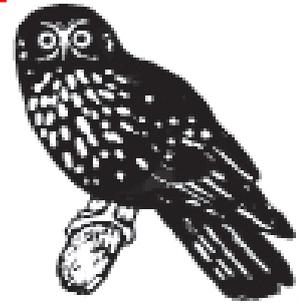


# U3A DUNEDIN Forum



Newsletter No.62 January 2019



**ABOVE:** Members of the U3A Dunedin Board's Archives Committee visited the Hocken Collections at Otago University to arrange storage of our archives now being collected.

From left: Dame Norma Restieaux, Rosemary Hudson, Stuart Strachan, Jane Higham and Alan Jackson.

## Lanyards for 'swaps'

I hope that you will all find good reason to belong to this organisation which not only provides stimulating education for those in the Third Age but also opportunities to foster old friendship and begin new ones. A particular welcome to the 20 or more new members.

The AGM is heralded below and you will appreciate that you can attend the

business meeting (no guest speaker this year) OR the luncheon OR both. You don't have to attend the business session to be entitled to attend the lunch.

The new lanyards for the name badges will be available at the AGM on a 'swap' basis – bring along your old badge and exchange for a lanyard (if you wish) or use your current badge or a lanyard or other device of your own. There is ample choice – but please DO wear a U3A badge at all U3A events.

Members not coming to the AGM will be able to swap badges at the first lectures – our current stock may run out – so we shall order more if the demand is there.

I am looking forward to the courses starting up again and I do hope that you are too. Best wishes,

**Alan Jackson,  
Chairman, U3A Dunedin Board**



*Every now and then go away, even briefly, have a little relaxation, for when you come back to your work your judgement will be surer; since to remain constantly at work will cause you to lose power.*

~  
- Leonardo Da Vinci

### Notice to all U3A Dunedin members

The AGM of the U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust will be held on :

**Thursday 14 February 2019**

11:00 a.m. at **Salmond College** – Knox St

Following the meeting a lunch will be served.

Notices of Motion and/or Board Nominations must be with the Secretary to the Board by 1 February.

The Agenda and lunch details will be posted 17 January – online and by mail.

Secretary to the Board – Marion Potter-

Ph. 453 4721 -mw.potter42@gmail.com

## Successful Spring term

The recent 2018 Spring series of courses finished on the usual high note and in spite of there being quite marked differences in attendance numbers between the courses. Two notable and unique aspects were the final session of the 'Aspects of te ao Maori' course where the attendees sat around tables in small groups to learn and practice the language, and the videoing of the panel discussion at the final session of the "A Sustainable Future for New Zealand" course. This video is available for anyone to view on the public section of YouTube.

The Programme Committee needs to plan all future courses well ahead of their presentation dates and so over the last few weeks of December we were finalising the course brochures for the 2019 Series 1 Autumn courses to be run in the March-April period.

These offer a great variety of topics ranging from researching and writing Dunedin history, the Romanesque period (800 – 1200 AD) in Europe, issues around the food chain from producer to the supermarket, an in-depth examination of changes in our New Zealand schools over recent years, presentations of members'

### Things they say

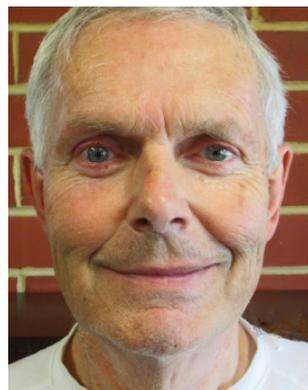
*'What is not started today is never finished tomorrow.'*

**-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**

An exchange between **Winston Churchill & Lady Astor**, who said, *'If you were my husband I'd give you poison.'* He said, *'If you were my wife, I'd drink it.'*

*'His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork.'*

**- Mae West**



**Barrie Peake**  
Programme Committee Chairperson

favourite works of crime fiction, and a critical analysis of T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*. There must surely be something in this wide range of courses that will appeal to every member!

I take this opportunity to thank the members of my Programme Committee for all of their hard work in so many different ways during this past year and to wish you all the very best for 2019. - **Barrie M Peake**

### News of groups

For six months it is planned that the U3A Discussion Groups co-ordinators will trial sending out an upmarket newsletter. That newsletter will focus on pointing out which groups are on offer now; and which groups could be easily organised.

These newsletters will be delivered to all those members who are using email for notifications from U3A Dunedin. (Copies will not be posted out to those on the postal mailing list at this stage.) Please take the time to read the newsletters as they appear and see what is on offer; maybe one will take your fancy to join.

**- Ngaire Bates**

## Your absences

When members sign up for a course, there are often occasions when some things crop up to cause an absence. This year we are trying a slightly different method of handling absences; write an 'Apol' (Apology) on the attendance sheet either in advance of a planned absence or in retrospect the next time you attend. This will save members the trouble of ringing course organisers and leaving messages. We do want the absences recorded just to let us know that you have not lost interest in the course or the presenter.

At the end of each Series there is a feedback form to fill in. This year we shall have forms available on our website for filling in on-line – or you can use a paper form in the traditional way.

The on-line feedback forms will be available for seven days after the course finishes – and that will give time to comment on the last session (many members bring completed paper forms back at the start of session six and so the last presentation often receives no comment.) Anonymity is the same with the web forms as with the paper ones. **Alan Jackson**

**Chairman, U3A Dunedin Board**

### Veritable Hokum

'Veritable Hokum' is a comic at [www.veritablehokum.com](http://www.veritablehokum.com). It is a comic about mostly history, maybe science, and possibly some other stuff too. Think of it as a comic-encyclopedia, or a picture-almanac. It's split between one-shot explanations of things that American author Korwin Briggs thinks are weird or funny or cool, and longer, multi-comic explorations of subjects. Everything is true, but enjoy the illustrated family tree conglomerations of Egyptian, Greek and Roman gods.

### Grants made by U3A

U3A Dunedin Board last October approved disbursements of \$1,000 each to the University of Otago Departments of Marine Science, English, Psychological Medicine and Foundation Studies in respect of the outstanding courses they provided in Series 2.

*'A room without books is like a body without a soul.'* - **Marcus Cicero**

## U3A DUNEDIN CHARITABLE TRUST

Website: [u3adunedin.org.nz](http://u3adunedin.org.nz)

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

**Email:** [info@u3adunedin.org.nz](mailto:info@u3adunedin.org.nz)

**Phone:** 453-4721

**Chair:** Alan Jackson, 479-6347

Registered Charitable Institution - #CC22345



Jane Higham and Gerard Kenny prepare the mail-out of some copies of *Forum* and membership renewals on November 8, 2018.



**Above:** Alan Horsman, Emeritus Professor of English, celebrated his 100th birthday on October 24, 2018. He is a life member of U3A Dunedin and presented English literature courses for 15 years. [Photo - Geoff Adams]



**Left:** Dunedin has been swamped with orange cones but many are pleased to see some of our traffic lights changed for the return of the 'Barnes Dance.' Londoners must face these three pedestrian traffic lights in Trafalgar Square, London. [Photo - Gretchen Kivell]

## Letters to Editor

### LANYARDS AND CALLS

I have many years of experience using lanyards to wear (i.e. attach) flags. Your article (*Forum*, October 2018) also refers to the 'Bosun's Pipe'. The Royal Navy and the Royal New Zealand Navy formally refer to this musical 'instrument' as a Boatswain's Call — universally abbreviated to Bosun's Call. I have one — but it is many years since I have been able to sound the various appropriate 'calls.'

**Matt Harger**

### BOUQUET FOR FORUM

Thanks for the very interesting and amusing newsletter [*Forum* October 2018.] I appreciate the effort that you put into it.

**Owen Lawn**

### IN THE DRINK?

Hi there, U3A landlubbers! Sound the call for lanyards and please your 'badgers'. Your newsletter aims to please. That's why it's called *Forum* — it has such a big readership and it's all for 'em! Take the word slowly now and nautical people could sound a call pronouncing *Forum* as "For-rum?"

**'Jolly Roger'**

[Abridged, too spirited, - Ed.]

## Busy lines?

One wickedly clever grandparents' telephone answering machine message is reproduced below:

"Hello ... At present we're not home, but please leave your message after the beep. ... Beeeeppp ...

"If one of our children, dial **1**, then select your option from 1 to 5 in order of birthdate so we know who it is.

\* If you need us to stay with the children, press **2**

\* If you want to borrow the car, . . . press **3**

\* If you want us to wash your clothes and do the ironing, press **4**

\* If you want the grandchildren to sleep here tonight, press **5**

\* If you want us to pick up the kids at school, press **6**

\* If you want to come to eat here, press **7**

\* If you need money, press **8**

\* If you are going to invite us to dinner or take us to the theatre; start talking — we are listening!

## Women of war

In an *Oldie* magazine luncheon for the British magazine's readers, Rick Stroud talked about the women of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) who parachuted into France and fought to set the country free during World War 2. Thirty-nine women were recruited from all walks of life, from bankers to buskers.

Krystyna Skarbek was focused on as 'a lover of adventure and a lover of men'. Her husband described her as 'the most intrepid person I have ever met, woman or man'. Krystyna set up a radio station and a newspaper, spoke Russian and drove men wild with lust.

One man fell so deeply in love with her that, following a rejection of his advances, he exclaimed, 'I'm going to castrate myself with my revolver,' and managed to shoot himself in the foot. Extremely angry, he threw himself into the river, not noticing it was frozen — and broke both legs.

**OUR WEBSITE**  
[u3adunedin.org.nz](http://u3adunedin.org.nz)

## PLEASE THE BADGERS



*Please*  
wear your badge to U3A

## A word in your ear

The *Washington Post* has published the winning submissions to its yearly contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words. And some winners are:

1. **Coffee**, n. The person upon whom one coughs.
2. **Flabbergasted**, adj. Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.
3. **Abdicate**, v. To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. **Esplanade**, v. To attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. **Willy-nilly**, adj. Impotent.
6. **Negligent**, adj. Absent-mindedly answering the door when wearing only a nightgown.
7. **Lymph**, v. To walk with a lisp.
8. **Gargoyle**, n. Olive-flavored mouthwash.
9. **Flatulence**, n. Emergency vehicle that picks up someone who has been run over by a steamroller.
10. **Balderdash**, n. A rapidly receding hairline.
11. **Testicle**, n. A humorous question in an exam.
12. **Rectitude**, n. The formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
13. **Pokemon**, n. A Rastafarian proctologist.
14. **Oyster**, n. A person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.
15. **Frisbeetarianism**, n. The belief that, after death, the soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

### 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](mailto:info@u3adunedin.org.nz)  
**Re Administration:** [admin@u3adunedin.org.nz](mailto:admin@u3adunedin.org.nz)  
**Re courses:** [courses@u3adunedin.org.nz](mailto:courses@u3adunedin.org.nz)  
**Re Membership:** [members@u3adunedin.org.nz](mailto:members@u3adunedin.org.nz)  
**Re 'Forum':** [newsletter@u3adunedin.org.nz](mailto:newsletter@u3adunedin.org.nz)

## Our history in print

There are now archived copies on our website of every U3A Dunedin newsletter since first produced in January 2004. The first newsletter (of 62 to date) was published 10 years after our organisation was formed (a charitable trust now with about 900 members.)

The founding editor was Brian O'Rourke, helped by Mervyn Cranefield. Geoff Adams, a former editor of the Otago Daily Times, took over the task in January 2006.

Colour printing was first introduced in the special anniversary 16-page issue of October 2014. The publication was titled as Forum in November 2015. Saving print costs, it is now able to be seen in and downloaded from our website in coloured replica. The whole collection of newsletters show the history and growth of U3A in Dunedin.

## Why hair turned white

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, 'Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?'

Her mother replied, 'Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.' The little girl thought about this for a while and then said, "Mumma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

## Driving physics home?

Albert Einstein had recently developed his theory of relativity and was on a speaking tour of the USA. After three weeks non-stop he was tiring and said so to his driver.

Driver: 'I could give your lecture, Sir. I've heard it so many times. Nobody knows what you look like. You rest, I'll get up and give the talk.' Dubious, but relieved, Einstein sat incognito in the audience. The chauffeur gave the speech word for word, to the delight of the physicist and the audience. But then a famous professor stood and asked a long, complicated question. Unfazed, the driver said:

'That is a very simple question, Sir, in fact, to show you how simple, I'm going to ask my chauffeur to answer it.'

### U3A phone directory

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

**Chairman:** Alan Jackson  
473-6947

**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

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