



Welcome to another U3A year

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

Welcome to the first U3A newsletter for 2013. You will find the brochures and application forms for Series 1 enclosed.

The Programme Committee is again offering a range of topics and I trust members will find a course that is of interest.

Feedback from the Series 3 Programme in 2012 was very positive. The board is kept informed of members' comments and we value this input from the membership. We would encourage you to return your evaluation forms at the end of each semester.

This year is likely to be a busy period for the U3A board. Several issues will be reviewed in order that we can maintain an efficient and responsive organisation. Although there is no obvious solution to the long delay that prospective U3A members experience on the waiting list, and although this issue has been reviewed in the past, the board will look at this again during 2013.



Dame Norma Restieaux

In 2014 U3A Dunedin will be 20 years old. Over this period data has been collected and changes made that reflect members' expectations and the growth of the organisation. Many people have contributed to the successful development of our group. It is hoped that the board can

review the information we hold and subsequently present a short record of historical events to the membership in 2014.

The newly appointed secretary to U3A (to replace Judith Gray) has indicated that she wishes to resign from this position. At its February meeting the Board will review the appropriate structure to put in place to support U3A activities, which includes Board activities, Membership activities, and Programmes.

U3A Dunedin now has a P.O. Box for mail communication and continues to use our address at "gmail" for electronic communication by email. Telephone communication is to the Chair. The details are outlined in this newsletter [see page 2].

I would like to welcome returning and new members and trust you will all have a stimulating and enjoyable year.
- **Norma Restieaux**

Visit to Farnham U3A

Board member and former chairman John Burton visited England last year where he made contact with the U3A Farnham in the town of Farnham, western Surrey.

He observed it was quite different from our branch of the international movement, having more than 1,000 members who pay a subscription of £35 a year (and no course fees) to choose from over 90 diverse courses dealing with learning, recreation, sports and pastimes.

Members have to attend a registration day to sign up for chosen courses, subject to space being still available as the rush progresses on that day. John reported extensively to the Board of U3A Dunedin on his close encounter with this different type of organisation in the world of U3As.

Freedom, Religion & Spirit



Albert Moore

A limited number of remaining copies of the late Albert Moore's 84-page book *Freedom, Religion & Spirit* are available from U3A Dunedin, P.O. Box 6532, North Dunedin., 9059. It comprises his series of eight U3A sessions that were held in a 2004 course.

Price \$10 each.

Remember all proper procedures?

The brochures for the Series 1 courses this year come with this newsletter and the closing date for applications is Wednesday, 13 February at noon.

We always run over the way U3A Dunedin works at this time of the year, to keep things running smoothly. The advice below applies to all members, new or longstanding: —

Places in the courses are determined by ballot where the number of applicants exceeds limits of space in a course venue.

Do not send application forms for the courses to the Secretary — they must always go to **Rodgers Law**, together with the accompanying cheque made out to Rodgers Law.

Members can apply for up to three

options, but unless really wanting to attend more than one course do not send money for more than one. Clearly indicate choices and preferences—only one ‘first choice’ can be made. Complete the name and address panel on the reverse of the application panel for quick response after the ballot.

Keep the brochures for courses you apply for so that you know the correct date, time and venue when courses start.

Members over 90 get automatic entry to one course in each series prior to a ballot taking place. They should apply in the normal way and still have to pay the course fee.

If by chance someone misses out on gaining entry to all courses they applied for in a series then they are

Administration

guaranteed a place in one of the course options applied for in the next series.

In case of illness that leads to withdrawal before the start of a course advise Rodgers Law as you might be entitled to a refund of all or part of the fee.

Sign the roll at the first session of a course you attend and tick the appropriate boxes then and in subsequent sessions. Accurate attendance records are needed.

Turn off cell phones during sessions as a ringing tone is disruptive and discourteous to the speaker.

Finding car parks can be a problem—allow time and do not block access for delivery vehicles and emergency vehicles at the Colleges.

Six diverse courses in first series

For Series 1, beginning in March, the five courses mentioned in the last newsletter are now confirmed – *An Introduction to Icons of European Literature, Dunedin—how we look after it, Immigrant stories*, another *Digital Photography: the easy way* course, and a repeat, with some changes of *Glory to God – From Vivaldi to the Gloria*.

We are really pleased that the sixth course we were working on is now part of this series, thanks to Rosemary Hudson. It is *Explaining Syria* and is sure to be popular, so we have scheduled it into the Leith Bowling Club.

Although planning for the rest of 2013 is in its early stages, we have firm confirmation of three interesting courses for the winter series – one on *Portraiture*, another on *Faust* and another *Six Journeys – by Women*.

The Programme Committee is hoping to put together a course on member's

Looking ahead



Sue Cathro

Programme Co-ordinator

talents and hobbies. Do you have a hobby or interest that you would be willing to share with others? If so, we would really like to hear from you. This could be a more informal course, with two or three people per session, so it would not be too onerous for anyone. We have two volunteers already . . .

Sue Cathro

Summer School course on writing fiction

Otago Summer School and Continuing Education is presenting the short course **Wordsmith: The Art of Writing Fiction** from 4 to 15 February 2013. To be taught by Caroline Lark, a well-respected poet, playwright and fiction author, the course runs between 10am to 1pm daily, and is limited to 15 students.

The course covers the complete process of writing a work of fiction, from openings and viewpoints, through character development, plot, settings, internal twists and mysteries to drafts and publication.

It sets out the structure of the fiction writing process. A Cambridge graduate, Caroline has taught creative writing at Auckland, Canterbury and Otago Universities. The cost of this ten session course is \$260.00. Please phone Robin (479 9181) for a brochure.

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE CHARITABLE TRUST, DUNEDIN

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Chair: Dame Norma Restieaux ph. 477-4607

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When Christmas was cancelled!

Did you know there was a time when it was illegal to celebrate Christmas?

When Oliver Cromwell took over Parliament he banned feasting and carolling, and it was not until the Restoration in 1660, nearly two decades later, that traditional celebrations were once again permitted. This bleak period in history is explained by England's National Archives:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/649.htm>

Parade of paraprosdokians

A **paraprosdokian** (from Greek 'para', meaning beyond and 'prosdoka,' meaning expectation) is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected, in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect, sometimes producing an anticlimax. For this reason, it is extremely popular among comedians and satirists. Winston Churchill loved them, these figures of speech.

Some paraprosdokians not only change the meaning of an early phrase, but also play on the double meaning of a particular word, creating a syllepsis. Some examples follow:

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America?

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a work station.

A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are after it as when you are in it.

The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.

A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.

Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

Where there's a will, there are relatives.

I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole

a bike and asked for forgiveness.

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish.

A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it.

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas!

Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.

A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip.

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Service usually uses water.

Raising U3A cap

At the last meeting of the U3A Board, Judith Gray reported membership at November 12 was 494, with a waiting list of 191.

Dame Norma Restieaux, from the chair, then proposed that the current maximum be raised from 500 to 520. After discussion, this step was moved by John Burton, seconded by Judith Cowley, then carried.

The new cap on membership will take effect as renewals for 2013 are processed. It was decided that the growing waiting list will be reviewed at the February meeting.



A thinking cap

Quiz for bright people

There are only nine questions. This is a quiz for people who know everything! They are straight questions with straight answers.

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name six or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'

(Answers on next page)

Ode to the spellchecker

*Eye have a spelling chequer,
It came with my pea sea.
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss Steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a key and type a word
and weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid,
It nose bee fore two long,
And eye can put the error rite
its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no,
Its letter perfect awl the weigh.
My spell chequer tolled me sew.*

New words coming out to play . .

Here are some great new words and definitions to spruce up your vocabulary. The *Washington Post's* Mensa Invitational once again invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. These are some winners:

Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.

Intaxication: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

Decafalon (n.): The gruelling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.

Glibido: All talk and no action.



'No more humour, Mr Editor, or you will be expelled from the club.'

Osteopornosis: This is a degenerate disease.

Dopeler Effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

. . and then some new meanings

The *Washington Post* also published winning submissions to its yearly contest in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words. Some of them were:

Coffee, n. The person upon whom one coughs.

Flabbergasted, adj. Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.

Abdicate, v. To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

Esplanade, v. To attempt an explanation while drunk.

Willy-nilly, adj. Impotent.

Negligent, adj. Absentmindedly answering the door when wearing only a nightgown.

Lymph, v.. To walk with a lisp.

Gargoyle, n. Olive-flavored mouthwash.

Flatulence, n. Emergency vehicle that picks up someone who has been run over by a steamroller.

Balderdash, n. A rapidly receding hairline.

Testicle, n. A humorous question in an exam.

Rectitude, n. The formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.

Oyster, n. A person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.

Frisbeetarianism, n. The belief that, after death, the soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

Websites for wanderers

www.hepguru.com/monalisa exposes the famous Leonardo Da Vinci painting from many viewpoints.

www.coe.int A full news service is available from the website of the Council of Europe, including activities, full texts of legislation, campaigns, projects, newsletters, and press releases.

Answers to Quiz for bright people

1. The one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends is boxing.

2. North American landmark constantly moving backward: Niagara Falls .. The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.

3. Only two vegetables that can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons: asparagus and rhubarb.

4. The fruit with its seeds on the outside: strawberry.

5. How did the pear get inside the brandy bottle? It grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.

6. Three English words beginning with 'dw' are: dwarf, dwell and dwindle.

7. Fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar: Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.

8. The only vegetable or fruit never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh: lettuce.

9. Six or more things you can wear on your feet beginning with 'S': Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.

On the Council of Europe: – 'If you open that Pandora's Box, you never know what Trojan 'orses will jump out.' — **Ernest Bevin**, 1975

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