



U3A

DUNEDIN



Newsletter, Issue No 5

Date: April, 2005

From The Chairman:



A member with a particular interest recently suggested to me a topic for a small workshop group, wondering if others might like to be involved in the same type of activity. The idea itself will be investigated further, but the comment made me think that many of our members will have special backgrounds and interests, or individual skills and

knowledge which would be valuable in developing and running courses. This does not mean they would be expected to organise a course or act as a lone speaker, but they might be able to contribute to part of a course. While some could be willing to present a topic in a lecture series, others may prefer to contribute in a less formal setting. We have already seen this with the Book Discussion Group where members of the group have acted as leaders, and Tess Edwards, with John Ravenwood, is about to take over. But in the future, if we are to introduce a greater variety of format in our courses, with more emphasis on small groups, people with a greater variety of skills will be needed. If a discussion group type of programme is being planned, an experienced leader will ensure that the sessions run smoothly.

To take a current example:

The group that will be discussing Albert Moore's publication, which grew from his course *Freedom, Religion and Spirit*, has Margaret Feist as facilitator. With her teaching experience, as well as her interest in the topic itself, Margaret is the ideal person for this role. Luckily the Board knew Margaret's background, and when

approached she willingly agreed to take part. But no doubt there are others with special abilities, perhaps with skills in a different field, whom we do not know.

We would like to draw up a list of members who would be willing to participate in different course activities, noting their particular background, including their former occupation, their experience, interests and skills and any ideas for ways they might participate. If you are interested in helping our U3A, would you please pass on the details to a Board Member or to our Secretary.

Elizabeth Timms

Looking Ahead

We have mentioned in the past the hope of running small interactive group discussion courses, similar to the present Book Discussion Group that has been going now for a number of years. So we are very pleased to be able to offer for Series 2 one such course planned and facilitated by Margaret Feist. The course is based on the book by Dr Albert Moore, *Freedom, Religion and Spirit*, and each session will give members the opportunity to discuss one of the chapters. As you can see from the accompanying pamphlets, there are also the more usual lecture type courses on offer. We hope to continue to provide both types of course; already a further discussion group is planned for a later series with the title of Christian Pilgrimage. In Series 3 of this year, we have in place another course on Shakespeare by Professor Alan Horsman and a repeat of last year's course on Justice. More courses for Series 3 are in the pipe-line but have yet to be finalised.

Jenny Laws, Programme Coordinator

University of the Third Age Charitable Trust, Dunedin
Address: C/o The Secretary, 5A Fifield St, Roslyn, Dunedin
Email: graysinn@clear.net.nz

Chairman: Elizabeth Timms
Secretary: Judith Gray

Phone: 467 2141
Phone: 467 2619

Important - Please read this

Once again a batch of brochures accompanies this newsletter. Do take particular note of the dates for the Series 2 courses as the overall time span has expanded, and in some cases there are gaps between sessions.

Please remember all the usual things when completing the application forms - tick only ONE first choice, and take a note of which one that was. The Ballot will be held on Wednesday, 11 May. If you have not received a letter of rejection from Rodgers and Associates by 20 May, you may assume that you have been accepted for that first choice course.

If you have any questions about acceptance or otherwise for any course after the ballot date please get in touch with the Secretary or with Rodgers and Associates.

If you find you have to withdraw from a course either before it starts, or part way through, do let the Secretary or Rodgers and Associates know as soon as possible. There may well be another member able to take your place.

Judith Gray, Secretary to the Board

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust will be held at Salmond Hall, Knox Street, Dunedin, on Thursday, 7 July 2005, immediately following a luncheon which will commence at 12.15 pm.

Nominations for membership of the Board for 2005-2006 will be welcome, and nomination forms are available from Judith Gray, Secretary to the Board (telephone 467 2619 or e-mail graysinn@clear.net.nz) Nominations close with the Secretary on Friday 24 June 2005.

If you wish to attend the annual luncheon, please complete the form enclosed with this newsletter and return it to Rodgers and Associates, P O Box 6200, Dunedin North,

Among our members do we have someone with editorial experience? Or someone who would like to be involved with the Newsletter?

To date there have been 3 issues annually, which accompany the brochures for each series of courses, but in future we would like to have a fourth one late in the year to avoid the long break between July/August and January.

If you can help us or would like to discuss the matter, please contact either the Chairman or Judith Gray our Secretary.



Relative to other university libraries, the University of Otago Library is quite remarkable for its openness and willingness to share resources. Under a "Special Borrowers" category, the Library supports a learning community much wider than its current students. The Special Borrowers category includes:

- members of learned institutions (e.g. the Royal Society of NZ)
- researchers
- retired University staff

On a case-by-case basis, some one who is not one of the above but has a special interest in a topic for which other libraries do not hold adequate resources may apply for borrowing privileges.

Audio Visual resources may not be borrowed, and access to them within the Library may be restricted. Online resources are only available via the university network. These restrictions reflect particular conditions of purchase or licencing that apply to those items.

Further enquiries can be made at the Lending Desk at any branch of the University Library (Central, Hocken, Law, Medical and Dental, Science).

Dr Claire Matthewson

Board Business

MEMBERSHIP

At our January meeting we welcomed Antony Wood as a new member of the Board. Co-opted to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Michael Shelton late last year. Antony had been nominated as a Board member last year, but withdrew before the AGM due to pressure of other commitments at that time. We are very pleased he now finds himself able to join us - he immediately became involved in planning a future course.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - HELP PLEASE!

Brian O'Rourke who was the prime mover in establishing our Newsletter and who has been our editor since it began in 2003, will be stepping down later this year. Hence we are seeking a replacement Editor to take over in the latter part of 2005.

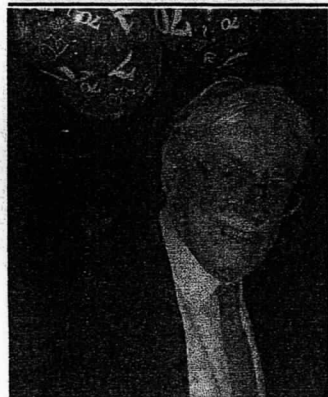
A Popular Publication

Albert Moore's booklet "*Freedom, Religion and Spirit*" has been in such demand that only 21 copies of the original print-run of 200 remain on hand.

The Board has presented copies to the author, and has donated a copy to each of the Dunedin research libraries, including the University and the Dunedin Public Library, as well as making the obligatory deposit with the National Library, Wellington. Sales have been mainly to our own members, with Albert himself buying a considerable

number. These he has distributed to friends and colleagues within New Zealand and overseas.

On sending a copy to a friend in Wellington, Albert received an enthusiastic response. He was asked if a further six copies could be purchased for study and discussion by a reading group with which the friend was associated. While apparently not part of U3A, this group obviously has a similar philosophy of active learning, and both Albert and the Board were happy to comply with this request.



Lin Phelan

An Original Mover and Shaker

After ten years close association with U3A Dunedin, former Chairman, Lin Phelan feels now that classes may have become too large to allow for some of

original aims of the organisation to be realized.

"It's worked out pretty well financially to have fifty people attending lectures, but it isn't easy to engage in useful discussion in that situation and so we miss out on the accumulated knowledge of members. We need smaller classes and more involvement to give U3A a chance to achieve what it set out to do."

That Lin should hold such a view is not surprising considering that much of his life has been taken up with active learning and research.

Born in South Dunedin, but with an Australian father, he spent part of his childhood in Queensland before returning during his teens to complete his schooling at Kings High. After completing a first degree in Chemistry at the University of Otago, he was later awarded a Ph.D. in Experimental Medicine.

He continued to work in the broad field of his research degree, specialising in hypertension studies, throughout his long career at the University of Otago, interspersed with spells in Japan, Sweden and the USA.

On the side, Lin was what he calls "the amateur archaeologist". His passionate interest in this subject resulted in his becoming a foundation member of the Otago Anthropological Society. He took part in pioneering research projects on Pitcairn Island and the Cooks, as well as around New Zealand. He also contributed to adult education classes in this area from 1953 through to the 70's.

After his "final" retirement in 1994, Lin responded to a newspaper advertisement about the then new U3A.

"I couldn't have foreseen at that time, how much of my energy would go into U3A over the next ten years. I was hooked."

As a member of the U3A Committee, he soon became well known for his comprehensive knowledge of the human resources of the University: many courses acquired not only their substance but their tutors as well as of a result of his

suggestions and quiet persuasiveness. He presented lectures personally on local history, archaeology and the domestication of plants.

During his two years as chairman in the late 90s, Lin tirelessly toured the University, talking with both individuals and groups at all levels, in an effort to present the case of U3A. This activity resulted in the development of strong positive relationships which formed a necessary basis for the drawing up of the more formal relationship between the University and U3A which was agreed to in 2002.

Although Lin can still dream up new U3A courses or activities at the drop of a hat, he admits to spending more time now on his studies of family history and archaeology. He is an active gardener and also tramps for a minimum of four hours a week. Forever modest, it was difficult to wring out of him these few words of advice: "...we are an unusually pampered U3A because of the contribution of University teaching staff to our programme. This is valuable and much appreciated. But you can have too much of a good thing. It's easy to become slack. We should encourage more contributions from our members as lecturers or course facilitators."

Brian Maguire

The Board noted with regret the death in January of Brian Maguire, former Board member and our Chairman from 2001 to 2003.

An article about Brian will be included in a future issue of this newsletter.

University of Texas at Austin (UT)

The following information is from this University's web-site, giving details of their Third Age Programmes, and shows how they are presented.

What is the "Third Age"?

With retirement no longer determined by one's age, the Third Age is the period of life to concentrate on "becoming" instead of "preparing" (formal schooling) or "doing" (career).

Third Age Annual Membership Programmes

Over 1,000 members currently pay an annual fee to participate in one of three programmes, each consisting of a fall, winter, and spring session. In addition to a combined offering of 165 lectures and 69 seminars, these programmes provide a forum for members with many interests to explore new ideas and to make new friends. Lectures and seminars are held on the UT Campus. Optional field trips and socials are a vital part of each programme. Special events are planned each year to encourage socializing among all of the Third Age programme participants.

UT LAMP: Learning Activities for Mature People. Established in Fall 1989, UT LAMP currently has 500 members. This annual membership programme offers participants three six-week sessions of large-group lec-

tures, covering a wide range of timely topics on Tuesday-Thursday mornings from 9:30-12:15 PM. Membership dues are \$150.

UT SAGE: Seminars for Adult Growth and Enrichment. Established in Fall 1995, UT SAGE currently has 310 members. This annual membership programme offers three six-week sessions of small-group seminars (15 seminars per session) with each seminar focusing on a single area of study. UT SAGE seminars are held on Mondays from 9:15-4:30 PM. Membership dues are \$250.

UT QUEST: "Opportunities for Learning." Established in Spring 2001, UT QUEST currently has 250 members. This annual membership programme offers a combination of the UT LAMP and UT SAGE program formats. It has three six-week sessions with two Tuesday afternoon large-group lectures covering a wide range of topics, and six small-group study seminars that meet on Thursday afternoons. Membership dues are \$250.

A good education - then and now

(Reprinted from the THIRD AGE NEWS - THE VOICE OF U3A - UK).

Dear Editor

I was intrigued to read in the Summer issue of Third Age News the article on the Carnegie Inquiry into the Third Age. Sir Kenneth Stowe, the Chairman, remarked that 'the appalling educational base from which many of today's thirdagers started is the source of so many of their problems'.

I am in the upper part of the third age, being 82, and so was being educated between 1916 and 1926. Education was certainly not appalling then. One got a good grounding in how to read, write and spell and express oneself in a way understandable to others. That, with arithmetic, gave one a grounding in the basics which enabled one to learn any other things that came along.

It is today that children have an 'appalling educational base', where many do not have to learn the basics and are encouraged to 'express themselves' without the means to do so in a way which can be communicated to others. No wonder so many less able ones leave school illiterate and unable either to

understand or communicate the most basic and necessary thoughts and ideas.

Mrs R F Warner (Bath U3A)

Other New Zealand U3As

In both Auckland and Wellington areas, where a large number of U3A groups operate, a network has been established to allow an exchange of ideas and information.

In Auckland since 1993 a Network Committee with a representative of each U3A has met three to four times annually. The Network has developed a 'Start-up' kit to assist new groups which might need guidance. In Wellington an Annual Combined U3A Meeting for the Wellington region is attended by a small group of representatives of each individual U3A. The Wellington meeting, hosted by one of the participating U3As, usually features a speaker as well as allowing the usual interchange of ideas.

Growth of U3A in Invercargill

In early August 2004 a second U3A group - called U3A Southland - was set up in Invercargill. The first group (U3A Invercargill) which was launched just over 2 years earlier (see our Newsletter No 2) had a waiting list of 40. One of these waiting-list people, anxious to get going, suggested to U3A Invercargill that she should form a second group. Having telephoned those on the waiting list, a public meeting was called where the move was endorsed unanimously.

The Southland Institute of Technology is supporting both groups and providing facilities for their courses. U3A Invercargill meet on Friday mornings while U3A Southland use the same rooms in the afternoon. The new group began their activities in the spring of 2004 with a repeat of the local history course which had been a most popular introduction for the U3A Invercargill two years earlier.

A Useful Thought

".... teach us delight in simple things and mirth that
hath no bitter springs"

R. Kipling

The members of U3A Dunedin are grateful for the assistance provided by Otago University Print in producing this newsletter.

The Newsletter Team : Brian O'Rourke (Editor), Mervyn Crane field (Layout and Design), Elizabeth Timms (Board Liaison).