

Mark Your Diaries NOW!

Thursday 13 February	Book Club meeting at HVIS
Friday 14 February	Open Mic evening
Friday 21 February	Mick Talty Memorial Card School
Sunday 23 February	Pot Luck Dinner
Tuesday 17 March	St Patrick's Day
Sunday 29 March	Pot Luck Dinner

COMINGS & GOINGS

It's been a busy wee while!

We're hoping Molly Janes is enjoying the cold in Germany, and is having a worthwhile time.

It was lovely to see Dorothy & Peter McClure back here again and as effervescent as ever!

Desiree Mulligan had a quick trip to London at the end of the year as Jayne developed acute appendicitis while in London. And of course, that necessitated side-trips to Paris & Pisa with Sarah Rose, who was running a marathon in Pisa.

I've yet to hear how the Gahans enjoyed their time in New York – but, I mean: New York! What's not to enjoy? Oh, of course, they were visiting family. So plenty of guides to show them around!

The Paul household has been extra busy recently. Steve is taking his family back to Sweden to ensure they retain citizenship qualifications. And Jerry is finally joining the 'grownup' world and getting married, so we wish him, Josie and Odie all the very best for their family future.

2023 TRIP

A group of HVIS members are already talking about the possibility of a trip to Ireland and Scotland in 2023. The idea is to repeat the immensely successful 2016 trip.

There are no specific proposals, although the initial talk has been of a 2-week bus tour, as in 2016, but this time around Scotland, perhaps beginning in Dublin. It will, of course coincide with a Rugby World Cup to be staged in France. But that's just a coincidence, I assure you!

Email trip@huttirish.org.nz if you're interested in either finding out more, or joining the discussions.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Have you paid your membership subscription for the 2020-2021 year yet? It's never too early. Make payments by **DIRECT CREDIT** to account number: **06-0529-0416815-00**

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).

YOUR LOCAL GAA CLUB

The Wellington/Hutt Valley Gaelic Football & Hurling Association is a growing and active group drawing members from the whole region. All ability levels welcome, with both social and competitive leagues played. Check them out at www.wellingtongaa.com or you can find them on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/WellingtonHuttValleyGFHA/.

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 **Catriona** on **022 0454 209** 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!

PEANUT-FREE

We have a couple of members who have an allergy to peanuts. Exposure to them can have dire effects, so we ask that anyone who brings food to an HVIS function makes sure it does not contain peanuts. Thanks for your co-operation.

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.

Notices:

Find us at:

<http://www.huttirish.org.nz>

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

Don't forget the Club is open every Friday 7.30 p.m. to 1 am, and at other times by request.

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Hutt Valley Irish Society



The Irish Press



Ní thagann ciall roimh

AOIS

(Sense does not come before age)

February, 2020

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome back – it's been a while! And a bit has changed.

Firstly, I've picked up the 'publicity' reins again, now my circumstances have changed. (If you've not heard my shouting from the rooftops, I've now officially retired from paid employment.) And so I have lots of time on my hands, with nothing to idle away the hours... (Yeah right!)

I'd like to acknowledge the absolutely sterling job Shirley has been doing – not only a busy Secretary, but publicist as well. I can vouch for the workload, and I think she deserves a 'round of applause' from us all.

And so wearing my new/old 'hat', I have taken over the management of the email Distribution Lists, and responsibility for the ~~spam~~ messages you're getting each week, about upcoming events.

If you're reading this (& I hope you are, or I'm just wasting my time!), then you will have noticed I have resurrected the 'Monthly Newsletter'. There are a couple of changes – notably that it will ONLY be distributed by email – no hard copies will be posted (I don't have *that* much time!).

But, while I will be sending it as an email message, a PDF version will also be attached, for those who like to print it and perhaps put it on their fridge door for reference.

And of course you're welcome to pass it on and 'spread the word'!

Lastly, I am happy to receive material you think could/should be included in either the weekly 'reminder' messages and/or the monthly Newsletters. If you have something to offer, please write (with all the details) to me at publicity@huttirish.org.nz or bryan@huttirish.org.nz. Please **DO NOT** use the 'reply to all' function to this message!

Finally, please don't be fooled – I don't know everything about the Club; I'm just good at pretending!

Until next time ...

Bryan (Cavanman) Mulligan

HVIS Publicity

PS: I'm sure you'll all be relieved to know I have added Leanna's address to our Distribution List!

A REQUEST FROM THE EMBASSY

We have received the following request from Ambassador Peter Ryan, at the Embassy:

"One year in from the opening the [Embassy of Ireland in Aotearoa New Zealand](#), we are asking for the help of HVIS members to help us to better understand the Irish community here. Ireland has a long and fascinating

history in New Zealand and we are keen to capture and share stories.

The Embassy of Ireland has teamed up with the [Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies](#) at the University of Otago, who have designed two short surveys to capture the Irish story in New Zealand.

We would be delighted if members of the HVIS could take a few minutes to complete the survey and share your experiences, stories and thoughts on what we can do in New Zealand!

Visit <https://www.friendsofireland.co.nz/survey>

Now that sounds like an interesting idea. Take a look, why don't you?

FRIENDS OF IRELAND

And speaking of 'friends of Ireland', have a look at their website - www.friendsofireland.co.nz. An initiative of the Embassy of Ireland, they hope you "find this platform an informative and openspace for 'Friends of Ireland' in New Zealand to share stories, news, events, as well as connect with one another."

Of particular interest, may be the "Events" section. Get a flavour of what's going on around the country.

OPEN MIC NIGHTS

Late last year we began a regular series of 'open mic' evenings. They are designed to invite those with a talent for singing, or talking, to share their talent with a small but supportive audience.

They are on the 2nd Friday of each month, and the format is VERY informal. Anyone present is welcome to join in, in whatever capacity they choose – to sing, tell jokes, recite a poem, or just listen!

You don't have to stand in the front, nor give a 'performance'; we tend to sit in a circle and welcome anyone who wishes to join in.

Why not drop in and see what it's like – you never know, all that singing in the shower may finally bring some acclaim!

When: 2nd Friday of the month – anytime from 7:30pm

Where: HVIS

ST PATRICK'S DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Bernie Breslin has reminded me it's *THAT* time of year again! He tells me the format is the same as previous years, but in case you've forgotten (or don't know):

It's held at Te Marua Golf Club in Upper Hutt on Tuesday 17 March. It's a 9.30am shot gun start; entry fee of \$40, which covers your game, a light lunch, and prizes and a Lucky Cash

Draw. Breakfast is available at the course from 8am if anyone wants it.

You need to register, so call Bernie Breslin on 04 526 9835 or 027 5269 835 as early as possible.

CAPITAL IRISH

Have you ever listened to the Capital Irish radio show? Wellington is blessed to be home to Access Radio, a station "that's by, for, and about our community, funded primarily by NZ On Air".

It plays host to a diverse and eclectic range of shows, amongst which is "Capital Irish", hosted by local people, including our own Finbarr Murray and Alice Paul.

Pre-recorded, the show is broadcast every Sunday from midday-12.30pm. But if that doesn't suit, you can stream it from their website after broadcast at www.accessradio.org.nz/capital-irish

BOOK CLUB

A group of HVIS members has formed a "Book Club". They read an agreed book, selected by one of the group, and then, once a month, they get together at HVIS to talk about the book and their reactions to it.

Their next gathering is Thursday 13 February (7pm) at the Club, and it's open to all, whether you've read the book or not. If you want to know more about it, email desiree@huttirish.org.nz or call her on 021 727 835.

POT LUCK DINNERS

Pot Luck Dinners continue this year as before. Indeed, last Sunday was the first of the year!

Which means the next one will be at the end of February – Sunday 23rd.

But each month needs a 'Host' family. If you're more or less a 'regular', why not take your turn as 'Host'? It's not difficult, and there is plenty of guidance and help.

Offer your name (& preferred month) for the roster for 2020 by writing to Lynn O'Toole at bookings@huttirish.org.nz.

MERCHANDISE

We have a range of T-Shirts for sale for just \$30.



They have slogans to bring a smile to Irish eyes.

Place an order with Darren on 021 029 32132.

