

U3A DUNEDIN

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter

August 2014
No. 42



Lifting our cap to 700 members next year

The Board of U3A Dunedin has decided to lift the membership numbers from 600 to 700 in 2015. This may help to reduce our dreaded waiting-list, that has become such a large and growing problem in recent years.

Having climbed from 30 members in 1994 to 300 in the year 2000, we complimented ourselves then on such great popularity. Then by 2009 we had a waiting-list and it was decided we must impose a "cap" of 500 members.

But the waiting-list just kept growing, reaching 182 in 2012. So the cap was raised to 600 for 2013 and this year. With more than 200 begging to get in, the membership will soar to 700 next year. The Board could then face problems of having enough large venues available at suitable times to satisfy the demand for popular courses — and it must also trial new courses for small groups.

As Chairman Brian Robinson pointed out to the Annual General Meeting in Salmond College last month, about 2010 the Board decided to increase membership to reduce a waiting-list but found that waiting-list has not decreased because the popularity of U3A remained. And the chances are that the more we can offer to satisfy a large membership, the more new folk entering senior ranks will want to join, so the list could continue — or enlarge. It's relentless!

Set up a second U3A in Dunedin,

some have suggested. But we are a vounteer organisation and there are limits to the energies of our leading organisers. Those on the Board are too heavily occupied in running our own U3A to want to run a second operation. But they, and earlier Boards, have offered to advise any people wanting to start a second U3A in Dunedin about what steps should be taken. Unfortunately no people have come forward.

There are problems for any U3A in finding venues available at the right times, their accessibility and their affordability. But it might be done? It would perhaps need a quite different concept from our U3A, that is unusual in being rather academically oriented.

Small interest groups will be tried out [see p4] as a means of providing more options for our 700 members next year. These could be held in smaller rooms or move round members' homes. But we probably must predict that the problem of the waiting-list will just continue to confront us. Present members must feel very privileged; so do not waste the advantages of your membership. Enjoy all the courses — including the new small group ones next year. Perhaps you might like to organise one yourself? - **Editor**

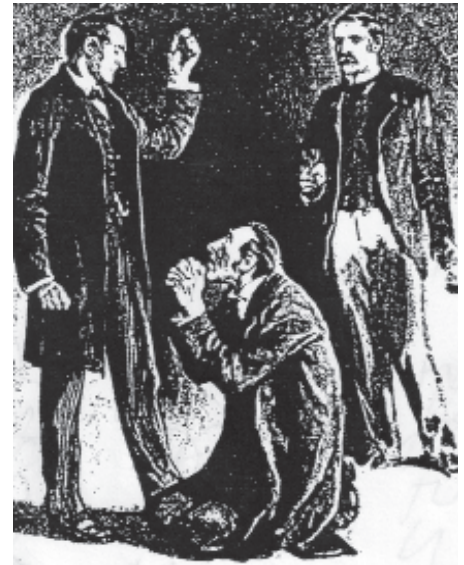
Two law firms now amalgamated

Rodgers Law, our close associate in membership matters, has changed its name as a result of two city law firms that recently merged. They are amalgamated with Wilkinson Adams.

Rodgers Law has moved out of its old premises on the 4th floor of 'Rodgers House' into the neighbouring office block at 169 Princes St, where the

combined new firm of **Wilkinson Rodgers** now occupies three floors (Enquiries on first floor.)

We deal with the same staff on U3A matters and the old phone numbers for Rodgers Law still work, but the new contact data is: Wilkinson Rodgers, phone 477-9844 and P.O.Box 803, Dunedin 9054.



'Please get me off the waiting-list . . .'

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That dreaded list

Jane Higham, Membership Secretary, reports that our membership roll in June stood at 597 people, with a waiting-list of 224.



Raising the cap for new members. . .
. . . and to greet Wilkinson Rodgers!

From grapes to a career in dentistry

Doug Holborow has been a U3A Dunedin Board member since 2011.

He was born in West Auckland and grew up surrounded by the grapevines of Corban and Sons. His schooling at Henderson High School meant school mates included many well-known names from the early days of New Zealand's wine industry (Nobilo, Babich, Soljan, and Spence.)

Graduating in dentistry from the University of Otago, Doug spent a year as a dental house surgeon at Dunedin Hospital. After eight months in a Dunedin general practice, he and his wife Barbara, a physiotherapist, left for the UK to gain further qualifications and experience.



Doug Holborow

He spent a brief time in a suburban London general practice before completing the primary examination for a dental fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Then he worked for two years as a dental

U3A PROFILE

registrar at Mount Vernon Hospital, a Regional Centre for Ear Nose and Throat conditions, Radiotherapy, and Plastic Surgery. The dental department was a part of its plastic surgery unit. Serving a population of several hundred thousand, and with the A1 and M1 motorways within the centre's service area, there was no shortage of clinical material and experience to be gained in every discipline of dentistry, especially oral surgery.

Doug then moved to Dundee to pursue his main dental interest: treatment of diseases of the gums. He spent two years as a registrar in the Dundee Dental Hospital (based in the University of Dundee Dental School) and completed his Fellowship in Dentistry at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Once their first son was six weeks old, the Holborows returned to Dunedin, where Doug was appointed a lecturer in periodontology at the School of Dentistry. He followed an academic and teaching career at the School for the next 36 years, with a one-year and then two eight-month periods of study leave at the Forsyth Dental Centre in Boston, USA. He retired from the School in 2010, and commenced part-time specialist practice in Dunedin and Alexandra. He fully retired in mid-2014.

Doug and his wife have four grandchildren living nearby. Doug also is now able to pursue his interests in fishing, boating, golf, music, gardening and travel.

Spring into interesting courses

The Committee have worked hard on providing interesting courses for the spring series. In Series 3, 2014, you can look forward to *Information Assurance – Can we really keep anything Private?*, *Social Aspects of Victorian Dunedin*, *Don Juan*, *1A Treasure For Ever' (Wonderful Writings from Ancient Greece)*, *Mozart in Vienna* and *Hot Topics in Zoology*.

The Programme Committee is now working on courses for 2015. If you have a particular topic you would like to learn more about, please give your idea to a Board member, and if possible, suggest the name or names of those who could be approached to present such a course.

You do not have to be on the Board to organise a course and you could be the one to do it. There are guidelines

LOOKING AHEAD



Sue Cathro

Programme Co-ordinator

available to help you, and a Board member would support you, so do let us know if you could do this.

*Education is not the filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire.*

~ W. B. Yeats

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE CHARITABLE TRUST, DUNEDIN

Website: www.u3adunedin.org.nz

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

Email: u3adunedin@gmail.com

Phone: 453-4721

Chairman: Brian Robinson

Registered Charitable Institution - #CC22345



Bill George
(left), **Evan Taylor** (right)



Changing guard for our treasures

Bill George, our Treasurer for U3A Dunedin since 2003, retired from the post at the AGM; and our new "money man" is Evan Taylor.

Evan is very experienced, having been a chartered accountant for more than 30 years and also the volunteer treasurer for both the Regent and Fortune Theatres for many years.

'Success breeds success' - also challenges

Success breeds success — U3A Dunedin is a good example. In its 20th year, it continues to provide interesting and stimulating courses in a distinctive if not unique way, to increase its membership and provide hearty morning and afternoon teas! But success brings its own challenges for the Board and the charitable organisation as a whole. What worked for a membership of 300 does not necessarily work for a membership of 600 and the Board has agreed to accept an additional 100 members for the beginning of 2015.

With a large membership and a long waiting-list your Board has been active in looking at ways to maintain the traditional programme, as well as innovative ways to increase the ability of members to participate and hopefully enjoy the social aspects of U3A courses. (This is something that is possibly lost in large groups.) There could be greater use of web courses and we are mounting a 'small group' programme. Jane Higham has agreed to act as the co-ordinator of additional offerings next year.

We need a greater participation of our 600 members in the organisation of the traditional three-session courses per year. We encourage non-Board members to become members of the programme committee, or to propose and organise new courses; just contact any member of the Board.

UNIVERSITY LINK

The loss of Government funding via the University meant that we now do not have a formal relationship with the University. I'm pleased that we have reached agreement to have a University nominee on the Board and Assoc Prof Barrie Peake has commenced in this role. Both parties are confident that the willing participation of the University staff will continue.

The Board has examined the financial structure now that U3A receives no additional income and it is pleased to announce that fees for both membership and courses will



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

~ John Glenn



Brian Robison delivered his annual report as Chair to the Annual General Meeting on July 3. [This is an abridged version.]

remain at the 2014 level for 2015. We continue to give donations to those groups which assist with courses.

Rodgers Law has given U3A a tremendous service since its inception, especially Sue Keith, Christine Johnson and April Cooper, and for that we are truly grateful. Now that this firm has amalgamated with Wilkinson Adams you will see a new contact number in the next session mailout. With our long-standing Treasurer also retiring it is an opportunity for the Board to review its administration and look at, for example, how electronic transactions can be incorporated.

20th ANNIVERSARY

U3A Dunedin celebrates its 20th anniversary and you will shortly receive a special mailout with a commemorative issue outlining its history. I thank Rosemary Hudson and her team for taking on this task. The Board felt that there had been some outstanding contributions to U3A Dunedin and decided to enlarge the number of Honorary Life Members.

It has been a pleasure to chair the Board during this year and I give my heartfelt thanks to all Board members

for their work and support during this year. It has been a year of change and challenges, but also we have been able to pursue some exciting new initiatives. Sadly we lose two long-standing members, Bill George who as Treasurer has watched over our finances for ten years and John Burton a member since 2007, has undertaken a significant workload in course organisation and as a Chair. Other long-standing members are likely to retire during the next year and I encourage members to consider becoming a Board member.

Donations made

A donation of \$1,000 to the Economics Department of the University of Otago was approved by the Board of the U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust at its meeting in April.

The department proposes to use it to support a secondary school essay competition to promote the value of general economics knowledge. The competition will be linked with the bi-annual magazine published by the department with prizes to the total value of \$1,000.

At the June meeting the Board approved a donation of \$1,000 to the Department of Politics. Both gifts were in appreciation for help given by staff

Board elected

Board members elected at AGM are: Geoff Adams, Sue Cathro, Judith Cowley, Sue Harvey, Jane Higham, Doug Holborow, Rosemary Hudson, Gretchen Kivell, Marjan Lousberg, Norma Restieaux, Brian Robison, Evan Taylor. [Chair is elected later at first Board meeting.]

Hasten that post!

Please post application forms for the third term's courses smartly! Bear in mind that in the worst case scenario there can (due to changes at New Zealand Post) be a pessimistic view of local mail taking up to three days to be delivered. Your applications need to be posted much earlier than in the past in order to arrive by noon on Wednesday, **13 August**. So to be safe, you should post no later than **Friday, 8 August**.

Marion Potter, Secretary to the Board, asks all members to return their course applications to Wilkinson Rodgers, P.O. Box 803, Dunedin 9054 — NOT to the U3A box number, as that is not cleared daily so this might not allow an application arriving in time to be accepted. Members can contact Marion via phone 453-4721 or email mw.potter@xtra.co.nz if unsure of procedure or needing some assistance.

Now we have five (*life members*)

This year, the 20th anniversary of U3A Dunedin, the Board has decided to bestow honorary life membership on four members prominent over a long period, who played a significant role particularly during the formative period in our history. These four are:

Katherine Dolby, a member of the U3A Dunedin Committee and then Board from 1995 to 2002 (Secretary/Treasurer, 1995-2002.) She helped to plan courses and enlisted the help of Rodgers Law in our organisation.

David McKenzie, member of the original working party that set up U3A Dunedin in 1993. He continued as a member of the Committee and then of the Board from 1994 to 2002 (Chair 1994-98.)

Brian O'Rourke provided early encouragement and assistance with the setting-up of U3A Dunedin in 1993 (when he was Director of the Centre of Continuing Education, University of Canterbury), and became a member

of the Committee soon after moving to Dunedin in 1996, continuing until 2002 (Deputy Chair 2001-02). He was the principal negotiator over several years with the University of Otago for a Memorandum of Agreement signed in 2003, Convener of the Futures Working Party in 2001, and first editor of the *Newsletter* (2004-2005.)

Lin Phelan was also involved in the setting-up of U3A Dunedin in 1993. He continued as a member of the Committee and then of the Board from 1994 to 2002. He became Chair (1998-2001) when he worked closely with Brian O'Rourke to re-establish formal relations with the University, which had been broken in 1995 following closure of University Extension.)

They joined ranks with Emeritus Prof. **Alan Horsman**, who became our first honorary life member in 2009, and has regularly offered popular literary courses. All five honorary life members have been heavily involved in organising and/or presenting courses.



Assoc. Prof. Barrie Peake

University liaison

Associate Prof. Barrie Peake has been nominated by the University of Otago as its liaison at the meetings of the U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust Board.

Barrie is a member of the Department of Chemistry, with research interests in environmental chemistry. He has also developed (with his wife Maggie) an increasing interest in oil and watercolour painting over many years. They have visited a number of art galleries and museums in New Zealand and overseas, and built up 'a modest collection' of New Zealand paintings, and Barrie is now a member of the Council of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery Society.

As a professional chemist Barrie is also interested in the chemical nature of the pigments used in painting and how it can be used to provide a unique chemical 'signature' for a painting.

Byron 'enfant terrible'

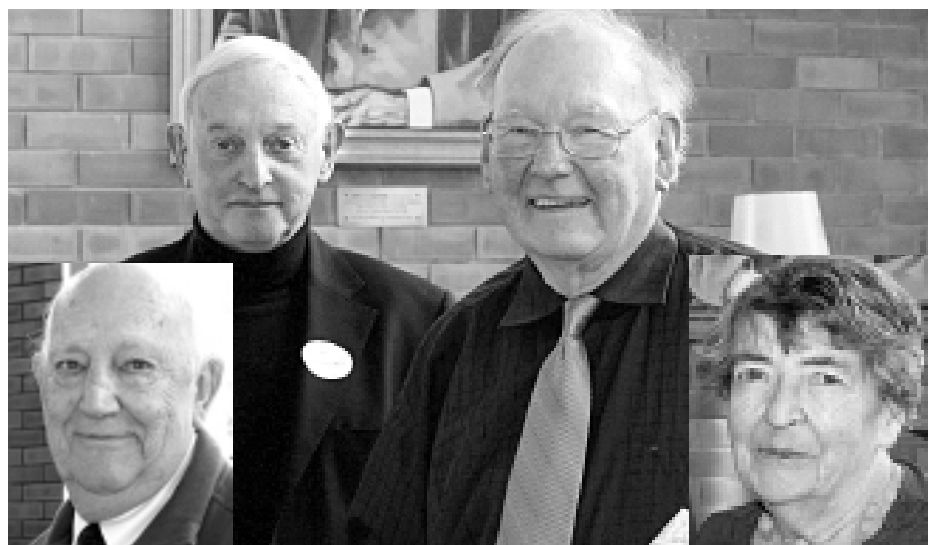
Emeritus Prof Colin Gibson offers a course in series 3 on Byron's poem *Don Juan*. 'Byron was the "enfant terrible" of his age and as a poet the first sell-out literary celebrity in England', explains Colin. 'In to his huge poem Byron packed his own life experience, his opinions on every conceivable subject from sex to politics, and several kinds of story. In this course we will hear a fine professional reading of selected passages and follow up with a relaxed discussion of the many topics in this romantic masterpiece.'

Colin recommends the Oxford classics' *Byron; the major works*, currently on sale at the Book Depository at \$22.93. Any queries phone Sue Harvey, 478 0057. (Book Depository is online at www.bookdepository.com. Postage from Britain is free, books usually take about two weeks to arrive.)

Edited by Geoff Adams

Phone: 467 2278

Email: hgadams@slingshot.co.nz



Brian Robinson (top left) welcomed Brian O'Rourke, David McKenzie (inset left) and Katherine Dolby (inset right) as life members at the AGM. (Lin Phelan and Alan Horsman were unable to attend.)

Small groups: new venture plans

Jane Higham, Doug Holborow and I are working on a proposal for informal, small interest groups to run alongside the current large group lectures, starting in the first semester of 2015.

These groups of 10-15 people would be led by members with an Enthusiasm to share with others. Some possible topics suggested so far are: classical music appreciation, exploring local museums and art galleries, how to get the best out of your computer, Meccano, history through objects

(each group member could bring an object of ethnic/historical interest and speak about it), poetry workshop (group members could bring their writing to be discussed by the group.)

Initially, five groups would be offered to all members on a 'first come, first served' basis. For more information about this idea please ring or email me (471-0026, jcowley@clear.net.nz). If you would like to share an interest with a small group contact Jane Higham (476-1848, rhigham@ihug.co.nz). - **Judith Cowley**