



University of the Third Age

U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

Series 2 2014

A BITTER TRUTH

The Effects of the Great War and its Aftermath on the Arts

Dates: Wednesday June 4 to July 9

Time: 2:15 to 4:15

Venue: Leith Bowling Club, 2 Duke Street, Dunedin North

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)

Course Assistant: Norma Restieaux (477 4607)

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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, 14 May. A response to your application will be mailed out on May 23rd.

Any questions about this course after May 23rd should be referred to Marjan Lousberg, U3A Dunedin, telephone 473 8224 or on email at marjan.lousberg@gmail.com

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

*A BITTER TRUTH**

The Effects of the Great War and its Aftermath on the Arts

This course examines how the First World War affected the ways artists, writers, poets and musicians approached their work, and how those approaches changed as the war progressed. The Great War had an enormous effect on the lives of most people living in Europe and also came to affect those distant from the immediate seat of the conflict. Musicians found a ready market for patriotic and nostalgic compositions as did the writers and poets. Some writers and artists found employment producing propaganda; others used their craft to show their horror and disgust at the events. Those artists who had been actively experimenting with one or more of the avant-garde styles before 1914 quickly found that they were forced to change their approaches to more conventional methods in order to convey their messages more clearly. The aftermath of the conflict also had ramifications: sculptors were in high demand to produce memorials, and many painters, print-makers and writers produced works that exposed the terrible hardships faced by the defeated and by the veterans of the battles who had been physically and mentally scarred by their experiences. The *brave new world for heroes* never quite eventuated. (**Bitter Truth* was coined by the artist Paul Nash to describe his disillusionment after experiencing the great adventure first hand in Belgium and France).

4 June Causes and Consequences of the War: the politics, the personalities and the alliances that led to the outbreak of hostilities, the events of the war and the ramifications of the way it ended.

Professor Tom Brooking, Department of History and Art History

11 June The Women of England Say Go: This session will concentrate largely on the War Propaganda Bureau set up under Charles Masterman in the UK, the ways he enlisted the aid of writers and artists, the ways that information was controlled especially in the Press (*e.g.* cartoons), and illustrate how the main foci of propaganda shifted as the war lurched from crisis to crisis.

Dr Ross Grimmett

18 June Music for King and Kaiser: A survey of popular and martial music and lyrics of the times.

Professor John Drummond, Music Department

25 June and

2 July Artists for and Against the War: The War affected the artists on all sides. Many of them fought in the trenches; some died; others were scarred in some way. All of these experiences showed up in their art during and after the hostilities. There was often intense pressure on artists to conform to what the politicians and the army chiefs thought best for the public. Nevertheless it is possible to see in much of the art the changes in public attitudes as the carnage continued.

Dr Ross Grimmett

9 July The War Poets: The British War Poets initially espoused the patriotism that prevailed early in the war but as time passed their work tended to reflect the disillusionment and the ongoing carnage.

Professor Chris Ackerley, English Department