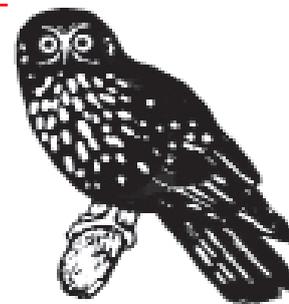


# U3A DUNEDIN FORUM



Newsletter No. 49 November 2015

2016 will be a boom year for U3A Dunedin — exciting and busy. You will find in this newsletter that your Board is making big changes: further expansion that will take another 100 off our waiting list to grow to 800 members, and a larger venue.

We are following the modern path of using website and email connections more for streamlining of administration, allowing internet banking and displaying course information. Read about it and some new courses or groups in these pages. More information is bound to follow.

## Major changes announced

### Administration Streamlining

As a result of a review of U3A Dunedin's administration, we are changing some of the ways we do things. Historically, Wilkinson Rodgers Law has provided us with secretarial services. We will now do this in-house as we want to do things in the most efficient and cost-effective way. We want to make things easier for everyone.

### Membership Renewal 2016

The first indication you will get will be when you receive your Annual Subscription notice shortly. All members who use the Internet will receive their notice via email. You will then be able to pay by Internet Banking. We expect the vast majority of members will use this option.

Those who do not use the Internet will still receive their Invoice by post and will be able to send a cheque as payment. Mailing instructions will be included in the Renewal Form.

### Courses 2016

Next year, members will find that all course information will be available on our website ([www.u3adunedin.org.nz](http://www.u3adunedin.org.nz)). You will make



Jane Higham  
Chair, U3A Dunedin Board,

your choice(s) from there and be able to pay your fee by Internet Banking.

Again, those who do not use the Internet will still receive their course material by post. You will choose and pay as you do now.

We are confident that these changes will be beneficial for everyone. - Jane Higham

### Membership figures

The membership had reached its present cap of 700 with a waiting-list of 202, Jane Higham reported to the Board in October.

**Another change:** see "Focus on Forum" — page 3.

## Message from Board Chair

Your new Board, voted in this year, has been working hard for you. We have welcomed Bill McKinlay as a co-opted member to work with the Programme Committee. The Series 3 sessions are coming to an end already and they have been immensely popular once again. Thank you to all who have contributed to their success and we are looking forward to 2016 when we have big changes in mind!

The Board is aware that some of our administration needs to be updated and we have been working hard to that end. One of the problems we have is being unable to contact members quickly and easily. This will be overcome by the use of emails where available. We are encouraging everyone who has access to an email system to let us know and thus we hope to reduce our postage costs enormously.

We know very well that some members do not have the use of the internet and we shall continue to send their papers by mail and receive cheques, if necessary. All this has taken a great deal of work and we are hopeful that all will go smoothly (knowing that there may be hiccups but hoping they will be few and minor!).

Membership renewals will be sent via email and subscriptions will be able to be paid electronically. Next year, members will be able to choose, register and pay for programmes through the electronic system, remembering that paper brochures will continue to be sent to those without email access.

We are moving ahead with using our excellent website for a wide

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# Changes ahead for courses — new methods

The Programme Committee has new members Bill McKinlay and Clare Robertson, who join Gretchen Kivell and our secretary Noelene Evans to make an innovative team. Read on.

A big change ahead is the Board's intention to move to on-line course applications and notification of places in courses for 2016.

This will involve work for this committee, to ensure all is in place and you are well informed as to how it will work. For those without Internet access we will continue to use postal communications. Neither method of application will have an advantage in the allocation of places.

We also hope to delay the allocation of venues to courses until after the



Doug Holborow

ballot for places has been held. This will give us the best opportunity to match enrolments with venues. Venue allocations will be posted on the website, notified by email, and for those without Internet access, by post.

The committee has worked hard to frame the entire programme for 2016. Elsewhere you will read about two

innovative programmes *Speakers' Corner*, and *Encore*, so I won't dwell on them here.

The regular and popular six-session series for autumn next year includes another *Off the Beaten Track*. We had two requests for every available seat in the first programme, so don't be late with your application if that is on your list. *Speakers' Corner* will run in this first series along with a programme on New Zealand poets, which has been arranged by our member Alan Roddick, who is a previous editor of the literary journal *Landfall*.

We call on another ideally qualified member, Jock Allison, a past director of Invermay Agricultural Research Station, who with Bill McKinlay is organising a course on *New Zealand Agriculture*.

The series is rounded out with a course on **21st Century China** and a course on *Advances in Medical Imaging and Diagnosis*.

Winter and spring series for 2016 look just as interesting, so watch this space and the website.

**Doug Holborow**  
Programme Convenor

## Roman in the gloamin'

A Roman centurion walked into a bar and asked for a martinus.

The barmaid says: 'Don't you mean a martini?'

The centurion: 'If I wanted a double I would have asked for it!'

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

## ENCORE! to begin next year

**Encore** will offer members a chance to hear lectures from earlier series and provide an additional service to our expanding membership. Starting in March 2016 we add a new monthly format to complement our current three-term model, which will not change.

*Encore* will be held monthly, on the second Tuesday of the month from 10.15am to 12.15pm at the Otago Golf Club, Balmacewen Road. It will feature two speakers from past series (and morning tea). watch our Dunedin U3A website and the next Forum newsletter for more details.

The first *Encore* sessions will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016

A booking form will be placed on the

website: <http://u3adunedin.org.nz> All full members are eligible to attend, with a maximum of 160 seats available. These seats will only be available by pre-booking on the website. The cost will be \$10 per monthly session, payable in cash at the door.

**Transport:** opposite the Golf Club gates in Balmacewen Rd is a bus stop. Generous car parking is beside the Clubhouse — walk along the covered verandah and go up the stairs. (Members with limited mobility can be dropped 5 metres from the door into the meeting room by continuing up the top road, and then onto the marked road behind the club house. There are 20+ car parks above the drop-off point.)

## UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE CHARITABLE TRUST, DUNEDIN

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

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Phone: 453-4721

**Chairman:** Jane Higham

Registered Charitable Institution - #CC22345

## Quite good quotations

*Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies.*  
~ Groucho Marx

*Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have 50 million but I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million.*  
~ Arnold Schwarzeneger

*'If toast always lands butter-side down and cats always land on their feet, what happens if you strap toast on the back of a cat?'* ~ Steven Wright

*If I create from the heart, nearly everything works; if I create from the head, almost nothing.* ~ Marc Chagall

# Success with small groups

The idea of members running several small interest groups, in addition to the large lecture format, was a new departure for Dunedin U3A — allowing such groups to have absolute flexibility as to size, venue, topic and length of course. The experiment has been a success, offering a more intimate learning experience with a lot of member participation.

Any member or group may initiate a course of their own choosing, with the proviso that all organisation is undertaken independently of the U3A board. (Contact Jane Higham 476-1848 rhigam @ihug.co.nz; or Judith Cowley 471-0026 jcowley@clear.net.nz for further details). Reports of groups below -

## **The Otago Museum: A look beyond the exhibits.** [Doug Holborow]

This group expanded from eight members to 14. We have made the most of the small group flexibility and varied meeting dates to suit members. The Museum staff has been most helpful in providing us with a guide to see some of the off-limits collection and one of our number gave us a wonderful tour of the maritime gallery based on his time as an employee of the Union Steamship Company and a gallery guide. U3A certainly has talents which warrant unearthing. We have yet to decide whether our group will continue next year.

## **Poetry Appreciation Group.** [Judith Cowley]

Initially it met fortnightly over six sessions, but then it was decided we would like to continue indefinitely with monthly meetings. As we get together in each other's homes to share poems, and a delicious morning tea, we have found a limit of eight members most manageable. We are a keen group with wide-ranging poetic enthusiasms. The monthly host picks the theme or poets to be chosen, read and discussed by us all. One of our members is about to print a small anthology of New Zealand women poets for us. Long may we continue!

## **Current Issues Group.** [Gretchen Kivel]

The group meets at my home on the morning of the third Tuesday of each month. Members have proved to be interested in and knowledgeable about a wide range of issues, both



'Judith Cowley

international and national, so our conversation over two hours traverses these. We now read news items with considerably more understanding and interest. One month we had an academic explain to us a particularly difficult situation, which was really helpful. We have had some comings and goings since we started in February but are now a fairly settled group of eight. We would welcome several more interested people. (Tel: 473-0031; email: gretchen.kivell@xtra.co.nz).

## **Arts Group:** [Jane Higham]

Originally six people joined, then three more during the year. We were sorry to lose one member in July. We have met at various galleries and museums including the Hocken, De Novo Gallery, DPAG, Otago Museum, Blue Oyster Gallery and the Brett McDowell Gallery, looking at ceramics, paintings and two installations. We have appreciated the talks from curators and gallery owners. Our meetings have been well attended with at least half of us able to take part. Each monthly meeting is organised by a member of the group. We have plans to make a visit to out-of-town galleries also. We would welcome anyone else interested in joining us.

## There will be a *Speakers' Corner*

Members have recounted some wonderful presentations they have heard in recent months, in a group or meeting or special presentation across the city. Typically they are Dunedin speakers giving a presentation of 30 – 40 minutes on a subject of expertise and passion for them, standing out as a first-class presentation.

People said: 'This presentation was so good, it would be really good if more could have the opportunity to hear it too'. U3A hopes to gather 12 such

## *Chair's message*

[Continued from page 1]

range of purposes including listing 10 programmes ahead of the usual time, noting any cancellations or changes to programmes, programme notes and information and availability of places on courses.

Our current membership is 700 but we know that we are able to add to that and still let members attend whatever course they request and so we are increasing that to 800 for next year. (This still leaves a Waiting List of at least 100!) This is in conjunction with the use of a larger venue (Otago Golf Club) and a seventh programme to run over the year.

Members do need to make not only a first choice, but to be sure to make a second and third choice of courses to ensure acceptance. There are some people who only indicate one choice and they may easily miss out.

2016 promises to be a good year for Dunedin U3A, with your help and patience we really are moving into the 21st Century!

## **Focus on Forum**

*Forum* is now on the masthead as the title for our newsletter, which had its tenth birthday last year but was previously nameless. 'Forum' is a word with classical connotations dating from the huge buildings in which meetings and discussions were held in Roman times. It is also used for an event where information is discussed. That discourse may also contain some entertainment value and perhaps provide members with humour. All this: just like our U3A courses!

addresses into a series 'Speaker's Corner' for the Autumn series 2016.

We already have recommendations but need more. If you have a special speaker and topic you would like to recommend, we would love to hear from you with the following: details: *Speaker; Topic; On what occasion did you hear the speaker? Any comments? Your own name and email or phone number.* The course is being organised by Russell Thew (*r.h.thew@xtra.co.nz* - or 471-2147).



## His 'social media' shared by millions

The letter below was published in Britain's *Oldie* magazine and an odd thing happened: it went viral! It was reproduced in a variety of publications and circulated on Twitter after Stephen Fry had posted an image of it.

### MY OWN SOCIAL MEDIA

Sir, I haven't got a computer, but I was told about Facebook and Twitter and am trying to make friends outside Facebook and Twitter while applying the same principles. Every day, I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel, what I have done the night before and what I will do for the rest of the day. I give them pictures of my wife, my daughter, my dog and me gardening and on holiday, spending time by the pool.

I also listen to their conversations, tell them I "like" them and give them my opinion on every subject that interests me...whether it interests them or not. And it works. I already have four people following me; two police officers, a social worker and a psychiatrist.

**Peter White**, Holbrook, Derbyshire

[Footnote: After Cara Delevigne, supermodel and socialite, shared this letter with her 16.7 million followers worldwide on Instagram, it gained more than half a million 'likes' and almost 10,000 comments.]

### Poacher's egg problem

Is it possible to poach eggs in the microwave? The 'FOOD' website ([food.com](http://food.com)) has 195 videos on the subject of poached eggs alone, with hundreds more interesting ideas on the preparation of food than you can possibly imagine. Not to be watched when hungry. [World U3A]



2016 will be the 'Year of the Monkey' in the Chinese Zodiac

# Greek bailout explained?

It is a slow day in a little Greek Village. The rain is beating down and the streets are deserted. Times are tough, everybody is in debt, and everybody lives on credit.

On this particular day a rich German tourist is driving through the village, stops at the local hotel and lays a €100 [100 euros] note on the desk, telling the hotel owner he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs in order to pick one to spend the night in.

The owner gives him some keys and, as soon as the visitor has walked upstairs, the hotelier grabs the €100 note and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher takes the €100 note and runs down the street to repay his debt to the pig farmer. The pig farmer takes the €100 note and heads off to pay his bill at the supplier of feed and fuel.

The guy at the Farmers' Co-op takes the €100 note and runs to pay his drinks bill at the tavern. The publican slips the money along to a local prostitute drinking at the bar, who has also been facing hard times and had to offer him "services" on credit.

## Planning PEP

Nola Walker is planning to run a new small group course *Peace Education Programme (PEP)* next year. The course consists of ten one-hour presentations based on DVD excerpts from the International Ambassador for Peace, Prem Rawat's public addresses.

Each week the focus is on a particular theme: Choice, Hope, Appreciation, Inner Strength etc. Time is allowed for reflection and sharing — 'a process of discovering a person's own inner resources.'

It will run 2pm to 3.30 on Thursdays from 10 March to 12 May 2016 in the Dunedin Public Library (McNab Room)..

Maximum: 15 participants. Suggested donation for materials: \$40. To register interest and more information, contact Nola: email [noelacw@xtra.co.nz](mailto:noelacw@xtra.co.nz) or phone 455-3176.



The woman then rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill to the hotel owner with the €100 note.

The hotel proprietor then places the €100 note back on the counter so the rich traveller will not suspect anything.

At that moment the traveller comes down the stairs, picks up the €100 note, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, pockets the money, and leaves town. No one produced anything. No one earned anything. However, the whole village is now out of debt and looking to the future with a lot more optimism.

That is how the bailout package seemed to have worked.

## Irish medical terms

Definitions with a bit of blarney —

**Artery:** The study of paintings

**Bacteria:** Back door to cafeteria

**Barium:** done when patients die

**Benign:** age you'll be after eight

**Dilate:** To live long

**Enema:** Not a friend

**Medical staff:** Doctor's walking stick

**Morbid:** A higher offer

**Labour pain:** Getting hurt at work

## U3A phone directory

To discuss problems with U3A Dunedin please phone the right person:

**Board matters:** Marion Potter  
453 4721

**Membership:** Lynda Jackson  
473 6947

**Programme/Courses:** Doug Holborow  
477 4573

**YOUR WEBSITE**  
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