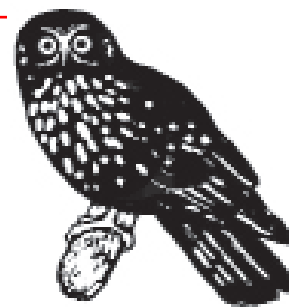


U3A DUNEDIN Forum



Newsletter No. 70 - October 2020

Now Dunedin's turn for U3A's charity

U3A Dunedin is a charitable trust and last year the Board gave the handsome sum of \$50,000 to the University of Otago — marking its anniversary year and establishing a scholarship.

Now it is the turn of the Dunedin community to receive monetary gift from us and the Board decided at its October meeting to distribute \$20,000. A committee recommendation was accepted that four parcels of \$5000 should go to these recipients:

The Malcam Trust
Otago Helicopter Rescue Trust
Otago Community Hospice
The Royal Albatross Colony

In his "Letter from the Chair" (19 October) Alan Jackson explained to members that our U3A had been carrying surplus funds (some dating from our early history).

In addition to the above donations we have given monies at the end of each lecture series to reward the excellence of presentations. That often amounts to around \$10,000 each year. Alan pointed out that we are able to make these donations and disbursements "due to savings we make each year by using our website for course



Dunedin's Royal Albatross Colony is one of four Dunedin beneficiaries from grants.

enrolments, membership applications, etc, all of which save printing, paper and stamps, as well as time for our volunteers."

CARBON FOOTPRINT

While these savings are part of our U3A response to climate change and using resources more sustainably, the board has had a free analysis of our carbon footprint done by Prof. Rob Lawson and will consider future action. It is estimated that we are responsible for around 10.5 tons of carbon in a year — from members' travel to courses, committee meetings, etc. Alan Jackson said it could cost us about \$400 a year to offset: "We could donate to a forestry project to do that." . . . and help save our planet?

Longing for a password

A man's wife was checking her emails and told him her password was "mickeyminniebatmanrobintomjerryLondon."

He asked her why it needed to be so long. "Because," she replied, "I was told it had to have at least six characters and one capital."

AGM date for diary

U3A Dunedin AGM

**Thursday, 11 February 2021,
Salmond College, 11am**

Buffet lunch available for members after meeting,
Details of cost, etc in January edition of Forum

OUR WEBSITE
u3adunedin.org.nz

*Watch it ...
Don't forget
to use it!*

Normal Spring courses — Hooray!

Well, we cleared the bar. Just! It wasn't meant to be like that. When resetting the dates for this year's programme in May under Level 3 lockdown, we pushed those for our Series 3 Spring courses from their usual August/September placement forward to October/November. This we hoped would see them well into Level 1, allowing us back to our usual, much looked forward-to, social ways.

For just over 100 days without new community cases under Level 1, all looked good. However, in August the fresh outbreak of C-19 cases in Auckland and local reversion to Level 2 threatened to scupper this prospect with stringent limits on numbers and spacing for in-person gatherings.

As it happened, advertising and enrolment for Series 3 courses, closing 7 September, were all under Level 2 conditions and there is little doubt that this had a depressing effect on the final number of registrations, 478 for all choices compared to 629 for Autumn 2021, a 24% decrease. This most severely impacted on previously curtailed courses resumed in shortened 3-lecture form.

One such course, More Nobel Prizes had such low number that, after consultation it was cancelled, the first time ever done in recent memory. But overall, we can be very pleased at the generally good level of support, despite trying circumstances. Individually enrolments were: *Take Another* 12, 108; *Distinguished Professors*, 76; *My Hobby* 2, 68; *Computing History*, 28; *Sporting Nation*, 18; *Medieval World*, 91; and *Popular Music*, 69. The large differences are not an especial concern as our membership has many varied interests that are not evenly shared but which have to be catered for as best we can.

NORMAL SPRING COURSES

On 21 September, to our great relief, the Government moved the country, apart from Auckland, down to Level 1, which allowed our current set of Spring courses



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

off to a good start, those attending thoroughly enjoying each other's company.

LOOKING AHEAD

Meanwhile, looking ahead, six courses have now been approved for Autumn 2021, with something, we hope, for everyone. They are: *Inside Allied Press*, *Women Leading the Way*, *The Cosmos Unpacked*; *Composers and their Singers and Players*, *Misadventures in Art*, and *Gods, War and Tragedy* (Homer and Euripides). And already we have identified six prospects for Winter Series 2 next year, but more about these another time.

Linda Kinniburgh and Stuart Strachan

Amazing Grace

A web resource that originates in South Africa is the brainchild of Grace, a woman who has long been a figure in the Conscious Aging movement. The website is aptly called 'A Mind of Grace' (<https://www.amindofgrace.co.za/>) The site features an array of inspiring features, centred around a fascinating blog. Grace's new initiative, the formation of a Ted Circle, is linked to the well-known Ted Talks, inviting people to develop discussion groups that can make use of the talks. Organising a dozen elders in the community, this vibrant group has taken on the topic of "Searching for Transcendence," something beyond the mere material world of daily life .- [Taos Institute]

Bouquet?

Interviewer: Your wife says you never buy her flowers, Is that true?

Husband : Well to be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.



'Live as if you are going to die tomorrow.

Learn as if you are going to live forever.'

– Mahatma Gandhi

U3A DUNEDIN CHARITABLE TRUST

Website: u3adunedin.org.nz

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

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

Chair: Alan Jackson, 473-6947

Registered Charitable Institution - #CC22345

Five new Life Members



Judith Gray cuts the celebratory cake, standing with (from left) John Shanks, Douglas Holborow, and Sue Cathro. (Bill George was unable to attend.)

Five new Life Members of U3A Dunedin were elected with acclamation at our AGM in February. They were Sue Cathro, Bill George, Judith Gray, Douglas Holborow, and John Shanks — all of whom have given or are still giving great service to U3A.

Lockdown for COVID-19 intervened so the recipients could not be congratulated by the Board until a special function held following the board meeting on September 7. There Chairman Alan Jackson thanked them for their services to U3A. These were outlined by Board Secretary Marion Potter. The four present were applauded and given special lapel badges.

Websites for the explorers

Are you working on your family histories?"Cyndi'sList"..(<https://www.cyndislist.com>) is a comprehensive index to over 300,000 genealogical resources on the Internet. Cyndi Ingle has maintained this website for over 21 years, as a labour of love. You'll find a list provides hundreds of trivia, hundreds of links that point you to genealogical research sites, all categorized and cross-referenced. It's like a "card catalogue" to the genealogical collection in the immense library that is the Internet.

www.actionquiz.com provides hundreds of trivia quizzes in different sciences, pop or classical music,

geography, literature and computers where you play against a computer opponent.. Warning: this can be an addictive website!

Interested in military history? militarymaps.rct.uk has a collection of George III's 3000 military maps, digitised by the Royal Collection Trust. It includes the battle of Waterloo.

COMPLAINTS

Just found the worst page in the entire dictionary. What I saw was disgraceful, disgusting, dishonest and disingenuous.

Life is a gift. You never get the one you really wanted.

Word wonders

Forum begins a series on words we read or speak by Dr John Hale; Honorary Fellow of the University of Otago in English and Linguistics — an acknowledged international expert on the works of John Milton

"Eager Beaver"

What do you or I know about beavers? Very little unless you live in Canada; so the continuance of the phrase eager beaver intrigues me.

Wikipedia says the phrase was first used in the early 1900s to describe very **eager** recruits who would do anything to impress their commanding officers during the war. And "**Beavers** are large rodents known for their skill of building dams very large compared to their size."

So put the two bits together, and an eager beaver is an over-achiever.

Or does the phrase persist because it sounds so right? Though it sounds keen and eager itself, is it faintly sardonic. The long "e"s stretch the mouth forward with energy and zeal; the potty half-rhyme makes the user feel superior to the beaver.

No! Down with superiority. May the U3A always abound in eager beavers. - **John Hale**

(See page 5: John Hale's article about Jane Austen) - Ed.

Paradoxes

Why is it that no matter what colour bubble bath you use the bubbles are always white?

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

What is the difference between a well-dressed man on a bicycle and a poorly dressed one on a unicycle? — Attire.

Parallel lines have so much in common. It is a shame that they will never meet!

'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?

Kiwi culcha

Now for some Kiwi culcha listed in the computer age!

Log on: Adding wood to make the barbeque hotter

Monitor: Keeping an eye on the barbeque.

Download: Getting the firewood off the Ute.

Keyboard: Where you hang the Ute keys.

Screen: What you shut in the mosquito season.

Megabyte: What West Coast mosquitos do.

Microchip: What's left in the bag after you've eaten the chips.

Modem: What you did to the lawns.

Laptop: Where the cat sleeps.

Software: Plastic knives & forks you get on an airplane.

Mouse: The small rodent that eats the grain in the shed.

Web: What spiders make.

Website: Usually in the shed or under the verandah.

Search engine: What you do when the Ute won't go.

Cursor: What you say when the Ute won't go.

Yahoo: What you say when the Ute does go.

Server: The person at the pub who brings out the counter lunch..

User: The neighbour who keeps borrowing things.

Facebook fun or fury?

I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.

Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom.

I give them pictures of my family,

Bar tactics

The bartender asks the guy sitting at the bar, "What'll you have?" The guy answers, "A scotch, please."

The bartender hands him the drink, and says, "That'll be \$10," to which the guy replies, "What are you talking about? I don't owe you anything for this."

A lawyer, sitting nearby and overhearing the conversation, then says to the bartender, "You know, he's got you there. In the original offer, which constitutes a binding contract upon acceptance, there was no stipulation of remuneration."

The bartender was not impressed, but says to the guy, "Okay, you beat me for a drink. But don't ever let me catch you in here again."

The next day, the same guy walks into the bar. The bartender says, "What the heck are you doing in here? I can't believe you've got the audacity to come back!"

The guy says, "What are you talking about? I've never been in this place in my life!" The bartender replies, "I'm very sorry, but this is uncanny. You must have a double."

PALINDROMES

Palindromes are words that spell themselves — backwards and forwards!

For instance: wow, mum, dad, bob, anna, madam, noon, radar, solos, level, tenet, racecar, sagas, eve, abba, refer, repaper, rotator. There must be many more? . .

my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch and doing what anybody and everybody does everyday.

I also listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them.

And it works just like Facebook! I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

- Anon

U3A email directory

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

General information: contact@u3adunedin.org.nz

Courses: courses@u3adunedin.org.nz

Membership: members@u3adunedin.org.nz

'Forum': newsletter@u3adunedin.org.nz

U3A phone directory

To discuss any problem with U3A Dunedin please phone the right person:

Chairman: Alan Jackson
473-6947

Board matters: Marion Potter
453-4721

Membership: Lynda Jackson
473-6947

Programme: Linda Kinniburgh
473- 8443
or Stuart Strachan 482-2339

Discussion Groups: Ngaire Bates
454-2170

Courses: Phyll Esplin 467-2594

Edited by Geoff Adams

Phone: 467-2278

Email: hgadams@slingshot.co.nz

‘Music hath charms’ ... 13 feelings found

Considering *The Star-Spangled Banner* stirs pride for Americans,. Ed Sheeran’s *The shape of You* sparks joy. And *ooh là là!* best sums up the seductive power of George Michael’s *Careless Whispers*.

Scientists at the University of California, Berkeley, have surveyed more than 2,500 people in the United States and China about their emotional responses to these and thousands of other songs from genres including rock, folk, jazz, classical, marching band, experimental and heavy metal.

The upshot? The subjective experience of music across cultures can be mapped within at least 13 overarching feelings: Amusement, joy, eroticism, beauty, relaxation, sadness, dreaminess, triumph, anxiety, scariness, annoyance, defiance, and feeling pumped up.

“Imagine organising a massively eclectic music library by emotion and capturing the combination of feelings associated with each track. That’s essentially what our study has done,” said study lead author Alan Cowen, a UC Berkeley doctoral student in neuroscience.

The findings are set to appear in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

“We have rigorously documented the largest array of emotions that are universally felt through the language of music,” said study senior author Dacher Keltner, a UC Berkeley professor of psychology.

Cowen translated the data into an interactive audio map, where visitors can move their cursors to listen to any of thousands of music snippets to find out, among other things, if their emotional reactions match how people from different cultures respond to the music.

Potential applications for these research findings range from informing psychological and psychiatric therapies designed to evoke certain feelings to helping music streaming services like Spotify adjust their algorithms to satisfy their customers’ audio cravings or set the mood.

New ‘musical’ terms invented

iAlleregretto: A composition you regret playing

Apologgiatura: When you are 16 bars into the piece and have to correct too fast a tempo.

Approximento: A musical entrance that is somewhere near the correct pitch.

Approximatura: Series of notes not intended by the composer, played with an “I meant to do that.” attitude.

Frugalhorn: A sensible and inexpensive brass instrument...

Spritzicato: Indication to string instruments to make a bright and bubbly sound.



The biggest lie I tell myself is “I don’t need to write that down, I’ll remember it.”



Albert Einstein, the physicist famous for developing the theory of relativity, also had time to often play his violin.

Beaujolais Bistro

A group of 40-year-old buddies discuss where they should meet for dinner. Finally it is agreed upon that they should meet at the Beaujolais Bistro because the waitresses there have low-cut blouses and really short skirts.

1. Ten years later, at 50 years of age, the group meets again and once again they discuss where they should meet. Finally it is agreed that they should meet at the Beaujolais Bistro because the food there is very good and the wine selection is excellent.

2. Ten years later at 60 years of age, the group meets again and once again they discuss where they should meet. Finally it is agreed that they should meet at the Beaujolais Bistro because they can eat there in peace and quiet and the restaurant is smoke-free.

3. Ten years later, at 70 years of age, the group meets again and once again they discuss where they could meet. Finally it is agreed that they should meet at the Beaujolais Bistro because the restaurant is wheelchair accessible and they even have an elevator.

4. Ten years later, at 80 years of age, the group meets again and once again they discuss where they should meet. Finally it is agreed that they should meet at the Beaujolais Bistro because everyone’s heard it’s good and they’ve never been there before.

Pride, not prejudice, for Jane Austen books

A Jane Austen ramble

I first read the six novels of Jane Austen as bought for me by my grandfather during a shopping safari in Godalming (Surrey). This was after I had discovered 'P & P', or been discovered by it. I read them in my teens, then in my next decade they became the first novels I read in chronological sequence, in order to understand better what came out of what, to grasp more of the shape of that exceptional imagination. A Janeite for life.

Burgeoning

I still have the books, with my pencilled notes. But these days, I tend to re-read only four of the six, and to find a new edition or format every time. Like the snappy orange Penguins, or the vast plush Harvard series, lavishly illustrated and giving excerpts and summaries from the best comments of the ever-burgeoning J A industry.

Media

Not only in print does she "burgeon!" There's the whole secondary or reception industry, of films and TV. And how about musicals? Ice spectaculars, "*P & P*" on skates? Come on, Hollywood, what are you waiting for?

Jane

This year has seen a new *Emma* movie, which made me catch up on the latest BBC TV series. I reviewed the movie for WordWays: greatest moment, for me then, was Jane Fairfax playing on the piano which has been secretly thrust on her, as a poisoned gift. She played the opening of the slow movement of Beethoven's *Appassionata*. I felt the hidden life of this suffering character!

Anne

How marvellously understated her suffering remains, when compared with Anne Elliot's suffering in *Persuasion*; so lengthy and lugubrious— can this last novel really be finished — I mean, to Jane Austen's own standards?

Compare and Discuss

The TV series of *Emma* gave more time for reflection (four parts, not a straight two hours' viewing). This *Emma* was stronger, but not the music! Why should that matter? Yet it does. Discuss in not more than 30,000 words.

Editions and Formats

The books remain primary and paramount and perpetually penetrating. Then why does it matter what edition I read them in? or why I own more than one copy of each, or switch to a well-filled Kindle?

Does it Matter?

Well, it does matter. I don't always want to read my own first impressions, in pencil. Yet, for a point of teaching or research I do want to keep in touch with my beginnings. Kindle makes Jane too like any other novelist, or some mere batch of info-data. Horrible and slovenly! And an illustrated edition may turn out to have distracting or feeble image. Still and all, the images do slow the reading, and slowing-down on the best things always rewards you.



Jane Austen (1775-1817)

Pacing

Slowing-down for notes or commentary can be timely. I never thought about why the characters go on such lengthy group visits to other households till a note stated the obvious; not just a point about incomes and leisure class, but about roads. When you did visit, you stayed a while. It's a reductive explanation, yet not entirely.. Jane is brilliant and coherent and acute and critical on exactly these questions of class and income and how people did things.

Now the Sorbet

Then, nonetheless to cleanse the palate as it were, the next reading should be done with a plain text. Orange Penguins, for my taste.

The Last Word

And I stop there because no final word will ever be written on this immortal author. She is the best of them all for re-reading.

- by John Hale



La Sagrada Família in Barcelona, Spain, the masterpiece of architecture by Antoni Gaudí, that has been under construction since 1882. Its highest tower is hoped to be finished in 2026 — the centennial of Gaudí's death