



**Secretary-Treasurer: Bruce Spittle, 727 Brighton Road, Ocean View, Dunedin 9035; E-mail: [spittle727@gmail.com](mailto:spittle727@gmail.com); Phone/Fax:03 4811418**

**MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DUNEDIN BURNS CLUB  
WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2019, 3 PM, 12 ROYAL TERRACE, DUNEDIN  
WEBSITE: [www.dbc.blogtown.co.nz](http://www.dbc.blogtown.co.nz)**

*Present:* Bev Allen, Wayne Allen, Ann Barsby, Frances Brodie, Daphne MacLeod, Jack McLeod, Royden Somerville and Bruce Spittle.

*1. Apologies:* Apologies were unanimously sustained from David and Janice Crerar; Roberta Forbes; Raymond Goodfellow; Peter, Morag, Alexandrina and Isabella Grant; and Alan and Mary MacLean.

*2. Welcome and review of the year's activities:* The President, Royden Somerville, welcomed everyone to the AGM and reported on the activities of the Club over the past year.

#### **DUNEDIN BURNS CLUB AGM 2019 - PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

It is my pleasure to present the annual report of the Dunedin Burns Club for the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 10th July 2019.

I wish to remember Debbie Williams on the occasion of this meeting. Sadly Debbie died in 2018. Debbie served on the committee for several years. She was a poet, and indeed one of her poems was submitted to the 2019 Robert Burns Poetry Competition. We also recall her gifting of a teddy bear at the St Andrew's Day celebrations in the Octagon on the 26th November 2017 which raised \$30 as part of a raffle.

Thank you to Ann Barsby for her generous hospitality in hosting the committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting in her lovely home at 12 Royal Terrace, Dunedin. I also wish to thank the committee for its sterling support of the Club's activities over the past year, with a particular thank you to our Acting Secretary, Dr Bruce Spittle, for his service to the Club. Bruce's work with the newsletter is also greatly appreciated.

At this Annual General Meeting, our Treasurer, Frances Brodie, is retiring from that position. Frances' association with the Club commenced when she accompanied items at Burns Club concerts in the 1970s. In 1981 she became the official accompanist for the Club and in 1990 became Treasurer. Frances' dedication to the Club through her work as Treasurer has been outstanding and I wish to acknowledge her enduring work for the Club over many years.

I am grateful to the committee members for maintaining their strong links with other Scottish organisations, which greatly benefits the Dunedin Burns Club.

The Club has had an active year with a significant effort going into the Burns Supper on the 25th of January 2019, when the Scottish community celebrated the sesquicentenary of the University.

Extracts: As reported by Bruce Spittle in the newsletter:

“The Dunedin Burns Club joined with the University of Otago on 25 January 2019 to celebrate both the bard's birthday and the sesquicentenary of the University. Approximately 370 persons gathered in the Dunedin Town Hall and, after pre-dinner entertainment with the John McGlashan Pipe Band, the Lynette Mitchell Dance School and the Dunedin Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, the official party was piped in at 1830 by Ray Goodfellow.

Professor Tony Ballantyne, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Humanities, welcomed everyone and the entertainment commenced with performances with guitars by Quinn Hardie and Alice Houston-Page as Daft Daze, winners of the youth section of the Dunedin Robbie Rocks composition competition, and on piano with Bill Morris, winner of the open section.

Leckies Butchery provided more than 20 kg of haggis, a small portion of which was piped in by Ray Goodfellow and addressed in Scots by Donna Young, previously a resident of Kilmarnock, with a translation in NZ English provided by Sean Brosnahan, in the dress (black singlet, gumboots and shorts) and manner of the John Clarke character Fred Dagg.

Greetings from the New Zealand Government were delivered by the Minister of Health, the Hon Dr David Clarke. This was followed by video greetings on a large screen from Nicola Sturgeon, MSP, First Minister of Scotland, and Frank Ross, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

The Mayor of Dunedin, Dave Cull, then addressed the gathering, noting the close links between Dunedin and its sister city Edinburgh, and after the Selkirk Grace, a starter was served of haggis with oat cakes and whiskey. Further musical items followed with Harry Grigg, Beth Goulstone and Olivia Pike, accompanied by Frances Brodie.

Professor Liam McIlvanney addressed the gathering on Robert Burns and the University of Otago, and the contributions of the 2018 and 2019 Robert Burns Fellows, Rhian Gallagher and Dr Emily Duncan, respectively, were acknowledged with the presentation of engraved miniature quaiches.

Dr Dorothy Page proposed a toast to the lassies and commented on notable women who had attended the University.

The winners of the Published Poet, Unpublished Poet and Youth Poet sections of the UNESCO Dunedin City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry competition, Marjory Woodfield, Louise O'Neill (Jean Cockram) and Sophia Niblock, respectively, read their poems.

The Immortal Memory address was given by Dr Royden Somerville QC, the Chancellor of the University and President of the Dunedin Burns Club. Dr Somerville, a descendent of the Rev Dr Thomas Burns, the spiritual leader of the Otago settlement and the first Chancellor of the University, son of Gilbert and nephew of Robert Burns, spoke of the importance given to education by the Free Church of Scotland settlers who arrived in 1848.

A presentation of the Otago Scottish Heritage Council Quaich was then made by Dene MacKenzie, Secretary of the OSHC, to Bruce Nichol, Chairman of the Dunedin-Edinburgh Sister City Society.

Ingrid Leary, the Director of the British Council in New Zealand and the Pacific, then presented a gift, a framed nineteenth century cartoon, from the Council to Professor Harlene Hayne, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Otago, who, in expressing her thanks, acknowledged the important contribution of the

Scottish settlers in supporting the establishment of the University and noted the path for the future now involved a broader group including, alongside those of Scottish heritage, Maori and the people of the Pacific.

The after course of shortbread with tea, coffee and whiskey was then served and followed by everyone singing The Star O Robbie Burns. A ceilidh followed at 2230 with music provided by the Dunedin Scottish Fiddle Orchestra with the dances being called by Mike Moroney and Pamela Jemmett.

After an hour's spirited dancing, in the space between the tables and the stage, the finale followed with Ray Goodfellow concluding the evening by playing Pokarekareana and Auld Lang Syne for which trusting hands were extended by all present."

2018 UNESCO Dunedin City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition -

Young Poets Category - Rap Like Robbie - 1st Sophia Niblock "I'm Wondering"

Unpublished Adult Poets Category - 1st Jean O'Neill "Midnight Shift"

Published Adult Poets Category - 1st Marjory Woodfield "A Robbie Burns Supper in Saudi Arabia"

The Burns Song Section of the Senior Vocal Festival of the Dunedin Performing Arts Competition - was held on 15th September 2018. The prize winners were: 1st Olivia Pike, 2nd Beth Goulstone, 3rd Josephine Chan.

2019 Robbie Rocks - The Club donated \$250 for the People's Choice Award.

Unfortunately, this was the last year of Robbie Rocks. The Acting Secretary wrote and thanked Sean Brosnahan for his commitment and dedication to this competition which he established and ran for a number of years.

2018 St Andrew's Day Celebrations were held in the Octagon and Dr Bruce Spittle manned a stall for the Burns Club on that occasion.

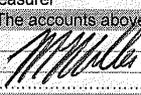
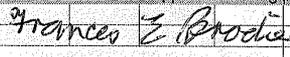
Robert Burns Association of the Pacific Rim - The Club has maintained its membership of the Association. It is hoped that the Association will continue. The Club also maintains its membership of the Robert Burns World Federation.

The Club will need to take a more active role in the Burns Supper 2020. I will be having meetings with Mr Sean Brosnahan about that.

3. *Minutes of the previous annual general meeting, 16 May 2018*: The minutes of the previous AGM on 16 May 2018 were accepted unanimously as being a correct record.

4. *Financial report*: Frances presented the financial performance and balance sheet, as at 28 February 2019, noting that \$185 had been received in subscription income and noted some of the account balances. [The account balances were: BNZ cheque account \$23,537.64, BNZ Achiever Saver (Business First Oncall) account \$50.74, BNZ Burns Song account \$1,654.20, BNZ Investment (Rapid Save 01) \$1375.77 and BNZ Finance term deposit (5 years at 5.50% p.a., interest paid quarterly to the Burns Song account, maturity date 31 October 2019 \$8,000.00.]

Frances noted that the account balances represented the situation as on the 28th February 2019 and that various accounts related to the 2019 Burns Supper were still to be paid. She noted that \$8,000.00 was locked in as an investment for five year periods to support the Burns Song section of the Senior Vocal Festival of the Dunedin Performing Arts Competitions Society and it was not to be touched or used for other purposes.

<b>DUNEDIN BURNS CLUB INCORPORATED</b>			
<b>FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2019</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>		Last Year	This year
Subscriptions		142.77	185.00
Burns Supper		0.00	29,672.00
Donation		0.00	300.00
Interest		516.27	499.92
Book marks & Raffle		50.00	40.00
		709.04	30,696.92
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		709.04	30,696.92
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Burns Supper Sound System		420.00	5,316.14
Burns song competition		250.00	250.00
Fees		0.00	700.00
Refund meal		0.00	150.00
Subscriptions South Pacific Rim		55.00	0.00
Burns Poem-medals		0.00	55.20
Robbie Burns World Federation		0.00	183.44
Robbie Rocks		0.00	500.00
Quaich		0.00	130.13
Medals & engraving		0.00	55.20
Supper Mckee		0.00	500.00
Sundries		50.00	99.00
		775.00	7,939.11
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		775.00	7,939.11
<b>Excess Expenditure over Income</b>		<b>-65.96</b>	<b>22,757.81</b>
<b>DUNEDIN BURNS CLUB INCORPORATED</b>			
<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2019</b>			
		Last Year	This year
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
BNZ Cheque Account		799.74	23,537.64
BNZ Achiever Saver		50.74	50.74
BNZ		1,673.57	1,654.20
		2,524.05	25,242.58
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>			
BNZ Investment		1,336.49	1,375.77
BNZ Finance		8,000.00	8,000.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>11,860.54</b>	<b>34,618.35</b>
represented by			
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>			
Opening Balance		11,926.50	11,860.54
Plus Excess Income		-65.96	22,757.81
		<b>11,860.54</b>	<b>34,618.35</b>
Murray Venables B.Comm., A.C.A., A.C.I.S		Frances E Brodie	
Assistant Treasurer		Treasurer	
The accounts above do not include any payments for the cost of the supper as nothing paid ex cheque account			
			
5-Apr-19			

She said that she and Murray Venables, B Comm, ACA, ACIS, were not standing again for re-election as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, respectively, but she was willing to serve again on the committee. She said that she had gathered together the financial records for donation to the Hocken Library. She recommended that petrol vouchers to the value of \$50 be given to the Assistant Treasurer Murray Venables in recognition of his help with preparing the financial report. The report was unanimously adopted (moved Frances, seconded Royden). It was unanimously agreed that a \$50 cheque for petrol vouchers be given to Murray Venables, Assistant Treasurer, in appreciation of his Assistant Treasurer work (moved Frances, seconded Wayne).

Bruce noted that although the constitution indicated that an Auditor or Auditors (not being a member or members of the Committee) should be appointed at the Annual General Meeting the Club had only a small income from subscriptions and relatively small assets and doubted that this warranted obtaining the services of a specialized auditor which itself might incur some not insignificant expense. It was moved by Wayne, seconded by Jack, and carried unanimously that the constitution be changed by removing reference to the appointment of an Auditor or Auditors and that instead it be inserted in the rules that at the AGM a Club Member, who may or may not be an Office-Bearer or Committee member, should be appointed to the Office-Bearer position of Reviewer whose task it would be to review the financial statement and balance sheet prepared by the Treasurer for the AGM and sign a statement indicating that in their opinion the financial statement of income and expenditure and the balance sheet of assets and liabilities, for the last financial year, finishing on 28 or 29 February, prepared by the Treasurer, were a true record.

5. *Election of officers:* (The Committee, with the amendment above, now consists of a Patron, a President, the Immediate Past President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Reviewer [all of whom are the Officers for the Club] and twelve other members).

The following officers and committee members were elected by acclamation: Patron: Jack McLeod, President: Royden Somerville, Vice-Presidents: Ann Barsby and Daphne MacLeod, Secretary-Treasurer: Bruce Spittle, Reviewer: Wayne Allen, and Committee members: Frances Brodie, Liam McIlvanney and Michael Moroney.

8. *Appointment of Official Piper:* Raymond Goodfellow was re-elected unanimously as Official Piper.

9. *General business:*

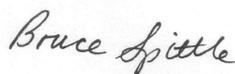
(i) Royden will talk to Seán Brosnahan about the 2020 Burns Supper and Ann kindly offered to continue to assist with the arrangements for the supper.

(ii) It was noted by Royden that the dancing at the Ceilidh at the Burns Supper had been enjoyed by all and the possibility of encouraging further similar events was raised. After discussion it was agreed to raise the matter at a meeting of the Otago Scottish Heritage Council to see if a combined event might be an option possibly through wider support being given to a Regional Dance of the Otago Branch of the Scottish Country Dancing Group.

(iii) It was mentioned by Daphne that the Combined Clans were planning a mid-winter dinner at the St Barnabus home in Ings Avenue. Clan Gunn have had autumn, winter and spring functions at the Janet Cameron Hall, Green Island, followed by a Christmas function at JTs (subject to the latter venue still be available as it has been offered for sale). This year's event is planned for 8 November. It is planned that future events will be organized by the Combined Clans who will have their AGM at the Janet Cameron Hall, Green Island, on 18 August 2019. The spring potluck lunch will be held on 29 September 2019.

(iv) It was reported by Wayne that the Caledonian Society of Otago would hold a Spring Fling dinner on 15 September 2019 at the Edgar Centre at 1100 for 1200. The programme will include a singer, highland dancing and a haggis ceremony.

(v) The meeting closed at 1615.



Bruce Spittle, Secretary-Treasurer