

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Dunedin U3A Charitable Trust

held at the Otago Golf Club on Thursday 21 July 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

**Present:** Jane Higham (Chair) 58 members and 1 guest

The Chair welcomed everyone attending with a special mention of Dunedin U3A's Life Member Lin Phelan – acknowledged with acclamation. Also Dr Elaine Webster as the guest and who will be joining the Board as the Otago University representative this year.

1. **Apologies:**

Alan and Lynda Jackson, Gil Barbezat, Stephen Baird, Joy Henderson, Greg Sligo, Rose and Bob Cunningham, Colin and Jeanette Gibson, Mervyn and Barbara Smith, Gretel Wilton, Margaret and John Bahr, Anthony and Tess Molteno, Cathy McGrath, Joan Taylor, Charmian Smith, Elaine Brookes, Jean Hamilton Sue and Bruce Cathro, Robin and Sue Harvey, Brian Robinson.

Received Jane Higham/Geoff Adams

2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 3 July 2015 for confirmation.

Moved John Burton/ Denise Harger **Carried**

3. **Business arising:** - Membership Waiting List stands at 164 (to be discussed further)

4. **Presentation of the Annual Report from the Chairman** (previously circulated)

Jane Higham presented a summary of her report outlining the events of the U3A Board 2015-2016

The main points were -

(a) U3A Dunedin continues to grow and expand both in its course offerings and its popularity. In spite of increasing its membership to over 700 the waiting list has also increased to 164. The interesting and thought provoking courses obviously appeal to many people. Doug Holborow and his Programme Committee work tirelessly to produce a wide variety of excellent courses for which we are very grateful.

To accommodate more members attending courses of their choice the Board has hired the Otago Golf Club premises to provide more space.

OGC – 150 places Leith Bowling Club – 110 places Salmond College – 50 places

(b) The Small Groups, which were set up in 2015 and organised by Judith Cowley (Art Galleries, Otago Museum, Current Affairs, Peace Education and Poetry Appreciation) are continuing to fill a specific niche of a more interactive environment with fewer participants.

(c) This has been a year of changes, as all members will be aware, the Board administration has moved from paper based to electronic based with all that it entails. The initial minor problems have now been resolved and thanks must be extended to those who have worked to put various processes in place, namely Doug Holborow, John Shanks, Alan and Lynda Jackson and Evan Taylor.

As the membership increases it may be time to consider employing someone to look after administration rather than relying on a purely voluntary group.

(d) The board has made two grants during the year. \$1000.00 to the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Otago and \$1000.00 to the Otago Museum. Both grants were made in recognition of the assistance given by the organisations in planning and enabling courses held by U3A.

(e) Members are reminded to refer to the U3A Website as there is ongoing and recent news, course information, enrolment instructions and the Board Forum (newsletter) The Board is also now able to alert members to course changes such as change of venue and cancellations.

(f) Geoff Adams continues to edit 'Forum' U3A newsletter which is an excellent publication full of advice and humour. Our thanks to Geoff for his unfailing high standard of production.

(g) This year we have four people retiring from the Board. We are extremely grateful to them for their valuable contribution.

Brian Robinson who has left due to ill health and who served as a very effective and efficient Chairman during his time on the U3A Board.

Judith Cowley was the longest serving Board member and will be remembered for the many Poetry/Literature Courses she planned and managed.

Barrie Peake was the University of Otago representative for two years and has now retired from the University and his position as Assoc Professor. He has been nominated as a U3A member of the Board.

Noel Carroll was on the Board for one year and his legal knowledge was appreciated.

(h) Chairing the Board has been challenging this year, with all the new processes put in place. I am grateful to Marion Potter, Secretary to the Board for all her help and hard work and to all the Board members for their support. We look forward to another year – a year of consolidation and development.

Jane Higham moved the adoption of her report Seconded Doug Holborow – **carried**.

#### 5. **Presentation of the Financial Report by the Treasurer.**

Evan Taylor presented a summary of the Finances for the last financial year.

Another loss was incurred in the Calendar year 2015 (\$3057.00)

With the decision at last year's AGM to increase both Course fees and Subscriptions, the impact of these changes, a modest surplus for the 2016 year of \$4737 is budgeted for.

A decision has been made to purchase a projector to be used at both Leith Bowling Club and Otago Golf Club, to enhance the quality of course presentation

The Board has considerable cash resources (\$86,000) last reported to the June Board meeting. These reserves have enabled the Board to weather losses of \$22187 in the last 3 years. They will also mean that the Board can comfortably afford further audio visual equipment if needed in the future and to make donations to some University Depts and other organisations who provide many presenters to the U3A Courses.

The U3A subscription will remain at \$30.00

A detailed financial statement is available from the Treasurer and will also be displayed in the Board Webpage.

Adoption of the financial report Evan Taylor/Geoff Adams **carried**.

#### 6. **Election of the U3A Board**

The following members were nominated for the Board for 2016/2017 year

Geoffrey Adams

Gil Barbezat

Doug Holborow

Alan Jackson

Stephen Baird

Jane Higham

Gretchen Kivell  
Bill McKinlay  
Alistair Wright

Barrie Peake  
Evan Taylor

Alistair Wright was invited to provide a brief summary of his background – his qualifications and his career in Dunedin in the Wright family business. His long standing friendship with many U3A members convinced him to join U3A and to forward his nomination to the Board,

Dr Elaine Webster Director of the University of Otago's Summer School and Continuing Education Programme will be the University representative.

Moved that these nominees be duly elected – John Burton/Graham Mortimer. **Carried**

## 7. **General Business:**

Otepoti U3A: Jane Higham outlined the present position of this U3A Group plus the appeal from their Chairman – Ngaire Bates for assistance and advice.

John Burton gave a summary of the background of the formation of Otepoti U3A. He joined their committee in a temporary advisory capacity and Dunedin U3A provided some financial support plus advice. Ngaire Bates came from the Bay of Islands U3A which operated in small interest groups. This concept has not attracted sufficient people to continue and this group is asking for assistance of where/how they should proceed. Some of their members are already Dunedin U3A members. Approximately 20 people will need to be absorbed somehow. John Burton reminded members that one of the original goals of the U3A movement was for established groups to assist aspiring new groups setting up.

There followed discussion, with the general agreement that the Dunedin U3A's format is quite unique and very successful, mainly because there are few transient people in Dunedin and the Otago University has been a traditional mainstay for providing the many successful courses for the members.

It was generally agreed that the Dunedin U3A Board work with Ngaire Bates to support their membership to absorb their members when they dissolve their Otepoti U3A.

Members were thanked for their attendance and invited to enjoy the lunch.