

# U3A DUNEDIN FORUM



Newsletter No. 53 November 2016

## The list is gone!

# No waiting

The year is rushing past again and what a momentous year it has been!! Our move to electronic communication has been so successful, enabling us to be in contact with everyone when we wish and easing the way we enrol for courses - never mind the ballot which, thanks to our Webmaster, is run so easily now. We have come to the end of the third Series of excellent lectures and now have a break until next year. Thank you to all who have made this so successful — members, lecturers, Board members and everyone involved.

At the Special General Meeting which we held early in October, we completed the business with no problems. Thank you to those members who attended. We are now able to hold our Annual General Meeting at any time prior to 31 July, allowing us to be able to hold the meeting earlier in the year if we wish. (Our financial year ends 31 December.) We also changed the Trust Deed to allow seven weeks for

payment of their annual subscriptions before resignation is then deemed. Previously we had a year allowed which did not help in administration of the membership list! These changes involved Clauses 15.2 and 17.1 of the Deed.



Jane Higham  
Chair, U3A Dunedin Board

After a lot of discussion, we have decided that we shall no longer run a Waiting List for prospective members. This means that we shall have to ensure that we offer enough places, each term, for everyone to attend the

course they choose (and this has been explained by Doug Holborow in his report below.) It also means that whenever we have a request for anyone to join, we can offer membership immediately. Some people on the Waiting List had been there for two years or more.

Following this decision we were very happy to agree to Otepoti U3A's request to merge with us. This means they will bring their expertise in running Small Groups, through Ngaire Bates, to enhance our programme next year, giving you yet more opportunities to learn in different formats.

The death of Brian Robinson, a previous Board Chairman, was received with sorrow. Also that of a previous Board member and Programme Committee leader, Jenny Laws. Our sympathies go to their families.

Have a happy and peaceful holiday and come back ready for what promises to be another exciting year with U3A Dunedin. - **Jane Highman**

## How will it work?

The Waiting List has now been disestablished — so how will our venues accommodate the increased membership next year for the first series of programmes?

1. In each series we have available 780 seats for members if we use Leith Bowling Club and the Otago Golf Club.

2. On average 65% of our membership enrolls in a series, which is 510 members. In fact, this year the percentage enrolling was less than that.

3. Note that one fifth of our members didn't enrol for a single course in 2016. Yes, we know that you are busy people. You told us in our recent survey.

4. The addition of possibly another 100 members from the waiting list will not embarrass us in terms of accommodation.

5. However, the maximum we can take at Otago Golf Club is 150. The maximum at Leith Bowling Club is 110. Should very popular courses at these venues attract enrolments that

are greater than those maximums, we will hold a ballot for those courses, as we have in the past. So, where possible, it is wise to rank more courses than you wish to attend, when you enrol.

6. Salmond Hall can accommodate 55. We will continue to use this venue for small courses, and that may on occasion necessitate a ballot also.

7. We endeavour to assign courses to venues based on their anticipated popularity. Not surprisingly, these "educated guesses" are sometimes wrong. - **Douglas Holborow**

# Some great courses for Series 1, 2017

An innovation, "Speaker's Corner" was very strongly supported early this year, so we have another course in preparation for Series 1 next year.

One of our members has spent his life in the field of agriculture, and given its ongoing topicality, he is planning another course exploring further aspects of relevance, such as water use and climate change.

Geology will feature in the programme, and the health-related topic will be "The Nursing Profession". Conflict and its religious motivation is constantly in the news. 'Religion and Conflict' will explore this subject. Finally a course on *Modern Music* is being planned.

We welcome your opinion on what is being suggested. These topics are being posted on our website. Please let us know what you think of these proposals, and let us have suggestions about speakers, and expertise or interest you may have in the proposed subject areas. You can contact us with your thoughts at [courses@u3a.org.nz](mailto:courses@u3a.org.nz), or by phone to the programme convenor. (See the U3A phone directory elsewhere in this Forum).

## ENCORE returns

Here's your chance to hear those speakers your friends raved about, that you missed. **ENCORE** is changing to avoid the clashes that occurred with our series programmes. The format will be the same, with three sessions a fortnight apart, but they will be held between series one and two, in the latter part of April and through May. There will be two speakers each day, people who gave much admired presentations from previous courses. Enrolment (online only) and payment



Doug Holborow

(\$10 cash at the door) will not change. You can just turn up; we won't turn you away.

## The Programme Committee

Who are the people who work on your behalf to produce the courses you enjoy?

Gretchen Kivell, Noelene Evans (Secretary), Clare Robertson, Bill McKinlay and Doug Holborow have recently been joined by Lester Flockton, and now, on an occasional basis, by Board member and University representative Elaine Webster. We will welcome very soon, Ngaire Bates, who joins us from U3A Otepoti, and who will look after our small groups programme.

We do welcome comments and

## Calling all nerds

Not many people know that the original 'nerd' was a character in Dr Seuss's 1950 children's book *If I Ran The Zoo*. Or that 'blurb' was invented by American writer Gelett Burgess in 1907 to promote his book *Are You A Bromide?* Back cover of the now-forgotten book featured a photo of 'Miss Belinda Blurb' who extolled its merits. And 'yahoo' comes from *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) by Jonathan Swift — it was a nasty brutish creature

suggestions about the programme at any time, by email at [courses@u3a.org.nz](mailto:courses@u3a.org.nz), or by phone to the programme convenor. (See the U3A phone directory elsewhere in this Forum).

- Doug Holborow (Programme Convenor)

## Contacts for our Small Groups

### ART GROUP

Contact: Jane Higham 496-1848 or [rhigham@ihug.co.nz](mailto:rhigham@ihug.co.nz)

### MUSEUM GROUP

Contact: Doug Holborow 477-4573 or [bdholborow@ihug.co.nz](mailto:bdholborow@ihug.co.nz)

### CURRENT ISSUES

Contact: Gretchen Kivell 493-0031 or [gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz)

### POETRY APPRECIATION

Contact: Judith Cowley 471-0026 or [jcowley@clear.net.nz](mailto:jcowley@clear.net.nz)

### PEACE EDUCATION

Contact: Nola Walker 455-3176 or [noelacw@xtra.co.nz](mailto:noelacw@xtra.co.nz)

### Learn chess moves

If you want to learn the great mind game of chess, (a national sport in Russia) plans may be made for a small group next year. Or perhaps you already know the ancient board game but would like to play with opponents, or learn how to improve your cunning moves? If interested please phone Geoff Adams (467-2278).

### Chess mates

:A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and stood in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse.

"But why?" they asked, as they moved off.

"Because," he said "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

### Bad type

A font walked into a bar, The barman said: "Hey, we don't serve your type here." Then he called the Serif.

## UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE CHARITABLE TRUST, DUNEDIN

Website: [u3adunedin.org.nz](http://u3adunedin.org.nz)

Address: **Secretary to the Board,**  
U3A Dunedin, PO Box 6491,  
North Dunedin, 9059.

Email: [info@u3adunedin.org.nz](mailto:info@u3adunedin.org.nz)

Phone: 453-4721

**Chairman:** Jane Higham, 476-1848

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## MAILBOX

## Letter to the Editor

The AGM has come and gone and we now have a new Board of Trustees. While not wishing to disparage the 11 excellent people who were elected to the Board, I do have some concern about the gender balance; nine men and two women in an organisation which, I suspect, has a substantial majority of women among its members. The tradition over the past has been that, where possible, the chairmanship of the Board alternates between male and female members. The present balance makes it difficult to continue this if the chair of the Board is to have considerable experience of Board matters before assuming the chair, as he or she must. I realise that the Board can co-opt members, up to a maximum of 14, but would appeal to female members of U3A to offer themselves for membership of the Board at the next AGM. As a past Board member with eight years' experience, I can assure anyone thinking of offering their services that it is a most interesting, enjoyable and valuable experience.

- John Burton

[It is not present policy that there must be alternating gender for each Chair of the U3A Dunedin Board. All members are free to nominate any member for possible election to the job. – Ed.]

## Word Play

Some alternative meanings for common words, supplied by readers to the Washington Post newspaper:

**Coffee**, n. The person upon whom one coughs.

**Abdicate**, v. To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

**Esplanade**, v. To attempt an explanation while tipsy.

**Negligent**, adj. Absent-mindedly answering the door wearing only a nightgown.

**Gargoyle**, n. Olive-flavoured mouthwash.

**Flatulence**, n. Emergency vehicle that picks up someone run over by a steamroller.

**Balderdash**, n. A rapidly receding hairline.

**Pokemon**, n. A Rastafarian proctologist.

**Frisbeetarianism**, n. The belief that after death the soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

## PUZZLES

## Secrets of



Sudoku is a simple logic puzzle and number placement game, easy to learn, great for zoning your logical thinking while you play the game.

There is only one rule to completing a sudoku: each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column, must contain each of the digits from 1 to 9 without repetition (there are nine cells in every row, column and box). The puzzle begins with some cells already numbered. Your task is to fill in all the rest.

While the rules of Sudoku puzzles are pretty simple, it can make quite a challenging puzzle to solve. Never give up too easily though. But there

are free and good computer programs to help you solve it. They help scan and keep track of possible digits for blank cells, provide filters and colour markers to make solving even tricky puzzles much easier, faster and more interesting.

Go to <http://www.techsupportalert.com/content/best-free-sudoku.htm> for a ranking of the best free Sudoku puzzle generator and solver.

What's more? There are numerous hints and strategies to help play the game and solve the puzzles, such as found at <http://angusj.com/sudoku/hints.php>.

## NOT the USA election!

Tuesday, November 8: the date of the 58th quadrennial U.S. presidential election. Voters will select presidential electors who in turn will elect a new president and vice-president through the Electoral College.

The last of the primaries and caucuses took place in mid-June, when it was already clear which Democrat and Republican were going head to head. During elections in US states and American territories, candidates collect delegates who pledged to endorse them at their national party conventions in July. The Republican convention took place from July 18 to 21 and Democratic convention from July 25 to 28.

## RELATIVELY SPEAKING

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are related! President Barack Obama is a 26th cousin (four times removed) of Donald Trump. A genealogist in USA claimed last March that Donald Trump is related to every one of the 43 Presidents of the United States, including Abraham Lincoln and Bill Clinton. This claim was later confirmed by some genealogical websites.

Since the most distant connection (to Franklin Roosevelt, not Barack Obama as you may have suspected) involves a number of marriages it's clear that Donald Trump must be at least as closely related to Hillary Clinton as he is to FDR. The most distant connection is between Trump



and Franklin Roosevelt. Trump is claimed to be 'he fourth cousin once removed of the husband of the half first cousin seven times removed of the wife of his second great grand nephew of the husband of his half first cousin 14 times removed.'

The research may be correct but it's only telling us what some already think: ultimately we're ALL related when you go back far enough.

## Direct hit in Oz

Do you remember Dean Martin singing 'Amore'? – *When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie, that's amore* etc. A spoof of that song has surfaced in Australia — it goes:

*'When an eel swims on by and it brushes your thigh, that's a moray...*

*When Othello's poor wife gets strangled in strife, that's a Moor, eh?*

*When you ace your last tests like you did all the rest, that's some more 'A's...*

*When our habits are strange and our customs deranged, that's our mores...'*



## U3A volunteer for Mars

Alexander Selkirk, (suited at right in photo) a member of U3A Brobdingnag, Queensland, Australia, has been accepted for an ambitious flight to Mars due to take place in 2020.

When interviewed recently he said "I don't think it's right that only young people should be asked to give up the remainder of their lives, when there will be no possibility of their return to Earth. On the other hand, I'm reasonably fit, and if I'm still available, if you know what I mean, I'm very happy to offer my service so that U3A can feel that they have a place in humankind's exciting future in space".

## Statistics bite the bullet . . .

Culled from the Internet, this chart makes interesting reading:

### Number of Americans killed annually by:

Islamic jihadists immigrants	1	2
Far right-wing terrorists	1	5
ASII Islamic jihadist terrorists (including US citizens)	1	9
Armed toddlers	2	21
Lightning	3	31
Lawnmowers	4	69
Being hit by a bus	4	264
Falling out of bed	4	737
Being shot by another American	5	11,737

### Sources:

1. 10-year average of terrorist attacks. "Deadly attacks since 9/11" (<http://security.newamerica.net/exgtremists/deadfy-attacks.html>)
2. [www..snopes.com/toddlers-killed-terrorists](http://www.snopes.com/toddlers-killed-terrorists)
3. 10-year average of deaths by lightning, NOAA, [www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hazstats/trsources/weather\\_fatalities.pdf](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hazstats/trsources/weather_fatalities.pdf)
4. 10-year average, Underlying Cause of Death 2014; <http://wonder.cdc.gov>
5. 10-year average 2005-2014, CDC , Injury Prevention & Control, Data & Statistics [www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqats/fatal\\_injury\\_reports.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqats/fatal_injury_reports.html)

## U3A email directory

Sending email correspondence to U3A Dunedin? Using the addresses below will take your messages to the appropriate people and have quicker attention. (Should you contact the wrong person they will of course forward your mail to the correct address.)

**General information:** [info@u3adunedin.org.nz](mailto:info@u3adunedin.org.nz)  
**Re Administration:** [admin@u3adunedin.org.nz](mailto:admin@u3adunedin.org.nz)  
**Re courses:** [courses@u3adunedin.org.nz](mailto:courses@u3adunedin.org.nz)  
**Re Membership:** [members@u3adunedin.org.nz](mailto:members@u3adunedin.org.nz)  
**Re 'Forum':** [newsletter@u3adunedin.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@u3adunedin.org.nz)



**YOUR WEBSITE**  
[u3adunedin.org.nz](http://u3adunedin.org.nz)

Alan Jackson, U3A Dunedin's Web Editor, places items on our website relating to the University of Otago. Recently added were items about the University Foundation, two projects looking for volunteers, an exhibition at the Polytechnic, the Otago Medical Research Foundation. etc. These are under News and Coming Events on our website and members should watch for future items.

## Cheeky hit songs for senior singers?

Herman's Hermits: 'Mrs Brown You've Got A Lovely Walker.'

The Bee Gees: 'How Can You Mend A Broken Hip.'

Roberta Flack: 'First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face.'

Johnny Nash: 'I Can't See Clearly Now.'

Procol Harem: 'A Whiter Shade Of Hair.'

## U3A phone directory

To discuss problems with U3A Dunedin please phone the right person:

**Chairman:** Jane Higham  
476-1848

**Board matters:** Marion Potter  
453-4721

**Membership:** Lynda Jackson  
473-6947

**Programme or Courses:**  
Doug Holborow 477-4573

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