2018 Series 1 Course A

Title	**Love your computer – Hot Topics in Digital Technology**
Dates	**Tuesdays 6 March – 17 April 2018**
Time	**10 am – 12 noon**
Venue	**Otago Golf Club, 125 Balmacewen Road, Dunedin** (*plus* March 6 afternoon visit to Toitū Museum)
Convenor	Neil James Email: neiljames.otago@gmail.com
Developer	Barrie Peake Email : barrie.m.peake@gmail.com Phone: 453 3151 Mobile : 021 079 5054
Course fee	$45

Whether we like it or not, these days our lives are all affected in some way by aspects of digital technology. In this course, a historical perspective on computing in the Dunedin area will be given, followed by a discussion of digital technology at the University of Otago. A range of experts will then provide overviews of some of the current developments in digital technology including robotics, cyber security, artificial intelligence and human interaction with devices such as mobile phones and computers.

All applications must be received by **Thursday 8 February 2018**. You will receive a response to your application by Monday 19 February.

Please contact the U3A Board Secretary (info@u3adunedin.org.nz, 453 4721) with any queries.

Hot Topics in Digital Technology

6 March   **Monster to Miniature – Computing over the years in Dunedin**
Bruce McMillan, retired Computer Maintenance Engineer and Peter Read, Curator, Toitū Otago Settlers Museum

Bruce and Peter will take us back to the age of Dunedin's first computers, examples of which are preserved today amongst the collections of Toitū Otago Settlers Museum.

Extra session: Starting **1 pm at Toitū Museum**, ½ hr demonstrations of this historical computer equipment will be given to small groups of course attendees (further details will be given at this first talk).

13 March   **Digital Life at the University of Otago**
Mike Harte (Director of Information Technology Services, University of Otago)

Mike will explain the types of IT technologies and systems that the University relies on and share some insights into what the future might hold.

20 March   **Robotics and the second Industrial Revolution**
Graham Batts (retired, Director of Scott Technology)

This talk will discuss the unexpected drivers of a brave new world where algorithms and artificial intelligence (AI) can enable machinery to do almost anything. The advantages and dangers to society, together with the future world of work will be discussed.

27 March   **Is it safe?**
Ray Hunt, Cybersecurity engineer and ex. Canterbury University and Hank Wolfe, Information Sciences, University of Otago

The current risks associated with the global use of almost 5 billion mobile phones will be discussed including malware; loss, theft, seizure; communications interception, loss of privacy; location logging and tracking; and bugging. Practical examples will be given of weaknesses in the design and implementation of modern systems.

10 April   **How should society prepare for advances in Artificial Intelligence?**
Alistair Knott, Department of Computer Science, University of Otago

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology is becoming increasingly useful, and increasingly powerful. How should we respond to driverless cars, healthcare robots, and conversational agents ?

17 April   **Cyberpsychology: Human interaction with Digital Technology**
David O'Hare, Department of Psychology, University of Otago

1. 'The innate hostility of inanimate objects' or why devices can seem difficult for humans to use;
2. "I wonder what that does?" and other things you hope pilots never say: computers in the cockpit;
3. Living in a digital world: effects of technology on human experience.