



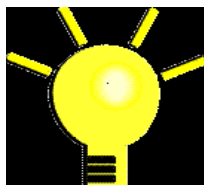
Hunter Valley Scots
Club inc

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Issue 230



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

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TAILPIECE

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

RECENT EVENTS

Sunday March 5th 2017—Newcastle Highland Dancers 50th Anniversary ceilidh evening at Warners at the Bay.

Quite a crowd turned up for this Sunday evening event, which followed two full days of competition dancing. It was unfortunate that a malfunction in the venue's brand new PA system hindered the public address component of the proceedings. Nevertheless a good range of talent was on display and a few Scottish singers appeared unexpectedly from the audience. At least there was no problem hearing the pipers, as always, and most people went home happy and a few others hoarse. Your editor (and MC for the night) was both happy and hoarse.



Sunday March 19th 2017—Barefoot Bowls.

The Bowls had to be called off due to the very Scottish weather. What a pity, apparently we had a good crowd lined up to participate, but Sunday morning was full monsoon conditions. With the luck of the Irish, by four o'clock, the sun was shining and the barbeque crying out to be lit.



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

Due to low cloud and rain, we didn't get much chance to take snaps at the Barefoot Bowls. Well, it was cancelled anyway. So instead here's a wee article on our favourite drink.

WHISKY OR WHISKEY???

We've had a request for some information on the correct spelling of the word *Whisky*, with some theories being bandied about concerning which letters are in the spelling of the country which produced it. The term whisky derives from the Scottish Gaelic *uisge beatha*, - pronounced *ooshke-vaa* — meaning 'water of life' (the spelling in Irish Gaelic is slightly different, but it is the same words and meaning).



"TODAY'S RAIN IS TOMORROW'S WHISKY"

TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH PROVERB

Some people get quite shirty about the use of the spelling 'whiskey' for anything produced in Scotland, which was especially common in America.

Many people are not at all bothered.

However, after a bit of research on the internet, I found the following statement repeated in quite a few sources, but note that it is just a theory.

Countries that have an 'e' in their names (United States and Ireland) tend to spell it whiskey (plural whiskeys)
Countries without e's in their names (Canada, Scotland, and Japan) spell it whisky (plural whiskies).



So surely that means that if they ever decide to make the stuff in England or Wales, they will have to refer to it as whiskey, but if they make it here in Australia (or even Tasmania, where I believe they already do) they can call it whisky!

And does that mean that the national drink of Burkina Faso or Afghanistan would be whisky, not whiskey?

Each country makes their 'water of life' a little bit differently, but one thing is for sure—you can only call it Scotch if it's made in Scotland.

A few years ago, one of the Japanese distillers went as far as creating a distillery town of their own and named it Scotland, so that they could put 'Made in Scotland' on the bottle. It nearly started World War Three.

On the left is an advert I saw in *The Scotsman* many years ago—I just had to cut it out and keep it.

"Whatever the English think about us Scots they love our whisky.
Whatever we think about the English we love our whisky too."



Hunter Valley Scots
Club inc

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Vice President:

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Calendar of Events— 2017

Note these dates in your diary now

Our April Members Night (Wednesday 12th April) will feature a kiltmaker. Come along for a blether and maybe learn a thing or two about our national dress.

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.

Soup and Damper, Teralba Hall on Sunday 28th May. Same formula as the past few years, there should be a few songs to sing and some background to each. This year's theme is Scottish Islands.

Caledonian Night—Ceilidh: 15th July at Club MacQuarie. This should be another cracker, shine up your dancing shoes for a lively night of fiddle music and Scottish Country Dancing.

Burns Night 2018 is on Saturday January 20th. Keep your diaries free for this one.

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

- 4th-7th May—Glen Innes Australian Celtic Festival
- 27th May—Berry Celtic Festival
- 3rd June—Bonnie Wingham
- 9th—12th June—National Celtic Festival
- 1st July—Aberdeen Highland Games
- 2nd September—Gathering of the Clans, Norah Head (Maybe!)
- 16th September—Clans on the Coast, Nelson Bay



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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 (\$40; \$20 and \$10 respectively are the figures being suggested).

Any ideas or any takers??

Tailpiece:

With this recently discovered photograph, the truth has only just come out about Scotland's attempts to put the first man in orbit.

Back in 1915, the story goes that some unfortunate Jock on the Western front got caught pinching a sixpence from his fellow squaddie's pooch (well, it was probably *cinq centimes*).



The Great War. Eerste Wereldoorlog : Mobilisatie, oorlogsverklaring : Kring soldaten houdt doek vast en werpt soldaat omhoog tijdens voorbereidingen op de strijd aan het front. Engeland, 1915.

First World War, mobilisation, declaration of war: a group of soldiers with a cloth to throw one of them into the air during preparations for the battle at the front. England, 1915

He was given the choice of a night out at the Listening Post alone in No Man's Land or doing his bit as an observation balloonist—without the balloon.

'A bit less mud up above' he reckoned, so here's how they did it.

Closing Words:

A weel kent man in Aberdeen dies and his wife decides to

announce his passing with an ad in the local paper. She calls in to the office of the Aberdeen Evening Express and says 'I'd like to place an obituary fur ma late husband'.

The man at the desk says 'OK, and how much would you like to spend?', to which the old woman says 'I've got five pounds'.

'Ye won't get many words for that, but go ahead and write something, we'll see if it's OK' replies the clerk. So she writes a wee note and hands it over the counter.

The man reads out 'Hamish Reid fae Kincorth, deid'. He is saddened at the abruptness of the statement and encourages her to add a few more thoughtful words. The woman ponders a while, writes a bit and hands the note over the counter again.

The clerk reads out the message—'Hamish Reid fae Kincorth, deid. 1984 Ford Escort for sale.'