

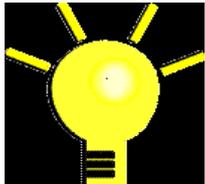


Hunter Valley Scots  
Club inc

# Hunter Valley Scots Club inc



February 2017



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

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A WEB PAGE  
FOR THE  
CLUB CAN  
BE FOUND  
AT  
[www.hvsc.  
org.au](http://www.hvsc.org.au)

Issue 229

## RECENT EVENTS

### Annual Burns Dinner: 21st January 2017, Club Macquarie, Cockle Creek.

Another full house for our annual celebration of the National Bard with plenty for all, whether content to sit and watch and listen, or to take the floor and work off a few of those calories on the dance floor.

The Highland Dancers gave us two sessions of fine, athletic and colourful dancing. The Scottish Country Dancers put on a display of footwork and unison, with smiles all round. The United Mineworkers Pipe Band likewise entertained us for two sessions of stirring stuff, capped with a raucous blast of 'Strip the Willow', allowing the participants to birl their way through a good few extra bars of their favourite dance.

The band - Chris Duncan, Catherine Strutt and Jennifer Strutt - as always, provided the best in Scottish fiddle tunes, for both the dancing and as incidental music—they're worth the ticket price alone!

The various Speakers did their stuff, with eloquent efforts all round, from the short and sweet (Selkirk Grace) to the studied and informative (Immortal Memory). Poor Grahame and Lynne Pricter hardly got a seat all night, having taken on the MC and MC's runner roles. Well done, Grahame and Lynne.

The singers, musicians and reciters filled in a few more gaps, with Hannah Duque showing us just how much she has learned from her trip overseas to attend a fiddle workshop with Alastair Fraser.

As usual, the Club Macquarie kitchen staff did themselves proud with another excellent Scottish flavoured menu, served up by their cheery table waiting staff. Patient as ever, threading their way past dancers whirling, drummers birling and pipers skirling. Let's not forget the bar staff either, service with a smile.

If you missed it, you missed a grand night. To think that they charge hundreds of dollars a ticket at the New York Mayor's Burns Supper. Here in Lake Macquarie? Still less than fifty bucks. A big thanks to all the Committee and members whose efforts contributed to making the night another roaring success.

A presentation was made to the McEwans of the White Heather Shop in recognition of the years of support they have provided for the Hunter Valley Scots Club, not the least of which is the willing donation of prizes for the raffles at Burns Night.

**PHOTO GALLERY—ACTION FROM BURNS NIGHT (check out our Facebook page for more)**



**Clockwise from above:**

The United Mineworkers Pipe Band stride out and *gie's a blow*. The roof nearly got lifted off;

Angus MacGregor leads the country dancers on to the floor for a display, with dance tunes from Chris Duncan, Catherine Strutt and Jennifer Strutt;

Cara, Scarlett, Jessie and Clare do their Blue Bonnets with Adam Harvey on the pipes;

Vice President Gary Gray takes a break from addressing the haggis to quell a minor disturbance in the ranks;

A multi-coloured Florence Ross replies to the Toast to the Lasses by Mr Paul Ross (waiting alongside with dread in his eyes); and

the Dancers *stripping the willow* to the thumping beat of the United Mineworkers Pipe Band.



**Below:**

Looks like the Scotland rugby team at scrummage practice, but no, it's just *Auld Lang Syne* and the end of another excellent evening of entertainment and fun for all.





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## 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

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## Calendar of Events— 2017

**Note these dates in your diary now**

**Sunday March 5th 2017—Newcastle Highland Dancers 50th Anniversary ceilidh evening. 6.30pm at Warners at the Bay, Hillsborough Road. See below for more info.**

**Sunday March 19th 2017—Barefoot Bowls, 4pm at Adamstown Bowling Club. \$5 covers bowls and BBQ tea. Family friendly with lots of prizes to be won. Contact Helen to confirm numbers.**

**Our April Members Night (Wednesday 12th April) will feature a kiltmaker.**

**The Central Coast Scots Club are holding a Burns Supper in May and are hoping to see a few of the Hunter Valley Scots—more information to follow.**

***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 (and Welsh)**

### **Highland Dancers:**

A few of the local girls took part in the Australia Day competition at North Sydney Civic Centre Park in Miller Street. No big medals haul this time round, but there were plenty of competitors from near and far, and it took most of the day to get through all the dances.

**Newcastle Highland Dancers** are celebrating 50 years of hosting Highland Dancing Championships on the weekend of 4th-5th March 2017 with an International Highland Dance Competition at the Macquarie Performing Arts Centre in Warner's Bay. Dancing should be under way by 8.45am each day—do come along and support, and you'll be impressed with the colour, the athleticism and the standard of dancing on view. On the Sunday Championships, they plan to invite as many previous champions to attend, as part of the celebrations, along with the many individuals who have been involved in the local highland dancing scene throughout their fifty years existence.

The programme will include a social evening on the Sunday night (5th March) 6.30pm at Warners At The Bay on Hillsborough Road with singers, fiddlers, pipers and dancers, maybe a few ceilidh dances too. There is no charge, and meals will be available from the Bistro if you're feeling peckish.

### **Welsh?:**

The Welsh Society are holding their St David's Day Lunch at Club Macquarie on Sunday 5th March at 12 for 12.30. Tickets are \$30 per head for a two course meal, contact Cole at 0423 146 046 to arrange tickets.

You should be finished in time to head up to Warners at the Bay for the Highland Dancers' social evening.



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### Contact us:

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

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

We are still trying to add as many as possible to our e-mail address list in favour of snail mail—please let us know of any changes. Rather than impose a charge on those preferring a paper copy, we are still looking for a suitable sponsor to help cover the ever increasing cost of postage. We can offer advertising on the Newsletter, with very competitive rates for a full, half or quarter page item.

### Tailpiece:

While we sit and swelter in record January and February heat, back in Scotland it is just cold and wet as usual. And when it's not been raining it was snowing or blowing a gale. Or maybe snowing *and* blowing a gale. Of course it's winter there right now, but don't get any funny ideas that things might change as they move into summer. The picture below says it all, but if you ask me, the terrain in

**The Bible says it  
rained for 40 days and  
40 nights and called it  
a "disaster".**



**Here in Scotland, we  
call it, "Summer".**

the photo looks more like northern England, with dykes much more typical of the Yorkshire dales or the Lake District.

Or to put it simpler, The rain appears to be falling vertically, not horizontally, visibility must be over a hundred metres and I can't see any puddles - it's much too dry for Scotland.

And look, the guy with the bike is actually smiling and enjoying himself, nah, that's no Scotland!

### Closing Words:

A Scottish lass has twins but has to give them up for adoption. One goes to a family from Egypt and is named Amal. The other goes to a family from Spain and is given the name Juan.

Years later Juan gets in touch and sends a photo of himself to his dear old maw back in Glasgow. When she receives the photo she tells her husband that she wishes she had a photograph of Amal too.

He replies "*but dear, they are twins.....once you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal..*"