

Mark Your Diaries NOW!

Friday 16 May	Music night
Sunday 25 May	SPECIAL GENERAL MTG
Sunday 25 May	Pot Luck Dinner
Friday 6 June	Darts night
Thursday 12 June	Book Club

COMINGS & GOINGS

Eleanor O'Toole has left on her "OE" – we wish her safe travels and an early return.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 25-26!

Our thanks to those who've already paid their Subscription. Now is also the time to renew your membership of HVIS for the financial year beginning 1 April 2025:

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!** And remember: an **AUTOMATIC PAYMENT** is Easy as ...!

POT LUCK ORGANISERS

Our thanks to those who have volunteered to 'host' one of monthly Pot Luck Dinners. These remain one of our most popular events. Download the Hosts' [CHECKLIST](#)

REMINDER

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

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](#).

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 25 May at 3.00pm.

It's a time for all of us to **FOCUS ON THE IMPORTANT**, and put aside the **URGENT** for a while.

COUNTY GAZETTEER

Vital stats for each Irish County

County Laois / Contae Laoise

Province: Leinster

County town: Portlaoise

Area: 660 sq mi (1,720 km²) (Rank: 23rd)

Highest elevation (Arderin): 1,729 ft (527 m)

Population (2022): 91,657 (Rank: 23rd)

Motto(s): *bpáirt leis an bpobal* "In partnership with the community"

Nickname: The O'Moore County

Website: [Laois County Council](#); [Laois Tourism](#)



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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12 Raroa Rd, Lower Hutt, Phone: (04) 569-6139

info@huttirish.org.nz

Hutt Valley Irish Society



The Irish Press

Beaḡān a rā agus ē a
rā ḡo maith.

(Say little but say it well.)

RAFFLE

Thanks again to Margaret Ricketts we were able to raffle a magnificent **Gift Basket**, at Easter.

The draw was performed by a member who hadn't got around to buying a ticket (it took us a while to find someone!!).

And the Winner? Well, let's just say I have discovered that **John O'Toole** has a **VERY** sweet tooth!



SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Financial Members will have received formal advice of a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING, to which they, and everyone else, is invited.

The meeting has been called to consider a **revised Constitution** for HVIS. We need to complete this task before 6 April 2026 in order to continue to comply with the requirements of the *Incorporated Societies Act 2022*.

While the changes required of our Constitution (or Rules) won't fundamentally change what we do or how we do it, there are some 'new' provisions, and some which formalise our current practices.

Financial members were sent a copy of the proposed or draft Constitution and some 'Qs and As' when they received the Notice of the Meeting.

If you weren't a Financial Member at that time, or you're just interested in what's proposed, you can see the [proposed Constitution](#), and the [Qs and As](#) on our website.

But please remember: while you're able to attend the Meeting, **ONLY CURRENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS** are able to cast a vote.

This matter requires careful consideration, and the input of as many HVIS members as possible, so please make a special effort to be at the Club by **3.00pm** on **Sunday 25 May**. The regular Pot Luck will occur as usual afterwards.

CALLING HVIS SINGERS

The irrepressible **Alice Paul** has made an offer to run some sessions at HVIS for those who would like to be able to sing in a choir-like setting.

Her idea is to have a group of "singers" get together under her tutelage to learn (initially) 2 songs – one in Irish, and a second an Irish song sung in English. As confidence (and competence) improves, the repertoire could be extended.

She was quick to point out, to my stammered "*But I can't sing!*" that "**Everyone can sing in a choir!**"

Her suggestion is that the sessions are once-a-month, on the 3rd Thursday evening at the Club from about 7.30pm.

If this idea appeals to you, [send Alice an email](#) or call (or txt!) her on **021 2288 293**.

CULTURAL FESTIVAL IN UPPER HUTT

Put a ring around the date : **13 SEPTEMBER, 2025!**

HVIS is co-ordinating an **Irish Cultural Extravaganza** at **Brewtown, in Upper Hutt**.

We're planning to have

- ✦ Live Music
- ✦ Dancing exhibition
- ✦ Gaelic Football and Hurling demonstrations
- ✦ Irish Bread Making
- ✦ Ceili
- ✦ Tourism information
- ✦ Genealogical assistance

and anything more we can find volunteers to help with.

There will be food and drink, of course, and fun for kids!

And if you think you'd like to 'lend a hand', or have an idea for an activity, [send Darren a message](#) or text him on **021 02932131**.

HV FOOD BANK

We've all seen the news stories about the demands on local Food Banks. I thought it was time we did something to help our community.

So I have a challenge for you: when you prepare your contribution to our next Pot Luck Dinner, **add to it a contribution for the Food Bank**.

They say the "Most Needed Items" are:

Breakfast cereal, Jam / peanut butter, Tinned fruit & vegies, Rice / pasta, Tinned fish, Baked beans / spaghetti, Sugar, Milk powder, Coconut milk, Flour, Toilet rolls, Soap, Laundry powder, Baby formula & food

You decide what, drop it in the marked box at the Club – we'll deliver it!

PAISTI POST



Christchurch Irish Society produces a magazine aimed at children (young adults?) a couple of times each year, and send us a bundle 'hot off the press!' You can find them on the table by the entrance.

So, if you have youngsters, you're invited to take a copy for yourself, at no cost to you or to HVIS!

HVIS LIBRARY?

We have invested some money in buying a number of books written for specifically children.

Unfortunately, these appear to have been quite popular. If you have them, **please return them** so they can be enjoyed by others.



ANZAC DAY



I am always impressed by the way our youngsters conduct themselves at the Anzac Day ceremony.

This year **Aedan** and **Alena** laid the wreath (again created for us by **Margaret Ricketts**) on our behalf in memory of Irish men & women who lost their lives in armed conflict. There is, of course, a small

[collection of photos](#).

NATIONAL IRISH CLUB

I recently came across a letter from an Irishman living in New Zealand to the Irish government. One of the curious things about the letter was that it was on letterhead paper:



The letterhead was that of the "Irish National Club, PO Box 1538, Wellington". The letter was dated 29/5/1934.

So my question to you all is: **What do you know or remember about the "Irish National Club"?** Do you recall hearing stories about it, or people associated with it, or have photos or newspaper clippings about their activities, or any other 'memorabilia' associated with the "Irish National Club" you are able to share.

Please get in touch with me, preferably [by email](#).

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 12 June**, from 7.30 pm. Their selection is **The History of Bees** by **Maja Lunde**. 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.

