



**Secretary: Bruce Spittle, 727 Brighton Road, Ocean View, Dunedin 9035;
E-mail: spittle@es.co.nz; Phone/Fax:03 4811418**

Annual Report of the Dunedin Burns Club 23 April 2014

Since the last AGM on 1 May 2013 the Club has continued with its aims of fostering interest in the literature and songs of Robert Burns. The concert immediately after the AGM with Scottish songs, including some by Burns, sung by Peter Chin, Gladys Hope and Arnold Bachop with the accompaniment of Heather Clough was greatly enjoyed by the audience of 58.

The Robert Burns song section in the Otago Performing Arts Competitions Society Senior Vocal Competition, held on 13 September 2013, was won by Anna Thomson singing Charming Chloe. In second place was Teresa Wojcik who sang Ca' the yowes. Samuel Butter sang The blude-red rose at Yule may blaw and Nicholas Steel sang Mary Morrison.

The Club supported the Dunedin Robbie Rocks competition by sponsoring the People's Choice prize with the finalists performing in the afternoon of Scottish activities in the Octagon on St Andrews Day, 30 November 2013, and the Youth and Open section winners performing at the Burns Supper on 25 January 2014. The five entries in the open section and nine in the youth section can be viewed on the Toitu Otago Settlers Museum website available from: www.toituosm.com.

The Robert Burns Poetry competition attracted entries of high quality and the support of the Dunedin Public Libraries, The Dunedin City Council, The University of Otago, and The Otago Daily Times in organizing this event was much appreciated. Robert Free won the Published Poet section, Christina Hulbe, the Unpublished Poet section and Joe Corbett the Young Poet Section. The prizes were presented by David Howard, 2013 University of Otago Robert Burns Fellow, at a ceremony at 12.30 pm on 25 January 2014 at the Dunedin City Library and he and fellow judge Paul Veart, writer and Dunedin City Library librarian, commented on the judging process noting that the deciding moment is when the poem is read out loud and the ear is won over or not. The 2014 University of Otago Robert Burns Fellow, Majella Cullinane outlined her plans for her coming year. The winning poems are available from; www.odt.co.nz/entertainment/arts/288969/inspired-bard.

The Burns Night Dinner was hosted jointly with Toitu Otago Settlers Museum, at Toitu OSM with approximately 80 persons attending. Ray Goodfellow piped in the official party and, at the end of the evening played a pipe medley before all joined for Auld Lang Syne. Liam McIlvanney addressed the haggis and, in addition to the entertainment by the Dunedin Robbie Rocks 2014 winners, Robert Free, winner of the Published Poet section of the Robert Burns Poetry Competition read his poem, Where now are ye Robbie. Anna Thomson, accompanied by Frances Brodie, sang Charming Chloe and Simmer's a Pleasant Time. The Immortal Memory address by given by His Worship the Mayor of Dunedin, Mr Dave Cull, and Dr Dorothy Page, Chair of the Toitu Otago Settlers Museum Board, delivered a Toast to the Lassies. Catering for the sitdown

buffet meal with traditional Scottish beef stew, marinated fish, neeps and tatties, carrots, peas and cabbage followed by a dessert of cranachan and later lavender and rosemary shortbread with whisky, tea and coffee was provided by the Otago Polytechnic. The feedback about the evening was uniformly positive.

Liam McIlvanney addressing the haggis at the Burns Night Dinner, Toitu Otago Settlers Museum, 25 January 2014.



Joe Corbett reading his poem, Dunedin City Library.



Seán Brosnahan introducing a contestant in the Dunedin Robbie Rocks 2014 competition, 25 January 2014.



Christina Hulber being congratulated by David Howard, Dunedin City Library, 25 January 2014.

The Club was pleased to support a proposal by Stuart Professor of Scottish Studies Liam McIlvanney to establish an Annual Robert Burns lectureship.

The Club plans to host the Annual General Meeting of the Robert Burns Association of the Pacific Rim in Dunedin on 3 September 2014 and is hopeful that a collaboration of kindred Scottish groups will be able to organize a Scottish Festival from Saturday 30 August until Saturday 6 September 2014. A number of visitors from Australian Burns Clubs are expected to attend the AGM.

Bruce Spittle

Bruce Spittle
Secretary



Anna Thomson singing at the Burns Night Dinner, Toitu Otago Settlers Museum, 25 January 2014.



Paul Veart commenting on the judging of the Robert Burns Poetry Competition 2014, 25 January 2014 at the Dunedin City Library.

Raymond Goodfellow, Official Dunedin Burns Club, playing a Scottish medley, Burns Night Dinner, Otago Settlers Museum, 25 January 2014.



Majella Cullinane outlining her hopes for her year as the 2014 University of Otago Robert Burns Fellow, 25 January 2014, Dunedin City Library.



Robert Free reading his poem, Robert Burns Poetry Competition 2014, Dunedin City Library, 25 January 2014.



David Howard describing the entries in the Robert Burns Poetry Competition 2014, 25 January 2014, Dunedin City Library.