

U3A DUNEDIN FORUM



Newsletter - July 2018

New leader loves U3A

No-one needs to convince me how wonderful U3A is – we learn so much, rub shoulders with new folk, have a reason to do follow-up reading, or even to travel to places we learn about in the lectures. I love it. It's a great pleasure therefore to lead Dunedin U3A for the next little while and keep an eye on the website at the same time.

The really clever stuff on the website is done by John Shanks, who is part-time at Otago University and part-time in business as a website developer. We are SO lucky to have him as part of the team, and he is so patient with me as web editor when I get stuck.

SALMOND COLLEGE AGM

Our next AGM will be on Thursday, 14 February 2019 and it will be held at Salmond College. There will be the meeting and a lovely luncheon – no speaker. Our Treasurer is keen to have the AGM close to the end of the financial year (31 December) and this way we can achieve that, have a summer get-together all before the students come back. Parking at Salmond is much easier before students return. It will not be possible to have the accounts reviewed by then but they will be reviewed and reported later in *Forum*.

SOCIAL ORGANISATION

We believe that we are a social organisation and that time spent chatting is an important part of our membership. My memory for names is not as good as when I was teaching and so I do ask that you wear your name badge to all U3A events. I'm sure I'm not the only one who would like to say "Hello" and use the first name of the person I'm talking to. Listening to a name on a verbal introduction



Alan Jackson
Chair, U3A Dunedin Board

is not nearly as helpful as seeing it written down (on a badge). Ask for a replacement if you have really lost yours – there is a cost but U3A will absorb that just now – so there can be no excuse for not wearing a badge.

We are an organisation of almost 900, and we are run almost exclusively by volunteers. The U3A ship sails pretty well most of the time but sometimes things go awry (members lose an email, a snow cancellation is uncertain etc) – when those hitches happen please do remember to be kind to the volunteers – we don't want to lose anyone as a result of a lack of understanding and limited patience.

Please do look elsewhere in this edition of *Forum* to see the further treats in store as a result of the hard work of the Programme Committee in organising another exciting series of lectures for next term on our behalf.

OUR WEBSITE
u3adunedin.org.nz

Membership of U3A Dunedin

866 members
784 (email), 82 (postal)

Alan Jackson file

Alan Jackson is also our Web Editor. He trained in Wales where he developed his love of choral singing. He taught in England and came to New Zealand in 1970 where he taught at Waitaki Boys' High School (Geography, Maths and Computing) for most of his career and moved to Dunedin in 2004 with his wife Lynda.

They have three children and nine grandchildren, six of whom are in Dunedin.

Apart from U3A, Alan is involved with the Royal Dunedin Male Choir, Archibald Baxter Memorial Trust, Freemasons, Sea of Faith, Fortune Theatre (!) and the Royal New Zealand Ballet.

Your U3A Board

These members were elected to the Board for 2018-2019 at the Annual General Meeting of the U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust on 31 May:

Geoff Adams, Ngaere Bates, Jill Geary, Jude Hathaway, Jane Higham, Doug Holborow, Alan Jackson, Gretchen Kivell, Bill McKinlay, Marion Potter, Barrie Peake, Stuart Strachan, Evan Taylor, Alistair Wright. Elaine Webster is the Otago University representative and John Shanks (webmaster) is a board member ex-officio.

At the Board meeting on July 2 Alan Jackson was elected as the new chair of the Board and Marion Potter was re-elected as secretary.

ON OTHER PAGES

p2: Report on Courses

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Numbers varied in admired courses

This year's Winter lecture series is about to end. Although the course assessments have yet to be collected and analysed, verbal comments from many attendees suggest all of the courses have been very well received, in spite of quite variable enrolment numbers. Your Programme Committee always tries to design each series to include a range of topics which we hope will appeal to a wide range of members.

The present 'Nobel Prize winners 2016-2017' course exemplifies this aim with topics covering literature, chemistry, physics, physiology, economics and peace. Numbers enrolled for this course were, however, surprisingly small perhaps due to members being put off by the titles of the lectures and affiliations of the lecturers. But almost 'by definition', any discussion of a recent Nobel prize-winning topic must be at the cutting edge of that field of study which requires real expertise by the appropriate lecturer.

WEATHER ISSUES

One of the recent issues that I was particularly involved with was whether two different morning courses should be cancelled (or at least postponed) because of adverse weather conditions due to snow. Fortunately they weren't cancelled but I think it is worth mentioning here what some of the issues are that need to be taken into account by the particular Course Convenor before they ask the Web Editor to put any cancellation/postponement notice on the U3A Dunedin web site by 8.00 am for morning courses and 10.30 am for afternoon courses. These issues include:



Barrie Peake
Programme Committee Chairperson

1. Has the DCC cancelled bus services to the venue location? This will give a good indication of road conditions in the vicinity of the venue.
2. Have the management staff for the venue decided to close it for whatever reason such as the inability of their staff to get to the venue?
3. Can either the lecturer(s), Course Convenor and /or Audio Visual technician for the session get to the venue?
4. What is the weather forecast for the next 3 to 4 hours?

Taking into account all of these issues is difficult particularly at around 7am (and in the dark!). So please be understanding of any decision that is made by your Course Convenor – it won't have been taken lightly!

SPRING AHEAD

We have just completed details for the upcoming Spring series which include Africa-diversity and Development, Speakers Corner, Ins and Outs of Surveying, Aspects of Te Ao Maori, Peopling of Dunedin, and a Sustainable Future for NZ. Hopefully

there will be something here to appeal to you.

SWITCHING PROBLEMS

Finally two somewhat humorous incidents: after a Course Convenor made their usual announcement at the start of a recent session for attendees to turn off their cell phones, they were approached by one of them asking for instructions how to do this!

In helping develop the brochure for the upcoming Te Ao Maori course, I changed my keyboard to allow for typing macrons. However when I exited my word processor programme, I discovered to my consternation that my screen display and all commands had now all been translated into Maori! Not being conversant at all with this language, I had to start up an adjacent laptop computer which still had all these commands in English and by a careful comparison of their screen location, I was able to slowly establish how I could reinstate an English display and commands on my other computer... be warned!

- Barrie Peake

Native wisdom

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips, in Northern Arizona, when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road. As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride. With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car.

Resuming the journey, Sally tried – in vain – to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally.

'What in bag?' asked the old woman.

Sally looked down at the brown bag and told her: 'It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband.'

The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then, speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said: 'Good trade...'



'The reason the golf pro tells you to keep your head down is so you can't see him laughing.' ~ Phyllis Diller

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: Alan Jackson, 479-6347

Registered Charitable Institution - #CC22345

Looking back with pleasure

As Immediate Past Chair of U3A I can now stand back and look with pleasure at this flourishing organisation. While the Board does board-like things, it is the Programme Committee that is the power house of U3A Dunedin.

I see and hear from members about how delighted they are with the course they are taking, how amazing and new – and often as not presented by members themselves. We are so fortunate to have a continuing stream of excellent and varied programmes, three times each year.

At the course I'm currently attending, on 'Brain Health', I see the activities of U3A Dunedin are directly supporting our own brains: adding interest,

challenging thinking, socialising, getting us moving.

I gave a 'state of the nation' in my Chair's report to the AGM. You can find it in the members-only section of the website under Public Documents. Are you able to navigate your way there? Not that I think you should read that particular item — there is so much of interest and value on our website.

I would particularly encourage our non-email members to explore the U3A Dunedin website, using a computer when visiting a friend or neighbour or member of the family. Ask for help – because it's good to participate. Good wishes - **Gretchen Kivell**

Course information on web

How to find U3A Dunedin resources for the new term's courses on our Internet website: u3adunedin.org.nz

1. Log in on the home page as a member with member username and number (on your membership badge)
2. Go to Courses and Resources page (left hand side, second down)
3. Find the course you are doing (eg **F_Passions**) - you will see in green - **Associated documents for F.**

4. Click on that green sentence.

5. When the list of resources is displayed, select whichever you are interested in, and click on it

6. When you have finished reading those resources, use the <back> button on Internet Explorer / Google Chrome / Safari etc to go back to the other resources associated with that course..

7. When finished - log out.

GPS bracelets for seniors in China

About 12,000 elderly Chinese people suffering from cognitive problems like dementia will get free GPS-enabled bracelets that would help prevent them from getting lost. The bracelets with Global Positioning System (GPS) will be given to elderly people who have cognitive problems such as dementia, Wang Ning, deputy mayor of Beijing said.

In 2015, about 222 million of the world's most populous country's 1.3 billion citizens were aged 60 or older.

According to a survey by the Zhongmin Social Assistance Institute 1,370 senior citizens go missing every day,

SO THEY SAY...

'The difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old ones.'

~John Maynard Keynes

Thinking is more interesting than knowing, but less interesting than looking. ~ Goethe

with an average age of 76.

By installing an app on smartphones, children of the seniors can locate their parents. The elderly people can also make emergency calls with the bracelets, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. [World U3A]

History of a cuppa

They say there is nothing quite as quintessentially British as a 'cuppa' tea and New Zealanders quite like one as well. How did the Chinese tradition make its way into the British consciousness? It's all thanks to Catherine of Braganza, a Portuguese royal who married England's King Charles II in 1662. When she arrived in England, she brought with her loose leaves and spices in a set of crates labeled "Transporte de Ervas Aromatics," or T.E.A. Soon, everyone wanted to be just like the Queen and sales of tea began to skyrocket. The rest, as they say, is history.

Hotmail problem can be averted

We have noticed that many of the bulk emails we send out (eg notification of course acceptance, membership renewal etc) are seemingly not reaching the members concerned. This seems to be limited now to members with a Hotmail email address. The software directs the email we send to the Spam/junk folder.

This can be overcome by the member adding U3ADunedin.org.nz to the list of "Trusted Senders." Here is how to add an email address to your Hotmail account to ensure it is always approved and not sent to the spam folder.: <https://www.wikihow.com/Add-Approved-Senders-to-Hotmail>

Junk email 'Spam'?

The term "spam emails" is a simply fascinating blend of history, comedy and technology.

Spam, the canned food product, was developed by Hormel Foods Corporation in 1937. Its basic ingredients are Shoulder Pork, with hAM meat added + hence the word "spam". However, during the war years, and spam's popularity as a food for the front line, SPAM also came to represent "Specially Prepared Army Meat".

So how did we get from spam canned food to *Monty Python* to unsolicited and unwanted emails in the 1970s?

There's a line in *Monty Python's Flying Circus* where a woman yells out "I hate spam".

The sketch is about being given something you really don't want but having no choice but to accept it. It soon became linked to receiving unwanted and unsolicited emails, hence "I hate spam emails".

From its humble and honest beginnings as a canned meat to the subject of a *Monty Python* sketch, it then went to becoming synonymous with network abuse, particularly junk emails.

THEY SAID IT

A wonderful harmony arises from joining together the seemingly unconnected.

~Heraclitus (c.500 BC)

The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing. ~ Socrates



Gretchen Kivell, who retired as chair of U3A Dunedin's board at the Annual General Meeting in May, is pictured with Dunedin's sensational architect Damien Van Brandenburg, the guest speaker. He delivered a very interesting illustrated talk about the plans for renewing Dunedin's run-down harbour waterfront buildings, as well as movies about his very striking buildings that are under construction in China, and his brilliant plans for a new Queenstown hotel..

A two-course luncheon was enjoyed after the talk ended. Foreshadowing it, a waitress made a memorable announcement: "Desserts will be served on the parquet floor." [No grovelling ensued – Ed.]



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

Recent book prizes

The **Wellcome Book Prize** 2018 was won by Irish author Mark O'Connell for his extraordinary debut *To Be a Machine: Adventures among cyborgs, utopians, hackers and the futurists solving the modest problem of death*. It is the first full-length exploration of trans-humanism, a movement that seeks to cheat mortality and use technology for human evolution.

Mark O'Connell was selected from a shortlist of six to win the prestigious prize, which celebrates exceptional works of fiction and non-fiction.

Flights by Olga Tokarczuk, translated by Jennifer Croft and published by Fitzcarraldo Editions, was announced as winner of the **Man Booker International Prize** for 2018.

It is a novel about travel in the 21st century and human anatomy. It includes the story of Chopin's heart as it makes the covert journey from Paris to Warsaw, stored in a tightly sealed jar beneath his sister's skirt. *Flights* guides the reader beyond the surface layer of modernity and towards the core of the very nature of humankind. (*World U3A*)

'Dear Daddy' letter

Dear Daddy,

I am coming home to get married soon, so get out your credit card. I'm in love with a boy who is far away from me. As you know, I am in Australia, and he lives in Scotland.

We met on a dating website, became friends on Facebook, had long chats on email.

He proposed to me on Skype, and now we've had two months of relationship through the Internet. My beloved Dad, I need your blessing, good wishes, and a really big wedding."

Lots of love and thanks, Your favourite daughter, *Lilly*

My Dear Lilly,

Like Wow! Really? Cool! Whatever.., I suggest you two get married on Twitter, have fun online, buy your kids on Amazon, and pay for it all through Paypal.

And when you get fed up with this new husband, sell him on TradeMe. *Dad*

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



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