



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

Official Newsletter of the Dunedin Burns Club April 2012

Greetings to all our Burns Club members. This is your club so please send all your news, snippets, and suggestions to your Committee.

2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Dunedin Burns Club will be held at 2 pm on Thursday 19 April 2012 in the Friends Room, 3rd floor, Otago Museum, Great King Street, Dunedin.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the AGM of 19/05/2011
3. Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2011
4. Election of Officers for 2012-13: Nominations are invited for the positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor, Official Piper and Committee Members. All such nominations shall include the names of proposer and seconder and a statement that the nominee has consented to be proposed. They may be sent to the Acting Secretary, Dunedin Burns Club. The contact details are below the masthead at the top of this page.
5. Amendments to Rules: A motion (moved Bruce Spittle, seconded Frances Brodie) will be considered that: (i) the quorum for committee meetings be reduced from "7" to "half of the committee" and that for annual general meetings and special general meetings be reduced from "25" to "10% of the eligible members." (ii) the Annual General Meeting of the Club shall take place in April rather than in March; (iii) the Club object of rendering assistance, counsel and moral support to deserving Scotsmen also be extended to Scotswomen.

Background: (i) With the reduced size of the club membership we did not achieve a quorum of 25 at our last AGM and there has not been a quorum of seven for most of the committee meetings. (ii) We have been having our AGMs later than March for some years as this allows more time for the accounts to be finalized and audited. (iii) Although it may be assumed that where a masculine noun is used the feminine equivalent is also included, it would be more explicit to spell this out. However, these amendments may not be able to be made unless a quorum of 25 is reached at the AGM.

6. General Business

Following the AGM we will have afternoon tea and there will be an opportunity for ideas for the programme for 2012 and the 2013 Burns Supper to be discussed. We will also try "a potluck concert" where anyone who would like to offer a poem, song, or tune by Burns or something with a Scottish theme will be most welcome. Participation for offering items will be quite voluntary. A copy of Burns' poetry will be available. It is planned to finish by 3.30 pm as most of the carparks near the Otago Museum have a limit of 120 minutes. **Please come to the AGM to support your club.**

2012 BURNS SUPPER

Sixty persons attended the 2012 Burns Supper at the Leviathan Hotel. We had an apology from our Patron, Stan Forbes, who was not able to be with us on account of his inclement health. We were honoured by a visit by Alan Ferguson from the Ferguson Clan in Auckland.

John Steel addressed the haggis with the steadfast assistance of a team of able supporters. Margaret Campbell said grace, Janet Yiakmis read the greetings from and toasted kindred societies, and their fellow committee member Wayne Allen replied on behalf of the societies. A moving Immortal Memory address was given by Associate Professor John Stenhouse, Department of History and Art History, University of Otago. He noted that despite being subjected to some disciplinary proceedings, Robert Burns remained a member of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland and that the importance given by the Church to qualities such as having a work ethic, personal responsibility, and emphasizing education was still worthy of consideration today.

The toast to the lassies was ably given by Sean Brosnahan (Dunedin) with mention being made of the admirable patience and tolerance extended to Robert by his spouse and other women. The toast was replied to with panache by Jean Harris (Auckland and Glasgow) who was in Dunedin attending the University of Otago Summer School of Scottish Studies.

Sarah Oliver, accompanied by Frances Brodie, entertained us with her superb rendition of two songs by Burns. Lynne Hill and Gary Johnston favoured us by each reading two of their award winning poems from the 2011 and 2012 Robert Burns poetry competitions. Raymond Goodfellow added to the atmosphere as the official piper, including a bonus medley of Scottish airs, and deputized on behalf of our patron with offerings of whiskey. The artists were thanked sincerely by Dr Royden Somerville before the function finished at 10.37 pm.

INCORPORATION OF THE DUNEDIN BURNS CLUB

The details of the incorporation of the Club including the Club rules and the Annual Accounts for 2006–2011 are available at http://www.societies.govt.nz/cms/banner_template/SOCAGENT. Enter the organization number of 226891 in the appropriate box. Briefly, the Dunedin Burns Club Incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 on 27 March 1941. A Dissolution of the Incorporated Society was made on 19/01/2001 and the Club was struck off the register from 19/01/2001 until 15/02/2010 when the dissolution was revoked. A letter, dated 27/01/2012, from Neville Harris, Registrar of Incorporated Societies, requested that the Society Rules and the financial statements from 2010 and 2011 be supplied to enable the Society to be restored to the register. This was done on 27/02/2012 and the Society is now again registered as an incorporated society.

RESULTS FOR 2012 ROBERT BURNS POETRY COMPETITION FOR PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED POETS

At a function “For He's A Jolly Good Fellow!” at the City Library on 25 January 2012, celebrating Robert Burns’ Birthday and the Robert Burns Fellowship, Fiona Farrell spoke about her year as the 2011 Burns Fellow, and the winning poems from the adult section of the 2012 Robert Burns Poetry Competition were read.

Unpublished Poet Winners

1st Prize: Allan Millar Medal and Trophy. For Laura, in drink. Sandra Jones

2nd Prize: The Road to Portobello. Gary Richard Johnston.

3rd Prize: The Silver Salmon. Dick Tait

Published Poet Winners

1st Prize – Stan Kirkpatrick Medal. My Squeeze. Lynne Hill.

2nd Prize. Th' Cheap Chieftain. Kelvin Fowler.

3rd Prize. What More Could You Wish For? Beverly Martens

There were 32 entries including one from France. We are grateful for the work done by our judges, Michael Harlow and Fiona Farrell and thank all the entrants for their participation. All the poems are available from:

<http://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/events/robertburns-poetry-competition/2012-winners>

PRIZE WINNING POEMS FROM THE 2012 ROBERT BURNS POETRY COMPETITION FOR PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED POETS

For Laura, in drink

My Laura was a bonnie lass
I waded her off across the sea
But she cam hame, my
doghter dear
A poor damn'd drinker she.

And nae hae I but grief and pain for
promised joy.

Now I've been blythe with
friends so dear
And I've been cantie drinkin
'But stoppin' weel before the
yill
Has made me doun fallin'.

But nae hae I but grief and pain for
promised joy.

But Laura now loud grates
your lug
And picks up douts frae off the streets
And lets ye fill her glass or jug
Tells yairns until she greets.

And nae hae I but grief and pain for
promised joy.

Poor lassie, my fair Laura kens
Her lot of care and sorrows
But wine's a deep and loving
friend

Oh aye! Until the morrow.

And nae hae I but grief and pain for
promised joy.

The bottle's bocht, she carefully
hides,

She'll close the door and lovin'
The moment caught, cares cast
aside

The glass full to brimmin'.
But nae hae I but grief and pain for
promised joy.

That deil drink! Fair would I slay it!
My bonnie lass, how to save ye?
Fain would I hear from her lips
dropt
"Na, nae mair drink for me".

But nae hae I but grief and pain for
promised joy.

- Sandra Jones (Wellington)

My Squeeze

My squeeze is like an orchid
Original though, one of a kind
She's like heavy metal
That clangs upon the mind.

I won't say I love you
That's a dangerous word
But I'm okay to say
You're my best ever bird.

We are already an item
Let's hope it continues on
Can this relationship survive
Once I am gone?

Say see ya. Now we must
walk alone
Send me many emails to
read
Text and I'll come to you my
dear
No matter how many air
points I need.

- Lynne Hill (Dunedin)

The Road to Portobello

Many a day has passed in life's
Dwelling, distant sunshine derives
The Road to Portobello
Glist'ning salt air
Exhilaration breath still thrives
Pulsating fair

Childhood ways at harbour sea's edge.
Of ditched vehicles on wet sedge
Drunken nights on the neeps. No pledge
Glist'ning salt air
Regardless of life's slender edge
Pulsating fair

Reaching far to climb crumbling cliffs
Above roadside where wallflowers
Cling abundant in heady scents
Glist'ning salt air
Fists full of darkened, marbled hues
Pulsating fair

Resting at Yellow Head thrust clear
Wee grandmother's graveside so drear
Sad remembrance of death draws near
Glist'ning salt air
While fresh brindled flowers sear
Pulsating fair

Rushing pell-mell down shingled beach
Below silent grave secrets teach
Gathering in myself lean niche
Glist'ning salt air
And stare out across Broad Bay reach
Pulsating fair

Visiting aged kin whose smokes clot
Endless cups of ripe tea. To hot
In old crackled porcelain pot
Glist'ning salt air
Butt'ry girdle scones on what not
Pulsating fair

Arrive at last – Portobello
Laying tartan rugs smooth. Just so
Cooled by watery sun aglow
Glist'ning salt air
Sharp winds snake past Harbour Heads flow
Pulsating fair

How I dream of those far off days
When life was in simple, sweet ways
Pure, untrammelled, joyful, fair stays
Glist'ning salt air
While the Road to Portobello's
Pulsating fair

- Gary Richard Johnston (Christchurch)

The Silver Salmon

I watched a Gillie by the water
Giving instructions for the glide

“Cast that Mrs Simpson,
Upstream and to the side”

The deference in his tone
Told me much about the pair

“Just bow your head and tell me!”
(You’ll never get your share)

A Nobleman he’s guiding, exclusive Tweed
and Greenheart gear,
River beats reserved, no need for any care
A careless play, the fish away, the Gillie I’ll
take the blame

Unless you’ve got the silver, and perhaps a
title to your name
A commoner like my friend Hogg and I, can
only watch the game

Sea-run Silver Salmon and the red speckled
Brown Trout
Will not be on our table, and with that there is
no doubt

I received a note from Tait, a weaver from
Selkirk,
Who sailed to Dunedin, in New Zealand,
with a ship load of English Louts

And he has described to me. The Town, the
Harbour, and the Hinterland,
The people of the place, equality for more
Scotsmen that might want to flee

From Adam Tait’s description,
I can see unto Otago where all the streams
are free,
To liberate the trout, and silver salmon in the
sea
For the common man to cast for, like Hogg,
and You and Me

No longer need for Gillies,
From the mountains to the sea,

No so called superiors, spoiling for a fight
I can see the snow clad peaks a-gleaming
In pure, pale, spring light

The snow so gently melting, drip to drop to
trickles
From moss and rock tussock shingle slides

Forming even larger rivulets,
Wriggling down the mountain sides

The clear pure water to be caught in the
valley floor below
Meandering now more slowly through fern
and peatish bog
Sufficient just to colour it, just add the malt
and skill

No water to be added, a dram, or two to drink
To ease the mind and spirit and strengthen a
Scotch man’s goodwill

To lift the soul inside
A cottage with a fire,
A tavern with a bar

Ruddy cheeks and laughter,
Scotland not too far

The women with fair ankles,
And dresses that might lift

Drink up you sons of Scotland,
To Hell with all this thrift.

I received a note from Tait, a weaver from
Selkirk,
Who sailed to Dunedin, in New Zealand,
with a ship load of English Louts

And he has described to me. The Town, the
Harbour, and the Hinterland,
The people of the place, equality for more
Scotsmen that might want to flee

From Adam Tait's description,
I can see unto Otago where all the streams
are free,
To liberate the trout, and silver salmon in the
sea
For the common man to cast for, like Hogg,
and You and Me

No longer need for Gillies,
From the mountains to the sea,

No so called superiors, spoiling for a fight
I can see the snow clad peaks a-gleaming
In pure, pale, spring light

The snow so gently melting, drip to drop to
trickles
From moss and rock tussock shingle slides

Forming even larger rivulets,
Wriggling down the mountain sides

The clear pure water to be caught in the
valley floor below
Meandering now more slowly through fern
and peatish bog
Sufficient just to colour it, just add the malt
and skill

No water to be added, a dram, or two to
drink
To ease the mind and spirit and strengthen a
Scotch man's goodwill

To lift the soul inside
A cottage with a fire,
A tavern with a bar

Ruddy cheeks and laughter,
Scotland not too far

The women with fair ankles,
And dresses that might lift

Drink up you sons of Scotland,
To Hell with all this thrift.
- Dick Tait

Th' Cheap Chieftain

It's bin a while since mah hurdies
graced an' greased Glesga's dour streets
th' rain an' th' rain an' th' rain
dog shite shod an' trod
Jimmy addicted, duckin' an' divin'
wee hens shriekin' an' hurlin' abuse.

When th' rain's tay wet an' th' hurlin's tay
heavy
an' th' Tron hangs lik' a noose aroon yer neck
duck an' dive yer way intae Val D'Oro
plonk th' erse on solid Formica
order yersel' a haggis supper
and thus sae let the Lord be thankit.

Sae ah did an' aw
but th' bard woods greit
auld Scotlund has skinking ware
white chipped plate
cheps an' mingin' stomach
minced liver, heart an' lungs
oats an' oats an' oats
swimmin' suffocatin'
in a cess ay vinegar an' suet.

Th' ware swirls aroond mah plate
always runnin' but ne'er leavin'
this manky mess
slithers doon mah beard
clogs mah hanky an' clots mah arteries
an' suin leaves mah weel-swallow'd kyte
stretched an' bent like a drum.

But aye will be a week afore ah eat again
an' noo aam naturally waterproof
I can brave Glesga's duckers an' divers
the wee hens an' th' rain an' th' rain an' th'
rain
fur ah hae experienced an' ah hae survived
th' cheap chieftain o' the puddin'-race!

*Written in Glaswegian except when
referencing 'The Selkirk Grace' and
'Address To a Haggis'. Inspired by 'Val
D'Oro', my favourite fish 'n' chip
restaurant.*

- Kelvin Fowler

What More Could You Wish For?

From where you rest, loose-limbed, at ease
Oh the sights you've seen, man
over one-and-a-quarter centuries:
Farm boys marching off to war
Students shouting 'Stop the Tour'
Women wanting the vote, the right
to choose, and equal pay;
Our neurosurgeons we shall NOT lose
Has Hillside really had its day?

Do you think we doth protest too much...?
Or maybe not enough!

Did such a sight warm you then?
This last Spring, fresh and cold,
When tents sprang up, in tandem,
Not on riverbanks, of old,
But pitched right at your feet,
Brassy bold.

Maybe you found their cause not in the least
suprising
Just as you supported the original French
uprising:

Off with their heads then; now corporate
heads
have had their day, finally sent a' packing
without their golden severance pay ...

The global crunch impacting our economy
Forcing us to embrace a simpler, social
currency:

I propose we call it the Burns' Unit
- in your memory!

Made up of simple pleasures you held so
dear:

Like honest friends - with a listening ear;
a warming dram (or two); some food to
share;

And a red, red, rose for all ladies' fair ...

For happiness is shy;

We thank you for reminding us

To grab it when 'ere it appears
and enjoy it wholly, without fuss

In fleeting moments like New Year's

When your own fine song, tho' badly sung
is still the lasting sentiment
on which hope, for all, is hung.

- Beverly Martens



MINUTES OF THE 2011 DUNEDIN BURNS CLUB HELD ON THURSDAY 19TH MAY 2011, PIONEER WOMEN'S HALL 5.30PM

Present: Sue Cantwell, Janet Yiakmis, Margaret Campbell, Bruce Spittle, Emma Burns, Ann Barsby, Frances Brody.

Apologies: Jack McLeod, Angela McCarthy, Jim McLeod, Sharon Harris, Mary Simpson

Financial Report: As attached presented by Frances Brody and audited by Murray Venables
Approved

Vote of thanks to Frances for the book-keeping Approved

Appointment of Auditor: Murray Venables to be asked to be auditor and a \$50 petrol voucher to be forwarded in thanks for his service Agreed

Frances will check about the tax exempt status Agreed

Nominations:

President to be appointed

Vice President Angela McCarthy

Treasurer Frances Brody

Minutes Secretary Janet Yiakmis

Committee Sue Cantwell, Ann Barsby, Margaret Campbell,
Bruce Spittle, Janet Yiakmis, Jack McLeod, Liam McIlvanney
Re-elected

Matters Arising:

Best wishes to the retiring secretary who is leaving to travel.

Responsibility for organising:

Singing Competition - Frances;

Poetry Competition - Liam and Bruce

Burns Dinner – to be decided

Liam to complete the words for the Robert Burns Plaque and the Club will fund the provision of same to be installed in Sept Approved

Committee meeting times to be investigated when Angela is available.

Meeting closed at 6.30pm.

Next Meeting: Venue and date to be advised.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2012

For those who are ordinary members of the Dunedin Burns Club, the current status of your membership is shown below the address on the envelope for those receiving hard copies of the newsletter and in the accompanying E-mail for those receiving the E-mail version. A subscription renewal form for 2012 has been included for the use of those whose membership is not current and who wish to renew their membership for this year.



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



Application for membership and membership renewal 2012

**MAY I/WE APPLY PLEASE FOR MEMBERSHIP/S OR
RENEW OUR MEMBERSHIP/S OF THE DUNEDIN BURNS
CLUB, NO. 69 ON THE ROLL OF THE ROBERT BURNS
WORLD FEDERATION, KILMARNOCK, FOR 2012.**

NAME(S) _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____
_____ POSTCODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \$6

DOUBLE MEMBERSHIP \$8

TICK

**PLEASE POST THIS FORM ALONG WITH THE ENCLOSED
MEMBERSHIP FEE TO:**

THE CLUB TREASURER
DUNEDIN BURNS CLUB (INC)
1 SPENCER STREET
ANDERSONS BAY
DUNEDIN 9013