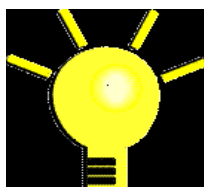


Hunter Valley Scots
Club inc

Hunter Valley Scots Club inc



December 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

Issue 234

SEASON'S GREETINGS! From your committee

RECENT EVENTS

Sunday November 10th 2017— St Andrews Church Service.

This year's kirkirg o' the tartan and St Andrew's Day Service was held at St Stephens Presbyterian Church in East Maitland. The morning was a very successful tribute to Scotland's Patron Saint and recognition of the Scottish heritage of the area.

Paul Ross piped the members into the service which was led by Rev Gordon Peden and Grahame Prictor OAM (with a memorable children's talk). Members of the congregation entered into the spirit of the occasion with tartan items of dress.

The most enjoyable surprise of the day was the arrival of the Maitland Pipe Band who piped all involved down to the church hall after the service, for a lavish morning tea. The band continued their entertainment for some time and at one stage were joined by a younger ex-pipe band member of the congregation who demonstrated her dancing skills with some impromptu highland dancing.

If you were not in attendance you missed a most enjoyable morning!



Wednesday December 13th 2017—Club Members Night.

Teralba Hall was fairly buzzing for the last Club event of 2017. What a packed evening to end the year with! We had pipers and piping, poetry and verse, singing and Christmas carols, highland dancing, Celtic harp playing, Scottish and Irish tunes on the fiddle, and of course, Santa made his annual appearance with goodies for (almost) everybody. A festive feed was then enjoyed by all, with enough time left (just!) for a good old blether before it was time to go home.

Great efforts all round, both in the Supper Room and in the Main Hall. There are some photos of a few of the participants over the page.

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)



Left—Despite being a few pipers and drummers short of a full band, the Maitland Pipe Band do their best to raise the roof of the Presbyterian church hall after the St Andrews Day Service;



Snapshots from the Club Night (clockwise from top left):

- ◆ Ailsa and Paul pipe the attendees through to supper;
- ◆ Katherine and her Celtic harp;
- ◆ Scotia Highland Dancers;
- ◆ Bush Poets in full flight;
- ◆ Santa searching his pockets;
- ◆ Shayne and Roz in action.

Below—can you name all the characters in this scene—
Answers on Page 4



Traditional Scottish Recipes - Black Bun

This is a traditional recipe for a treat which is often eaten at the end of the year at Hogmanay. But it needs to be made several weeks in advance so that it can mature. Indeed, it can be kept for up to six months if kept in an airtight container. Don't be put off by the formidable list of ingredients. It is relatively easy to make and every cook has his or her own variations on the ingredients.

Ingredients for Pastry Case:

12 oz plain flour (3 cups)
3 oz lard (6 tablespoons)
3 oz butter or margarine (6 tablespoons)
(Note that if you don't want to use lard, increase the butter/margarine by an equivalent amount)
Pinch of salt
Half teaspoon baking powder
Cold water

Ingredients for Filling:

1 lb seedless raisins (2½ cups)
1 lb cleaned currants (2½ cups)
2 oz chopped, blanched almonds (Third of a cup)
2 oz chopped mixed peel (¼ cup)
6 oz plain flour (1½ cups)
3 oz soft brown sugar (Third of a cup)
One level teaspoon ground allspice
Half level teaspoon each of ground ginger, ground cinnamon, baking powder
Generous pinch of black pepper
One tablespoon brandy
One large, beaten egg
Milk to moisten

Method:

Grease an 8-inch loaf tin. Rub the fats into the flour and salt and then mix in enough cold water to make a stiff dough (remember, it is going to line the tin). Roll out the pastry and cut into six pieces, using the bottom, top and four sides of the tin as a rough guide. Press the bottom and four side pieces into the tin, pressing the overlaps to seal the pastry shell.
Mix the raisins, currants, almonds, peel and sugar together. Sift in the flour, all the spices and baking powder and bind them together using the brandy and almost all the egg and add enough milk to moisten.
Pack the filling into the lined tin and add the pastry lid, pinching the edges and using milk or egg to seal really well. Lightly prick the surface with a fork and make four holes to the bottom of the tin with a skewer. Depress the centre slightly (it will rise as it cooks).
Brush the top with milk or the rest of the egg to create a glaze.
Bake in a pre-heated oven at 325F/160C/Gas Mark 3 for 2½ to 3 hours. Test with a skewer which should come out clean; if not, continue cooking. An uncooked cake sizzles if you listen closely!



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 OAM

Mike Elliott

Nance Adams OAM

Kim Nolan

Peter Tranter

Lynne Pricter

Sue Donald

Hall Manager

Graeme Auchterlonie

Newsletter Editor

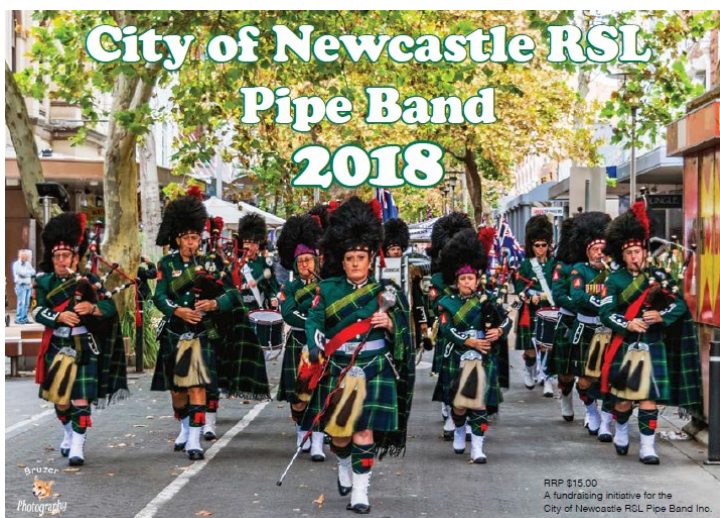
Gary Gray

0477 691 573

OTHER SCOTTISH STUFF

Newcastle RSL Pipe Band, as a fundraiser, has produced a calendar for 2018. You may recognise some faces.

Available from White Heather 4952 6533 or Newcastle Diggers Club 49 29 34 73. Sounds like a good New Year gift



Calendar of Events— 2018

Note these dates in your diary now

In case you haven't heard, Burns Night 2018 is on Saturday January 20th. closing date for tickets 10 Jan 2018. Contact Andrew Smith 0419 633 267

Other Social Activities for 2018 DRAFT for your diary (in pencil)

- ♦ 14 February – Social Night – featuring Bill's Ballroom
- ♦ March (shock horror, nothing on yet)
- ♦ 11 April – Social Night
- ♦ 27 May – Soup and Damper
- ♦ 13 June – Social Night – Games Night
- ♦ 21 July – Caledonian Night tbc
- ♦ 8 August – Social Night
- ♦ 9 September – AGM 4pm
- ♦ 10 October – Social Night
- ♦ 25 November – St Andrew's Day Church Service
- ♦ 12 December – Christmas Social Night

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

Scholarship closing date for applications 31/3/2018

Other Celtic Activities 2018

- Celtic Australia Day Festival North Sydney, January 2018
- Celtic Women Civic Theatre Newcastle 11 Feb 2018
- Maclean Highland Gathering 30,31 March 2018
- Bundanoon Highland Gathering 7 April 2018
- Australian Celtic Festival Glen Innes 3-6 May 2018
- Berry Celtic Festival May 2018
- Bonnie Wingham 31 May- 3 June 2018
- Aberdeen Highland Gathering 7 July 2018
- Maitland Tattoo ?July
- Clans on the Coast, Nelson Bay September 2018
- Central Coast Spectacular?
- Irish Festival Sydney 10-11 November 2018



Hunter Valley Scots
Club inc

Contact us:

Hunter Valley Scots
Club
PO Box 34
Kotara NSW 2289

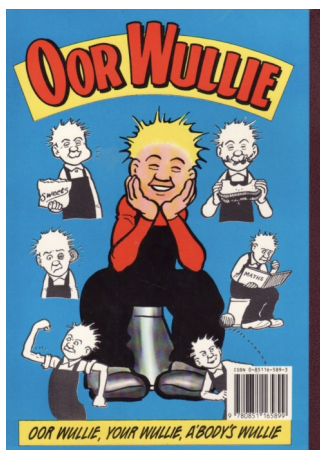
Website:
hvsc.org.au

Email
scots@hvsc.org.au

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

SCOTS RECIPES
(see Picture Gallery
Page for Black Bun)

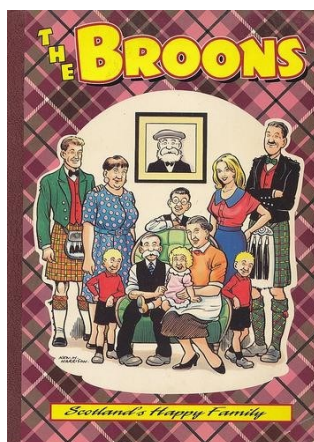
SCOTTISH CULTURE— OOR WULLIE AND THE BROONS



For many Scots of a certain age, Christmas was full of anticipation for one thing in particular—a new comic annual to add to the collection. Each year the Dundee publisher DC Thompson released the annuals alternately—*'the Broons'* one year, *'Oor Wullie'* the next. Just in time for Christmas stockings all over the land.

On Christmas Day, the fights in my house were over who was first to get to read their way from cover to cover, slowly, enjoying everyone else's envious and impatient stares.

Some families were lucky enough to get a weekly diet of the time-less favourites, if their household had the Sunday Post delivered, as both *Oor Wullie* and *The Broons* featured on the Fun Page, along with a great selection of corny Scottish jokes. The rest of the paper wasn't worth much, unless you enjoyed the football coverage, which was extensive (like every other Scottish Sunday newspaper).



For the uninitiated—Oor Wullie, with his friends Soapy Soutar, Fat Boab and Wee Eck, was often falling foul of PC Murdoch. Though rarely for anything more serious than pinching a few gooseberries. And the very numerous Broon family (from page 2—Paw, Horace, the Bairn, the Twins, Maggie, Joe, Grandpaw, Daphne, Hen, and Maw) lived in a tenement in Glebe Street.

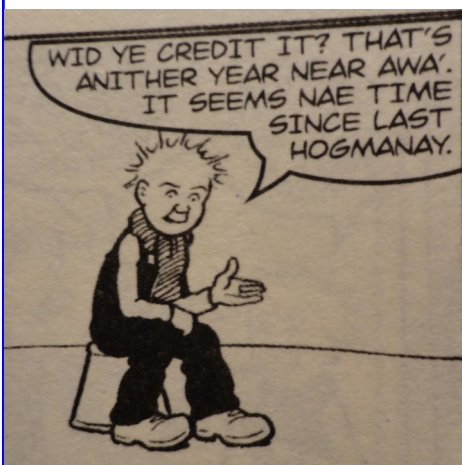
I just wonder if there's anybody with the name Brown living in Glebe Street, Merewether.

SCOTTISH CULTURE— HOGMANAY

Traditionally in Scotland, Christmas Day was a normal working day for most people. The Calvinist streak in many shunned the frippery of the tinsel, ornaments and symbolism. Few presents were exchanged. The more religious may have gone to a church service if they could fit it in. Instead, the focus was on celebrating Hogmanay or 'Ne'erday' (New Year's Day).

For many, January 1st was one of the few Public Holidays of the year, and the *only* day that the newsagents were closed and no papers delivered. From about the fifties onwards, things gradually got more into line with the rest of the world, although Hogmanay is still much more important for many when it comes to having a party!

The mode of celebration varies a lot with the place – in bigger towns and cities, crowds congregates on the streets clutching their half bottles (though more and more pubs are now open past the bells), in smaller towns and villages, maybe at the town hall or village steeple, and in the smallest of places, they still mainly visit friends and neighbours and do their 'first foot-ing' (some still carrying the traditional lump of coal). In many households, not much happens until Midnight approaches, in others, the party preparations and drinking start early in the day. Big street parties, for which Edinburgh is now famous, are a relatively recent addition.



It is thought that the word comes from the Gaelic *oge maidne* meaning 'New Morning'. However, several French words have also been suggested as the source. *Hoguinané*, or *anguillanneuf*, which roughly translated means New Year Gift.

Tailpiece (right):

Just to add some balance to the recent bagpipe jokes, here's one that the Sassenachs amongst you might appreciate.

**WHEN YOU'VE HEARD ONE
BAGPIPE TUNE, YOU'VE
HEARD THEM BOTH**