



University of the Third Age

U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

Series 3 2014

HOT TOPICS in ZOOLOGY

Dates: Thursday September 4 to October 9

Time: 10am to 12noon

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: Doug Holborow (477 4573)

.....
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, August 13. A response to your application will be mailed out on August 22.

Any questions about this course after August 22 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.

HOT TOPICS IN ZOOLOGY

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

4 September Maui's and Hector's Dolphins

One of the world's most endangered mammals lives off the West Coast of the North Island. Presenter Associate Professor Liz Slooten, who has focussed her marine research on Maui's and Hector's dolphins, will describe and discuss these remarkable animals from a biological, ecological, and – yes – a political viewpoint. The world is watching us.

11 September Claims about cats and birds: what does the evidence tell us?

The Gareth Morgan Foundation kicked up a furore when it launched its "Cats to Go" campaign, encouraging us to reduce the number of cats we have in New Zealand. The storm of protest that followed reflected the value that our society places on cats and the benefits they provide us. Yolanda will summarise information about cat ownership in New Zealand, the evidence for impacts on wildlife and their effective mitigation and discuss some contentious methods for controlling stray cats highlighting the importance of understanding public attitudes before implementing effective management.

Presenter: Dr Yolanda van Heezik

18 September What can we do to save our lakes? Causes, consequences and correctives.

Water quality in New Zealand's lakes is decreasing rapidly, compounded by climate change and invasive species. Algal blooms, particularly in shallow coastal lakes, are increasing and water quality is deteriorating in some large iconic inland lakes (e.g. Taupo, Wanaka, Wakatipu). The causes of poor water quality, consequences for lake ecosystems and those that depend on them, and potential methods to improve water quality will be discussed.

Presenter: Emeritus Professor Carolyn Burns

25 September Multi-stressor impacts of Agricultural Developments on Stream Ecology

Presenter: Dr Christoph Matthaei

2 October Frogs

Amphibians around the world are disappearing with up to 60% of the more than 7200 species facing extinction in the near future. Should we be worried? What use are frogs anyway? Come and find out why frogs are so important to humans and to the smooth running of the ecosystem.

Presenter: Professor Phil Bishop

9 October "Might the moa be a goer?: DeExtinction and the prospect of species resurrections"

The prospect of species de-extinction is the resurrection of extinct species using new genetic engineering techniques. De-extinction of one species has already occurred, and we will see the resurrection of multiple species in the future. But this possibility raises many questions, from scientific, conservation, ethical and moral points of view. Because the goals of de-extinction relate to ecological enrichment, selection of de-extinction candidates should be guided by the feasibility and risks of their release into suitable habitat - but which species and what habitat? Is the world ready for the return of the woolly mammoth or the saber-tooth cat? Could Tasmanian tigers (thylacine) re-inhabit Tasmania? Is the moa a goer for New Zealand, or are there better options?

Presenter: Professor Phil Seddon