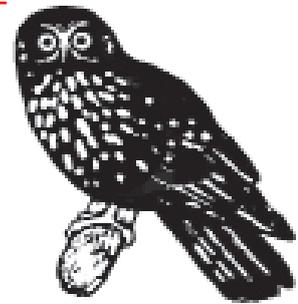


U3A DUNEDIN FORUM



Newsletter No. 64 - July 2019



They arrived on wheels

Above: U3A member Katie Parker arrives for a session of the 'Banding Together' course at Leith Bowling Club on her scooter.

Right: later the same day, a group that attended the 'Farming Present and Future' course arrived. Speaking to U3A's oldest active member, Prof Gordon Parsonson, who arrived in his wheelchair, are Dr Anna Campbell, managing director of Abacus Bio, who gave the lecture on 'Innovation'

and Nick Wiseman, the course developer.

Gordon (formerly of the History Department at Otago University) is looking forward to his 100th birthday later this year. Prof. Tom Brooking, who recently retired from the same department, was also able to have a word with his older colleague at this course.

Oldies must rule?

Data confirming the accuracy of our A new Office for National Statistics study reveals that, by 2066, the number of over-65s in Britain will nearly double to 20 million, while the 16 to 64 age group will grow by only five per cent.

**500
Lanyards**
See page 4

Murphy's Law

Edward Aloysius Murphy, Jr. (January 11, 1918 – July 17, 1990) was an American aerospace engineer who worked on safety-critical systems. He is best known for Murphy's Law, which is said to state: 'Anything that can go wrong will go wrong.'

OUR WEBSITE
u3adunedin.org.nz

What's cooking for courses? - Plenty!

At the time of writing those U3A members enrolled in our Winter series of lectures are well into their courses, and a tasty series it is. By far the most popular has been *Delivering Justice*, which received 202 applications, unfortunately necessitating a ballot as the limit on the Otago Golf Club is 150.

Numbers were spread much more evenly for the other five courses — *Fashion, Farming, Band Music, My Hobby, and Macbeth* — ranging from 39 to 66. And, with final reports still to come in, preliminary indications are that all have been well received. The weather too was kind, with the summer heat well behind us and, so far, winter had not threatened any cancellations.

In the meantime, your Programme Committee has been busy, planning the Spring 2019 series and looking ahead to Autumn 2020.

VARIETY OF INTERESTS

There is plenty of variety to look forward to in this coming series beginning in August. For those with a strong interest in our province there is a course on the work of the *Otago Regional Council* presented by senior staff. *Gardening & Landscaping*, delivered by a range of experts, concludes with a tour of the Dunedin Botanic Gardens.

The ever-popular Ross Grimmett once again will share his fascination with what lies behind iconic art images with *Every Picture Tells a Story*. The scientifically-minded will find ample to occupy them in *Aspects of Nanotechnology*. *Urban Design for the 21st Century* will take a multi-faceted view of what makes our built environment, including green spaces, Maori values, campus development, and housing.

And, finally, for the more cerebral amongst us we hope to offer *Philosophy at Otago*, at which members of our local department will speak to their particular interests.

'ENGINE ROOM'

None of this happens without considerable work by the Programme Committee, along with a willing team of valued assistants. The Committee is indeed the 'engine room' of U3A. It is here that the programmes are devised, developed and delivered, and the venues organised. To find and organise up to 12 expert speakers for any one course is no small task, but we are extraordinarily fortunate in the willingness of University and Polytechnic staff to



Stuart Strachan and Linda Kinniburgh - the new Co-Chairs of U3A Dunedin's Programme Committee.

share their knowledge, and also in the large pool of talent to be found in the wider community. U3A members, too, play their part. At present, we have a 14-strong committee of varying backgrounds to share the load, but are always willing to consider additions that broaden our base.

Thanks to Lloyd Smith, we now have a database of almost 300 suggestions from members for future courses. Obviously, only a few are able to be taken up, but they are invaluable for showing where members' interests lie. So, keep the suggestions coming!

BOUQUET FOR BARRIE

This seems an appropriate time to acknowledge the enormous contribution of Barrie Peake, our retiring chairperson, over the past two years. Barrie always leads from the front and has had a very productive and well-organised term. Always prepared to come up with new ideas and run with them, he has been the mover and organiser behind such popular series as Nobel Prize Winners (which promises to be a biannual event), and the current Hobbies series. Hearty thanks, Barrie!

Barrie's place is now taken by two co-chairs with very different backgrounds. Linda Kinniburgh is a former director of nursing studies at the Otago Polytechnic. Stuart Strachan was Hocken Librarian at the University of Otago for 23 years. We hope to prove worthy successors to Barrie, who fortunately will continue to be a member of the Programme Committee. - **Stuart Strachan & Linda Kinniburgh.**

Grants to helpers

Operating in its role as a charitable trust the U3A Dunedin board voted the following grants to organisations that helped to develop courses:

University of Otago Geography Department (Africa Diversity and Development), \$1,000.

Te Tumu (Aspects of Te Ao Maori), \$1,000.

University Foundation Trust (The Peopling of Dunedin), \$600

Wise Response Society, (Sustainable Transition Path), \$1,000.

U3A DUNEDIN CHARITABLE TRUST

Website: u3adunedin.org.nz

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

Email: contact@u3adunedin.org.nz
Phone: 453-4721

Chair: Alan Jackson, 479-6347

Registered Charitable Institution - #CC22345

Beware! Sort out the scammers

The problem of scam frauds continues to plague many New Zealanders (and people in other countries) if they have email on their computers or telephone numbers that are easily available. They become a target for 'lies that may seem attractive or helpful but will prove very costly if you act on them,'

U3A members need to be continually on their guard against strangers who contact them. We should be highly suspicious and reject those phone calls that warn about computer problems or offer prizes or special deals. Remember that if something sounds too good to be true it probably is not true — it needs rejection or proper testing. Be on your guard!

Scam artists do exist. The issue is so prominent that experts warn scams can cost Kiwis up to \$500 million a year. It is important to keep your personal information private, safeguard your cash and avoid being a victim to one of these criminals.

The *New York Times* calls Scam-Busters 'one of the oldest and most comprehensive online clearinghouses for information about internet fraud.' It is worth Googling this site and in New Zealand we also have an excellent website in Netsafe (<https://www.netsafe.org.nz>).

The following details should never be disclosed, unless you are logging in on an official website or speaking

Getting the bird

Qatar Airways' generosity in baggage allowances: 'We allow you to carry one falcon in the Economy Class, of an aircraft, and a maximum of six falcons are permitted within the Economy Class cabin of any one aircraft (country regulations may apply).'

The *Oldie* magazine commented on the airline keeping an eagle eye on its passengers and said 'perhaps budget airlines will permit budgies in limited numbers?'



'People say nothing is impossible but I do nothing all the time.'

~ Winnie the Pooh (A.A. Milne.)

directly with an employee you have contacted via the phone or in person.

- Bank account number, online password and pin code
- Login details for websites and your devices
- IRD number
- Passport number
- Licence number

PHISHING SCAMS

Phishing is when someone tries to get personal information (like bank account numbers and passwords), from a large and un-targeted audience, so they can use it to impersonate or defraud people. The email may include a dodgy link in it, or be an offer (e.g. competition prize) or threat (e.g. tax bill).

These emails can look very real, and some even use the branding and logos of a legitimate organisation to make them seem genuine.

These scammers contact a large number of people in the hope that some of them will fall for their scam. These scams can seem like they are being sent just to you — in reality the same scam is being sent to hundreds, or even thousands of people at the same time.

Remember banks do not normally write to customers and ask them for their account numbers or passwords, so if in doubt pop in to your local branch — but never reply through the Internet! Official organisations (like the Inland Revenue Department) also will never make threats,

Lost Child!

One day after a U3A course, the course assistants were tidying up at the Leith Bowling Club and discovered a book that had been left behind by a member. The title of the book? 'Nothing to Lose' (by Lee Child).

This is true and the owner rang Alan Jackson, the chairman of the Board for U3A Dunedin, then (happily) got the book back from Leith BC the next morning.

insist you make a payment over the phone or refuse to let you speak to an advisor.

Online shopping, although it may be convenient, also comes with risks. Choose your websites wisely and shop with well-known retailers as they usually have watertight security measures in place.

Netsafe defines many different types of scams, as well as phishing. They include: 'cold calling,' tech support, fake sextortion emails, blackmail, fake romance, fake invoices, receiving unsolicited goods, event tickets. It also gives hints of how to deal with them.

Scammers are very clever, and can make their stories seem totally plausible. They will use every trick in the book to wind unsuspecting internet citizens around their fingers.

The answer is to be suspicious. Do the research before supplying any personal information.. Even the nice-sounding people may be frauds. So make searches to try to verify their story, Sometimes only a quick phone call may be enough to ring the alarm bells.

Unfortunately, scammer tactics are becoming increasingly sophisticated and thousands continue to fall victim to them. If you think you've been tricked get in touch with the relevant organisation and police as soon as possible. Don't be ashamed to admit you've been duped and do

Quick quiz

Q.If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in the other hand, what would you have? - A. *Very large hands.*

Q. If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it? - A. *No time at all — the wall is already built.*



I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want. ~ Andy Warhol

500 Lanyards

We have distributed almost 500 of the new lanyards during Series 1 and 2. We have some requests for more and they will be met during Series 3 when the next batch arrives.

After all that effort and publicity about name badges, it is sad to see several members without any U3A Dunedin badge. Here is what one of the course assistants had to say about non-badge wearers...

'You may know who you are. Not everyone else does. U3A Dunedin has a current membership of around 900.'

'U3A course conveners, speakers and assistants are identified by name. They are expected to welcome and be able to assist you. Courtesy suggests that they at least should be able to identify you.'

'Printed names may be more reliable than faces when it comes to recognising old friends or colleagues!'

And I can add that no-one is so famous in Dunedin that (s)he is recognised by name straight away. The badge also shows that you belong - do wear it with some pride.

- Alan Jackson
Chair U3A Dunedin Board

Mathematics!

After a talking sheepdog gets all the sheep in the pen, he reports back to the farmer: "All 40 accounted for."

"But I only have 36 sheep," says the farmer. "I know," says the sheepdog. "But I rounded them up."

U3A email directory

Sending email correspondence to U3A Dunedin? Using addresses below will take your messages to the appropriate people and have quicker attention. (If you contact the wrong person the

forward your message to the correct address.)

General information: contact@u3adunedin.org.nz

Re courses: courses@u3adunedin.org.nz

Re Membership: members@u3adunedin.org.nz

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

For the creative Travel questions

Creativebug Studios has a website channel on Youtube offering dozens of free videos showing how to make simply hundreds of things. You can find them by clicking on <https://www.youtube.com/user/cbugstudio/video/> There is so much on show, macrame, jam-making, paper-work, calligraphy, decorative stuff in wood, plastic, wool, string etc. You can learn how to make your own loom. and this is followed by more videos illustrating more creative weaving techniques. [World U3A]

For modern art lovers: www.southbankcentre.co.uk/venues/hayward-gallery#overview takes you to the impressive website for the Hayward Gallery Southbank, London which is now celebrating its 50 years of history and contains a wonderful digital archive of its past exhibitions. [World U3A]

Vocabulary

A friend was asked by phone what he was doing.

He said he couldn't talk because he was working on 'aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminium, and steel while under a dangerously constrained environment.'

The friend was impressed. . . until the following day when he learned that meant the man was 'washing dishes with hot water under his upset wife's supervision.'

Prize driver

A policeman stops a driver and says: 'You won \$500 for wearing a safety belt. What will you do with the prize?'

Driver: 'I don't know, probably will pass the exam for a driving licence; His wife butts in: 'Don't listen! He always talks like that when he is drunk'...

Passenger from the rear wakes up: 'I told you we won't go far with a stolen car,

Travellers have asked these questions:

'Can you tell me who performs at the circus in Piccadilly?'

'Which bus do I get from the Orkney Islands to the Shetland Islands?'

'What time of night does the Loch Ness Monster surface and who feeds it?'

'Are there any lakes in the Lake District?':

'Was this man-made?' (At the Grand Canyon, USA)

'How much of the caves is underground? (At the Carlsbad Caverns National Park, USA)

And in the south:

'I want to walk from Perth to Sydney - can I follow the railroad tracks?'

'Which direction is north in New Zealand?'

Bad deal!

There are 300 Bridge Groups in the UK, and many thousands in 46 countries worldwide, especially in China. But a recent judgement by the European Court of Justice has ruled that it is not a sport.

In response to a legal claim by the English Bridge Union (EBU) for the card game to be given the status of a sport, judges in the EU Luxembourg court ruled that a sport must involve "a not negligible physical element" for tax purposes. The EBU had been seeking VAT exemption on entry fees to its competitions.

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:
Barrie Peake 453-3151

Courses: Phyll Esplin 467-2594



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