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## **REPORT FOR THE DUNEDIN BURNS CLUB FOR 2016–2017**

**WEBSITE: [www.dbci.blogtown.co.nz](http://www.dbci.blogtown.co.nz)**

The activities of the Club for 2016–2017 were reviewed by the President Royden Somerville, QC, at the AGM on 8 September 2017.

(i) *AGM*: The Annual General Meeting was delayed from an earlier possible date on 19 April 2017 after the Octagon Club Scottish concert because the date was unsuitable for several persons.

(ii) *Robert Burns Poetry competition*: The Dunedin Public Libraries have shown leadership for the competition and are keen to expand the reach of the competition. The winner of the Published Poets section for 2016–2017 (Lorna Wallace, of Kilmarnock in Scotland, with the poem *A Scot's Lament for her American Fellows (On their election of a tangerine gabshite walloper)*) had the same English teacher in Kilmarnock as committee member Liam McIlvanney. The library was working on the marketing of the competition and introducing cash prizes for the winning poems. The Otago Scottish Heritage Council have donated \$500 for next year's competition and Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society will give \$1500 over a three year period. The competition will be held earlier so the judging can be done prior to the holiday season. A writing competition in association with the Dunedin City of Literature, the Dunedin Public Libraries, and the Robert Burns World Federation is being considered.

(iii) *Scottish concert 19 April 2017*: The concert held in conjunction with the Octagon Club, Age Concern, was well received. Arnold Bachop, the organizer of the concert was unfortunately ill but Bruce MacMillan ably filled in with Heather Scott also singing and Frances Brodie accompanying. Raymond Goodfellow played some piping medleys and Geoff Smith read two poems by Burns including *Is there for honest poverty*. Ann Barsby thanked the artists. Forty-one persons were in attendance. The concert was followed by afternoon tea. Three rest homes who usually supported the Octagon Club concerts were unable to attend, including Ross Home which had a fire drill.

(iv) *St Andrew's day celebrations in the Octagon 27 November 2016*: The Club held a stall in the Octagon which was well received. Plans are in hand for celebrations to be held again in the Octagon this year on Sunday 26 November 2017 including a porridge eating competition, highland games events for children, an address to the haggis and musical items.

(v) *Burns dinner 25 January 2017*: The dinner was well attended and the programme well appreciated, especially the address to the haggis in English and Scots. The University of Otago have indicated they will be supportive of the 2019 Burns dinner which will be in the year of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the University which was created by a committee led by Thomas Burns and officially established by an ordinance of the Otago Provincial Council in 1869. A larger venue than Toitu Otago Settlers Museum may be necessary. A group is looking at the possible arrangements and will report later in the year. The Burns Supper in 2019 will be first Town-Gown celebration for the University's sesquicentennial celebrations.

(vi) *Queen of the Heather Competition and Society*: A committee has been looking at the format of the competition and they will report back later in the year. It is likely that the competition will be revised to have a more contemporary structure with the possibilities including it involving a

youth ambassador, being open to men and women, and the awarding of a scholarship to support an activity in the area of learning in the arts or academia related to Scottish heritage such as piping, dancing or Scottish studies.

(vii) *Robert Burns Lecture 2106*: The St Andrew's Day Public Lecture was given on Wednesday, 30 November 2016, 1–2pm, at the Burns 5 Lecture Theatre by Dr Dougal McNeill (Victoria University of Wellington), and entitled *For Honest Poverty: Robert Burns and the poetry of the early New Zealand Labour movement*. Professor McIlvanney will give the 2017 lecture. Endeavours are being made to find a time for the lecture that does not clash with the Caledonian Society celebratory dinner which has traditionally been held at Robbies at 12.30 pm on 30 November.

(viii) *Robert Burns Association of the Pacific Rim*: Dr Somerville attended the AGM and programme of the Association in Melbourne on 8–9 October 2016 and was elected President of the Association. Ann Barsby and Bruce Spittle were elected as directors (the equivalent of committee members). Dr Somerville plans to attend the 2017 AGM and programme of the Association in Camperdown on 29 September - 1 October 2017. He is hopeful that Dunedin will again, in due course, host another AGM of the Association, having previously done so in 2014.

(ix) *Robbie Rocks Dunedin 2017*: The Club donated \$250 for the People's Choice Award. (It was won by Queen Abe of the Scots and Robbie Burns playing *Comin' through the rye*. The contest was judged by Liam McIlvanney, Mike Moroney and Scott Muir. You tube videos of the winning entries are available at [www.toituosm.com/whats-on/events/robbie-rocks-dunedin-2017](http://www.toituosm.com/whats-on/events/robbie-rocks-dunedin-2017). The finalists gave a public performance in the Octagon at 2 pm on Sunday 22 January 2017).

(x) *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 competition, held at 2.45 pm on Thursday 8 September 2016 was won by Timothy Burrell of Auckland, with Frances Campbell, Christchurch, second and Beth Goulstone, Dunedin, third. The adjudicator was Martin Snell (Switzerland) and the accompanist was Catherine Norton. 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.

(xi) *Otago Scottish Heritage Council*: The Otago Scottish Heritage Council is now chaired by Royden, has speakers at its monthly meeting, and is attended by representatives of many Scottish organizations. The Dunedin Burns Club is seen to be a principal organization in the Society and Ann has been the Club's representative. Other members of the Club, Wayne Allen, Jack McLeod, and Daphne MacLeod, also attend as representatives of other groups.

(xii) *Treasurer's report*: Frances Brodie, Treasurer, and Murray Venables B Comm, ACA, ACIS, Assistant Treasurer, noted the excess of expenditure over income for the year was \$747.36 compared to \$1434.20 for the previous year. The accumulated funds at the end of the year were \$11,928.50 compared to \$12,675.86 at the end of previous year. The financial performance and balance sheets are filed on the Club's website at [www.dbci.blogtown.co.nz](http://www.dbci.blogtown.co.nz)

(xiii) *Officers for 2017–2018*: The officers and committee elected for 2017–2018 are: Patron: Jack McLeod; President: Royden Somerville; Vice-Presidents: Ann Barsby, Daphne Macleod (moved Bruce, seconded Royden); Treasurer: Frances Brodie; Secretary: Bruce Spittle; Committee: Wayne Allen, Liam McIlvanney, Michael Moroney and Debbie Williams. Michael Moroney has been given a mandate to organize musical events for the Club. Michael, who has strong links to the Dunedin folk and Scottish music community, noted that there was an interest in Dunedin in the folk singing of songs by Burns and this could be part of the musical events for the Club.

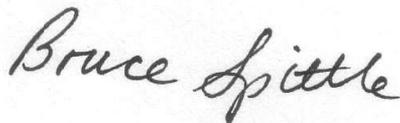
(xiv) *New Honorary Life Member*: Raymond Goodfellow was elected unanimously as an honorary life member. Raymond has been the Official Piper for the Club for many years. (Raymond joins the other current life members: Jack McLeod, Frances Brodie, Roberta Forbes and David McIntosh.)

(xv) *Appointment of Honorary Auditor*: Murray Venables B Comm, ACA, ACIS., was elected unanimously to review the accounts. His previous title in this role was Honorary Auditor but because of a change in regulations for auditing he has suggested a more suitable title is Assistant

Treasurer and used this description with his signature on the accounts for the year ending 28 February 2017.

*(xvi) Appointment of Official Piper:* Raymond Goodfellow was re-elected unanimously as Official Piper for 2017–2018.

The Club is very grateful to Dr Somerville for his admirable service to the Club as President over the past year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Spittle". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

Bruce Spittle  
Secretary