

Mark Your Diaries NOW!

Sunday 23 February	Pot Luck Dinner
Friday 7 March	Darts night
Tuesday 11 March	Parliament Luncheon
Thursday 13 March	Book Club
Sunday 16 March	St Patrick's Day Parade
Sunday 16 March	Welcome to Minister of State
Monday 17 March	St Patrick's Day
Monday 17 March	Golf @ Judgeford

COMINGS & GOINGS

I hear that Clair & Des Boyle are facing some health challenges at present. We're thinking of you both!

I would ask that all Members take a moment to remember those we have lost during this past year. The passing of each of our elderly leaves a gap of wisdom, friendship, experience, and collective memory.

It was wonderful to welcome the newest HVIS member at the February Pot Luck. Aislinn & Brendan introduced 3-week-old **Dermot**, who was watched over by Gretel and Emmet (& 2 VERY careful grand-parents!)

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2024-25!

Our thanks to those who've already paid their Subscription. For everyone else:

1. See the [website for Subscription rates](#)
2. Make payments by **DIRECT CREDIT** to account number **06-0529-0416815-00**. (Use your **family name** as the reference (or your phone number if you have to use numbers))
3. Tell us you've paid by [completing the Renewal Form](#).

You're of course welcome to invite friends to the Club, but when you do, why not suggest they join up? Especially if they are more or less 'regular' visitors. We have forms at the Club for new members, and the subscription rates are *LOW*!

POT LUCK ORGANISERS 2024

Download the [CHECKLIST](#)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



HVIS runs on the efforts of VOLUNTEERS. So we're always looking for people to help out. Which means it is time for you to ask yourself: *What can I do to help?* Working in the

Kitchen, cleaning, catering, helping with events, music, opening up, lighting, publicity, social media management, maintenance, governance. Any / all of the above? Do you have an idea for a specific event? Can you organise it?

Could you help out on the **Management Committee**? All positions from President to Committee Members are up for election at the **AGM** in June. Give it some thought!

What about **helping behind the Bar**? We have a small group of volunteers, but "the more the merrier"! We'll be employing staff for St Patrick's Day, but there is plenty of scope to help at other times, especially **Fridays**, & other **Functions**.

Let us know [how you can help](#).

REMINDER

If you're meeting friends or guests at the Club, they need to sign the Visitors' Book when they arrive.

COUNTY GAZETTEER

Vital stats for each Irish County

County Kerry / Contae Chiarraí

Province: Munster

County town: Tralee

Area: 1,856 sq mi (4,807 km²) (Rank: 5th)

Highest elevation (Carruntoohil): 3,409 ft (1,039 m)

Population (2022): 156,458 (Rank: 15th)

Motto(s): **Comhar, Cabhair, Cairdeas** (*Co-operation, Help, Friendship*)

Nickname: The Kingdom

Website: [Kerry County Council](#)



Notices:

Find us at:

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

Keep in touch at:

On Twitter, look for [@huttirish](#).

On Instagram, look for [huttirish](#).

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/huttvalleyirish

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

DÍ TÍR SAN TEANSA

(There is no nation without a language)

February, 2025

WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR!

2024 was a busy, and generally successful year, with a wide range of activities and functions, with good attendances at HVIS events.

We have also seen some significant losses from our community.

To our members, thank for your continuing support of HVIS, and we hope to see you all sooner rather than later in 2025 at **YOUR** Club.

NEW YEAR, NEW EVENTS PROGRAMME

The New Year is well underway, and we have a busy programme of events and activities for the year ahead.

We'll make sure you are kept well advised of what's coming up, but keep an eye out, especially, for events to mark St Brigid's Day, and in the leadup to St Patricks Day, "Remembering Family Stories" evenings, Quiz Nights, and Golf Tournaments. And we're continuing the usual Pot Luck dinners and Friday evening sessions.

POT LUCK DINNERS

We're starting the year as we mean to go on – with a 'bang'!

Our first Pot Luck Dinner for the year marked **St Brigid's Day**, with a pleasing turnout.

But the momentum is building and the February evening was **BUSY!** - a strong presence of families and youngsters. Lots of noise, hustle and bustle, and navigating the carpark was tricky as it became a race-track for scooters and skaters!

And Alice Paul's **Children's Singing Group** gave us a lovely wee performance - with a rousing and engaging version of *Ireland's Call*.

It was a fun summer evening - let's hope the weather holds for the next few weeks!



BARLEYSHAKES!



We were on holiday on the day of the Concert, but reports indicate that the Club was packed, and the crowd thoroughly engaged with some great performances. David Duffy tells me he has both video & photos, so when he's completed his processing and found a few moments to pass them on, I'm keen to share them with those who weren't able to be there in person.

Watch this space!

ST PATRICK'S DAY, 2024!

Just in case you've not yet noticed, St Patrick's Day this year is on a **MONDAY!**

One of the consequences of this is that Wellington Irish Society is staging their Parade on **Sunday 16 March**.

PARADE

Like last year's successful event, the Parade **begins** about **1pm**, and will wend its way to **Queens Wharf**, under the Sails.

The **Concert** starts about **1.30pm**, and will go on until about 4pm, with a wide range of performances, including our own *HVIS Children's Singing Group*.

Of course, they need helpers throughout the day, so if you're able to lend a hand, [contact them](#) ASAP.

As in previous years they welcome people joining in, so in particular if you have kids, why not give it a go?

And if you feel in need of refreshing drink afterwards, **HVIS** will be **open** throughout the evening.

SO WHAT'S ON AT HVIS?

A State Visitor

We are welcoming **Minister of State Jerry Buttimer** at HVIS after the Concert on the Waterfront on **Sunday 16 March**. Jerry has responsibility for Community Development, Charities, and Rural Transport.



He plans to spend an hour or two at HVIS and is keen to meet a cross-section of our Members. So come along and help him get to know the vibrant Irish community in our part of the world.

The Day Itself

The Management Committee are finalising the arrangements, but a few things are already settled:

- ✦ We'll be open from **EARLY AFTERNOON** as well the **EVENING**
- ✦ There will be **CANOPIES** up **OUTSIDE** for shade
- ✦ **Kids' GAMES** will be available
- ✦ **The BAR** will be open inside
- ✦ Food AT **DINNER-TIME** – stew, potatoes, cabbage & bacon
- ✦ **KIDS PERFORMANCES** – singing, recitations
- ✦ **IRISH DANCING** demonstration
- ✦ Live **MUSIC** – *Shindig* will do their thing!



AND ELSEWHERE?

Parliament Luncheon

Join the **Tara Trust, Friends of Ireland** in Wellington on **March 11, 2025**, for an exclusive celebration of the strong ties between Ireland and New Zealand at their **Parliament Luncheon** gala event.

This is an excellent opportunity to 'network' as part of the wider Irish-New Zealand business community, **BUT** you need to [book your place](#).



The **Annual St Patrick's Day Golf Tournament** is being held at Judgeford Golf Course; Registration from **8am**, with Shotgun start at **9.30am**. Entry costs **\$45** (includes a light lunch). Help them out with catering & player numbers by registering with match@jgc.nz or call (04) 235 7633. Download the attached [Flyer](#) and [Entry Form](#).

The prestigious **Wellington Cup** will be presented to the winner at HVIS during the evening.

ROSE OF TRALEE

We are still keen to hear from anyone interested in entering the Rose of Tralee – an event which is a celebration of young women of Irish birth or descent. Entrants will go the National Final in May, at which a NZ Rose will be selected to represent the country at the International Festival in Tralee, Co Kerry, in August.

The entry criteria are on the [Rose website](#).

If you, or someone you know, would like to enter, [get in touch](#).

BOOK CLUB

"Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else's shoes for a while." - Malorie Blackman

The Book Club is holding its next meeting on **Thursday 13 March**, from 7.30 pm. Their selection is **Babel – An Arcane History** by **R F Kuang**. If you're interested in joining the group, or maybe starting your own, get a copy of the book to read, and just turn up to their session.

