



## **Newsletter October 2017 - Spring Thaw**

### **Otago Scottish Heritage Council History**

The First Meeting of the OSHC was held on Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup> 1925 at the offices of W.E.C Reid-Co Carlton Chambers High Street Dunedin. The following were represented:

Caledonian Society of Otago, Dunedin Burns Club, Otago Gaelic Society and the Otago Piping and dancing Association.

Mr P.W Breen President of the Caledonian Society was elected to the Chair.

The Chairman stated that the meeting had been called to consider the possibility of federating in some way the Scottish Societies of Dunedin.

The time seemed favourable for the federation of the Societies which would be a splendid thing as a means of arranging for the entertainment of distinguished Scottish visitors. Mr T Ritchie stated that at present in Dunedin there was no body fully representative of Scottish affairs, each society representing its own special functions.

A council of all societies could.

1. Extend courtesy and hospitality to distinguished and other Scotsmen (No women included?) visiting our shores.
2. Suitably receive and entertain the present Governor General.
3. Advise his worship the mayor with regard to civic receptions to representative Scotsmen.
4. Help each other and encourage each other's various efforts.
5. Combine in the matter of Lectures on questions of Scottish interest.
6. Encourage education authorities to include their teaching of Scottish history in schools.

7. Combine to assist artists or companies in having their aims and objects in the furthering of Scottish affairs in our midst.

### **OSHC Today:**

The OSHC is an umbrella organisation involved with Scottish culture and heritage in the Otago region.

The following clans and groups are currently members of the OSHC:

Burns Scottish Country Dancing Club

Caledonian Society

Ceilidh Club

City of Dunedin Pipe band

Clan Donald

Clan Elliott

Clan Gun

Clan Johnstone

Clan Mackenzie

Clan Mclean Otago

Clan McLeod

Clan Macnicol

Clan Murray

Dunedin Burns Club

Dunedin- Edinburgh Sister City Society

Gaelic Club of Otago

Pipes and drums of Dunedin

Piping and dancing of Dunedin

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Scottish Scarves

Sister Cities – Tartan Ties project

Southern Heritage Trust

Taieri Scottish Society

Southern Heritage Trust

All members of the OSHC are encouraged to invite any groups interested in Scottish Cultural or heritage to the monthly meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month except for Jan & July at the Athenaeum Library at 7.00pm in the Octagon. All are welcome.

The annual AGM was held at the October meeting, Election of office bearers were voted resulting in Dr Royden Somerville QC President, Mr Graeme Duthie remaining as Treasurer and Mr Dene Mackenzie was voted as Secretary. Congratulations to you all. Thanks to Professor Angela McCarthy for her excellent work as Secretary last financial year.

### **Guest Speakers:**

**August** – In the absence of Mayor Dave Cull, due to illness, his very informative address was read by Deputy Mayor Chris Staynes. The contents revealed in brief that Dunedin was established in 1843.

The first aim was commercially driven trade. The discovery of gold brought many benefits: commercial, cultural, Gaelic influence, architecture, the Scottish influence remains. Dunedin city boasts the first university in the country, first Fine Arts etc, courses, degree courses for females. Dunedin had Presbyterian values, social conscience, brought Burns Literature to Dunedin. Early 1973 a sister city, link was established with Edinburgh. Now we are asked to redefine who and where we are, regarding Scottish Heritage and relationship.

**September** – Dr Donald Kerr, from the University of Otago Library, special collections. Dr Kerr spoke on the collections the library had collected or been bequeathed with special mention of the Esmond de Beer collection, which included 16,000 volumes. The Charles Brasch Collection included Brasch books, the New Zealand poet and cousin of the de Beer family. Dr Kerr provided members with a brochure on the collections held at the university library and urges members to visit and view what he described as a “wonderful” collection.

**October** – Mr Bernie Hawke of the Dunedin Public Library Spoke on the Robbie Burns Poetry Competition- Robbie Burns the great Scottish Bard, was born on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1759 and his legend lives on through his poetry and songs, such as Tam O’Shanter. Regarded as a pioneer of the Romantic Movement, his works reflect his strength of opinion, his love of women and his fondness (sometimes too much) of drinking. The Dunedin Burns Club was formed in

1861, alongside a number of Scottish clubs and societies in the city. The Dunedin Burns Club keeps the memory of our Scottish heritage alive and well.

A statue of Robbie Burns was unveiled in 1887, and stands in the popular focal point and meeting place for both residents and visitors.

### **City Of Edinburgh Quaich:**

“Perpetual Challenge Trophy” The Edinburgh Quaich is a solid silver drinking vessel which was presented to the Otago Scottish Heritage Council in 1987 by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh. This has been held in the vault of the Edinburgh Castle.

The Quaich is awarded annually to the Club, Clan, or Society who has done the most to promote our Scottish Heritage during the previous year.

The winner must stand down for the next 12 months. Everyone has the chance of holding the Quaich.

Nominations for the year from January to December each year are due into the secretary by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December each year, entrants may self nominate. Nominations should take the form of a descriptive documentary of activities and reasons why a particular Club, Clan, or Society should be considered for award of the Quaich.

These are not to be opened by anyone but an appointed judge. An independent judge (s) is to be appointed each year by the Otago Scottish Heritage Council.

If there are insufficient nominations to warrant a panel of Judges, one person may be appointed as sole judge.

The Quaich is to be appointed at a suitable Function early in the New Year, possibly at the Burns Dinner if the Burns club is agreeable.

Please address your nominations to:

**OSHC**

**C/- 16C Picardy Street**

**Maryhill**

**Morningside**

**Dunedin 9011 clearly marked “Quaich Nomination**

## Up and coming Events

Dunedin UNESCO City of Literature “Robbie Burns Poetry Competition” 1 Sep-30<sup>th</sup> November

The Dunedin UNESCO city of Literature Robert Burns Poetry Competition is a collaborative between the Dunedin Public Libraries and the Dunedin Burns Club. Entries are judged by associates of the Robert Burns Fellowship and the winners are announced and presented with prizes on Robert Burns’ birthday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

Entries Close Thursday 30 November 2017 for more information or to fill out an entry form visit [www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/events](http://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/events)

**Harbour city Heritage Festival Dunedin** starts Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - Monday 23 October 2017

Look out for these special events which have been created for the Festival:

- **Festival lunch and blue stone award**
- **Historic films from around Otago Harbour**
- **Panel discussion on Otago Harbour’s future**
- **Harbour Heritage Symposium**
- **Performance derived from shipboard diaries**
- **Port Chalmers and Quarantine Island Labour Weekend**

For a full list of exciting events go to the website: [www.heritagefestival.org.nz](http://www.heritagefestival.org.nz)

## **OSHC November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting**

**7.00pm, Athenaeum Library, the Octagon**

Speaker – Sean Brosnahan, Curator, Toitu – Otago Settlers Museum.

## St Andrews Day Celebrations

November 30th

Annual St Andrews Day Luncheon will be held on ~~November 20<sup>th</sup>~~ at Robbie's in Campbell Road South Dunedin at 12pm \$15.00 per ticket which can be purchased at Robbie's from the 1<sup>st</sup> November or at the Scottish shop. For more information contact Frank Brown of the Taieri Scottish Society.  
([fwbrown@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fwbrown@xtra.co.nz))

## November 26<sup>th</sup> St Andrews Day

There will be activities in the Octagon organised by the Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society- Simon Vare reported on progress for the St Andrews celebrations.

A raffle would be run to use the \$1500 airfares available to send three people to the national pipe band competition in Rotorua.

The haggis pie eating competition will be resumed this year, and the organisers were working with the Hororata Scottish Games organisers on various competitions and themes.

Music is being arranged, the City of Dunedin Pipe Band will play, along with (hopefully) John McGlashan pipers.

Food and drink stalls will be available and the central Octagon carriageway will be closed

An Information Hub will be available for anyone interested in searching their Clans' History.

Those wanting to help out with St Andrews day celebrations please contact Lyn Nicholson at [lynanicholson@gmail.com](mailto:lynanicholson@gmail.com) or Daphne McLeod at [daphne.macleod@xtra.co.nz](mailto:daphne.macleod@xtra.co.nz)

The **Burns Lecture** organised by the Centre for Irish and Scottish studies at the University of Otago supported by the Dunedin Burns Club will be held at 5.15pm on St Andrews Day (Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017). Venue to be advised.

## **Kirkin' O' the Tartan**

**Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2017** at Knox Church (to be confirmed). The clans and Scottish organisations who wish to participate please contact Royden Somerville ([rjsomerville@barristerschambers.co.nz](mailto:rjsomerville@barristerschambers.co.nz)) or Alison Thornton ([alison Thornton@gmail.com](mailto:alison Thornton@gmail.com)). Can those attending with banners please meet at the front door of the Church at 9.45am.

## **Dunedin Public Art Gallery**

10<sup>th</sup> December 2017

The Dunedin Public Art Gallery Society Has extended a special invitation to the members of the OSHC to attend a unique Christmas Event on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December Sunday at 3pm, Professor Murray Rae on Dunedin churches at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery

The DPAG Society, like many venerable institutions in the arts today, must struggle to convince the larger community of its relevance. Art confronts a very particular challenge because in the twenty-first century it has come to mean so many different things to so many people. In this context, we have asked Murray Rae to talk to us about architectural art and the way it is inextricably bound up in the history of this city and the beliefs of those that founded it – shaping the buildings that mark our everyday life today. Professor Sir David Skegg has kindly agreed to introduce Murray's presentation.

DPAG thought that this event might be of interest to the members of the Otago Scottish Heritage Council because of the way that Dunedin's churches constitute living testimonies to the contributions of Scottish settlers to the history of Dunedin. Please notify Royden Somerville if you would like to attend so he can give numbers to Hilary Radner.

## **Burns Scottish Country Dancing Club**

The Burns Scottish Country Dance Club will be celebrating its 65th anniversary with a dinner in November for current and past dancers. The Club originated from within the Dunedin Burns Society in May 1952 this being one of the first Scottish country dance groups in New Zealand. A gentleman from Holland had met and fallen in love with a lady who was a member of the Dunedin Burns Society and a Scottish country dancer from overseas. She was homesick and

missed her dancing so, rather than let her return home, he made the suggestion that they should form a separate committee of the Society to establish a Scottish country dance group. Some of the dances learned on the first night were Strip the Willow, The Eightsome Reel (quite an accomplishment for a first night dance), Gay Gordons, Petronella, the Dashing White Sergeant, and the Flowers of Edinburgh. For 1/- members received the dancing lesson, a cup of tea and a biscuit. Music was supplied using a combination of Jimmy Shand recordings, and Mrs Ethel Matheson and Mr Les Jack on the piano. A Scottish gentleman from the School of Physical Education by the name of Mr Joe Wallace offered to take the dancing. By 1953 the club boasted 300 members, and at its peak an additional 180 juniors, however, numbers have fallen in recent years. The club is still very active and meets weekly throughout the year with members enjoying their dancing, albeit without the piano accompaniment, but still with tea and biscuits on the first Monday of the month. Comparatively, the cost of admission was greater in 1952 with 1/- being 0.005 of the average weekly wage of a semi-skilled worker, whereas using today's figures the door charge has fallen slightly - deflation at its best.

## **Robbie Rocks 2018:**

If you require information about the Robbie Rocks competition please see [www.toituosm.com/whats-on/events/robbie-rocks-dunedin-2018](http://www.toituosm.com/whats-on/events/robbie-rocks-dunedin-2018)

## **Notices:**

The Caledonian Society of Otago is in urgent need of a person to fill the position of Society Treasurer. Our current Treasurer has filled the role for a number of years now and wants to shed this responsibility for which she has done an excellent job in securely looking after the Society Funds.

A retired or semi retired person with a head for figures and accounting procedures should find this position ideal.

The position is an honorary one.

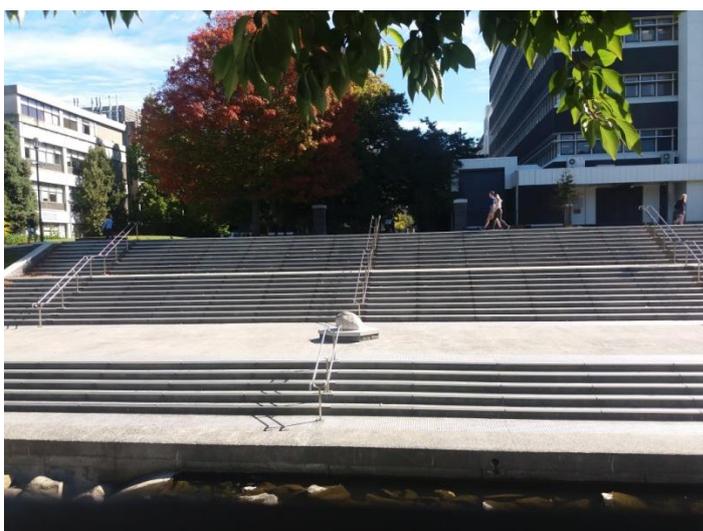
Anyone interested who feels they would be suited to this role should contact Mrs Rhondda Rowley Ph: 03-455 8140 or email: [r.rowley@windowslive.com](mailto:r.rowley@windowslive.com)

If you wish to learn Gaelic and know more about the Gaelic language contact Alison Thornton at [alison Thornton@gmail.com](mailto:alison Thornton@gmail.com)

## Past event updates



The City's Edinburgh stone by Scottish sculptor Sylvia Stewart, was relocated to a new site on the banks of the Leith, this time on the new steps opposite the University clock tower. A relocation ceremony was held on 20th April 2017. The close up is of Peter Nicholls of the Otago Sculpture Trust.



## Clan Gunn's midwinter Hogmanay held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2017

This was such a successful event and it will be held again in 2018 so be sure you get your tickets-details will be announced closer to the time



On display are the banners of Clans that make up part of the combine Clans



Jack McLeod, Daphne McLeod, Frank Brown enjoying a natter in between courses and Pauline, Jakob, Rod and Shane McLeod of Clan McLeod.



Above Centre Bev and Wayne Allen and others from the Caledonian Society enjoying their evening.

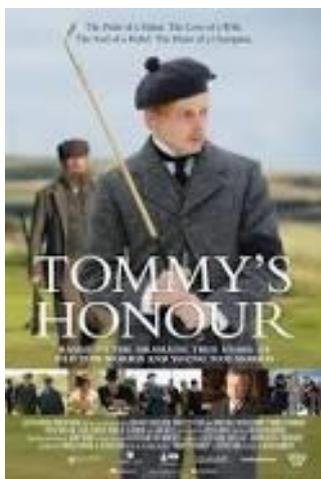


Seated from left to right are Shirley Morton, Marilyn Keogh and Neil Roberts as they eagerly await their dessert after a splendid entree and delicious main course.



Lynn and Bruce with Richard Nicolson from Clan Macnicol, Soaking up the atmosphere while the main is being served.

**Movie “Tommy’s Honour”** on Friday 1st of Sept held at the Metro proved to be a successful night, fun was had by all. This was a movie about a young Scottish golfer who earned himself a golf title at the age of 17 and remains unbeaten today. The movie night raised funds for the Combined Clans of Otago



**Favourite Pics of any future events will be greatly received, please send them to me, Charmaine Mundy, Newsletter Editor - email: [miss\\_pu@live.com](mailto:miss_pu@live.com) so get snapping folks 😊**