

## Mark Your Diaries NOW!

Sunday 28 February	Potluck Dinner
Monday 17 March	<b>ST PATRICK'S DAY !!</b>
Sunday 28 March	Potluck Dinner

### GREETING CARDS

There seem to be quite a number to catch up on.

Firstly, our congratulations to all our members who sat NCEA exams, like Rose Peoples and Eleanor O'Toole. And to Jayne Mulligan & Nicky Braid who've completed their Honours programme at University with distinction. Our best wishes also go to Eleanor as she heads off to Otago for University.

And to Charlotte Wright who will be dancing her way to the World Championships in the UK.

We'd also like to send our best wishes to Maggie Lee and John Brophy, who've had some health challenges over the summer - we hope you're both well down the road to recovery!

Our condolences go to Marie Cassidy on the loss of her mother

Welcome back to Adrian Peoples and Kirsten Edie & their family after an extended visit to Ireland and Europe.



And our congratulations to Declan Rynne and Deirdre McShane who got married at the end of January.

Finally, the 'welcome to the club' award this month goes to Brian Gahan, who has passed a notable milestone in January.

### ON A MUSICAL NOTE ...

I'm often given a hard time about the fact my family came from Co Cavan. So I'm delighted to be able to report that one of the best new music groups to come out of Ireland in the last couple of years, hails from ... Cavan!!

They call themselves The Strypes. They are 4 young lads (all under 22!) who play stripped down Rhythm and Blues like there's no tomorrow. And in the process manage to sound uncannily like groups from the British R&B boom years of the early 1960s - think the early Rolling Stones, The Yardbirds, Alexis Korner, or Them, and then later acts such as Dr Feelgood or Rockpile.

They have released one album called Snapshot, which you can find from their website at [www.thestrypes.com](http://www.thestrypes.com) or you can sample their sound on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/user/TheStrypesOfficial](http://www.youtube.com/user/TheStrypesOfficial).

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

You can now receive Twitter text messages direct to your cell-phone, and stay in touch with what's happening.

So you can join Twitter and 'follow' Hutt Valley Irish Society or @huttirish

### KEEP IN TOUCH WITH FACEBOOK

HVIS has a presence on Facebook. It is a way of staying in touch with our friends and members.

So, if you're a Facebook user (& we know not everyone is!) expect to see messages about upcoming events, and other news of comings and goings.

### 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.

### Notices:

*If you have something you want included in our newsletter send it to [bryan@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:bryan@huttirish.org.nz)*

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

*Our WEB-SITE: [www.huttirish.org.nz](http://www.huttirish.org.nz)*

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

*Don't forget the Club is open every Friday 5 p.m. to 1 am, and other occasions by request or demand.*



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## The Irish Press

# Hutt Valley Irish Society



A little bit of  
Ireland  
in the heart of  
Lower Hutt



## Ni fearr bia na ciall

*(Food is not better than sense)*

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## WELCOME BACK

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I can't believe it's February already!

We would like to make this year one to remember. So be sure to play your part by getting down to the Club as often as possible. Remember that New Year's Resolutions are meant to be acted on!

Mark your calendars NOW with St Patrick's Day and be sure to drop in.

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## POT LUCK DINNERS

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Next time you're in the Club, please take a moment to put your name on the roster for coordinating the food. We're looking for someone to look after February, for example. These popular events rely for their success on the willingness of everyone to help out - oh, and of course to bring along superb food!

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## GAA 9'S TOURNAMENT

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Have you been to have a look at the Wellington/Lower Hutt GAA Summer 9s competition yet?

It started on 29 January and games are played at Ian Galloway Park, Northland from about 6:00pm each week.

They are keen to attract new members, and have opportunities for those who haven't played before. And if you have played, but don't belong to a team - never fear, they'll find a spot for you somewhere!

And they have fascinating team names: Where's The Showerpop, Chu Chuallain Wolfhounds, The Garage, The Foggy Dew, Coola Boola, and Alright Dave!

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## ST PATRICK'S DAY, 2014

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This event is always a highlight of our year, and this year should prove to be no exception.

I hope you've got a ring around the date on your calendar already!

I'm saving details of the function for the next Newsletter, so 'Watch this space'!

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## THE FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

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There are a number of items on during this year's International festival of the Arts of particular interest for HVIS members. Check out the following:

Rian - This show is described as "Contemporary dance meets traditional Irish folk and music from around the world in this uplifting show from "one of the most daring and highly original dance theatre companies in the

world" (*The Times*). Find out more, and book at <http://festival.co.nz/rian>

Rhythm and Reels - Join the talented band from *Rian* - including Hothouse Flowers frontman Liam Ó Maonlaí - for a night of lively music and Irish folk sounds. Find out more at <http://festival.co.nz/rhythm-and-reels/>

Paul Brady - See one of Ireland's most enduringly popular songwriters. Paul Brady crosses musical boundaries with ease, defying genre by incorporating folk, rock, blues, traditional Irish and classic pop styles. Find out more at <http://festival.co.nz/paul-brady/>

Shapeshifter 2014 is when Hutt City's beautiful Civic Gardens are brought to life by the sixth *Shapeshifter* outdoor sculpture exhibition. Find out more at <http://festival.co.nz/shapeshifter-2014/>

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## ROSE OF TRALEE

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Don't forget that this annual event is on our horizon already. We'll be looking for our own Rose in late-April, so the hunt will be on from St Patrick's Day. And we're planning a slightly extended selection process this year. So keep your eyes open for the advertising.

And of course if you have friends or family who are eligible to enter, put the word on them! It's a great experience, and an even better prize - the National Rose gets a free trip to Ireland!

And if you're interested the National Final this year will be in Christchurch May 29 - June 1, following the success of their Rose, Judeena Carpenter, in 2013. It's always a fascinating weekend, and well worth the trip.

Please get in touch - [info@roseoftralee.co.nz](mailto:info@roseoftralee.co.nz) or PO Box 31-469, Lower Hutt if you want to know more.

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## ESSAY COMPETITION 2014

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The Consul-General's annual Essay competition for school students is now open. It's open to all permanent New Zealand residents aged 16 and 17, attending school fulltime in the year of entry of the competition. The subject can be Irish history, culture, music, dance, language, heritage. The winner travels to Ireland to attend various Summer School courses. Details are at [www.ireland.co.nz/scholarships-awards](http://www.ireland.co.nz/scholarships-awards).

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## THE HVIS LIBRARY

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Have you had a look at the HVIS Library recently? Didn't know we had one? Well, we have, and it has an eclectic collection of books. They range from coffee-table photo-

books to children's stories, from serious history and political studies to modern popular fiction.

You are welcome to borrow any which take your interest - just put your name and the title borrowed into the notebook on the shelf.

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## IRELAND TRIP - 2016

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Don't forget that we have a group of members busy putting money aside for a trip to Ireland in early 2016. The plan is to be there doing the commemorations of the 1916 Easter Rising. It's not too late to join the group. Just email [trip@huttirish.org.nz](mailto:trip@huttirish.org.nz)

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## CARDS OR MUSIC NIGHTS

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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 second Friday of the month for a casual game of Darts, or the third Friday of the month for our music session. No arranging needed - just turn up!

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## REMEMBERING THE 2013 FEIS

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We had a number of our members competed at the 2013 Feis, which was admirably organised and run by the Wellington Irish Society.

We had youngsters dancing and orating and reciting and declaiming; and some not quite so young speaking.

See <http://www.huttirish.org.nz/feis-2013.html>

And there were a number of our members (like Sean and Declan and Davey, amongst others) who spent their time hitting or kicking balls about the fields!

All in all, HVIS members made their mark on proceedings.

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## CELEBRATING XMAS THE HVIS WAY

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I'm sure you're all back at work or school by now and are feeling like Christmas is just a distant memory. Did you get to one of the Xmas Parties? If you did, you'll know what I mean when I say they were great fun, and up to our usual standard! And if you didn't, shame on you! You'll need to make sure you do next year.

But, never fear, your friendly Comms team is here - and of course we have garnered a few pictures, and a couple of noisy video clips to remind you what all the fun was about.

See [www.huttirish.org.nz](http://www.huttirish.org.nz).

And while I'm about it, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Father Christmas for taking time out from his very busy schedule to put in a special appearance at the HVIS - the kids appreciated it, and so did the parents.