



**Secretary-Treasurer: Bruce Spittle, 727 Brighton Road, Ocean View, Dunedin 9035; E-mail: [spittle727@gmail.com](mailto:spittle727@gmail.com); Phone/Fax: 03 4811418**

**MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DUNEDIN BURNS CLUB  
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2020, 3 PM, 12 ROYAL TERRACE, DUNEDIN  
WEBSITE: [www.dbc.blogtown.co.nz](http://www.dbc.blogtown.co.nz)**

*Present:* Bev Allen, Wayne Allen, Ann Barsby, Daphne MacLeod, Jack McLeod, Royden Somerville and Bruce Spittle.

*1. Welcome:* The President, Royden Somerville welcomed everyone to the meeting which had been delayed until after the Covid lockdown. He particularly welcomed Bev and Wayne Allen and wished Wayne well in his continued recovery from his recent stroke.

*2. Apologies:* Apologies were unanimously sustained from David and Janice Crerar; David and Mary Gray, Marjorie Spittle, Ray Goodfellow and Lee Somerville. [Frances Brodie gave her apology after the meeting. She was unable to attend because of last minute transport issues].

*3. Minutes of the previous annual general meeting, 10 July 2019.* The minutes of the previous AGM on 10 July 2019 were approved unanimously as being a correct record.

*4. Review of the year's activities:* The President, Royden Somerville, reported on the activities of the Club over the past year.

#### **DUNEDIN BURNS CLUB AGM 2020—AN ACCOUNT OF THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President thanked Ann Barsby for her generous hospitality in hosting the committee meetings and the Annual General Meeting in her lovely home at 12 Royal Terrace, Dunedin. He also thanked all the committee members and the Patron, Jack McLeod, for their collegial support of the Club's activities over the past year and their support of the Scottish heritage sector and Scottish cultural activities in Dunedin. He noted they were all involved with various aspects of Scottish life as well as in the Burns Club. He expressed gratitude to the committee members for maintaining their strong links with other Scottish organisations, and noted that this greatly benefited the Dunedin Burns Club.

Dr Somerville reported that the Club had had an active year with the Burns Night Dinner, on the 25th of January 2020, at Toitu Otago Settlers Museum, having the theme of Burns+Brexite and being addressed by the British High Commissioner Laura Clarke and Professor Alison Phipps from the University of Glasgow. He expressed his thanks to Mike Moroney and the Dunedin Scottish Fiddle Orchestra noting they added a lot to the sense of occasion and that their playing for the ceilidh, with calling by Bernadette Berry, was very well received. He expressed his gratitude for the sterling work done by Seán Brosnahan, Toitu Otago Settlers Museum, in organizing the Burns Night Dinner, and in arranging interesting historical programmes shown on YouTube during the lockdown. He thanked the poets for reading their poems at the supper and Jenny Whitaker for her singing to the accompaniment of Frances Brodie. He noted that Seán Brosnahan was proceeding with planning for the 2021 Burns Supper and it was hoped to have an Irish theme and involve Peter Ryan, the Irish ambassador to

NZ, and Professor Sonja Tiernan, Co-Director of the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies, University of Otago. He considered the ceilidh had gone very well and that it would be appropriate to continue including it in future.

The President noted that the UNESCO Dunedin City of Literature Robert Burns Poetry competition, had gone from strength to strength. The Club will continue to provide medals for the winners. Other groups and persons are kindly sponsoring the cash prizes. The competition helped keep the association of Dunedin with Robert Burns alive. He thanked Kay Mercer, Dunedin Libraries, and Nicky Page, Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature Director, for their work with the competition.

Dr Somerville noted that the Burns Song Section of the Senior Vocal Festival of the Dunedin Performing Arts Competition was not held in 2020 because of Covid-19 but that the Club would support the competition again in 2021 when it would next be held.

The President noted that the Dunedin Robbie Rocks competition was not held this year and that possibilities for its rekindling in a new format were under consideration such as Burns in Te Reo. Dr Somerville commended Seán Brosnahan for his commitment and dedication to this competition which he established and ran for a number of years.

Royden noted that no Club stall was held at the 2019 St Andrew's Day Celebrations in the Octagon but some Club members assisted with the stalls for other organizations. The St Andrew's Day celebrations in the Octagon will be held this year on Sunday 29 November 2020 with the Kirkin' of the Tartan Church Service being held at Knox Church on 22 November 2020. Consideration is being given to banners being created to designate the various Scottish groups rather than using shields.

The President noted that the Club had continued its membership of Otago Scottish Heritage Council, the Robert Burns Association of the Pacific Rim and the Robert Burns World Federation. He noted that, because of Covid the Camperdown Burns Festival in NSW, Australia, was changed from its usual format [to a 2020 Virtual Festival Celebrating Connections Old and New with live streaming on 4th and 5th July 2020, Twenty-eight videos from the festival are available at <http://camperdownburnsfestival.com.au> with fiddle club music, address to the haggis, Celtic dance, Highland dance, historical connections of Camperdown to Scotland, the roading legacy of Scottish engineers, music with the small pipes, harp and whistle, singing, and scenes from the gala dinner, etc.].

The membership by Scottish organisations of the Otago Scottish Heritage Council has increased in the last year and Dr Somerville expressed his gratitude for the support the Club members gave to the Council in their various roles. The Council is applying to the DCC Heritage Fund for a grant of \$5,000 to support its work for the cultural life of Dunedin.

The President's report was received and appreciation expressed for the hard work Dr Somerville had done for Scottish organizations in Otago.

*4. Financial report:* Bruce presented the financial report which was approved. [Wayne provided written documentation later that the financial accounts had been reviewed and found to give a true and fair view of the Club's financial activities.]

Dunedin Burns Club

Bruce Spittle (Treasurer)

Thank you for engaging me to review your financial accounts for the year ending 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020

I have reviewed the statement of income and expenditure and the statement of financial position of the Dunedin Burns Club for the year ending 29 February 2020 in accordance with my understanding of accepted reviewing standards and have carried out such procedures as I have considered necessary. In accordance with other organizations of a similar nature, control over the income from fundraising prior to its being recorded is limited and there are no practical review procedures to determine the effect of this limited control. Subject to the above, in my opinion the statement of income and expenditure and the statement of financial position for the year ending 29 February 2020 give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the Dunedin Burns Club.

Wayne Allen



Reviewer

Dunedin Burns Club

Bruce thanked Wayne for his work as Reviewer in reviewing the accounts.

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

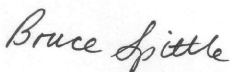
The following officers and committee members were elected by acclamation: Patron: Jack McLeod, President: Royden Somerville, Vice-Presidents: Ann Barsby and Daphne MacLeod, Musical Director: Michael Moroney, Reviewer: Wayne Allen, Secretary-Treasurer: Bruce Spittle, and Committee members: Frances Brodie and Liam McIlvanney.

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

*9. General business:*

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 1515.



Bruce Spittle

Secretary-Treasurer