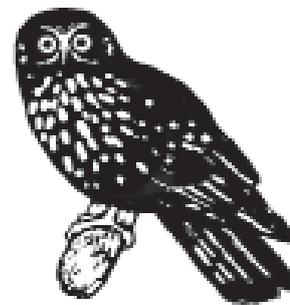


U3A DUNEDIN FORUM



Newsletter 59, April 2018

Volunteer base is valuable feature

At the March Board meeting our membership was 866. This is very gratifying. We are a noticeably large organisation to be run almost entirely by volunteers (we have the very good assistance of a Webmaster, but that's it). Over the last months your Board has debated whether we should have some paid administrative assistance but, after examining all our areas of operation, we have decided against this.

A substantial organisation with substantial activities needs a continuous inflow of member-volunteers to ensure a strong and vital future. A request in the January issue of *Forum* led to four excellent new volunteers – one for the Programme Committee and three who will now help with our mailouts to the 80 or so postal mail-based members.

Now we are looking for different talent. Ngaire Bates has been nurturing our Discussion Group activity for the past two years, and she would welcome the assistance of one or, preferably, two people with a view to taking the role over in the medium-term. If you have seen her series of slides at any of the present Autumn lecture series, you will know we currently have eight Discussion Groups under way and there are limitless possibilities to start up a group on any matter of interest.

AN ISLAND IDEA

In this respect, I would like to float the possibility of the formation of a new Discussion Group in conjunction with the Quarantine Island / Kamau Taurua Community, the 'kaitaiaki' or guardians of this special island, DOC Reserve and historic area in the



REPORT TO MEMBERS

By Gretchen Kivell

Chair, U3A Dunedin Board

Otago Harbour. This group has a long association with the Island, starting as the St Martin Island Community in 1958, officially changing their name in 2015. They have been working over 20 years to rescue and redevelop the historic 'Married Quarters' building (1873), and have a long history of encouraging the wider community, including school and other groups, to visit and learn while on the island, to continue with native tree revegetation, weed and predator control, and biodiversity monitoring. They have got several projects under way, including a range of research and monitoring activities, such as bird, skink, predator and weed surveys, to inform their long-term activity on the island.

My contact suggests a U3A group, visiting for one day per month over the warmer months (September to May), could be of substantial assistance in being additional 'feet on the ground' for this work. This sounds an ideal day out for some of our active members, a collegial and useful one too. If you are interested, give me a telephone call (473 0031) and we can discuss with my contact how we might go about starting a group up for the spring. It

would come under the aegis of our Discussion Groups; clearly discussion while in action!

REPRESENTING U3A

Your Board has recently resolved that members, and particularly Discussion Group members, may not represent themselves as being from Dunedin U3A without the express permission of the Board. Many organisations like ourselves have this requirement; they have learned that it is easy for an earnest statement to get into the press as representing the views of the organisation. Our organisation encompasses many views, so we need to take care in this way.

An important request to all members is to let your Chairperson know of the death of another member, or of a spouse or partner. We would like to send our condolences, and also to adjust our membership and mailing list as appropriate. Thank you.

OUR AGM . . . AND EXTRAS

You will find information about our AGM in this issue of *Forum*. The AGM will be followed by a guest speaker of importance to Dunedin, Damien van Brandenburg. His address will be followed by a luncheon for members. Please know that you are welcome to attend just one, or two, or all three of these functions. There will be time for coming and going between each

ON OTHER PAGES

p2: Courses - and a problem

p3: Stephen Hawking's legacy ?

p4: Local history, birthday soon

OUR WEBSITE

u3adunedin.org.nz

Feedback on courses, plans - and parks

As I write, the 2018 Autumn series of courses is well under way and, from members' comments, seem to have been well received. As I mentioned in a previous Forum, running three of the courses in an expanded and rearranged Leith Bowling Club venue has been an interesting trial and seemingly successful, except for a continuing issue related to limited parking in Duke St.

This is more pronounced now that there is reduced parking in the vicinity of the University with the introduction of a cycleway along Cumberland St and Great King St. This means more demand for parking near the Leith Bowling Club and beyond, well into Malvern St. This situation is obviously something that neither your U3A Board or the Bowling Club committee has any control over. Instead, we have to accept that you may need to park further away than you might have in the past. If you must park close to the Bowling Club for mobility or other reasons, please indicate this to your Course Convenor and they may be able to organise one of a small number of reserved spaces beside the Bowling Club for you to use.

Several course attendees require gluten-free food at morning/afternoon tea. The relevant venue manager offered this option at a small additional cost, which will be covered by U3A. So if you are in this situation in the future, please advise your Course Convenor who will try and get your dietary needs met at no extra cost to you.

Apart from the parking issue, there seems no reason why we should not continue to split the lecture venues equally between Leith Bowling Club and the Otago Golf Club (where



Barrie Peake
Programme Committee Chairperson

there are no parking issues.) The Programme Committee has made bookings for the upcoming 2018 Winter and Summer series at these two venues on the same days of the week as the present Autumn series — Tuesday and Wednesday at the Golf Club and Thursday and Friday at the Bowling Club. (It may seem odd this needs to be done so far ahead but course developers often need to advise their potential speakers of an exact date for their presentation up to a year in advance.)

MOMENTS LIKE THESE...

One might imagine that our courses follow a well-trialled protocol that has evolved over recent years. This is mainly true but two incidents recently occurred for current courses that I was involved with as either the Convenor or Developer which I had never experienced before.

In the first the lap-top being used to provide a PowerPoint presentation just 'died' for no apparent reason. I called an early tea break and then with the

lecturer, spent the next 15 minutes or so trying to locate the problem — the power supply to the lap-top had been inadvertently disconnected some time before the lecture began so it had been running on battery power that ran out. A screen message then appeared: 'Do not turn off your computer, there is a system upgrade which will take a number of minutes.' So 15 minutes later, and after an extended tea break, we all enjoyed the second part of the lecture without any further incident.

The second situation occurred in a course held at Otago Golf Club when the presenter scheduled for the second lecture of a session hadn't appeared by the start of the first lecture. Thinking he may have confused venues, I rushed down to the Leith Bowling Club only to find nobody there. On return to the Golf Club I was greeted by the presenter just arriving — he thought the venue was the Chisolm Park Golf Club and, seeing nobody there, then had difficulty finding the entrance to the Otago Golf Club off Balmacewen Rd. The saga had not ended: the video he wanted to show would not project on the screen in spite of many efforts.

WINTER TERM COURSES

Considering the upcoming Series 2 Winter courses, the Nobel Prize is awarded annually in six categories so lectures on both 2016 and 2017 awards fit neatly into one programme. These awards range from the very scientific (gravitational waves for the 2017 Physics award and molecular machines for the 2016 Chemistry award) to the non-scientific (Bob Dylan won the 2016 Literature award and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament the 2017 Peace award).

The effect of World War 1 on politics, art and literature at that time and the personal experiences of being brought up in different countries are the subjects of other courses. The renaissance art works of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci will be considered in depth and there will be an introduction to 'brain health' in other courses. Also a number of speakers will talk about their passions in literature. Your Programme Committee hopes this varied mix will have something of interest for all of you. **Barrie Peake**

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE CHARITABLE TRUST, DUNEDIN

Website: u3adunedin.org.nz

Address: **Secretary to the Board,**
U3A Dunedin, PO Box 6491,
North Dunedin, 9059.

Email: info@u3adunedin.org.nz

Phone: 453-4721

Chair: Gretchen Kivell, 473-0031
Registered Charitable Institution - #CC22345

'Big Bang cause of 'multiverse' - the new theory

STEPHEN HAWKING (right) the famous British scientist with a brilliant mind, died on March 14. He left his final paper "A Smooth Exit from Eternal Inflation" that describes how humanity may detect other universes, and could profoundly affect our perception of our planet's place in a gigantic cosmos.

It tackles the idea of a 'multiverse,' a vast collection of universes existing simultaneously, though spread out almost unimaginably far from each other.

Multiverses arose, the theory goes, because of the 'inflation; in the fraction of a second after the 'Big Bang' when our known universe emerged, and space-time expanded at immense rate. Tiny quantum fluctuations expanded to become the large-scale features of the universe observed today (serving as evidence that the theory may be true.) Some physicists believe a near-infinite number of universes could have been spawned.

Hawking is the lead author of the paper that suggests mathematically



how humanity may detect other universes, and could profoundly affect our perception of our planet's place in a gigantic cosmos.

In 1983 Hawking announced his 'no

'Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.'

~ Stephen Hawking

boundary' theory that described how this universe exploded from the 'Big Bang' in a process he called 'inflation.' He was concerned that the theory also predicted an infinite number of other Big Bangs each producing their separate universe

The intriguing idea in his final paper is the way to detect other universes and confirm such a theory is offered, which would make it perhaps Hawking's most important legacy to science and mankind.

Hawking was already famous for his theories and discoveries in astrophysics and cosmology — best known for his work on 'black holes', general relativity and a type of radiation. Many of his ideas are so far-out and radical that they are difficult to test. This latest one was based on mathematical calculations using a 'toy model' that may not necessarily reflect our universe as we see it — no one says that theoretical physics is easy.

Are you receiving U3A's emails?

If you are one of the 250 members using Gmail or 50 members using Hotmail or Outlook you may not be receiving all our emailed messages. They try to protect you from emails they deem suspicious by treating them as spam.

To ensure you receive all U3A messages please add U3A Dunedin to your contacts list. There isn't room here to describe fully how this is done, but we recommend that you search online for 'Gmail add contact' (or similarly for Hotmail or Outlook) as there are plenty of helpful sites that explain how it is done. You should add all of these addresses:

membership@u3adunedin.org.nz
admin@u3adunedin.org.nz
courses@u3adunedin.org.nz

John Shanks
(U3A Dunedin Webmaster)

Notice of U3A Dunedin AGM

Notice to all U3A Dunedin members: The AGM of the U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust will be held on

**Thursday, May 31 at 10.30 a.m. at
Otago Golf Club, Balmacewan Rd**

Notices of motion and/or Board nominations must be with Secretary to the Board by May 3

The meeting will be followed by an address from Damien van Brandenburg (van Brandenburg Architects)

A lunch will then be served.

The agenda and lunch details will be posted on April 23, online and by mail

Secretary's details: Marion Potter -Phone 453-4721
(mw/potter42@gmail.com)



100th birthday coming

ALAN HORSMAN, Emeritus Professor of English from the University of Otago has a special birthday due in October. His 99th birthday last October was celebrated with him being honoured by the *Oxford English Dictionary* for his professional help, for writing reminiscences about his period of editorship in 1956 (cut short in 1957 when he left Oxford to become professor in Dunedin.)

Prof Horsman now lives at the Yvette Williams Retirement Village, Roslyn. For many years he volunteered to deliver a number of different, expert courses for U3A Dunedin on his favourite literary subjects in English literature. They were very popular with many members who applauded him as a great lecturer. We are assured he still reads many books and U3A gratefully acknowledges all his assistance. Have a happy birthday soon Alan. [Photo: University of Otago]



'How foolish to think that one can ever slam the door in the face of age. Much wiser to be polite and gracious, and ask him to lunch in advance'. ~ Noel Coward

'As I hurtled through space one thought kept crossing my mind — every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder.' ~ John Glenn

U3A email directory

Sending email correspondence to U3A Dunedin? Using the addresses below will take your messages to the appropriate people and have quicker attention. (Should you contact the wrong person they will of course forward your mail to the correct address.)

General information: info@u3adunedin.org.nz

Re Administration: admin@u3adunedin.org.nz

Re courses: courses@u3adunedin.org.nz

Re Membership: members@u3adunedin.org.nz

Re 'Forum': newsletter@u3adunedin.org.nz

Spotlight on local history

Recently revived, the Local History Discussion Group focuses on the wider Dunedin area, with an emphasis on research, writing, and monthly visits to significant local sites. Now being facilitated by Stuart Strachan, a former Hocken Librarian, the group has already had 'behind the scenes' visits to the Hocken Collections and Archives New Zealand; as well as St Barnabas Church at Warrington and to Otago Boys High School, which has its own museum and archivist,

Founded in 1863 as the first secondary school in Otago, the OBHS museum contains a fascinating collection of memorabilia, including school uniforms, rugby jerseys, banners, badges, school publications, as well as many photographs and more conventional archives, such as registers and class lists. Rugby, war, music and medicine, as the collections show, are all fields in which old boys of the school excelled.

Next up for visits are the original University of Otago buildings, to be followed later by the Law Courts, First Church, the DCC Archives, Botanic Gardens, Toitu, and the McNab Collection. In connection with each visit the life of an associated historical figure is investigated. For St Barnabas it was Bishop Nevill and for the University it will be James Macandrew. Discussion takes place over a cup of coffee, either at a member's home or in a handy coffee shop.

At present, we are just seven, so there is room for a few more members, but not too many, so that we are still able to fit into the sometimes quite cramped back areas of the places we visit. Contact Stuart Strachan: 482 2339;

sjstrachanz@gmail.com

Some silly notions

The roundest knight at King Arthur's Round Table was Sir Cumference. He aquired his size from too much pi.

A backwards poet writes inverse.

A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to hospital. When his grandmother phoned to ask how he was, a nurse said 'No change yet.'

U3A phone directory

To discuss any problem with U3A Dunedin please phone the right person:

Chairman: Gretchen Kivell
473-0031

Board matters: Marion Potter
453-4721

Membership: Lynda Jackson
473-6947

Programme or Courses:
Barrie Peake 453-3151



Edited by Geoff Adams

Phone: 467-2278

Email: hgadams@slingshot.co.nz