

## Meet your Management Committee

Patron	Anne O'Carroll
President	<a href="#">Brian Gahan</a>
Vice-President	Lynn O'Toole
Secretary	<a href="#">Ashley Mackenzie-White</a>
Treasurer	<a href="#">Finbarr Murray</a>
Bar Manager	Darren McClure
Committee:	Sherie Wright, Marysia Raffan, <a href="#">Bryan Mulligan</a> , Deirdre Rynne, Dave Rynne

### SAD FAREWELLS

Unfortunately, we have in the last few months farewelled a couple of long-time members.

It is with considerable sadness we noted the passing of Marian Sheppard, Mick Cain, and just recently, Denis Murphy.

### POT LUCK DINNERS

Don't forget that the November Pot Luck will be the last for 2014. The next one will be at the end of January 2015.

Come along, and while you're there put your name down on the roster for 2015.

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Have you paid your membership subscription yet? Make payments by **DIRECT CREDIT** to account number **06-0529-0416815-00** or by sending a cheque PO Box 31-469, Lower Hutt. NB: If you pay by Direct Credit please make sure you use your family name as the reference (or your phone number if you have to use numbers).

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

If you are a Twitter user already, or have been thinking about opening an account, look for @huttirish.

We will be tweeting reminders about upcoming events, or if we need to get in touch urgently.

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Of course we're also on Facebook. If you're addicted to staying in touch and keeping up to date with what others are doing, be sure to 'Like' Hutt Valley Irish Society's Facebook site, and you'll always 'be in the know'.

### YOUR LOCAL GAA CLUB

The Wellington GAA is a growing and active group drawing members from the whole region. Check them out at [www.wellingtongaa.com](http://www.wellingtongaa.com) or email them at [wellingtongaa@gmail.com](mailto:wellingtongaa@gmail.com) or telephone Daithi on +64211861099 or Kav on +64210658659.

### CARDS OR MUSIC NIGHTS

Do you enjoy a game of cards? There's one on at the Club on the first Friday each month. Call Anne on 2329962 to check dates, times, and other arrangements. Or come along on the third Friday of the month for our music session. No arranging needed - just turn up!

### Notices:

*If you'd like you Newsletter by email, write to*  
[info@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:info@huttirish.org.nz)

*The Club has its own WEB-SITE:*  
<http://www.huttirish.org.nz>

*Get in touch:*  
[info@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:info@huttirish.org.nz)  
[secretary@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:secretary@huttirish.org.nz)  
[publicity@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:publicity@huttirish.org.nz)

Remember the Hall is available for Hire. All this helps your Club financially, so recommend us to your friends.

*The Club is open every Friday 5 p.m. to 1 am,  
on Sundays by request,  
and other occasions as required or by request.*



**Published by:** Hutt Valley Irish Society, 12 Raroa Rd,  
PO Box 31-469, Lower Hutt, **Phone: (04) 569-6139**

[info@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:info@huttirish.org.nz)

# Hutt Valley Irish Society

*The Irish Press*



*Obnacht na Nollag  
Agus Uian nan Maith Oit*

*Merry Christmas  
AND  
A happy New Year*

*Eagrán na Nollag*

*(Christmas Edition)*

December, 2015

## IT'S BEEN A WHILE

---

You're right - it has been a while since the last HVIS Newsletter. For most of the people we now communicate with, email, or some other electronic channel, is now the most common format we use. In particular, the focus for advice about up-coming events has shifted to emails, often sent much closer to the date of the event. And the number of hard-copy-only Newsletter recipients has gone down.

As a result, we have decided that Newsletters such as this will only be sent twice a year - in December & June. And their focus will be on what has happened in the preceding period.

If you received this Newsletter in the Post but would like to stay in touch by email, please let us know at [info@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:info@huttirish.org.nz).

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FEIS

---

Labour Weekend saw a group of our members go to Auckland to compete at the national Feis. And I'm delighted to be able to report they met with their usual level of success!



Mary & Fiach Gahan, and Molly & Bridget Janes brought back a swag of trophies and medals, winning every event they entered.

This year we also had members competing as part of the local GAA group - both men & women. And again, they were successful, winning 3 of the 4 events. Which meant, of course, that the 'awards' event was a grand occasion for us!

There are photos & videos at <http://huttirish.org.nz/feis-2015.html>

## THE FEDERATION OF IRISH SOCIETIES

---

The HVIS has not been a member of the Federation of Irish Societies for some years, but always kept an eye on the 'health' of the Feis, the Federation's main (sole?) activity.

However, it now appears the Federation has ceased to exist, and its assets (cups, trophies, funds) are about to be disbursed among the last member groups.

What the future of the Feis will be isn't yet clear, and the HVIS Committee hasn't yet formed a view of the future.

But we will be seeking to be involved in any discussions about the formation of any 'new' representative organisation.

## GAA AND THE AUSTRALASIAN GAMES

---

We have a close relationship with the Wellington-Hutt Valley GAA, and were pleased to be able to help them during their staging of the 2015 Australasian Games in late September.

The Games were a great success, and attracted a large number of competitors. They also were visited by the President of the GAA, Aogan O'Fearghail. We have photos of the event at <http://huttirish.org.nz/gaa-games-2015.html> and there is a delightful video about the whole event at the foot of the page.

## RELATIONS WITH OTHER SOCIETIES

---

Which brings me to what's happening with the Wellington and Kapiti Irish Societies.

I am pleased to be able to report that relations between HV and Wellington are stronger now than ever before, with moves to formalise an arrangement which will give members of the two groups reciprocal 'membership' for the sake of entry/access to events.

Additionally, after a period of hiatus, a new group of enthusiasts has breathed fresh life into the Kapiti Irish Society. Attendance at their inaugural gathering suggested they have a strong base upon which to build. We wish them well, and will keep our members advised of their events.

## NEW CONSUL-GENERAL

---

One of the more notable events in the last few months has been the retirement of our long-serving Consul-General, Rodney Walshe. He retired in March, and his successor, Niamh McMahon, was appointed in July this year.

Niamh was born Dublin and grew up Clonmel, Co Tipperary. She is a barrister and solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand and has been in private practice since 1987. She worked closely for many years with the

Consulate office in Auckland, as well as with other organisations such the Ireland Fund of New Zealand, Enterprise Ireland NZ and the Irish Business Network NZ.

## IRISH LESSONS

---

Some years ago we ran a short course for those interested in either learning some basics of Irish language, or to brush up on their fading knowledge and skill. Now, one of members has arranged with like-minded members of the WIS to offer a 'discussion group for the same purpose.

They have been meeting every second Thursday evening, alternating between the WIS and HVIS. If you're interested in joining them, contact [language@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:language@huttirish.org.nz) or have a chat with Finbarr Murray at the club. Free to all club members.

For a head-start, have a look (and listen!) to some of the [course content](#).

## SATURDAY MORNING KIDS' CLUB

---

We have a small, but growing number of young family members. And those with youngsters need something different to do with them once in a while, right?

So they have started running a "Kid's Club" at their Club. Cute, huh? It runs on Saturday mornings once a month. If you're interested (or your parents might be interested) send a message to Darren on [kids@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:kids@huttirish.org.nz) or on 021 0293 2131.

## 2016 TRIP

---

Remember that a group of HVIS members are already working on plans for a trip to Ireland in 2016. It will, of course coincide with the centenary of the 1916 Easter Uprising, and we expect there will be lots on in Ireland. If you're interested in either finding out more, or joining the group, please email [trip@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:trip@huttirish.org.nz)

## ROSE OF TRALEE

---

HVIS continues to be the NZ Centre for the International Festival. As such it is our role to maintain standards and to arrange the staging of each year's National Final.

At this stage, the 2016 National Final will be staged in Queenstown and Invercargill, jointly managed by the Invercargill Irish Society and the family (& associates) of the current NZ Rose Maggie Fea. More information to follow next year.

## OTHER MERCHANDISE

---

Speaking of 'tiles for sale' reminds me that we also have a range of T-Shirts for sale.



These high-quality t-shirts have slogans which will bring a smile to many



Irish eyes. Alternatively, you

could advertise your 'Irish services'. Both are good for a laugh, and are guaranteed to start conversations! And for just \$30.

Place an order with Darren on 021 029 32132.