



Committee member: Bruce Spittle, 727 Brighton Road, Ocean View, Dunedin 9035; E-mail: spittle727@gmail.com; Phone/Fax:03 4811418

**MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DUNEDIN BURNS CLUB
WEDNESDAY 16 MAY 2018, 3 PM, 12 ROYAL TERRACE, DUNEDIN
WEBSITE: www.dbc.blogtown.co.nz**

Present: Wayne Allen, Ann Barsby, Frances Brodie, Daphne MacLeod, Jack McLeod, Michael Moroney, Royden Somerville, Bruce Spittle, and Debbie Williams.

1. Apologies: Apologies were unanimously sustained from Bev Allen, David and Janice Crerar, Russell and Helen Thew, David and Carolyn Richardson, Lee Somerville and Nola Wyber.

2. Minutes of the previous annual general meeting, 8 September 2017: The minutes of the previous AGM on 8 September 2017 were accepted unanimously as being a correct record (Moved Mike, seconded Jack).

3. Annual report of the Dunedin Burns Club. Royden thanked the Committee members for their helping the Club over the past year. He noted that the Club had been very active and that all the members of the committee had been very supportive and played an active part. He thanked all the committee members for their many contributions, including Bruce for his secretarial contribution; Frances and Murray Venables for their work as treasurer and assistant treasurer, respectively; Jack for the status he gave the Club as its Patron and his supporting the Burns Supper with the kind gift of a bottle of whisky; Debbie for her donation of a teddy bear as a raffle prize which swelled the Club's coffers, her close oversight of the poetry competition and her stimulation of important and engaging discussions; Ann for her hospitality in hosting the Committee and Annual General meetings, her helping with various events of the Club, her representing the Club at the meetings of the Otago Scottish Heritage Council, and her links with the heritage interests in the city; Wayne for his support of the Club's events, his links with the Caledonian Society of Otago, and his support of the Otago Scottish Heritage Council; Daphne for the many Scottish hats that she wore including with the Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society and the exciting outreach the Society was bringing to Dunedin, and with the Combined Clans and Clan MacLeod which contributed much to the development of a sense of Scottishness in Dunedin; and Mike for contributions to the Committee and his leadership in the musical aspects of the Club including the planning for the musical items for the ceilidh including music for dancing at the 2019 Burns Supper in the Dunedin Town Hall in conjunction with the University of Otago's 150th celebrations.

Review of the year's activities: Dr Somerville noted that the Club had had a very active year in 2017 and was entering 2018 in good form. He noted that a Dunedin Burns Club had been first established in 1861 and that Lenore Satterthwaite had recorded the history of the Club from its re-establishment with a new constitution for the period 1891–1991 in the centenary year publication *The Burns heritage: a history of the Dunedin Club* (Dunedin: Dunedin Burns Club; 1991).

(a) Burns supper 25 January 2018: Dr Somerville thanked Toitu Otago Settlers Museum and the many staff who helped with the successful Burns supper, particularly Seán Brosnahan and Willie McKee. He noted the performances of Harry Grigg and Beth Goulston had been well received and he hoped both would be available to sing at the 2019 Burns supper, together, if available, with the winner of the 2018 Burns song section of the Dunedin Performing Arts Competitions Society's Senior Vocal Festival. The addresses by Alan Jackson and Lisa Scott were well received together with the address to the haggis by Liam McIlvanney and Seán Brosnahan.

(b) *2018 Robert Burns Poetry competition*: Royden reported that the Club had contributed the medals to the UNESCO Dunedin City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition and the recipients had been thrilled to receive them.

(c) *2017 Burns Song Section in the Senior Vocal Festival of the Dunedin Performing Arts Competitions Society*: Royden commented that the Club had contributed \$250 in prize money for the Burns Song Section of the Festival.

(d) *2018 Robbie Rocks Dunedin*: The Club donated \$250 for the People's Choice Award.

(e) *2017 St Andrews Day celebrations*: The celebrations were held in the Octagon on 26 November 2017. The raffle for the teddy bear donated by Debbie raised \$30. A dinner, hosted by the Taieri Scottish Society, was held at Robbies on 30 November.

(f) *2018 Robert Burns Annual Lecture*. The delivery of the lecture by Professor Liam McIlvanney was postponed. Professor McIlvanney spoke recently at a meeting of the Otago Scottish Heritage Society including mention of his crime novel writing.

(g) *Robert Burns Association of the Pacific Rim*: The Club has maintained its membership of the Association. It is hoped that other clubs will also become members including those at Camperdown, Australia, Whanganui and Auckland. It is hoped to host a further AGM for the Association in Dunedin following the one held in association with the successful Scottish festival in Dunedin in 2014.

(h) *Otago Scottish Heritage Council*: Royden expressed his gratitude that the Club was a member of the Council. The Council met on the first Tuesday of the month except for July and January. Professor Brooking will speak at the June meeting.

(i) *Robert Burns World Federation*: The Club maintained its membership of the Robert Burns World Federation. It was seen that it was good to have a connection to the World Federation. The Burns Chronicle has had an article on the Robbie Rocks Dunedin competition and an obituary to Professor McIlvanney's father.

(j) *2019 Burns Supper*: Royden said that there were exciting plans for the 2019 Burns Supper and the support of the Committee will be needed. The celebration, in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the founding of the University of Otago, will be held in the Dunedin Town Hall. It is planned to have 25 tables of 10 persons and to obtain sponsorship for the tables. The Town Hall hire cost will be met by the University of Otago. It will be a sit down buffet meal with a cost of up to \$150 a person as well as the costs of travel and overnight accommodation. It is hoped that 3 tables will be supported by the University and that others receive support from the Caledonian Society of Otago, the Dunedin Burns Club, the Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society, and other Scottish organizations including those in Southland. Dr Somerville noted that Otago and Southland were one province when the University was established. It is planned that the format of the supper will stay the same. Liam is making enquires about a speaker to deliver the Immortal Memory address. The combination of a traditional and contemporary address to the haggis delivered by Liam and Seán at the 2018 supper was well received and it planned to repeat this format. A gender balance will be maintained in the performers. Consideration is being given to choosing of an MC. Music will be important at the supper and it is planned to have an area for dancing after the meal is served.

On behalf of everyone present, Wayne thanked Royden for the inspirational leadership that Royden had given to the Club and how he had been able to weld it into a cohesive unit. Ann also thanked Royden for his outstanding leadership with the Otago Scottish Heritage Council. All of those attending the AGM endorsed these comments with acclamation.

Frances said that she had worked as Treasurer as an enthusiastic amateur, there was a need for a professional layout of the financial performance statement, she was grateful for the help of Assistant Treasurer Murray Venables, B Comm, ACA, ACIS, and wished to extend her thanks to him.

4. *Financial report*: Frances presented the financial performance and balance sheet noting that \$142 had been received in subscription income. Overall the loss for the year was \$65 but some accounts were still outstanding. The report was unanimously adopted (moved Frances, seconded Royden).

It was unanimously agreed that a \$50 cheque for petrol vouchers be given to Murray Venables, Assistant Treasurer, in appreciation of his Assistant Treasurer work (moved Frances, seconded Wayne).

Some discussion was held about the subscription levels which are \$10 for individuals and \$12 for couples and families. The need to balance the subscription cost and the benefits of joining were referred to. Some groups have a higher subscription e.g., \$25 but members received a \$5 discount for functions such as regular concerts or dinners. It was agreed the subscription should remain for the coming year until 17 April 2019 (3rd Wednesday) at \$10 and \$12 and that the matter could be reviewed as appropriate by the Committee. Introducing a life membership category, as exists for members of Toitu Otago Settlers Museum, was also suggested.

5. *Election of officers:* (The Committee consists of a Patron, a President, the Immediate Past President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer [all of whom are the Officers for the Club] and twelve other members).

Patron: Jack McLeod was re-elected as Patron by acclamation; President: Royden Somerville was re-elected (moved Wayne, seconded Frances) with accompanying acclamation; Vice-Presidents: Ann Barsby and Daphne MacLeod were similarly unanimously re-elected (moved Bruce, seconded Wayne); Secretary: no nominations for the position of Secretary were received. Royden thanked Bruce for his time as Secretary and requested he consider helping in the role in the interim until a new appointment was made, particularly until the 2019 Burns Supper; Treasurer: Frances Brodie was re-elected Treasurer (moved Royden, seconded Jack) with acclaim; Committee: all the current members were re-elected with Royden expressing his thanks to them: Wayne Allen, Liam McIlvanney, Michael Moroney, Bruce Spittle and Debbie Williams.

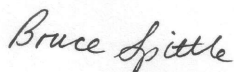
6. *Election of Honorary Life Member:* Bruce was unanimously elected as an Honorary Life Member.

7. *Appointment of Assistant Treasurer:* Murray Venables B Comm, ACA, ACIS., was re-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.

8. *Appointment of Official Piper:* Raymond Goodfellow was re-elected unanimously as Official Piper.

9. *General business:*

(i) Wayne said the Mid Year Event and Dinner for the Caledonian Society of Otago would be held at midday on Sunday 15 July 2018 [(11 am for 12 midday) in the upstairs function room of the Edgar Centre on the corner of Teviot Street and Portsmouth Drive with tickets being \$45 a person (\$40 for members) and available from The Scottish Shop, 17 George Street. There will be a guest speaker, traditional Scottish dinner, wonderful entertainment, a haggis ceremony and a cash bar from 11 am. Entry by ticket only.]



Bruce Spittle
Committee member