

**U3A**

**Dunedin Charitable Trust**

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

**in association with**



**Series 2 2013**

**HOT TOPICS IN ECONOMICS**

**Dates: Wednesday, 5 June to Wednesday, 10 July 2013**

**Time: 10.00 am to 12 noon**

**Venue: Leith Bowling Club, Duke Street, Dunedin**

**Enrolments for this course will be limited to 110**

**Course Fee: \$40.00**

**Tea and Coffee provided**

**Course Organiser: Sue Cathro (467 5474)**

**Course Assistant: Rosemary Hudson (477 1068)**

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You may apply to enrol in more than one course. If you wish to do so, you must indicate your choice preferences on the application form, and include payment of the appropriate fee(s).

All applications must be received by noon on Wednesday, 15 May 2013, and you may expect to receive a response to your application on or about 24 May.

Any questions about these courses after 24 May should be referred to Marjan Lousberg, U3A Dunedin, telephone 473 8224 or on email at [marjan.lousberg@gmail.com](mailto:marjan.lousberg@gmail.com)

***Please keep this brochure as a reminder of venue, dates, and times for the courses for which you apply.***

# HOT TOPICS IN ECONOMICS

This course will be presented by members of the Department of Economics, University of Otago. Each will be discussing their particular areas of interest and expertise.

**5 June      Innovate or Die. My top ten stories from the inventors world.**

Innovation determines the wealth of nations and yet it is fraught with dangers. A beginner's guide of do's and don'ts may emerge".

**Associate Professor John Parker**

**12 June      Does Economic Liberalisation cause Obesity?**

Obesity leads to adverse health and social outcomes. Many studies focus on cheap high calorie foods, but we can learn more from the biological processes associated with weight gain in nature. Animals store energy as fat to survive periods when food is scarce – humans are no different. Economic insecurity has a significant role in explaining obesity and may lead to different policies to curb obesity rates, other than food market intervention.

**Dr Trent Smith**

**19 June      Tough Decisions in the Health System: Which Treatments to Fund and who to Treat**

**Associate Professor Paul Hansen**

**26 June      Economics and Ecology**

Discussion on environmental issues from an economist's point of view. Simple graphs can be used to capture the underlying inefficiency of natural resources that are open access and unpriced. The focus shifts to the toolbox that economists have to address these issue, ranging from property rights to Ostrom's Noble prize winning analysis of common pool resources.

**Dr Viktoria Kahui**

**3 July      The Economics of Virtue**

There is a large amount of evidence from a range of social sciences that people do not always make selfish choices: sometimes they make sacrifices for the sake of others, even when these others do not belong to the same kinship group. Such virtuous behaviour is manifest in several ways, for example in altruism (which involves the gifting of time, money, or some other resource) and in trust (which involves placing oneself in a position of vulnerability with respect to others).

**Professor David Fielding**

**10 July      Are Geography or Poor Institutions to blame for Third World Poverty?**

There is an influential literature within economics that analyses whether geographic factors and/or the quality of the countries institutions affect economic development. Institutions include both formal institutions (e.g. laws protecting property rights) and informal institutions (e.g. the extent of trust and cooperation that exists within a society).

**Associate Professor Stephen Knowles**