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Annual Report of the Dunedin Burns Club April 2012

During the past year, since the AGM on 19 May 2011, the Club has been active in upholding its aims including fostering interest in the literature and songs of Robert Burns. The activities included sponsoring a section at the Dunedin Performing Arts Society Competition involving singing a song by Burns, co-hosting with the Dunedin Libraries, the University of Otago, and the Otago Daily Times the Robert Burns Poetry Competition, co-sponsoring the visit to Dunedin by Professor Tom Devine who spoke several times, unveiled a plaque on the Robert Burns statue, and joined with Mayor Dave Cull to unveil the Sylvia Stewart sculpture. The other sponsors of Professor Devine's visit were the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies, the Otago Scottish Heritage Council, the Dunedin-Edinburgh Sister City Society, and the University of Edinburgh. The Dunedin Burns Club contributed \$1000 towards the visit. The Burns Supper on 25 January this year was held at the Leviathan and 60 persons attended. We were honoured by Associate Professor John Stenhouse giving the Immortal Memory address.

We received also this year the resignation of our patron Stan Forbes who has become unable to continue to contribute actively as patron is the manner he would prefer because of ill health. We are very grateful for the leadership and support Stan has given to the Club. We know that both Stan and Roberta will continue to hold the club dear in their hearts.

We are grateful for the work done by the committee during the year, and particularly for the extra duties undertaken by our Vice President Angela McCarthy. Special thanks are also due to our Treasurer Frances Brody, our Minute Secretary Janet Yiakmis, and our official piper Raymond Goodfellow. We are very appreciative of the contributions by Professor Liam McIlvanney especially for his contributions to the Robert Burns Poetry Competition and the wording for the Robert Burns Statue plaque, by Frances Brodie for her liaison work with the Dunedin Performing Arts Society, and by Sue Cantwell for helping with the statue plaque. We also grateful to our auditor Murray Venables, and to our other committee members Ann Barsby, Jack McLeod, Wayne Allen, and Margaret Campbell for the energy and wisdom they have brought to the committee.

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19 April 2012