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NEWSLETTER FOR THE DUNEDIN BURNS CLUB MAY 2 2018

WEBSITE: www.dbci.blogtown.co.nz

2018 AGM: The Annual General Meeting will be held at 3 pm on Wednesday 16 May 2018 at 12 Royal Terrace, Dunedin. To enable sufficient seating to be set out, could members of the Club planning to attend the AGM please let Ann Barsby know in advance by phoning 479 0169 or by sending an E-mail to: barsby.ann@icloud.com.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF THE CLUB IN 2018:

(i) *2017 Unesco Dunedin City of Literature Poetry Robert Burns Poetry Competition:* The competition was judged by Elena Poletti and Craig Cliff.

PUBLISHED POETS CATEGORY

Sponsored by Royden and Lee Somerville and the Otago Scottish Heritage Council

1st Place: Jill O'Brien (Dunedin), *Reply from the Lassies*

2nd Place: Peter Matheson (Dunedin), *The Birdie*

3rd Place: Colin Gibson (Dunedin), *A New Ballad in the Manner of Robbie Burns*

Highly Commended: Beverly Martens (Dunedin), *Wading Through Scottish Burns*

UNPUBLISHED POETS CATEGORY

Sponsored by the Dunedin Public Libraries Association (Friends of the Library)

1st Place: Peter Sutton (Nelson), *Address to the New Deil*

2nd Place: Ella Robinson (Dunedin), *She Kens*

3rd Place: Victoria Stewart (Gisborne), *Ode to Facebook*

YOUNG POETS CATEGORY

Sponsored by the Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society

1st Place: Belle Williams (Dunedin), *No More*

Joint 2nd Place: Fletcher Kopua (Blenheim), *Weka*; Angus Kopua (Blenheim), *Falcon*

3rd Place: Serena Cheng (Sydney), *When There Was a Bird*

Reply from the Lassies by Jill O'Brien

1st place winner in the Published Poets category of the 2017 UNESCO Dunedin City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition

(A song to the tune of 'The Caledonian Hunt' by James Miller - the same tune used for 'Ye Banks and Braes')

O, luve is deep as the Lochs o' the Hielands
Yet shaul 'tis yer heart as yon mou' o the Doon Fou or
sober, a meare to ride hame on

Ye wax and ye wane likes o' Lammas moon
To Elisa and Jenny, Nancy and Anna
Nell and Peggy, Jeanie and May

Ye argie tha lassies an luve gae wi poesy
But Ah argie lassies an luve gae wi weans!

Ye blaw yer ain dochter is bonie an' sweet Sa' ye'll dote like a Daddie shuid dae
Yet houghmagandie is yours fae the takin' An suin your dochter becomes twa three Ye rew ye luve
them, O flichtering burdies Scribev your queel sae tendirly
But wha is liltin' ilka balilliloo
An kittlin' thaim gently frae their first skreigh?
Ye claver o luve and simmer morn Ye haiver o dewy kisses stole
An sa' she's braw as the wildflow'r meadows Yer bonie, blythe lassie, luve of a'
But efter threapin wi ye she's sleepin' An whan her tears leave seas o' saut
When nae means nae, but naeboddy's listenin' Ye bled her heart when awa' ye walk'd

English translation:

Reply From the Lasses #MeToo

Oh, love is as deep as the Lochs of the Highlands Yet your heart is shallow like the mouth of the
Doon Drunken or sober, a mare to ride home on
You wax and you wane like the Harvest moon To Elisa and Jenny, Nancy and Anna
Nell and Peggy, Jeanie and May
You argue that women and love go with poetry But I argue women and love go with bairns!
You boast your own daughter is pretty and sweet You say that you'll dote like a father should do Yet
hanky panky is yours for the taking
and soon your one daughter becomes quite a few You smile you love them, O fluttering fledglings
You write about them so tenderly
Yet who is singing each lullaby
and cuddling them gently from their first cry?
You chatter of love and summer morn You patter of dewy kisses stole
you say she's as pretty as wildflower meadows your bonnie, blithe lassie, love of all
But after insisting with you she must sleep And when her tears leave seas of salt When no means no
but nobody's listening
You broke her heart when away you walked

**Below is the information that contributed to the historical facts within the poem, taken from
'What Happened to Robert Burns' Women?' by Steven Brocklehurst' (abridged)**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-30878982>

There were at least three cases where Robert Burns's liaisons resulted in an illegitimate child. These women were all servants of one type or another, as were many women in Scotland at the end of the 18th century. How did they cope when they found themselves in-service, unmarried and pregnant? Burns's first child was with his family's own farm servant, Elizabeth Paton. Burns chose not to marry Elizabeth Paton, though he did take his child into his family and she was raised by his mother. By the time his first illegitimate child was born in May 1785, Burns had begun his complicated on-off relationship with Jean Armour. Before the end of the year she was pregnant with his child, though they would not marry until 1788, after the birth of her second child. Jean and Robert had nine children together, the last of whom was born on the day of his funeral in July 1796.
casualties and Burns knew that, though he may have avoided sometimes facing up to it fully."

The Birdie by Peter Matheson

Second place winner in the Published Poets category of the 2017 UNESCO Dunedin City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition

At utmaist streek o' day
Afore the dawn, afore the sun
Wid drench the world
Wi' lightsome warmth,
Yon birdie's wide awake,
Fillin' the lift wi' sang.
In this quate neuk o' toun

Hir wee hert's fit tae birst
Wi' a' the joys o' Spring.
Each bright-eyed dawnin' day
She brings guid cheer tae honest fowk;
Warrands the waefu' dark is gone,
God's licht is streaming in,
We're nae mair hodden doun.

Tho' wicket ruffyans
Wad mak us all afleyd,
Slaирг hettred, fear an' hurt,
Haiver o' doom an' ugsome muck
Plant bombs, kill friendlyk fowk,
Turn life tae deith, an' licht tae mirk;
Gie ower that ghaist,
We willnae be affeird!
Yon birdie's braw, bricht sang reverberates:
Her glitterin' ee an' jaunty walk
Derides Auld Nick's dreid pact with deith;
They wilnae win, nae niver, niver, nae!
My bonny bird, we'll heed yir sang
O' life and luve an' carefree days.
Far frae the reek o' honest toil,
High heid yins are in a dwahm,
Brows creasèd sair a' roun' the world,
Lest muckle hate defile oor homes,
Wan bludie deed beget anither.
If onlie oor twa leggèd fowk
Wid larn tae stott along the roofs,

Fluff oot thir claes, an' clear thir throat;
As guid men an' wimin doun the years,
Swore solemnly they'd niver be affeird,
Seein' yon bird, an' minding the soul
That flies sae blithe an' free.
Let's mock sic loons wi' spirlin' sang
An' dang doun deith.

A New Ballad in the Manner of Robbie Burns by Colin Gibson

***3rd place winner in the Published Poets category of the 2017 UNESCO Dunedin City of L
Robert Burns Poetry Competition***

(? from The Merrie Muses of Caledonia)

What ails ye, Wullie, pur wee mann?
Ye hang sae far a-doune,
And ye ha' shrivelled so awa,
We scarce can see your croune.
My luve is in a far countree,
And I hae cause to pine,
For thogh I crave her kisses sweet

I canna mak her mine.
What lifts ye, Wullie, to such heights,
As ye wuld pierce the skies,
Stiff-standin there, in sic gude cheer,
Ane sight for greedy eyes.
Though she may be sae far fro me,
Nae langer need I pine:
Last nicht, beneath the am'rous mune,
I dreamt that she was mine.
What swells ye, Wullie, to such size?
Ye hang a-doun nae more,
But red and stoot ye stand right oot,
As onie granite tor.
My luve's a-bed wi' me, wi' me!
Let all the wuld be thine;
I hold her in my luvng arms,
And she's for ever mine.
What wull ye an' your Rose sae fair,
Wi' all your main and might?
Pray lat us in, and we'll begin
Ta keek at your delight.
The play betwixt we twa, my friends,
Is nocht for uthers' sicht;
I draw the curtains, neighbours al,
An' wish ye so gude nicht!

Sonnet - Address to the New Deil (Government) by Peter Sutton

1st place winner of the Unpublished category of the UNESCO Dunedin City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition

Oh Thou ! whatever title doth suit thee,
Labour, New Zealand First or even Green,
You still have the power o'er folk like me
For good or ill which is as yet unseen.
For nine long years, when National was thy name
We seemed powerless to change thy course,
Thy policies oft led us to complain
But now thy chariot has another horse
And another rider, or two, or three,
; With fulsome promises of great change,
The results of which we have yet to see
Though we must doubt they lie within thy range.
I've often heard my reverend Grannie say
In lonely lanes like these thou likes to stray..

She Kens by Ella Robinson

2nd place winner in the Unpublished category of the 2017 UNESCO Dunedin City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition

She kens

Ye ken th' lassie ah speak o',
her wi' th' winsome smile,
th' danc'er kind, wha reels yer mind an' holts yer hert awhile.
Ye ken th' circle-gatherer,
th' yin wi' worldly weys,
th' sangster kind, wha fills yer mind wi' wurds o' warmer days.
Her een thay haud me saft, sae saft, her, wi' ready laughter,
she kens fou weel she's catcht ma quill, an' ma love close efter.

Ode to Facebook by Victoria Stewart

3rd place winner in the Unpublished poet category of the 2017 UNESCO Dunedin City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition

Ode to Facebook

You sneaky bugger, you're in my head. I even check you from my bed.
With wondrous posting overnight, Or through the day.
No flummox then my sleep is light, And hair's gone grey.
There's much updating; selfy-making; How oft it seems my friends are mating! But oh! I wonder if they sleep,
So much they're doing!
As often as they seem to eat; They'll ne'er stop chewing.
A fool: for days my life I've shirked, Too long indeed since I have worked. For here is love and I can heart it!
Sweet sating Feed.
Emojis, hashtags, grand emotions: Heed, Share and seed.
But now I'm scared I've missed the boat. While I just lived - I didn't gloat!
I never told it to yourself, These things I feel.
So now I'm lacking Likes and wealth From living reel.
Won't status updates improve my mettle? Let Folks believe I'm in fine fettle?
And not just sitting on my lonesome, With eyes on theirs.
Just wishing for a life more wholesome: That ne'er compares.
Here's to dating, dining, trips abroad, The winning of the odd award.

They post it all - it seems divine: In all its glories.
Oh Facebook, would that it were mine, This stuff of stories.

No More by Belle Williams

1st place winner of the Young Poets category of the 2017 UNESCO Dunedin City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition

When the pain goes in the blood seeps out
my mind is drunk but my body is sober
the air is clear yet i choke on everything
my eyesight is perfect yet my life is a blur
i know i'll grow old yet death is at my door
happiness comes naturally yet it feels like a drug
my wounds have healed and half my heart
my mind has stated working but not too fast
i've started to breath now the glassiest of air
my eyes like fogged windows now starting to clear
my knowledge of growing has cleared my doors

i learnt how to smile no drugs anymore
my pain is no longer no blood shed to clear
my mind is sharp without a care
the air i breath now is the purest of all
the windows my eyes have brightened to full
my doors have now opened to the thought of age
i no longer need medication to be in gauged

Weka by Fletcher Kopua

Equal 2nd place winner, of the Young Poets category of the 2017 UNESCO Dunedin City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition

The sound as sweet as some one whistling. Stealing peoples stuff that's as cheeky as a kea.
Its brown feathers is as brown as a brown hog.
As curious as a hungry looking bear.
The beak as sharp as a straightened sword. This creature is often found around huts.

Falcon by Angus Kopua

Equal 2nd place winner of the Young Poets category of the 2017 UNESCO Dunedin City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition

Slicing,tearing and ripping up his prey
None of the animals in the area have the courage to stay
Slowly rising up into the air
Zooming back down to make animals cower with fear
His yellow beak glinting in the sun Flapping,gliding and soaring away to have some more fun
Gracefully gliding through the sky Descending down to eat his kai

When There Was a Bird by Serena Cheng

3rd place winner of the Young Poets category of the UNESCO Dunedin City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition

There was a bird flying over my head,
We don't know who is it,
We can't be its host,

But, we can have a cat or a dog,
Our happy days.

(ii) *Burns Song Section in the Senior Vocal Festival of the Performing Arts Society competition:* This went well. The Club supported the section with prizes totally \$250. The winner of the 2017 competition, held on 21 September 2017, was Harry Grigg singing, unaccompanied, *Flow gently sweet Afton*, and Beth Goulston was placed second. No third prize was awarded. Four entrants participated in the class.

(iii) *Robbie Rocks Dunedin 2018:* The Club donated \$250 for the People's Choice Award of Robbie Rocks Dunedin 2018 run by Toitu Otago Settlers Museum. The open competition was won by Maddy Parkins-Craig with her rendition of *Forlorn, My Love, No Comfort Near* and the people's choice went to Boaz Anema for his enthusiastic performance of *My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose*. Logan Park pupil Sasha Freeman (16) was the judges' pick in the youth category with her take on *Comin' Thro' the Rye*. A online video report of the event is available at <https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/bringing-burns-new-age>

(iv) *St Andrew's day celebrations in the Octagon 26 November 2017:* The Club held a stall in the Octagon which was well received. The best dressed teddy bear raffle, of a bear donated by Debbie Williams, raised \$30 for the Club. The celebrations, organized by the Dunedin Edinburgh Sister

Society, of which Daphne Macleod is a committee member, included a porridge eating competition, highland games events for children, an address to the haggis and musical items. The celebrations for 2018 will be held on Sunday 25 November 2018.

(v) *St Andrews day luncheon at Robbies 30 November 2017*. The Taieri Scottish Society's dinner at Robbies Restaurant, King Edward Street, South Dunedin on 30 November 2017 went well. Jane Brown, Honorary President of the Robert Burns World Federation, addressed the group.

(vi) *Robert Burns Annual Lecture 2017*. The lecture was been postponed from 30 November and will now be given by Liam, at a later date.

(vii) *Burns Dinner 2018*. The 2018 Dinner at Toitu Otago Settlers Museum was well received. Approximately 160 attended. Alan Jackson's *The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns* toast on Burns on the rights of man (and woman) was clearly heard by all. Lisa Scott was entertaining and a substantial part of her *Toast to the Lassies* was subsequently republished [in the ODT on 29 January 2018]. Harry Grieg's sang unaccompanied, a traditional way in which the songs of Burns were sung. Beth Goulston also sang and combined with Harry for a duet. The Scottish Heritage Council Quaich trophy was received on behalf of the Gunn Clan by Julie Marshall. The front page of the *Otago Daily Times* on 25 January had a photo of Donna Young preparing to address the haggis at the Burns dinner and the issue also included a comprehensive report of the poetry competition with several photos in the Arts section.

(viii) *Burns Dinner 2019*. It was planned to hold the 2019 Burns Supper in the Town Hall in conjunction with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the University of Otago. An attendance of 300–400 is envisaged with tables being set out and room left for dancing in front of the stage. The function will be on Friday 25 January 2019 and an early marking of diaries is encouraged. The University was created by a committee led by Thomas Burns, son of Robert's brother Gilbert, and officially established by an ordinance of the Otago Provincial Council in 1869. The Burns Supper in 2019 will be first Town-Gown celebration for the University's sesquicentennial celebrations.

(ix) *Robert Burns Association of the Pacific Rim*: Our president, Dr Royden Somerville, was elected President of the Robert Burns Association of the Pacific Rim at the AGM in Melbourne in October 2016 and the Club is hopeful that Dunedin will again host another AGM of the Association, having previously done so in 2014. Currently, the Dunedin Burns Club is the only member Club from New Zealand but it is was hoped that the Wanganui, Auckland, Adelaide clubs and some other groups in Australia will also join.

(x) *Otago Scottish Heritage Council*: The Otago Scottish Heritage Council is an umbrella organization for creative and social groups throughout Otago celebrating the heritage and culture of Scotland. The website of the Council at www.oshc.org.nz has links to information about 26 of



Photo from Burns Chronicle 2018, p.137.

Jane Brown with her Honorary President's medal and certificate.

these groups as well as an *In memoriam* section and current and past OSHC newsletters. The Council, now chaired by Royden, has regular monthly meetings with interesting speakers. It is well attended by representatives of many Scottish organizations.

(xi) *Kirkin of the tartan*. The Kirkin of the tartan ceremony at Knox Church, George Street, at 10 am on Sunday 3 December 2017 went well with a good turn out. Sheila Wall, Clan Gunn, presented information on tartans. It has been suggested that it be held this year on Sunday 18 November 2018, a week before the St Andrew's celebrations in the Octagon on Sunday 25 November 2018, in order to avoid clashing with the Santa Parade.

(xii) *50Dundas event*: The Club members were invited to a Dunedin Folk Club (formerly New Edinburgh Folk Club) musical evening "Tangle and friends in an evening of Scottish delights" which was held at Dunedin's acoustic space at 50 Dundas Street at 7.30 pm on Friday 23 February 2018. It included renditions of songs by Burns performed by Tangle (Bob Scott, Inge Andrew, Bill Morris, Anna Bowen and Lynn Vare).

(xiii) *Treasurer's report*: Frances Brodie, Treasurer, and Murray Venables B Comm, ACA, ACIS, Assistant Treasurer, will present the financial performance and balance sheets at the AGM. The reports will then be filed on the Club's website at www.dbcj.blogtown.co.nz

(xiv) *Robert Burns World Federation*: The Club continued its membership of the Robert Burns World Federation and is listed in the 2018 Burns Chronicle as one on 10 clubs in the "Rest of World" section.

Rest of World

Auckland Robert Burns Association

Bendigo & Dist Caledonian Soc Inc

Buenos Aires Tartan Army

Burns Club of Launceston

Canberra Highland Society & Burns Club

Dunedin Burns Club

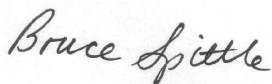
Fremantle Burns Club

Robert Burns Club of Melbourne

Robert Burns Assoc of the Pacific Rim

Wanganui River City Robert Burns Club

(xv) *Lapel badges*. At a committee meeting on 28 February 2018 it was agreed that a small and a large lapel badge would be sent, on a complimentary basis, to all the members of the Club, both existing and new members..



Bruce Spittle, Secretary.