted an Opening Ceremony led by the Chieftain and the massed pipes and drums display (over 500 participants), Clans and Floats, Scottish Country Dancing and Scottish Highland Dancing and individual Pipe Band performances. The day then was filled entirely with events presented by The Southern Highlands Kennel and Obedience Club, the Fiddlers' Tent; Swordplay theatrical fencing; Bonnie Bairns competition; Granny's Storytelling; The Kilted Dash; Highland Heavy Weight Championship; The Mighty Kilted Warriors take on the Bundanoon Stones, and to conclude the event, the Massed Pipes and Drums finale, accompanied by the haunting melody of the Lone Piper, provided a stirring and unforgettable conclusion to the celebration.



Frank & Fiona McGregor



Clan MacGregor



When it comes to Clan Gregor, finding the truth can be a difficult business, for the MacGregors were both legendary outlaws, known as 'children of the mist' and victims of state oppression pursued by their bitter rivals, Clan Campbell. Displaced by the Campbells they survived over 170 years of state-sponsored persecution ending in 1774.

Clan Gregor, as it is now more commonly known, is a fiercely independent highland clan famous for their Celtic royal lineage traditionally descended from Grigor, a son or brother of Kenneth MacAlpin, first King of the Scots, hence the Clan motto "S Rioghal Mo Dhream" ... 'Royal is My Race'.

Traditional genealogy traces the clan's origins back to the 800's, but the first recognized clan chief was Gregor of the Golden Bridles in early 14th century, succeeded around 1390 by his son Ian Camm One Eye. The MacGregor lands that surrounding Loch Awe had been granted to the Campbells by Robert the Bruce in the 14th century, meaning that the MacGregors were restricted to Glenstrae, at the northeast end of the loch, from where they raided Campbell cattle. There was a time when the name MacGregor determined whether you lived or died, so many of them changed their names to the likes of King, Drummond, Murray and Grant.



The stone monument commemorating the Battle of Glen Fruin 1603

On the 7th February 1603 the battle of Glen Fruin was fought between Clan MacGregor and Clan Colquhoun. The MacGregors were outnumbered by the cavalry-heavy Colquhouns, however it was a decisive victory for the MacGregors and it was said that they suffered very few casualties compared to Colquhouns 200-300 men.



The clan's most famous member Rob Roy MacGregor (1671-1734) was born into this era of outlawry. Operating as a cattle drover, Jacobite and guerilla fighter Rob Roy defied the powerful Duke of Montrose. His larger-than-life exploits were later romanticized by Sir Walter Scott in his 1817 novel 'Rob Roy' which turned him into a folk hero.

In 1775, Lieutenant Colonel Sir John MacGregor Murray of Lanrick was appointed chief and reestablished the clan. A baroncy was created in 1795. In 2003 the 23rd chief Brigadier Sir Gregor MacGregor, the 6th Baronet died passing his titles on to his son Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor.



Major Sir Malcolm MacGregor
24th Chief of Clan MacGregor
7th Baronet and Chieftain of the
Children of the Mist



Clan Gregor, today, stands proud among the major Clans of Scotland. The global Clan Gregor is represented by its international membership, which frequently gathers at historical sites, monuments, and Scottish Highland Games to celebrate their heritage. They even have their own whisky brand, found usually at international airports.

HVSC Scholarships

From April 9th-14th, a team of dancers from **Highland Dance with Enya**, including Naomi, Susie, Grace, Inez and Freya, along with their teacher Enya, travelled to the Gold Coast to compete at the prestigious Champion of Champions - the largest Highland dancing competition in Australia. Held every two years and rotating between Australian states, the opportunity to compete represents a significant milestone in their dancers' careers. Throughout the competition, the dancers refined their skills, gained valuable performance experience and strived toward achieving their goals on a national stage. They competed against top Highland dancers from across Australia and overseas, providing a remarkable opportunity to challenge themselves, celebrate their progress and draw inspiration from the highest level of competition.

The weekend proved to be a huge success, with every team member earning multiple awards within their respective levels. These achievements highlight the dedication and talent of Highland Dance with Enya dancers, as well as the drive and support of their dedicated teacher.

As recipients of the Hunter Valley Scots Club Scholarships, Enya and her team have become

a regular part of the entertainment at our events and we can be sure of a wonderful performance, as usual, at our Burns Night Supper on 30th January 2027.



Linda's Special Day

In February of 2023, at a Special General Meeting of The Hunter Valley Scots Club, I hesitantly put my hand up as president to save this decades old association from being disbanded, a decision I eventually came to realise that there was still 'plenty of life in the old girl yet'!. I was amazed how quickly the other positions were taken up with past president Andrew McPherson stepping into the vice president's position and Linda Baer as assistant to secretary Margaret Kenning. In time, Linda's role in matters of the HVSC committee has become the shining light of our amazing success over the past couple of years with her enthusiasm and organizational skills which, along with our current president Andrew, back at the helm, she has brought this venture well and truly into the 21st century while, simultaneously, juggling HVSC work along with her occupation as a leisure lifestyle recreational co-ordinator at Calvary Aged Care.

Linda recently celebrated her 60th Birthday in style at Club Macquarie along with over 100 family and friends including a few members of The Mine Workers' Pipe Band, so



The HVSC Committee & Friends

naturally, along with music from Highlander, there was no shortage of entertainment on her special night. We all wish Linda many more happy birthdays and many more years of continued success with Hunter Valley Scots Club.



Linda and her two sons, William & Matt both on HVSC Committee

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

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Robert Findley
Historian

Helen Fulton

Robyn Smith

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Upcoming Events 2026

Tues 30th June

HVSC Social Night to be held this month at Warners at the Bay, Hillsborough Road, Warners Bay from 6.30pm. Join for a wee chat and a bit o' fun Call Linda 0434 617 842 to confirm your attendance.

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. Savour the atmosphere of the Highlands and be part of this well recognised event celebrating it's 25th Anniversary this year. See website for information

Tues 28th July

HVSC Social Night back at our favourite venue Mr Zhou's Asian Restaurant, Teralba Bowling Club. Meet at 6.30pm. Varied menu with great food and reasonable prices.

Sat 22nd August

Hunter Valley Highland Games at Saltire Estate, 113 Wilderness Road, Lovedale. A full-day's celebration of Scottish culture brought to life at Saltire Estate. Expect the thunder of pipe bands, traditional Highland dancing, and classic athletic competitions alongside great food, beer, and local wine. From cultural displays and family-friendly activities to moments of spectacle and ceremony, the Games bring together heritage, community, and atmosphere in one unforgettable event.

Sat 22nd August

Newcastle & Hunter Valley Folk Club presents a traditional Australian Bush Dance at the Community Hall, Anzac Parade, Teralba with live music. 7.30-10.30pm. Tickets \$20.00 Donation, \$17.00 Concession \$15.00 Members
Supper provided please bring a plate to share

Tues 25th August

HVSC Members Social Night – Venue TBA

Sat 26th Sept

Wingham Scottish Festival at Wingham from 9am at the Showground. Wingham has a long history of Scottish influence, beginning with the settling of Scottish immigrants in the early 1800s. They arrived with very few possessions and struggled to establish a way of life. Their Scottish Festival celebrates the lives and culture of these early Australians and welcomes people of all nationalities to join them. Each year, the number of participating clans increases. The enthusiasm is still there!

Tues 29th Sept

HVSC Members' Social Night – Venue TBA

Sat 3rd October

Penrith Highland Festival more information soon

Sat 31st October

Great Sydney Highland Fair, Windsor info TBA