



1994 - 2014

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Twenty years on: why we have become so popular!

The 20th anniversary of U3A Dunedin deserves celebration. This bumper *Newsletter* surveys our short but eventful history during the past 20 years.

Over three decades our U3A has built up to 600 members (700 next year), weathered storms and met challenges. These 16 pages aim to provide an overview of where we came from, what we are about and where we may be going.

What makes Dunedin's senior folk queue up in waiting-lists to join the ranks of our members? Some of the recollections and opinions gained by our researchers are printed below — they provide the answers.

John Newton (Committee member 1995-2001): 'Is there life after work? — along came U3A. There I made friends with people with whom I had more in common than I had with many of my former work colleagues and the intellectual stimulus that I so missed was replaced by a much wider range of topics than the relatively narrow field in which I had spent my working years. Yes, there is life after work and unlike work I can choose to whom I talk and what I study. Some topics interest me to the extent that I undertake further reading, research and even writing, and all from choice. No reports, no deadlines, no third party judgments. The only criterion is that I want to do it.'

Antony Wood (Board member 2004/11) observed, in terms of

courses in politics and history: 'I think U3A has developed significantly since the first years, in establishing well-themed courses presented by highly-qualified academics. Recently, for example, we had a course on *Explaining Syria* and it was striking to realise that it was hard to imagine that a more impressive team of scholarly presenters could have been arranged anywhere else in New Zealand.'

'Yes, there is life after work'

Graham Batts (Chair 2009/10): 'I have never attended a disappointing course, but some have been outstanding.'

David McKenzie (Chair, 1994/98): 'I have some lovely memories of those early days. Albert Moore loved having committee meetings at our home where we sat around a round table. The round table signified to Albert the collegial atmosphere of U3A which he strove to promote. Albert, himself, was a wonderful enthusiast whether he was leading a course on religion, jazz, or whatever.'

Margaret Maguire (member since 1994): 'Favourite speakers would have to start with Alan Horsman, so knowledgeable and erudite, what a memory — tackling all 154 of Shakespeare's sonnets would be an achievement for someone half his age. He is a delight.'

Evaluation forms from members at courses have often applauded the

Newsletter

No.43

special issue
celebrating the 20th
birthday of U3A Dunedin

presenters. A typical one: 'Fabulous. . . . He has the ability to make you think about something in a completely new way, as well as broadening your horizons.'

Comment on *Christianity without Theism* (2009): 'A good opportunity to discuss controversial topics openly in a friendly group.' 'Opportunity for people to realise they are not alone in questioning orthodox beliefs.' 'Liked the short presentations by members at the last session — it's what U3A is all about.'

On inside pages

Looking Back	2
Looking Forward	3
A potted history	4
Links with University	5
'Growing pains' - and caps	6
U3A: a world movement	7
Memories in photos	8-9
U3A's courses	10
Forms and feedback	11
Organisers, presenters	12
Our equipment	13
Generous grants	14
Newsletter's birthday	15
Board members, Chairs	16

Thoughts from two recent Chairs

By Brian Robinson

U3A Dunedin evolved from the knowledge of the U3A movement in other centres and was formed by a group working or associated with the University of Otago. It's not surprising therefore that the format adopted for their courses was orientated towards what the University staff could offer. Eventually this morphed into a Charitable Trust and a formal agreement with the University. This agreement was based around the University obtaining government funding for adult education with U3A getting a proportion of this funding.

So with secure funding, close cooperation with the University, enthusiastic Board members and a captive audience, U3A blossomed and the format of three sessions in any one calendar year was established.

EVER-GROWING DEMAND

The topics chosen for the courses struck a responsive chord with Dunedin 'retirees' and before long there was an ever-growing demand and consequent membership waiting-list. Eventually, the demand was met by having larger venues and bigger audiences, but successive Boards struggled to cope with the increasing waiting-list. With the regular funding

< Looking back

from the University and a growing membership, course fees were able to be decreased and then held for several years. Compared to many U3As throughout New Zealand our fees are still quite low.

The decision to use the resources of the firm Rodgers Law (now Wilkinson Rodgers) for mailouts, membership records, course admission with ballots, and financial records was inspired. U3A Dunedin will always be grateful for the excellent service provided by Steve Rodgers and his team. They have been able to cope with the huge increase in workload as the membership has increased and this allowed the Board to focus on other issues.

The core of the Board's activities is the Programme Committee which has the responsibility of organising and administering our courses. For a number of years programme organisation was an ad hoc role but the proliferation of courses and increased size reached the point where a structured role was necessary. We have been fortunate that Sue Cathro, with the help of John Burton, has taken on the role of Convenor. Again we



Brian Robinson
Chair 2013 -2014

have been fortunate in having a group of stalwart and popular presenters, as well as willing university staff.

To recognise the contribution of individuals and departments U3A has been able to make donations for educational purposes. The total of donations now exceeds \$84,500. The course evaluation forms were a requirement for the University to recognise our courses and the course suggestions and comments were, and will continue to be, a useful guide for the Board.

GOVERNMENT FUNDS CUT

The Government decision in 2010 to withdraw all funding to the universities for community education by 2013 meant that the University would not be able to continue with its funding to U3A after that date. It decided to renegotiate the formal agreement with U3A. Around this time the membership also dramatically increased so the Board decided to reduce the waiting-list; of course, the list did not decrease, as the popularity of U3A remained! After considerable discussion we have agreed with the University that an informal relationship should continue and the Board agreed to have a University nominee on the Board. The willingness of the staff to contribute to our courses is unabated. We also have been encouraged by Otago Polytechnic to involve its staff. We will continue to make donations where appropriate.

As we now move away from the comfortable scene of the past 20 years the Board has begun to position U3A to cope with the issues of membership size, administration and most important, to retain the vision of the early enthusiasts who set U3A on its successful path, a vision which is told in this history *Newsletter*.



Some of 100 U3A members at a 2014 course start to spill out from Leith Bowling Club after a two-hour session has ended.

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: u3adunedin@gmail.com ph: 453-4721

Chair: Doug Holborow ph: 477-4573

[Registered Charitable Institution - #CC22345]

Looking forward >

By Doug Holborow

I write this with a sense of bemusement. Bemusement because when I agreed a year ago to become Deputy Chair I had no thought of the significance of 2014 in this organisation's history. Certainly I had not realised one of my tasks would be pondering 'where to from here for U3A Dunedin?'

It is a privilege to serve as one of the Chairs during this year, and to be given the opportunity to deliberate on our future, but I hasten to point out that initiatives and leadership which led to this anniversary celebration were provided by Dame Norma Restieaux and Prof Brian Robinson, the two previous Chairs, along with their Boards.

What does the future hold for U3A? It is said that a generation which ignores history has no past and no future. Thankfully, we are not ignoring our past — as is evidenced patently by this special *Newsletter*, and what does it tell us about our future? Brian Robinson has succinctly described the development of U3A Dunedin, not as a sequence of serendipitous occurrences but development of an organisation that had a vision, saw opportunities and challenges in its environment, then took them in order to realise that vision.

Our challenges for today have been well defined. Size, driven by the related popularity of courses on offer each year, is the major one in my view. I would hate to see this problem evolve to a point such that it is dissatisfied members who decide to form a second U3A in Dunedin. Far better that the value of a second smaller group is recognised by perhaps a combination of existing members, people on our waiting list, and others yet to become associated with U3A in any way. The impetus for such a group to form is not clear. It might be nothing more than



The ballot for enrolments in courses held in February this year started with the sorting of members' first preferences. From left: Brian Robinson (U3A Dunedin), April Cooper (Rodgers Law), Doug Holborow (U3A), and Sue Keith (Rodgers Law).



Doug Holborow
Chair 2014 -

a decision by the Board to restrict U3A's membership in order to prevent any overload on the functions it must perform.

The first purpose of U3A Dunedin as stated in its Trust Deed is: 'To foster and develop education for people who

‘...there will be a limit to how big we can grow...’

form the Third Age population.' We are all aware of, and some of us are familiar with the enormous and rapid evolution of communication occurring at present. The term 'social media' is found on just about every page of the newspaper, and the Internet has become the standard source for much of our knowledge and information. It is tempting to assume that electronic communication will play a much greater role in U3A Dunedin's fulfilling its purpose of providing education. However, our members greatly value the opportunity to meet and converse face-to-face. Tea breaks are more than just rest and refuelling stops, they, along with the presentations, are opportunities to be active members of a learning community. I do not see that characteristic of our organisation disappearing in the future, but in order

to retain it I believe there will be a limit to how big we can grow.

An alternative to limiting growth might be to employ paid staff, but this would not be the voluntary-based U3A organisation we are at present. I do not sense any pressure for change in that direction.

It is perhaps unusual to hear a chairman suggesting limitation rather than growth in an organisation. However I am not suggesting we ignore or reject opportunities that electronic communication offers. Delivery of U3A presentations without recourse to the internet and modern audio-visual technology is uncommon these days, and indeed the Board uses a professional A/V company to provide some such services. The Board is hopeful that administrative functions can increasingly occur by electronic means for all members, not just within the Board. It is working to that end.

At the same time, the Board is offering the opportunity for small groups to establish within the auspices of U3A, in the belief that this form of our learning community is valuable and there is a demand, albeit small at this stage.

The lesson from our past is to recognise characteristics that are valuable and should be retained in our organisation, while also recognising and grasping opportunities when our circumstances offer them. That, it seems to me, is what is happening at present. If we can continue to do that then the next 20 years, whatever it brings, should be a very interesting journey indeed.



SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

Edited by Geoff Adams

Ph: 467-2278

Email: hgadams@slingshot.co.nz

How U3A Dunedin developed

In July 1993 Lorraine Isaacs, who was Director of University Extension at the University of Otago, initiated the setting up of a 'University of the Third Age' in Dunedin. Early encouragement and assistance came from Brian O'Rourke, then the Director of Continuing Education at Canterbury University; he had been instrumental in helping to set up a U3A in Christchurch.

Lorraine Isaacs contacted some (mostly retired) University staff in Dunedin, who had taught in a variety of subjects and departments and been actively interested in community education over the years. Encouraged by their interest, she called a meeting, which was held in the Salmond Hall Chapel and was attended by about 20 people. Ideas were explored and the decision was made to go ahead.

A working party was set up that included Charles Croot of University Extension (chair), Lorraine Isaacs (secretary), Stan Andrews, Tom Cowan, Alan Horsman, Elizabeth Kerse, David McKenzie, Albert Moore, Lin Phelan, Shirley Smith, and Bill Trotter.

The working party met twice before the end of the year, organising the first course that began in February 1994. A committee chaired by David McKenzie was then established to plan further courses, with a majority of the members of the working party continuing their involvement. Early meetings were held at the Otago University Extension House in Castle St. The committee planned courses and University Extension initially took care of the administration and handling of course fees.

COURSES BEGIN

The first course, *The Peopling of Otago* in 10 weekly sessions [see page 10] marked the 150th anniversary of the Otago Block Purchase. Attendance quickly doubled to 60 people. At the time, some members strongly felt this to be too large a number. A second course *Treasures of Otago* ran from June to August.

No Minute Book was kept until 2000 but it is clear that U3A Dunedin went through a difficult time after the departure of Lorraine Isaacs, the death of Charles Croot who had

been a U3A stalwart, and in 1995 the closing down of University Extension. The University initially arranged for an administrative assistant to provide some continuing secretarial services. However, it was no longer able to actively support U3A Dunedin when the administrative assistant moved to another job.

RODGERS ASSISTS

The committee then began meeting at the home of David McKenzie. An alternative arrangement had to be found for the administration of course fees. Katherine Dolby, recently retired secretary of the Otago Law Society, suggested U3A Dunedin approach Steve Rodgers, of Rodgers and Associates [later Rodgers Law and now Wilkinson Rodgers] to deal with its finances and she also offered to provide some secretarial services herself. This was a new role for a law firm, but they were keen to take it on, especially as they identified U3A's concept as very worthwhile. They took on the financial administration from 1996 and for the first six months did this work without charge to help U3A's financial position. They were very keen to see U3A survive and grow.

CHARITABLE TRUST

In 2001 U3A Dunedin became registered as a charitable trust, with Rodgers Law as the official office. It also took over the care of course fees, mailing lists, managing accounts and the ballot system introduced in 2001 to randomly select applicants to courses because of the pressure on course applications and to maintain fairness. Sue Keith has been the Wilkinson Rodgers liaison with U3A from the beginning, so that transitions on the U3A Board have proved seamless.

UNIVERSITY AGREEMENT

At the end of 1999, the Board entered into discussions with the University of Otago. The aim was to develop our relations with them, and in May 2003 U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the University [see next page.] The funding that U3A Dunedin received through this agreement helped it to upgrade and acquire equipment and start making donations to the University as an acknowledgement of



its staff contributions to U3A activities. It also enabled the Board to reduce course fees from \$40 to \$30 in 2005, although it was necessary to put them back up to \$40 in 2010.

Our official relationship with the University had an effect on course formats and further increased U3A's popularity, putting more and more pressure on membership and also causing some discontent among members when they missed out on a desired course. At that stage U3A Dunedin only made use of Salmond and Knox Colleges for its courses.

U3A began to be seen as and behave like a university extension. By 2005 44% of volunteer presenters came from University staff; only 28% from our own members and 28% from other community sources.

The relentless increase in our membership led future Boards to explore other venues able to hold more than the rooms at Salmond and Knox, which only held about 50 people. In the first series of 2008 Leith Bowling Club was used to accommodate 100 people. This venue continues to give some relief, but membership has kept on growing. So now we may hold four courses per session at Leith Bowling Club. [See 'Growing pains' of membership on page 6]

In its 20-year history our U3A has grown from 30 members to a limit of 700 set for 2015 — but still may find itself with future waiting-list pressures. It has organised many outstanding courses with the help of keen and often expert presenters. These have given opportunity for thought and discussion, with new interests able to be introduced to members wanting to keep minds active in their 'third age' retirement.



Antony Wood believes U3A courses can 'break down the barriers' between subjects found at the University, as experts from different disciplines can join in presenting a course. 'Conversely courses can be focused on a specific discipline and organised by a particular University department, thereby giving opportunity for us to fill gaps in our education.'

Links with University of Otago

On November 1, 1999 the Chair of U3A Dunedin, Lin Phelan, wrote to Dr Phil Meade, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of the University of Otago. The U3A had successfully functioned as an independent organisation in all respects since the separation from the University in 1996 and by that time liked its independence. However, the committee also recognised and highly valued the continuing advantages of a close, but informal, relationship with the University, so it was interested in discussing guidelines for maintaining that close relationship.

In that year (1999) the Division of Humanities agreed to set up a working party to work co-operatively with U3A. The convenor was Associate Prof Dorothy Page (later Professor) of the Department of History. Brian O'Rourke, who had moved to Dunedin and become actively involved in U3A Dunedin, presented the views of U3A Dunedin to that working party. The U3A committee also met with the Assistant Vice-Chancellors of other divisions and decided to keep them all informed about U3A activities.

In October 2001 Lin Phelan, Brian O'Rourke and Brian Maguire from U3A Dunedin met with Phil Meade and Phil Mackenzie, Director of Marketing and Communications, to discuss possible closer relations with the University.

Not all U3A Board members were enthusiastic about re-entering a formal relationship with the University. Albert

Moore, one of the founding committee members, remarked that 'we have flourished being independent — we would not want to give this up lightly.'

In July 2002, another possibility arose when Lorraine Isaacs, representing the Aoraki Polytechnic, proposed that a teaching association be formed between U3A and the Polytechnic. After considering the proposal, the Board decided to take no action on this.

MEMORANDUM AGREED

However, during the course of that year a Memorandum of Agreement with the University was developed. Brian O'Rourke acted for the Board in negotiating the agreement. Claire Mathewson acted for the University as the head of Summer School and Continuing Education.

The draft Memorandum was discussed at a special Board meeting held on 17 December 2002. Claire Mathewson explained that the Minister of Education required there to be an auditable approval process for courses that might attract Government funding and a record of attendance to verify numbers. A course evaluation form, approved by the Summer School was also required. In return, U3A would receive some funding from the University.

The final version of the Memorandum of Agreement, signed by the University, was received by the Board at its meeting on 1 April 2003. After Brian



O'Rourke had attended a further meeting where any outstanding issues relating to the proposed agreement were discussed and/or explained, the Board unanimously agreed that the document be accepted and the agreement signed.

MEETING STANDARDS

From 2004, U3A Dunedin received a proportion of the Government EFTS [equivalent full-time student] funding. In return U3A had to ensure that standards for courses were met. A member of the University attended meetings of the U3A Board, the first being Claire Mathewson. After her retirement in 2011, the new Director of the Summer School, Elaine Webster, took over as the Board's liaison with the University.

The Memorandum of Agreement was renewed in 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011. But Government funding for community education ceased in 2013. From 1 January 2013 all funding to University ACE [adult community education] activity had ceased, and it was agreed that a new Memorandum of Agreement was not required. But individual departments and members of University staff continue to contribute to our U3A courses.



Then he spied U3A!

Peter Laslett retired as Reader in Politics and the History of Social Structure, Cambridge University, in 1983. Then his interests turned to the practical betterment of seniors and he played a pivotal role founding the U3A in Britain in 1982.

During World War 2 Peter learned Japanese and worked at Bletchley Park, England, and in Washington DC decoding Japanese intelligence. He was one of the Allies' valuable spies.



After this year's AGM and lunch, from left: Steve Rodgers (of Wilkinson Rodgers Lawyers) chats to retiring Treasurer Bill George and past Chair Brian Robinson.

'Growing pains' of popularity



Pressure caused by membership numbers has increased steadily since U3A Dunedin was first organised in 1994. The roll grew without advertising, simply by word of mouth. Now it has certainly become popular among senior citizens.

After an initial 30 members, by 1996 we had grown to about 165. It is interesting to find that 45 of those who were members back in 1996 (27.5%) are still current members. Early this year our membership had more than tripled to 600 — but we still had about 200 on a waiting list.

In the first four years a "first in, first served" system was used for enrolment in courses. In 1998 Stan Andrews wrote a report discussing membership growth and saying there was the problem of people rushing as soon as they received the brochures, to visit Rodgers and enrol in courses.

In 1998 the popularity of U3A had its first embarrassment — about 40 members missed out on a course that they had chosen (due to seating limits in our available venues at Salmond or Knox Colleges).

BALLOT SYSTEM

By 2001 the roll contained 341 names and pressure on courses had grown so much that the system of random ballot of names from applications to attend courses was introduced, run by Rodgers Law (now Wilkinson Rodgers).

In 2002 there was a total of 356 members, growing to 400 in mid-2003. Then in 2005 the Board found that they had 479 members. This was coming close to the figure of 500 that was regarded as a workable maximum.

At the Annual General Meeting in 2005 the issues of membership growth, waiting list, and possible changes of venues or provision of additional courses were raised. The Board set up a Policy Committee to look at the issues and also asked for an analysis of membership and an indication of the numbers who actually enrol for courses.

In April 2006 Wilson Daniel as Chair commented in our *Newsletter* on the

'growing pains' and future directions, including a possible limit of 500 on the membership, maintaining a waiting list if necessary. The Board every year since then has had to deal with continuing problems of membership numbers and waiting lists. It has had to keep looking for suitable venues, while continuing the primary job of organising courses and presenters.

In August 2007 membership had reached 473 and it was capped at a maximum of 500. Secretary Judith Gray suggested members should always apply for more than one course to avoid disappointment in ballots. A search began to find one or more large venues that would make it possible for more members to attend courses. In October membership had reached the 500 and there was a waiting list of seven.

BIGGER VENUE

To cope with the big membership and try to lessen disappointment of those who are balloted out of attending a course, the Leith Bowling Club was

Members Waiting List

1994	30	—
1996	165	—
1999	275	—
2000	300	—
2001	341	—
2002	356	—
2003	369	—
2004	375	—
2005	479	—
2006	445	—
2007	500	7
2008	500	30
2009	500	40
2010	500	50
2011	500	125
2012	500	182
2013	500	256
2014	600	224 (June)
2015	700	?

applicants keep adding their names. This is the penalty of our popularity. From 2008 to 2010 membership



Three members replaced Judith Gray, who retired after nine years as Secretary in 2013. From left: Marjan Lousberg (Programme Secretary), Marion Potter (Secretary to the Board) and Jane Higham (Membership Secretary).

tried out in April 2008 as a venue for one course (*Every Picture Tells A Story*, by Ross Grimmett) taking up to 100 members.

It was found to be acceptable, after providing curtains to darken the hall. Leith B.C. was used again in Series 2 for *Dunedin Our City*, and in Series 3 two courses were held there. The waiting list in 2010 went up to 50. The Board adopted a 'wait and see' policy on membership and courses.

Since then the waiting list has continued a steady climb. People at the top of the list are offered places after vacancies occur but more new

hovered around 500 with a waiting list between 30 and 50. In 2011 the pressure grew with 125 waiting at the end of that year. By November 2013 the list reached a record number of 267 people. The Board decided to raise the cap to 600 from 2014, thus taking 100 off the list at the beginning of this year.

Last April it was reported that membership was just under 600, but by then U3A Dunedin had a waiting list of 211 names. At its May meeting planning began to raise the cap to 700 members for 2015 and to offer new types of small courses.

U3A is a world movement

The University of the Third Age is an international movement, first established in France in 1973, commonly known as U3A. Its aims are the education and stimulation of mainly retired members of the community — those in the 'Third Age' of life, following the first of childhood and second age of full-time employment and parental responsibility.

The approach adopted in France was to follow the style of medieval universities. The ancient meaning of 'University' was a group of people gathered together to learn more about chosen topics of interest. U3As take this model but unlike modern universities, there are no exams.

The U3A idea spread rapidly through the world where there are now thousands of members of U3As in many countries. Now non-profit, community-based autonomous U3A groups run by volunteers, are part of a world-wide network of senior citizens. By the early 1980s, the scheme reached Britain, extending across to Australia, USA, Singapore, China, South Africa, India and further afield.

U3As are largely dependent on the goodwill of people sharing their knowledge and expertise with the members.

Some U3As thrive using the self-help principle, led by members, and cater for hobbies and many interests, within small groups. Others, like U3A

Dunedin, prefer more expert and entertaining guidance in fairly serious studies (more like the original French concept.)

The first U3A in New Zealand was established in Remuera 25 years ago. Now there are groups in 16 regions, with 24 branches in Auckland alone.

U3A Dunedin was set up in 1994 and became a registered Charity in 2001. Its presenters give their time freely and voluntarily. Among members we have had access to very experienced speakers from a wide range of disciplines. From its inception U3A Dunedin has also had a close relationship with the University of Otago. We are fortunate that present and retired staff have frequently presented courses.

U3A continues to be a concept rather than an organisation. Because of this, each U3A group is independent, even though regional and national networking structures are put in place. The idea of a community of learning continues to persist, but individual groups have put this notion into practice in many different ways.

●

'Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.' ~ W.B. Yeats

Characteristics of the U3A defined

(as listed on U3A Dunedin's first brochure, in February 1994):

- **Learning topics are selected by the members**
- **In-depth courses are planned by members**
- **Opportunities for reading, research and discussion are provided**
- **Presenters/facilitators are usually members of the groups**
- **The company of others who enjoy learning is ensured**
- **The atmosphere for learning is informal and friendly**
- **There are no examinations**
- **There are no compulsory activities**
- **Courses take place during daylight hours**
- **Costs are minimal and within the reach of everybody**

'Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.' ~ Henry Ford

We helped other U3As to form

In April 2002 the U3A Dunedin Secretary, Katherine Dolby, wrote to 16 members living in Mosgiel, asking for their assistance in forming a U3A there. The directors of Chatsford (Birchleigh Group) had approached U3A Dunedin about this plan.

Chatsford offered rooms, catering, photocopying, etc. U3A Dunedin said it would assist a committee to get a group established.

The Board was willing to meet with members who would form the committee, and talk about what is involved in running a group. Eight people responded, but only three were willing to go on a committee.

Katherine had suggested Chatsford advertise, perhaps in newspapers, to find out if there was local support for the project. On 23 May 2002 Anne Dunlop informed Katherine that there

had been 62 respondents and asked for a Board member to meet these people. This preliminary meeting was held on 12 June 2002 at Chatsford. About 50 people from outside the village showed interest.

Katherine Dolby told them how U3A Dunedin was set up and worked. Fourteen people came forward afterwards, willing to be committee members and a Mosgiel U3A was set up.

At that time there was already a group in Alexandra, and Oamaru was looking at setting up its U3A.

On 12 July 2002 Brian O'Rourke from U3A Dunedin spoke to a meeting of 50 to 60 people at the Southland Institute of Technology on the background and purposes of U3A. At the end, an interim committee was formed and applications for membership recorded for the launch of the Invercargill U3A.



World U3A can be found on the Internet at **worldu3a.org**

It provides a free Internet service. It is not a membership organisation and its online projects are available to all U3A groups or kindred organisations worldwide.

20th ANNIVERSARY

Memories in photos



Members of a U3A geology course walked down to Boulder Beach on the Otago Peninsula in order to see a rocky outcrop.



ABOVE: Some of the U3A members in a 2001 course on Central Otago. It included an overnight stay in a motel in Alexandra., as well as a visit to Macraes goldmine and a lunch in Clyde,

BELOW: U3A course trip to Moeraki Boulders, 1996: Bill Brockie (centre) explains the geology,





Some prominent members in the U3A Dunedin history at the annual lunch in 2012, when Judith Gray was presented with a bouquet after her long service as secretary. From left: Elizabeth Timms, Wilson Daniel, Judith Gray, Graham Mortimer, Sue Cathro, Jenny Laws, and John Burton.



During a geology course field trip to Cape Wanbrow, Oamaru, in 1998 — Bill George (left), as presenter Dr Daphne Lee (centre) talks to Jenny Freeman.



The face of Austrian economist Joseph Schumpeter was his mask when presenter Richard Higham appeared in a clown's gown to brighten his 2011 *Traders and Raiders* course.



The late Albert Moore in 2000. He was an enthusiastic member and presenter of many of our courses. He is shown with a bouquet received from U3A during a short stay in hospital,



Socialising time! (Outside during the popular tea break at Leith Bowling Club, 2014.)

Courses are central purpose

Presentation of courses is the central purpose of U3A Dunedin. During its setting-up, Charles Croot, from University Extension at Otago, provided much advice and help. Having seen U3A at work in France, he suggested the original French model, which required U3As to have an association with a university, would be a good one to follow here. Other members of the working party agreed, and they started planning the first course on that model.

The opening course provided the pattern for subsequent development. Following two successful courses in 1994, the Committee established a programme of them. From mid-1995 they have been run three times a year, in autumn, winter, and spring. Earlier courses had up to 11 two-hour sessions; there was considerable variation in the number of sessions until 2010, when six was settled on as the norm. The number of courses offered in each series has increased from one initially to six in general.

Honor Anderson, (Chair in 2006/07) commented that the format of U3A Dunedin has 'always been a source

..... First course was a hit!

The Peopling of Otago, held from February to April 1994 was U3A Dunedin's first course, containing 9 sessions of two hours each, plus a final 10th discussion session, chaired by Elisabeth Duncan and Elizabeth Kerse. It also included a hike to the summit of Flagstaff track for a picnic. About 30 people attended, after one advertisement in the *Star Weekender*.

The first hour of the session was given to a lecture presentation, with time for discussion and questions after a break for tea, coffee and socialising. (Presenters were: Tom Brooking, Roger Collins, Charles Croot, Douglas Coombs, Alan Horsman, David McKenzie, Alan Mark, Hardwicke Knight, Ray Hargreaves and Jim Williams).

All sessions were at Salmond College, except the first at the Geology Department of the University. The course was so successful that it was repeated from 13 May to 15 July 1994. As one member said: 'U3A Dunedin took off and never looked back.'

of animated, sometimes heated discussion'. Some members have wanted to follow the British model of small, self-organised study groups, while others, 'recognising the unique advantages of our locality, preferred to nurture a strong working relationship with the University of Otago, which has generously provided us with first class, formal lectures on a wide range of stimulating intellectual topics'.

ATTENDED 60 COURSES

Margaret Maguire has been a member of U3A Dunedin from the beginning. She says: 'I have attended innumerable courses over the years, usually one each term and sometimes two. Occasionally, I have missed out altogether. So overall, I must have been to about 60... Almost all have been interesting and some inspiring.'

Quite a few courses have been repeated, due to popular demand, and a successful theme has often been picked up for developing in future courses. An example of this was recalled by Brian O'Rourke, who made a highly significant contribution to the development of U3A Dunedin from the outset: 'One of several courses which gave me great satisfaction in developing was called *Six Lives and an Epilogue* [1999]. Six presenters were each allocated a full session during which they could trace the story of their lives, in order to initiate discussion. I invited an historian (member, Dr David McKenzie) to sit in on the presentations and then to spend a whole session commenting on the content, thus provoking further discussion. It is not surprising that this rewarding course has been repeated in various forms over the years.'

Some courses have involved field trips. Mayford Dawson remembers a Geology course in 1996, which involved a bus trip to Moeraki – 'looking at a Moeraki Boulder will never be quite the same.'

David McKenzie (Chair 1994 to 1998) recalls managing all sorts of courses. 'One of the most adventurous was a [two-day] bus tour around the lakes of Central Otago [2001], ably conducted by Bill Brockie and managed by Katherine Dolby. A wonderful tour and nobody got lost!' Another bus trip that Margaret Maguire found memorable



Tea or coffee breaks are valued, scones are the Leith Club specialty, And breaks give time to chat with other members.

came at the end of a course on *How Dunedin Works* in 2000 and was to the Tahuna Sewerage Treatment Station – 'not as smelly as expected'.

DIDN'T MISS A STEP

Field trips can present unexpected challenges. For the final session of a course on *Contemporary New Zealand Fiction* in 2006, Jenny Laws organised a visit to Janet Frame's house in Oamaru. Before they started, there was a problem with a necessary step up to the bus being left behind by the driver. 'Salmond came to the rescue and kindly lent us a precious table lectern [as a stepping-stone.] My heart missed another beat when we arrived at the lunch venue, for it was approached by a very long flight of steep stairs. Somehow everyone managed to climb to the top and enjoy an excellent meal. On the way home we were buffeted by gale force winds, ... it was generally agreed that it had been a most successful day.'

While most courses follow the lecture pattern, usually followed by discussion, some smaller courses involve more active participation by members. Relatively few people tend to enrol in small study/discussion groups, but those who do enjoy researching for themselves, organising the material, and presenting a short paper. The friendliness and informality of the small group are also appreciated. The most enduring of these has been the *Book Discussion Group*, which was established by Jenny Laws in 1999 and is still flourishing under the leadership of Honor Anderson, although it is now independent of U3A.

Why we are asked to fill in forms

Why do we have evaluation forms for members at the end of courses? It started when U3A Dunedin signed its Memorandum with the University in 2003, formalising a relationship that involved receiving Government funds.

The Minister of Education required an auditable approval process of the continuing education courses recognised by the University, and also a record of attendances to verify numbers. The University required the courses to be formally evaluated.

So the U3A Board sent descriptions of each course to the University for approval by the Summer School Board. Brochures and evaluation forms for approved courses were allowed to carry the University logo. After each course, the evaluation forms of approved courses were sent to the

Summer School Board; evaluation forms for the other courses were retained by U3A. Course organisers also used the forms to write their own course reports for the U3A Board.

That formal relationship with the University ended recently, but we still use forms for feedback from members. The Board always takes note of your comments and recommendations. The forms are stored with the secretary of the Board and eventually shredded, to ensure confidentiality.

Graham Mortimer (Chair 2008/9) reported members' feedback however is 'sometimes very odd, including suggestions that the tall people should only sit in the back rows — even if they can't see? And that speakers should turn up the audio system. (This last one came from a member who noted he forgot to wear his hearing aids!)

Course feedback from members

Alan Horsman had presented one of his Charles Dickens courses; and the summary of members' remarks in evaluation reports applauded the lecturer's depth of knowledge, along with his 'meticulous, apparently effortless presentation, combining wit and wisdom'. The 'profound learning and understanding' of the presenter, and his 'delightful style' were also noted. (One person mentioned Alan's 'exemplary time-keeping ... one could set one's watch by him!')

2008: *Every Picture Tells a Story*. 'I really do have a better understanding of how to look at a painting (or some of them anyway).' 'Thanks **Ross Grimm** for your wonderful sense of humour. Never again will a picture be just that. All those hidden meanings will be sought. Wonderful.'

2005: *Words and Images*., a course by **Colin Gibson**, was praised for the speaker's extensive preparation and broad knowledge, the course's variety, originality and interesting content. His style of presentation was described as 'inspiring', 'lively', 'humorous' and 'enthusiastic'. Suggestion for future courses: 'more of the same with Colin talking about any topic he chose.'

2004: **Terence Dennis**'s course on French Grand Opera evoked: 'It was a privilege to attend.' Evaluations were

unanimously positive, using a variety of superlatives to cover the speaker's musical knowledge, expertise, preparation, presentation, enthusiasm, teaching ability, confidence, professionalism and entertainment value — as well as his 'fascinating illustrations'.

2001 course on *The Bible*: 'Stimulating and provoked thought', 'Good and stimulating', 'Standard of course extended the mind', 'Excellent speakers. Enlightened', 'Eye-opener', 'Well co-ordinated'.

2007: **John Hale**'s course on *John Milton's 'Paradise Lost'*: many members commented on enjoying the challenge of reading and studying what was for some a previously unknown poem, and experiencing the excitement and fun of discovering this great work. The knowledge and manner of presentation of the poem was praised, and all liked the discussion.

2012 *Chemistry Matters* course: 'I've been assured that chemistry does matter.' 'Now I understand why beer can't be sold in plastic bottles.' 'Made me think about the planet'.

2004 *Psychology in Everyday Life*: 'Superb speakers, all able to simplify complex material' and 'Up-to-date research findings'.



Many bouquets!

Comments, very complimentary and full of praise, occur often in members' evaluation sheets at the end of courses. Some are printed below:

'I think we are so lucky in Dunedin to have so many people who know their subjects, are enthusiastic about them and willing to give their time to U3A tutoring.'

Dunedin's U3A is an excellent institution — long may it continue and expand.' 'Spot on!'

'I'm just so happy to be here!'

'Not treated as ancient morons.'

'Thrilled to learn something new.'

'Nice morning tea - great scones.'

One course organiser mentioned in his report: 'attenders' enthusiasm and sometimes effusive gratitude are almost embarrassing.'

Five Life Members

Emeritus Professor **Alan Horsman** was nominated as the first honorary life member in 2009, then aged 91, recognising his outstanding support for U3A Dunedin since it was formed. Alan was on the staff of the English Department, University of Otago from 1957 to 1983. He contributed to the first course and has continued to be a highly successful presenter of 19 more complete one-man courses dealing with English literature.

To coincide with the 20th anniversary, four more prominent members over a long period of time were recently elected as life members. They are: Katherine Dolby, David McKenzie, Brian O'Rourke and Lin Phelan.



What does it mean to be human (2006): Liked 'the very human approach of all the lecturers to their subject.' 'Altogether it has been a far-reaching course reminding us about what complex beings we humans are.'

Organisers and Presenters

At first, courses were planned and organised by the U3A Committee (later replaced by a Board) as a whole. Katherine Dolby, as Secretary made sure no details in the courses' organisation were ever overlooked. Following Katherine's retirement from the Board, Jane Jones was appointed in 2002 as the first Programme Coordinator, followed in 2003 by Jenny Laws and in 2007 by Sue Cathro, who still holds the position. (John Burton took over for a year in 2010/11 while Sue was Chair of the Board.) In 2010, the Board established a Programme Committee to support the Co-ordinator.

From the beginning, presenters have been drawn not only from our membership but also from current and retired University staff, researchers, and skilled people — from various institutions and backgrounds in the Dunedin area. Occasionally, speakers have come from further afield, such as when a diplomat from the South African High Commission in Canberra flew in (at no cost to U3A) to give a presentation on the land settlement of the Bushman people of the Kalahari at a course in 1999 titled *Minorities within Nations*, or when a member of the Syrian Solidarity Group came from Auckland (with expenses shared between U3A and the Department of Politics at the University) to present a session at the *Explaining Syria* course in 2013.

Some courses involve a single presenter, while others have drawn on a variety of speakers. Some University departments and organisations like the Dunedin City Council and the Southern Sinfonia will take full responsibility for a whole course, but in others the organiser may have a more challenging experience of putting together a series of lectures where various presenters may not even know each other.

CURTAIN CALL

Occasionally, course organisers go well beyond what might reasonably be expected of them. When we started holding courses at Leith Bowling Club the group investigating various possibilities realised that blackout curtains were essential. Elizabeth Timms, organiser of the first course

to be held there, undertook to make them, and they continue to serve us well.

Most courses proceed quite smoothly, but there have been occasional glitches. Jenny Laws organised her first full lecture course in 2001 on the *Renaissance*, involving many different speakers. She says: 'Fortunately, I had asked David McKenzie to be my assistant organiser so that when the first lecturer failed to turn up on time, David calmly and competently entertained the class to a general account of the history and aims of the U3A movement, while I, in despair, phoned the department of the said lecturer and was assured he had "just walked out the door!"

COURSE EMERGENCIES

On another occasion, the speaker for the first session of *Democracy: Why won't they listen* in 2011 was unable to be there, and at short notice the course organiser, Bill Wilson, stepped in and gave an excellent, wide-ranging introductory session.

But presenters take their role very seriously. David McKenzie recalls: 'I shall never forget receiving a telephone call from Albert [Moore] one evening to tell me that he was in hospital having a heart attack, but not to worry because he had just arranged for somebody else to take his course the next day.'

There have been so many outstanding presenters that it is hard to single any particular ones out, but some have delighted us repeatedly over the years, including Alan Horsman, Albert Moore, David McKenzie, Gary Blackman, Ross Grimmett, Colin Gibson, John Drummond, Terence Dennis, Chris Ackerley and Sam Sneyd.

WELL PREPARED

A frequent comment made by our presenters is that they enjoy talking to U3A groups because members are always interested and ask intelligent questions. Graham Mortimer (Chair 2008/09), speaking of the first course he attended, *Is Justice in Aotearoa New Zealand Just?* (in 2004), said: 'The speakers were all distinguished but I learned from one of them that as a preliminary they met together to best prepare for the demanding and enlightened questions they expected



from the well-informed audience.'

Writing his recollections of U3A in 1999, the late Albert Moore, who was actively involved on both the original working party and committee that followed it, said that U3A had been 'one of the most rewarding areas of teaching and learning in my life, both as a participant in the variety of courses and as a committee member involved with a lively team in planning these courses'. Among the many popular courses he presented himself on a wide variety of topics, was one on comparative religion, *Freedom, Religion and Spirit*, for which participants were given notes that were later published as a booklet by U3A Dunedin.

'FUTURE STRENGTH'

David McKenzie, the first and longest-serving Chair (from 1994 to 1998) and a presenter of many well-received courses, summed up his experience of being involved with U3A: 'Having spent most of my working life being concerned with the education of the young, it forced me to realise the importance of providing educational experiences for those of mature years.

'Although I was a reluctant starter, I now appreciate U3A was one of the best experiences of my educational life. I also now understand that, as we fumbled our way forward, we fashioned a U3A which is particularly suited to the Dunedin environment. I am not surprised that U3A Dunedin has reached its present strong position and I am satisfied that its future strength is assured.'

Our own website

Contact with other U3A organisations led in 2007 to a discussion about the use of web pages. The Board decided not to take further action at that stage, and it was not until 2013 that a member of the Board, Marjan Lousberg, took responsibility for putting together a website for U3A Dunedin.

The website went live towards the end of 2013. It is easily found at u3adunedin.org.nz and contains useful course and other information, with links to other U3A sites.

20 years of show and tell

U3A Dunedin started small and, in true independent style, was a 'DIY' organisation — with a difference. The people involved had a level of expertise and experience well above the average.

Early lectures and discussions needed little equipment. Initially use was made of television, tape and disc recordings. The acquisition of a much-used slide projector, surplus from the University, was gratefully accepted. This machine, having had much TLC from us, is still operating and housed at Salmond College.

About the same time, mid-2000, an Elmo slide projector was purchased. This advanced the viewing process, having remote controls adding to ease of presentation.

Sound equipment came in the form of a trusty Jansen PA system, augmented with radio microphone. This was great for the lecture room, and could operate on battery power (useful for bus trips). About December

..... Mainstay workers

U3A Dunedin has been very fortunate to have administrative services from a number of people without whom the organisation would not have blossomed in the way that it has.

Katherine Dolby served as Secretary-Treasurer from 1995 to 2002, with a strong involvement in the planning of courses. As the roll increased so did the work of this position, and after Katherine retired from her U3A work, Judith Gray took over as Secretary and Bill George as Treasurer from the beginning of 2003. At the same time, the position of Programme Co-ordinator was established [see p.12].

In 2012 Judith Gray retired as Secretary. How much work she did is evident from the fact her job was divided into three parts and three secretaries now do the work of one.

In 2013 Marion Potter was appointed as Board Secretary, Jane Higham as Membership Secretary, and Marjan Lousberg as Programme Committee Secretary. This year Bill George retired as Treasurer, with Evan Taylor taking on that role.



U3A members listen to Reg Graham give a 2006 course on digital photography. The overhead projector (top right) in use to reproduce pictures or pages of a book is now mostly replaced by images from computers via data projectors.

2001 a multi-CD/cassette tape player arrived. Linked through a small mixer, it enabled microphone and recorded sound to be combined at a lecture.

Membership grew, so we used more than one venue. It was decided at the end of 2005 to purchase more up-to-date gear. The digital age was upon us and while sound equipment was quite adequate, overhead projectors that we had donated to Salmond and Knox Colleges earlier, were becoming less useful. PowerPoint or slide presentations via computer became the preferred illustrations. In addition to a quality data projector, a further PA system, radio microphone, and speaker stand were added to our arsenal, providing the ability to directly handle multiple inputs and play CDs from one unit.

2010 saw the purchase of a laptop computer, becoming more and more necessary due to the multiplicity of PowerPoint varieties and sources our presenters were using, and the consequent operational difficulties in matching everything for a smooth display.

In recent years both Salmond and Knox Colleges have upgraded their facilities, and both have in-house audio and video installations. Salmond's was provided by a donation from U3A in combination with its student body. This left us with surplus equipment, some dated, but all working. Last year the U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust officially donated the two PA systems, tape/CD player, and mixer gear, to the Gasworks Museum Trust. For many years all the equipment

was cared for and maintained in-house by Bill George, often using the breaks between terms, and Christmas holidays to check or repair our items.

But today Impressions Audio Visual Ltd (IAV) supply the large screen at Leith Bowling Club and most of the equipment (apart from our data projector), checking and maintaining so all works well.

Stan Andrews was our earliest 'fix it man'

Until recently Bill George was the "fix it man" who often came to the rescue when problems arose in courses with some of our gear. In earlier years Stan Andrews played a similar role. He was thanked in the 1998 annual report for important 'nuts and bolts' services that ensured sessions of courses, bus trips or visits took place with minimal hiccups.

A minute of appreciation dated 13 June 2000, the last meeting of the committee before the trust was established, thanked Stan again:

'When the committee started to manage on its own [meaning without assistance from University Extension], Stan offered to be the person who would receive all telephone inquiries. When we had needed to arrange equipment for speakers Stan was the man for this. He even managed to put a slide projector together when it arrived in tatters. He attended all the seminars to make sure that everything was working. He even found time to arrange science seminars for the members and to attend a U3A conference in Auckland.'

U3A's charity amounts to \$84,500

U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust has made grants amounting to \$84,507 over the past nine years, gifts fulfilling its purpose 'to foster and develop education for people who form the Third Age' in the Dunedin region.

These have to date gone mostly, but not exclusively, to departments of the University of Otago, particularly ones that have supported us strongly with help in courses.

The largest grant made was to the University of Otago in 2009 — \$9,200 for the conservation and digital reproduction of the historic Hector Map (surveying the geology of southern New Zealand), benefiting both the Geology Department and the Hocken Collections, where the original map is now stored.

In 2012 \$3,000 was gifted for the conservation and digital reproduction of Ralph Hotere's huge wall banner *Rain* — the copy now hangs in the Richardson Building of the University.

Between 2006 and 2008 we made major grants of \$5,000 each for extending library resources to the following University Departments: Law, Theology and Religion, Music, English, History and Art History. Earmarked for library books also



were grants of \$3,000 each to the Politics and History Departments in 2009, followed in 2010 by grants of \$3,000 each for books to three other Departments (Psychology, Geology and Geography).

In 2011 U3A granted \$5,000 to the Southern Sinfonia (Dunedin Civic Orchestra) to assist with purchase of instruments for teaching. This year we gave \$1,000 to support the 2014 New Zealand International Early Music Festival.

The first grant made by U3A Dunedin went to Knox and Salmond Colleges in 2005: \$1392 for their equipment (overhead projectors and trolleys, used in our courses). Knox College was also assisted in 2009 with \$2,500 towards refurbishment of the Hewitson Library. Salmond College received \$2,800 in 2008 for audio-visual equipment, and Knox College \$3018 in 2009 for a data projector. Knox also benefited last year with our purchase of a DVD player (\$149).

When we moved to Leith Bowling Club as a larger venue in 2009 we gave the club blackout curtains for the windows costing \$1,197.

The English Department received \$640 in 2011 to purchase *Green's Dictionary of Slang* for the University Library, and \$1,700 went to the



Hotere's 'Rain' banner was restored and a copy was then hung at the University in 2013, with the help of a \$3,000 donation from U3A Dunedin.

Physics Department for an important Renewable Energy book. The Music Department gained \$2,000 for library assets and a donation of \$100 was made to the Orokonui Ecosanctuary.

In 2012 we supported the School of Pharmacy with \$3,000 towards publication of a book celebrating its 50th anniversary, and granted \$2,811 for the purchase of *Temple of Flora*, a beautiful book for botanists.

Following the loss of Government funding in 2013, gifts are now more modest but since then grants have been made of \$1,000 each to the Politics, Economics and Medicine Departments as well as a grant of \$2,000 to the Brain Health Research Centre of the University of Otago.



The Hocken Librarian, Sharon Dell (left) shows a group of U3A Dunedin members the giant, restored original Hector Map at a function held in the Hocken Collections in March 2011.

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.
~ Confucius

Ten candles for the newsletter!

The first issue of the U3A Dunedin *Newsletter* was published in January 2004, so 2014 now marks its 10th anniversary. At its launching in print the chairman of the U3A Dunedin Board was Professor J.G.T. (Sam) Sneyd. Under the heading 'The President says', Sam wrote: 'In the past, communication between members of the U3A and the Board has been sketchy at best. I hope this will improve matters.'

Sam gives the *Newsletter* a large bouquet these days, describing it as 'excellent' in fulfilling this role as well as entertaining its readers.

Brian O'Rourke was the founding editor of the *Newsletter*. He wrote in an editorial that 10 years after the first course had been offered and membership had grown to nearly 400 it was appropriate to have such a publication. He hoped it would contain regular messages from the Chair and from the University of Otago.

Other content was to be 'reports of present courses and indications of the Board's planning for future courses, as well as reports from Board meetings generally'. Profiles of members and presenters were to be included as well as news from other U3A groups.

Brian O'Rourke remained as editor until issue No.7 of November 2005, when former Chair Elizabeth Timms wrote a farewell note saying: 'We are greatly indebted to him for his foresight which first promoted the idea of a newsletter as a means of keeping in touch with the expanding



membership and also his willingness to take on the role of editor to get it established (particularly when it came at a time when he was winding down his active involvement in the U3A administration).' Brian played a major part in U3A Dunedin from the time of his move back to Dunedin in 1996, she said, wishing him well in retirement.

'TO GET IT GOING'

Running the *Newsletter* in its first two years, Brian was greatly helped by Mervyn Cranefield, who looked after its layout and print design. Even so, Brian confessed in his final editorial: 'Certain incompatibilities between our computers, software and copiers produced some amazing and undetectable blues which we are still embarrassed about. It was all part of the learning process.'

Brian wrote that his role in starting the *Newsletter* was 'to get it going, as I believed that frequent communication was essential in an organisation such as ours'.

'Things seem to have worked out reasonably well', he wrote, and it was time for him to step aside 'with the hope that change and development will continue'.

In Issue No.8 of January 2006, Chairman Wilson Daniel announced

that U3A member Geoff Adams had assumed the role of editor, bringing 'a wealth of journalistic experience and expertise', having been a newspaper man all his life, and editor of the *Otago Daily Times* for nine years.

Geoff has edited and designed the *Newsletter* for eight years, four issues each year. He enjoys the task of making it a readable and entertaining publication for members. He also still subscribes to its initial main aim of communication between Board and members, with information about the planning of courses and membership issues.

As *Newsletter* editor Geoff was a regular non-voting observer at Board meetings and last year became one of its elected members. 'There's no doubt that our U3A does a splendid job in keeping senior people lively and still keen to continue their education and topical interests,' he says. 'I hope the *Newsletter* keeps assisting.'

Course that clicked

Digital photography course feedback: 'After owning my camera for four years, I have at last deciphered the menu.' 'Time flew and it was a good mix of theory and practice.' 'This was an excellent course.' etc...

Ruru the morepork, New Zealand's owl, was designed as the symbol for U3A Dunedin by artist Gary Blackman in 1999. This was at the request of Brian O'Rourke, who wanted a logo for a brochure to promote the formation of U3A in the city. It was also later used within the Common Seal of the U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust when it was formed in 2002.

The owl has had a symbolic meaning from ancient times. In Athens the image of an owl on a silver coin symbolised Athene Pronola, the Greek Goddess of wisdom. Ruru appeared on the masthead of our U3A first newsletter in 2004 and on redesigned mastheads since that date.



U3A Board members over the past 20 years

The alphabetical list (below) names all members of the Board of the U3A Charitable Trust since it was formed in 2001 as well as members of the earlier Committee formed in 1994.

[Annual General Meetings when elections take place have been held in July of each year since the Trust formed. In 2003 a policy of the chairperson normally holding office for only one year was adopted.]

Adams, Geoff 2013 -
(Editor newsletter 2006 -)
Anderson, Honor 1998-2008
(Chair 2006/7)
Andrewes, Michael 2001-2006
Andrews, Stan 1994-2001
Batts, Graham 2005-2011
(Chair 2009/10)
Blackman, Gary 2007-2010
Borland, Neil 1997?-1998
Burton, John 2006 - 2014
(Chair 2011/12)
Cameron, Margaret E. 1994-2002
Cathro, Sue 2006 - (Chair 2010/11,
Programme Co-ordinator in other
years from 2007)
Clarke, Rosalie 2011 - 2014
Collins, Shirley 1995?-2001
Cowan, Tom 1994-1995?
Cowley, Judith 2007 -
Cranefield, Judith 2003-2006
Daniel, Wilson 2002-2007
(Chair 2005/6)
Dawson, Mayford 2007-2011
Dolby, Katherine 1995-2002
(Secretary/Treasurer 1995-2002)
Duff, Norrie 1998?-2000
Feist, Donald 2004-2010
(Chair 2007/8)
Fraser, Ken 2000-2001
George, Bill 2002 - 2014
(Treasurer 2003-2014)
Gilbert, Eldora 2001-2004
Gray, Judith 2002-2013
(Secretary 2003-2012)
Harvey, Sue 2004 -
Higham, Jane 2010 -
Holborow, Doug 2011 - (Chair 2014-)
Hudson, Rosemary 2010 -
Jackson, Alan 2014-
Jones, Jane 2002-2003
(Programme Co-ordinator 2002)
Kivell, Gretcham 2014-
Laws, Jenny 1998-2007
(Programme Co-ordinator 2003-07)
Logan, Ida 2001
Lousberg, Marjan 2011 -

Maguire, Brian 1998-2004
(Chair 2001-03)
Maslen, Marjorie 1998-2000
McCoy, Ted 2006-07
McKenzie, David 1994-2002
(Chair 1994-98)
McKinlay, Judith 2014-
Moore, Albert 1994-2003
Mortimer, Graham 2006-2010
(Chair 2008/9)
Newton, John 1995?-2001
O'Rourke, Brian 1996-2002
Phelan, Lin 1994-2002
(Chair 1998-2001)
Railton, Wilma 1996-2000
Restieaux, Dame Norma 2010 -
(Chair 2012/13)
Robinson, Brian 2010 -
(Chair 2013/14)
Shelton, Michael 2002-2005
Smith, Merv 2002-2004
Smith, Shirley 1994-1996?
Sneyd, Sam 1999-2006
(Chair 2003/04)
Taylor, Evan 2014
(Treasurer 2014-)

Timms, Elizabeth 2000-2010
(Chair 2004/5)

Trotter, Bill 1994-1998
Wilson, Bill 2008-2013
Wilson, Diana 2004-2006
Wood, Antony 2004-2011

Chairpersons

1994-8: David McKenzie
1998-01: Lin Phelan
2001-3: Brian Maguire
2003/4: Sam Sneyd
2004/5: Elizabeth Timms
2005/6: Wilson Daniel
2006/7: Honor Anderson
2007/8: Donald Feist.
2008/9: Graham Mortimer
2009/10: Graham Batts
2010/11: Sue Cathro
2011/12: John Burton
2012/13: Dame Norma Restieaux
2013/14: Brian Robinson
2014/ - : Doug Holborow



Planning for 1997: Board members in 1996 included (from left) Lin Phelan, Wilma Railton?, Margaret Cameron, Katherine Dolby and David McKenzie.

MANY THANKS! The History Sub-Committee of the U3A Dunedin Board (consisting of Geoff Adams, Rosalie Clarke, Judith Gray, Rosemary Hudson, and Marjan Lousberg) has worked hard to gather material for this publication. We are most grateful to the many members (or past members) of U3A Dunedin who helped us, by questionnaire or interview, to compile information about our organisation over the past 20 years. This has provided much useful information and interesting comment. It has been impossible to publish and credit all of this material here, but it will all be deposited in U3A's archives, where it will be available for future historians and other interested people. We already have much archival material held in the Hocken Library, but would welcome more information and memories from members. While the information in the newsletter is as accurate as we could make it, please advise us of any errors so they can be investigated for correction in the archives.

— **Rosemary Hudson** (Chair, History Sub-Committee)