

# Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc.



## Naidheachdan

Issue 292

Newsletter - January/February

### O What a Glorious Sight!

Those words are generally used during Robert Burns' 'Address to a Haggis', but they can most certainly be used to describe the Hunter Valley Scots Club Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February at Club Macquarie which, we are delighted to report, was a total sellout!

Starring, for the first time, the almighty talents of Highlander Celtic Rock Band with piper Justin Body, who has recently returned from Scotland after being one of the selected few pipers to perform at The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

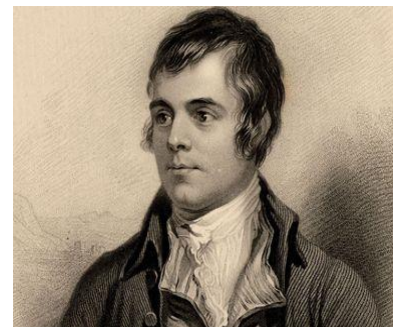
Also featured were The Miners' Pipe Band, Highland dancers with Enya and the Justine Daly School of Highland dancing, plenty of Scottish Ceilidh Dancing and, of course, the traditional 'Address to a Haggis' being performed this year by an inspiring young man, Lachlan King who, at the age of just twelve years, old has mastered this famous Burns' poem and we were all overwhelmed watching this talented young boy representing the next generation at work, for it is through the likes of Lachlan that will ensure our Scottish traditions and culture will live on far into the future.



### Robert Burns – Poet Extraordinaire

Robert Burns, also known familiarly as Rabbie Burns, was born in Alloway, Ayrshire on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1759. A Scottish poet and lyricist who is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland and is celebrated internationally. He is the best known of the poets who have written in the Scots language, although much of his writing is in a "light Scots dialect" of English, accessible to an audience worldwide.

He is regarded as a pioneer of the romantic movement, and after his death on 21 July 1796 at the young age of 37, he became a great source of inspiration to the founders of both liberalism and socialism, and a cultural icon in Scotland and around the world. Celebration of his life and work became almost a national charismatic cult during the 19th and 20th centuries, and his influence has long been strong on Scottish literature. In 2009 he was chosen as the greatest Scot by the Scottish public in a vote run by Scottish television channel STV.



**Robert Burns**

25<sup>th</sup> January 1759 – 21<sup>st</sup> July 1796

As well as making original compositions, Burns also collected folk songs from across Scotland, often revising or adapting them. His poem (and song) 'Auld Lang Syne' is traditionally sung at Hogmanay (New Year's Eve), and 'Scots Wha Hae' served for a long time as an unofficial national anthem of the country. Other poems and songs of Burns that remain well known across the world today include 'A Red, Red Rose', 'A Man's a Man for A' That', 'To a Louse', 'To a Mouse', 'The Battle of Sherramuir', 'Tam o' Shanter' and 'Ae Fond Kiss'.

But perhaps the most famous of all Robert Burns' odes, along with 'Auld Lang Syne' is his 'Address to a Haggis', which will always be a major part of a Burns' Night Supper.

# St. Andrews' Day Service

On a bright and sunny Sunday morning in late November the HVSC committee and other members attended The Scots Kirk in Hamilton to honour St. Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland. Our flags were paraded and piped in and the Reverend David Robertson led an excellent service. History tells us that St Andrew was an apostle of Jesus. According to the New Testament, he was a fisherman and one of the Twelve Apostles chosen by Jesus. St. Andrew was officially named the Patron Saint of Scotland in 1320 when the Declaration of Arbroath was signed. It was a letter written in 1320 by Scottish barons to Pope John XXII in response to the Pope's excommunication of King Robert the Bruce for not respecting a truce in the First War of Scottish Independence. The letter asked the Pope to recognize Scotland's independence and Robert the Bruce as the country's rightful king.



Pictured above are some of our members against the magnificent backdrop of the Scots Kirk's stained-glass windows.

## HVSC Christmas Party 2024

A jolly group of our committee and other members enjoyed a fun night out in the Sunset Lounge at Club Macquarie on 10<sup>th</sup> December for our first combined Christmas Party.



Our members are always regarded as part of our HVSC family, and we look forward to welcoming more new members in 2025 to join us for our social nights which are generally held once a month and, of course, our two main events, Caledonian Night and Burns Night Supper.

Committee meets at  
Club Macquarie at 7pm  
on the second Tuesday  
of each month

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### Committee

President  
Toni Mclean

Vice President  
Andrew MacPherson

Secretary  
Linda Baer

Treasurer  
Elizabeth Lewin

Committee  
William Baer

Robert Findley

Helen Fulton

Kim Nolan

Robyn Smith

Andrew Smith



## Upcoming Events 2025

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| <b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>   | HVSC Members Social Night to be held at the Argenton Hotel, 515 Lake Road, Argenton from 6pm. Come and join us!   |
| <b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b>  | 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 |
| <b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>   | Bundanoon Highland Gathering 'Brigadoon' Street Parade from 9am with 25 Pipe Bands Ticketed event. See their website  |
| <b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b>   | HVSC Members Social Night in Mr Zhou's Chinese Restaurant at Teralba Bowling Club.  |
| <b>Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>    | Wingham Highland Fair at Wingham Showground from 9am. See their website.  |
| <b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May</b>     | HVSC Members Social Night. Venue TBA  |
| <b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June</b>    | HVSC Members Social Night. Venue TBA  |
| <b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>    | Aberdeen Highland Games at Jefferson Park New England Highway, Aberdeen Ticketed event. Check their website   |
| <b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>    | Caledonia Night at Club Macquarie, 458 Lake Road, Argenton, arrival from 6.30pm   |
| <b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July</b>    | HVSC Members Social Night. Venue TBA  |
| <b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August</b> | Saltire Estate Highland Games 113 Wilderness Road, Lovedale Tickets available shortly. Check their website  |

### **“Getting to Know You”**

We are a friendly lot at Hunter Valley Scots Club and look forward to welcoming you for dinner and a good chat at our **Members' Social Night** on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March** at the **Argenton Hotel Restaurant, 515 Lake Road, Argenton** from **6pm** Someone once said, “those who play together, stay together” and we like the company we keep. So how about you come join us and let us have the pleasure of your company. too. To book please call Toni on **4970 5105** or email [info@auntymollys.com.au](mailto:info@auntymollys.com.au)

## **The United Mineworkers Pipe Band**

The United Mineworkers Federation of Australia Pipe Band (The Miners') is a group of great people who enjoy playing Pipes and Drums at a high standard. history of this multi award winning band goes way back to before the Northbury Colliery Riots of 1929. Since then, they have participated in almost every Hunter Festival, and were delighted to have the pleasure of listening to their music at our Burns Night.

