



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

**NEWSLETTER OF THE DUNEDIN BURNS CLUB
19 DECEMBER 2014**

CLUB WEBSITE: <http://www.dbci.blogtown.co.nz>

(i) *Burns Supper 2015*. This will be celebrated at Toitu Otago Settlers Museum at 7 pm on Sunday 25 January 2015. The admission charge will be \$60 and tickets are available at Toitu OSM and the Scottish Shop, George Street. Lieutenant Darryl Tong will give the Immortal Memory Address and NZ crime fiction writer Vanda Symon will also speak. Harry Morton, Scotland, will address the haggis and recite Holy Willies Prayer. Frances Brodie will accompany Beth Colston who will sing songs by Burns and Raymond Goodfellow will play the pipes including a Scottish medley. A sit down buffet meal is being prepared by the Otago Polytechnic staff and students. Further details are on Dunedin Burns Club website <http://www.dbci.blogtown.co.nz>

(ii) *St Andrews Day 30 November 2014 and Kirking the tartan*. The Reverend Kerry Enright, Knox Church, successfully included a Kirking the tartan ceremony on Sunday 30 November 2014 at Knox Church. The music included the playing together of the bagpipes and the church organ. The Reverend Enright plans to have further ceremonies in the future and anticipates that more clans will become involved. A St Andrews Day lunch was held by the Taieri Scottish Society. The activities planned to be held at the Octagon at 2pm on St Andrews Day, including the playing of three items by the Scottish folk music band Breabach, were moved to the Toitu Otago Settlers Museum because of inclement weather. The band also gave an evening concert at the Coronation Hall, Maori Hill.

(iii) *2015 Robert Burns Poetry Competition*. The Published and Unpublished sections were launched at the Dunedin City Library on for 28 November 2014 after a talk by Councillor Neville Peat on his recent trip to Scotland. The Young Poets section was opened on 29 August 2014. The competition closes on 5 January and the prizes presented at a ceremony on Sunday 25 January 2015 at the Dunedin City Library. Details are on the Dunedin Public Libraries website.

(iv) *Otago Scottish Heritage Council*. It is planned that future Scottish Festivals will be held in association with St Andrews Day, 30 November.

(v) *Rest home entertainment*. Club members are invited to join a group which will provide poems and songs by Burns, together with other items with a Scottish flavour, to rest home residents. If you are interested please contact the secretary.

(vi) *Burns song in the Senior Vocal Festival, Dunedin Performing Arts Competitions Society*. This was held on 24 September 2014 with four entrants participating. Julia Moss-Pearson won the Burns Song section of the Senior Vocal Festival singing *My love is like a red red rose*. Anna Thomson was second singing *Ca' the yowes to the knowes*. Samuel Butler was third singing *Ae fond kiss*.

(vi) *2015 Dunedin Robbie Rocks competition.* This competition in which songs by Burns are given a contemporary musical setting is again being held and the Club will \$250 for the Audience Favourite prize. Details are on the Toitu OSM website. The brochure for the competition notes: "Robbie Burns may be the greatest songwriter in history. He was certainly the outstanding 'rock star' of 18th-century Scotland and love for his poems and songs has spread around the world ever since. Yet everyday people pass his statue in the Octagon without any thought for the man or his music. It's time for Dunedin musicians to show some respect for the Master! Let's see what you can do with some Burns' classics - songs that have been popular for centuries but maybe need a few tweaks to really connect with a modern generation. We want to see Robbie's work rocking Dunedin. Here's the challenge. Choose one of Robbie Burns' songs from the list below and reinterpret it for a modern audience.

1. A Man's a Man for A' That
2. e Fond Kiss
3. My Luve is Like a Red Red Rose
4. Auld Lang Syne
5. Scots Wha' Hae
6. Ye Jacobites By Name
7. Jamie Come Try Me
8. Such a Parcel of Rogues in a Nation
8. What are we looking for?
9. Originality, style, verve, and respect for Robbie Burns' vision.

The winners will be announced on 25 January. Further details are available on the Club website at <http://www.dbci.blogtown.co.nz>

(vii) *AGM 2015.* The AGM for 2015 will be held at 3 pm on Wednesday 15 April 2015 at the Octagon Club, ground floor, Age Concern, 9 The Octagon. It will be preceded by a Scottish Concert which will be the regular Octagon Club concert for April from 1.45 pm until 2.45 pm. Admission charge \$3 including afternoon tea.

(vii) *Robert Burns Association of the Pacific Rim.* The AGM for 2015 will be held in Adelaide in approximately August-September. Members of the Dunedin Burns Club are welcome to attend.

(vii) *Photos of an unveiling ceremony held on 27 April 1995:*

The Club recently received from Julie Marshall some photographs and a laminated newspaper account, dated 28 April 1995, of a ceremony to mark the unveiling of a head stone to the Paisley-born poet John Hamilton in the Northern Cemetery, Dunedin. He was a founding member when the Dunedin Burns Club was constituted in 1891. He died on 26 April 1893. The Club members intended to put a simple stone on his grave but this did not eventuate. 102 years later, in 1995, his great-granddaughter Joyce Ryan and her family arranged for a headstone to be erected and this was unveiled at a ceremony which included the Deputy mayor Paul Hudson and the Dunedin Burns Club President Peter Smith. John Hamilton was the author of a 76 page book of NZ poetry, *The lay of the bogle stone; an erratic poem and other places*. It was printed at the Otago Workman in 1892.

Bruce Spittle, Secretary.