



The English-Speaking Union (Victoria Branch)

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MEDIA RELEASE

The Melbourne Scots win grant to publish their *Songbook*

For immediate release, 30 May 2021

The English-Speaking Union Victoria Branch (ESU) is delighted to announce **The Melbourne Scots** as the winner of its March 2021 Minor Project Grant.

The grant of \$2,000 will enable The Melbourne Scots to publish a fully revised edition of *The Melbourne Scots Songbook*.

The Melbourne Scots was established in 1919 as a membership organisation, aiming to foster Scottish sentiment and to maintain Scottish tradition in Melbourne. Their activities encourage and foster the literature, lore and music of Scotland, and unite Scots and their descendants in fellowship.

About the project

The Melbourne Scots Songbook contains 55 traditional songs written in English or Lallans (i.e. the lowland Scots dialect of English). Multiple copies of the *Songbook* are made available at events organised by The Melbourne Scots, assisting 'members and guests alike to participate with great gusto'.

For this new edition, the contents have been thoroughly revised. Scottish-born Vivien Hamilton, a distinguished singer, accompanist and educator, has completed in-depth research into the history and development of Scottish songs in print, including the addition of notes on selected songs and their accompanying music. For the first time, *The Melbourne Scots Songbook* will also include their melodies in music notation, expertly typeset by Kenneth Howden. Their input will add value to the *Songbook's* status as an important and useful document for The Melbourne Scots.

The ESU's grant will support design and printing costs so that the revised edition of *The Melbourne Scots Songbook* will continue to promote the literary and musical traditions of Scotland and will enable participation in song and story by all attendees at The Melbourne Scots' events.

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Comments attributable to ESU Branch President, Robert Furlan, a member of the award judging panel:

“The ESU acknowledges The Melbourne Scots’ commitment to encouraging and fostering the literature, lore and music of Scotland amongst the people of Melbourne.”

“The ESU is pleased to support the publication of a revised edition of the *Songbook* to assist members of The Melbourne Scots and their guests in celebrating Scottish traditions.”

“The ESU congratulates The Melbourne Scots and wishes them well in finalising their new edition of *The Melbourne Scots Songbook*, later this year.”

The Role of the English-Speaking Union (Victoria Branch)

The ESU’s mission is to promote the heritage, culture, identity and fellowship of the English-speaking peoples. Via a range of competitive awards, the ESU provides funding for activities that align with this mission.

The ESU is a registered Australian charity.

The ESU has been active in supporting educational and cultural projects by Australians for over 100 years.

Further information

Details of the ESU Awards Program can be found at esuvic.org.au/content/awards.

For information about the ESU, please contact the President, Robert Furlan, on 0419 559 608.

To arrange an interview with a representative of The Melbourne Scots, please contact awards@esuvic.org.au.