



Jubilee was celebrated in happy style

The 20th jubilee of U3A Dunedin was celebrated in happy style at the Otago Golf Club rooms, Maori Hill, on October 15 with a free afternoon tea party attended by more than 140 members.

The occasion was also the launch of the special edition of the *Newsletter*, which won praise from many. The formal part of the meeting was led by our Chair, Doug Holborow. Rosemary Hudson then spoke about the arduous work of her History Committee in gathering all the historical information and Geoff Adams talked about editing the special publication.

This issue's message from Doug follows:

Chairman's message

I have just returned from enjoying the delightful afternoon function that the Board organised to celebrate 20 years of U3A activities in Dunedin. From the comments made there, it is clear many members appreciated the opportunity to socialise at much greater length than we are usually able to at our regular series meetings. It was also an ideal format to acknowledge the contributions and enthusiasm of many members over those 20 years.

There were suggestions that the next such function should happen much sooner than the suggested golden jubilee, with its substantial history in full book form. It's interesting to speculate on whether the book format will be with us in another 30 years. Well, that is for another Board. This Board acknowledges the hard work



of many, and especially the History Committee, to produce the superb special newsletter that you should all have received by now.

SMALL GROUP FORMAT

One meeting format, which does encourage the social as well as educational opportunities, is the small group. Board member Judith Cowley is working to set up these groups, and is happy to talk to anyone who would like to know more about how they function. It seems to me that such a format has two advantages. The first is the freedom to organise the format, location, frequency and length of meeting of the group depending only on the preferences of the group members. The cement that holds the group together is the topic. Everything else is negotiable, including the size of the group.

The second advantage is the opportunity to be an active member in a detailed exploration of a particular topic. There is nothing like active participation to sharpen interest and understanding; this format is ideal for that purpose.

A number of topics have been suggested, including: classical music appreciation (huge potential there), understanding your computer, which could include a focus on how to use PowerPoint (Bill McKinlay's speakers

Trio at launch party for our 20th Jubilee function on October 15. Pictured from left are Geoff Adams (editor of *Newsletter*), Rosemary Hudson (convenor of the History Committee), and Doug Holborow, Chair of U3A Dunedin.

Photo - Betty Rawlings

could form that one), Meccano, history through objects, the Otago Museum collections in detail, poetry workshop, current affairs discussion, health care for the elderly.

Depending on interest, we plan to have five of these groups begin next year. Anyone who is interested in joining any group is welcome to contact Jane Higham (476-1848, rhigham@ihug.co.nz).

Your Board for this year is well into its work, but, sadly, now loses a member as a result of relocation. Marjan Lousberg is leaving for Central Otago. She was our website supervisor, and programme committee secretary. She established both positions and was responsible for setting up the website. U3A Dunedin is losing a valuable member; we wish her well and are sure she will soon establish links with her new local U3A.

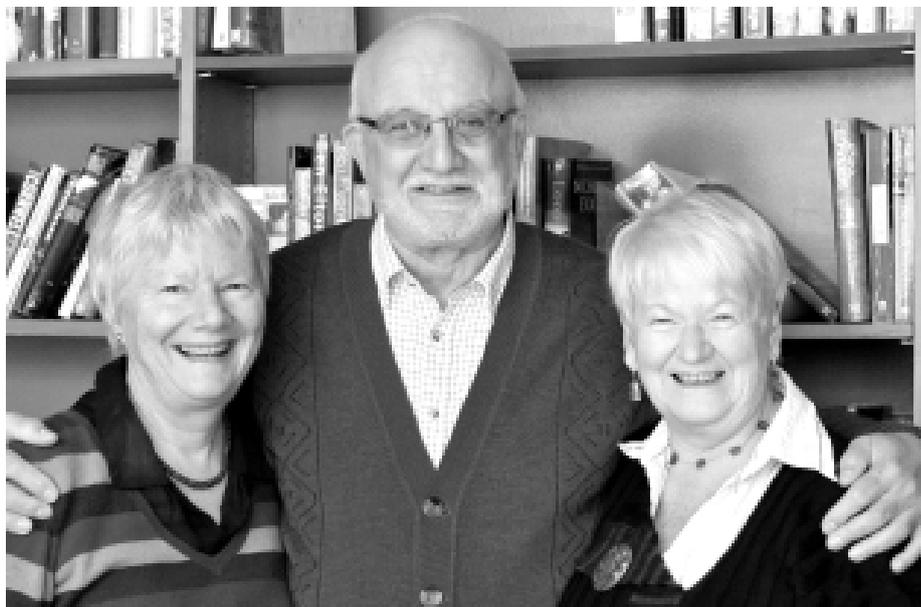
With the summer break upon us, let me be one of the early ones to wish all members an enjoyable and safe summer, and a happy festive season wherever you may be.

Geographer with many interests

Alan Jackson, a new Board member for U3A Dunedin, was born in St Helens, Lancashire (the same town as Richard John Seddon) in 1944, won a scholarship to the local grammar school, completed tertiary training (geography, geology, economics) at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth in 1967, became a Fellow of The Royal Geographical Society, and taught geography in a boys' grammar school for just over three years in Widnes, Lancashire.

He then migrated to Otago with wife Lynda. Their eldest daughter was born shortly after arrival and later another daughter and a son. They have seven grandchildren who all live in Dunedin. Alan's working life in Otago was divided between teaching geography, maths and computing at Waitaki Boys' High School, also encouraging teachers in new methods of teaching, especially integrating new technology into their classes.

In England he was an active member of a Congregational church, was an elder and led a youth group. He had more youth group work in the early 1970s in Oamaru at the Church of Christ, then Rotary and Freemasonry. He had fringe jobs that went along with teaching: running the camera club, the badminton club, school magazine, computer club and website (but not all at the same time). In retirement he is also involved with the University Club, Sea of Faith, Royal Dunedin Male Choir, and Freemasonry. On the cultural side, the Fortune Theatre leads the bill, followed closely by the Royal New Zealand Ballet and supporting Lynda in her singing with City Choir Dunedin.



Three new members of the U3A Dunedin Board are (from left): Gretchen Kivell, Alan Jackson and Judith McKinlay.
Photo - Geoff Adams

Teacher in three countries

Judith McKinlay, a new U3A Board member, was born in Dunedin and educated at Columba College and Dunedin Teachers' College. She has taught in New Zealand, Australia and England.

'For 17 years I lived in Melbourne, Australia, until the end of my marriage when I returned to Dunedin with my two daughters. Both girls played softball and I was their team manager/scorer. One daughter now lives in Italy with my only granddaughter. My other daughter lives in Sydney, Australia,' Judith told the *Newsletter*

'Most of my teaching in Dunedin, since my return from Australia, has been at Kenmure Intermediate and then Kaikorai Valley College.'

Judith has been a member of U3A for more than four years. She has also been a member of 60+ Club, over the

U3A PROFILES

last six years, and is a member of the Otago Bridge Club where she has served on various committees.

She describes herself as semi-retired. For five hours a week she works in the Brathwaite Centre at Kaikorai Valley College, that caters for pupils with special needs.

List keeps growing

Jane Higham, as our Membership Secretary, reported last month that our roll then stood at 590 people, with a waiting-list grown to 270.

No photos please

Taking photos of the screen or the recording of presentations during U3A courses is not permitted, the Board decided, during a discussion on legal issues of copyright and the protection of intellectual property at the October Board meeting.

Members of the Board

The members of the U3A Board for the 2014-15 year are listed below. (Apologies for the list published in the August *Newsletter* that omitted the names of two of the four newly elected members).

Doug Holborow (Chair), Jane Higham (Deputy Chair), Geoff Adams, Sue Cathro, Judith Cowley, Sue Harvey, Rosemary Hudson. Alan Jackson, Gretchen Kivell, Marjan Lousberg, Judith McKinlay, Evan Taylor, Norma Restieaux, Brian Robinson.

(New members are Alan Jackson, Gretchen Kivell, Judith McKinlay and treasurer Evan Taylor.) Barrie Peake provides liaison with the University of Otago,

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Six interesting courses next term

We have found it very encouraging that the Programme Committee and the Board have had so much positive feedback from members this year – both verbal and written. Six courses, three times a year is a challenge and it is nice to know that our efforts are really appreciated.

Our new members on the Board are already making a positive contribution to our programme for next year. Just a reminder that, as well as your suggestions on the evaluation forms, we encourage you to give any ideas to a Board member who will bring it to our meetings. If you would like to organise or help organise a course yourself, there are guidelines that you can use and a Board member will support you.

For Series 1 2015 beginning in March, we have six courses planned. The titles I have given here may be changed, but the content will be the same: *Dunedin's Contribution to Broadcasting*, *Opposition to War*, *Music in the time of War*, *The U3A*

meets the MBA, *Engineering and Burne Jones* and *Pre-Raphaelite Art*.

Remember to post your applications in plenty of time for the ballot date. There will be another 100 members in 2015 and only so many places can be organised in our present venues, so it is important to give a second choice.

BEATEN A TRACK?

As part of the 2015 programme we would like to explore the possibility of a series based on the theme of "Off the Beaten Track", which Bill McKinlay has offered to organise. We need 11 members armed with 30-35 photos in a power point presentation to tell us in 40-45 minutes where they went, off the beaten track, the further off, the better eg -Antarctica—Galapagos—Easter Island –Caspian Sea—Dusky Sound—Darkest Africa: the possibilities are endless.

For example: Bill McKinlay would take us to visit Western Australia, to show us a very different aquarium; a 400-year old saga of mutiny, sex and

LOOKING AHEAD



Sue Cathro

Programme Co-ordinator

violence; life in a monastery garden, and a cattle station 450 kilometres from anywhere.

A workshop would be organised for members who are interested, so we can swap ideas, claim our own tracks, and for those who need help, lessons in 'PowerPoint' set-up. This would be ideal for those who have been in faraway places, but don't think that they could occupy a full session. Are you interested? Contact any board member or Bill McKinlay on 4774-161 or e mail: billruth@clear.net.nz.

Engineer turned to running colleges

New U3A Dunedin Board member **Gretchen Kivell** was born and grew up in Dunedin. After one year at the University of Otago, she completed her BE in Chemical Engineering at the University of Canterbury. Gretchen then worked as an engineer for 18 years, both in New Zealand and England, until the stock market crash shook her out of her job with a firm of consulting engineers in Auckland.

Fortunately, she had just completed a part-time MBA, that helped her to move from engineering to education, taking up a role in teaching and management with Unitec polytechnic in Auckland. Nevertheless, Gretchen maintained a strong contact with her professional body. She was President of the New Zealand Institution of Professional Engineers, IPENZ, in 1998, the first (and still the only) woman to take that role.

In 1997 she returned to Dunedin becoming head of Toroa International House (now Toroa College), a live-in position which suited her varied skills and interests. After nearly 11 years at Toroa, she was offered the task of setting up New Zealand's first postgraduate college—Abbey College,

in Castle St and directly opposite 'The Gardies.' This was challenging — not only because of the neighbours. The residents did not take kindly to being treated like undergraduates, so a whole new period of learning ensued.

Five years later, with Abbey College well-established and ending 16 years in university accommodation, Gretchen retired into her newly-refurbished home in Opoho. Of many current activities, she most enjoys her role as chair of the Dunedin Sea of Faith network, learning a new skill at the NEV community garden, and Maori language lessons through the Kokiri Centre.

Fears unfounded

Board Secretary Marion Potter has had several contacts recently from U3A Dunedin members apologising for not being able to attend courses due to health, family, travel reasons, etc. Their concern was that (because they had not enrolled in a course) they would be deleted from the membership list. "Please be assured that will not happen. You will not be removed from our membership unless we have advice you wish to resign," says Marion.

'Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.'

~ Mark Twain

'Old age is fifteen years older than I am.'

~ Oliver Wendell Holmes

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Mailing membership fees

Make sure your U3A subscription fees when due are addressed to:

Membership Secretary, U3A Dunedin, P.O. Box 6491, Dunedin North 9059.

Cheques should be made out to 'Wilkinson Rodgers' but the forms will be processed first by our Membership Secretary, who keeps the master roll of members. The cheques will then be passed on to the law firm for banking.

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Many hands make light work

We need your help! Because of our growing membership the various tasks of U3A Dunedin can no longer be carried out by a small, long-serving group alone. We hope that among the many new members some may be willing to offer a little of their time.

1. Programme Secretary: Because the present person is leaving Dunedin we need a replacement. The work requires some knowledge of Microsoft Word and the ability to open and print out an Excel worksheet. No great expertise is required though. Tasks are: Compiling course brochures from given materials into an existing template and having these photocopied. Printing attendance rolls for courses from Excel. Writing thank you letters to presenters after courses finish — a couple of days of work three times a year before and after courses. Clear instructions exist

Bounty for members?

Norfolk Island U3A is just 12 months old but is showing some bright commercial initiative. It invites U3A members in Australia and New Zealand to visit and share some of its cultural events throughout the next 12 months — Thanksgiving Day in November 22-29 this year, First Fleet Anniversary celebrations next March 1-8, the 225th anniversary of the wrecking of *HMS Sirius* in March 15-22 and *Bounty Day* in June 7-14 next year.

Week-long tour packages, including fares, accommodation, car hire, etc, plus two local U3A sessions) are to be organised for these dates with the Norfolk Island Travel Centre. They include meeting the island's U3A members, as well as a number of tour enticements. The price is from NZ\$1499pp twin-share, ex-Auckland. For information packs, email joyce@travelcentre.nf or write to the Centre at P.O. Box 172, Norfolk Island 2899. Phone: 00 6723 22502 (or toll-free from New Zealand: 0800 0088 10.)

Brain health research

A donation of \$2,000 was approved at the July meeting of the U3A Board to support the Brain Health Research Centre of the University of Otago., that employs 40 teams of researchers all working on various scientific projects concerned with the brain.

and the current secretary will help the newcomer.

2. U3A Dunedin web page: Are you comfortable using the Internet? We need a person who can take care of the U3A Dunedin web page (already set up). We have a web developer who does all the technical stuff, so tasks are simple and there are very clear instructions.

3. Helping to organise courses: We urgently need more assistance to organise courses. Very clear instructions exist and experienced U3A members will guide the way. Main tasks are contacting potential presenters and acting as liaison between presenters and U3A Dunedin, helping to front the courses once they start, putting out name tags, overseeing signing of rolls and just generally helping to make a course run smoothly.

It's a free world!

Here is something for those who are waiting to get into U3A, or for the stay-at-homes this summer wanting to do something interesting!

An amazing website recommended by World U3A is www.openculture.com. that lists 1,000 free online courses, 1000+ 'Massive Open Online Courses' (or MOOCs), 675 free movies, 550 free audio books, 600 free eBooks, 170 free textbooks, and 300 free language lessons. It also lists 30,000 hours of free online courses available from top universities.

Healthy fruit daily

A person who consumes about 2,000 calories daily should plan to eat two cups of fruit a day, says the US National Institute of Health. This might include one large banana, one-half cup of strawberries and a half-cup of orange juice.

Eat a variety of fresh, frozen, canned, or dried fruits every day. Fruits contain lots of vitamins, minerals, fiber, and other substances important for good health. Plus, they are low in fat and calories. To make sure you get the benefit of the natural fibre in fruits, choose whole or cut-up fruits more often than fruit juice. Fruits may be purchased fresh, canned, frozen, or dried and may be eaten whole, cut-up, or pureed.

Different focus of U3A in India

The U3As of India are quite different from both the French and British models of U3A. Very few have a range of 'subject-oriented groups.' All of them regularly run free health checks for the poor, either for eyes, or hearing, or early signs of ill-health. Some support hospitals and clinics, homes for the aged, schools, and impoverished families.

A regular feature of U3A Bengaluru (Bangalore) is its work in schools. It has distributed stationery kits to children of domestic service providers (cleaners, postal workers, refuse disposal workers, street sweepers). It also made a presentation to a debating contest (in English) for secondary school children on the subject of whether current legal redress for abused elderly people was adequate.

Pretty village?

Ugley is a small village and civil parish in the non-metropolitan district of Uttlesford in Essex, England. It is about 3 km north from Stansted Mountfitchet, and situated between Saffron Walden and Bishop's Stortford.

There really is an Ugley Women's Institute (and an Ugley Farmers Market too). But sometimes the village is referred to as Oakley on old maps, and an 1818 book *Excursions in the county of Essex* suggests that Oakley was the original name, and Ugley was a distortion effected by Norman scribes.

Flowers galore

Go to the Google website and search in the Images by typing in 'miracle garden dubai'. You will find photos of more than 45 million flowers that are certainly vividly colourful.

Phone directory

To solve problems about U3A Dunedin (which has three secretaries), please phone the right person —

Board matters: phone Marion Potter
453 4721

Membership: phone Jane Higham
476 1848

'Home cooking: where many a man thinks his wife is.' ~ Jimmy Durante

Edited by Geoff Adams

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