



Plans laid for our Series 3 courses

The Board and Programme Committee (your Team of 30) have worked to ensure that series 3 takes place as safely as possible in a face-to-face manner.

These are the plans we have in place if we are at Alert Level 2 for the programme...

- The over-riding precaution is that if any member is at all unwell and possessing Covid-19 symptoms, they should stay at home and contact their doctor.
- If any member is at all nervous about the risks, they would be better staying at home.
- A maximum of 90 at each course to allow for staff presence at Golf and Bowling Clubs.
- The use of masks is not mandatory, but is acceptable and U3A Dunedin will have some on hand for attendees' use if required, but we ask that you provide your own so far as is possible.
- Social distancing of 1 metre inside the venues is vital.
- Presenters, Convenors and Assistants need to be willing to be involved – if they are unwilling, presentations will be cancelled and the usual cancellation procedures will be followed.
- Hospital grade hand sanitiser will be provided.
- The Government Covid Tracer app is unique to each venue and members will be encouraged to use that if they have a suitable 'phone.
- Normal U3A Dunedin attendance lists will be used with one Course Assistant completing the form for everyone to avoid sharing of pens.
- If required for contact tracing our membership database can produce names, addresses and contact 'phone numbers at short notice.
- At present it is not certain but it may be

possible for tea and coffee to be provided at each venue – it is likely to be served rather than self-service to avoid touching milk jugs, urn taps etc.

Of course... if we are able to go to Alert Level 1, we shall be far more relaxed, with food etc, as usual BUT social distancing in place.

The new arrangements in place for later enrolments, later payments for course fees, credits as necessary into your U3A Dunedin account all enable us to be very flexible. Thank goodness for Tim Berners-Lee (credited with the "invention" of the internet). - Alan Jackson

Chair of the U3A Dunedin Board

Jude Hathaway (in memoriam)

Dunedin U3A Board members (and others) were saddened by the death of Jude Hathaway, on August 18; 2020. Jude was a member of our board for three and a half years. In that time she organised two popular courses for U3A: "Southern Skies - history of aviation in the south " and "The Fashion Industry in Dunedin." Both were major undertakings for a relatively new board member.

She also took part in many sub-committee discussion groups involved in major decision-making situations for the Board..

Jude was a bright, friendly and positive person, a willing and well-organised contributor to all Board activities. Many U3A members knew Jude before her retirement as a feature and fashion writer for the Otago Daily Times in the Advertising Department for many years and will recall her happy interactions with customers. She died peacefully after a short period of illness and we send our condolences to her two children Claire and Mark and her five grandchildren. Her sister also died in the same week.

Farewell to cheques

Banks are phasing out cheques, promoting telephone banking and offering tuition to people in new techniques. We shall have to get used to a new regime. Even without a computer, you will be able to do remote banking not using cheques .Only a few members like to use cash only. .

OUR WEBSITE
u3adunedin.org.nz

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

Inquest on the Zoom alternative

Can there have been a more difficult year in our history? We think not, at least in recent memory. First came Covid in March causing our Autumn Series to be cut short, and then the cancellation of the whole Winter Series as planned. In its place we substituted the Zoom series, and now we are faced with the possible prospect of the Spring Series being delivered under Alert Level 2 conditions. About which, our Chair has more to say. (See page 1)

But disruption can be an opportunity, in this case the adoption at short notice of Zoom technology for a recast Winter series relayed via the Internet. This consisted of two weekly lectures each an hour long over six weeks. It was a steep learning curve, surmounted largely due to the unremitting efforts of Doug Holborow and Barrie Peake. So, how did we find it? To discover, we surveyed all our online members, using Survey Monkey.

SURVEY RESPONSES

There were 175 responses, of whom 101 said that they had logged on to at least one talk. This was a disappointingly small proportion of our approximately 800 online membership, but allowance has to be made for those who logged on but did not respond, and for multiple viewers on a single device, for which a single response sufficed.

Of those who responded but



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

chose not to log on, inability to manage the technology (17%) and inconvenient timing (12%) accounted for less than a third of the reasons given. Even more significant were members' general busyness and the lack of social engagement normally afforded by our normal face-to-face series.

Only 6% said that the subjects were of no interest. Sample comments were "I have too many other things to do", "I like to get out of the house", and "I prefer people." Not so very encouraging for Zoom advocates, but understandable given the nature of our membership; and they were a minority with many appreciative counter-balancing comments.

TICKS OF APPROVAL

We were also interested to learn how many shared devices. Between 70–80% viewed alone, but 20–30% viewed with another. Very few shared with more, perhaps because it would be too crowded.

The technical aspects of presentation—length, sound, PowerPoint and format—received ticks of approval, very good and generally good in the 80–90% range.

Rating of the talks themselves held well, if slightly down on those for face-to-face presentations, generally with very good at 65–85%. Some clearly found the scientific

Nobel Prize lectures technically tough. If one had to select two outstanding ones, Neville Peat's Otago Peninsula lecture and the Nobel Peace prize one by PhD students from the university's National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, were both singled out in comments.

THE ZOOM QUESTION

So, on balance was it all worthwhile? With caveats, we certainly think so, though Zoom's best use, whether single lectures, full courses or other, has for us still to be settled on. While it does not offer the social experience so valued by our members, it has numerous advantages, including distant delivery, no limit on numbers, conveniently available recordings, and not least the ability of less mobile members or of those having to care for others to access our courses. One comment from a member was:

I find leaving the house now very difficult for extended periods of time such as a couple of hours plus travel time to and from venue. Without Zoom option I would have to leave U3A.

-Stuart Strachan, Linda Kinniburgh

Wise words?

In this world there are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants and the other is getting it. The last is the worst.

– Oscar Wilde.

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The moon's endless dance

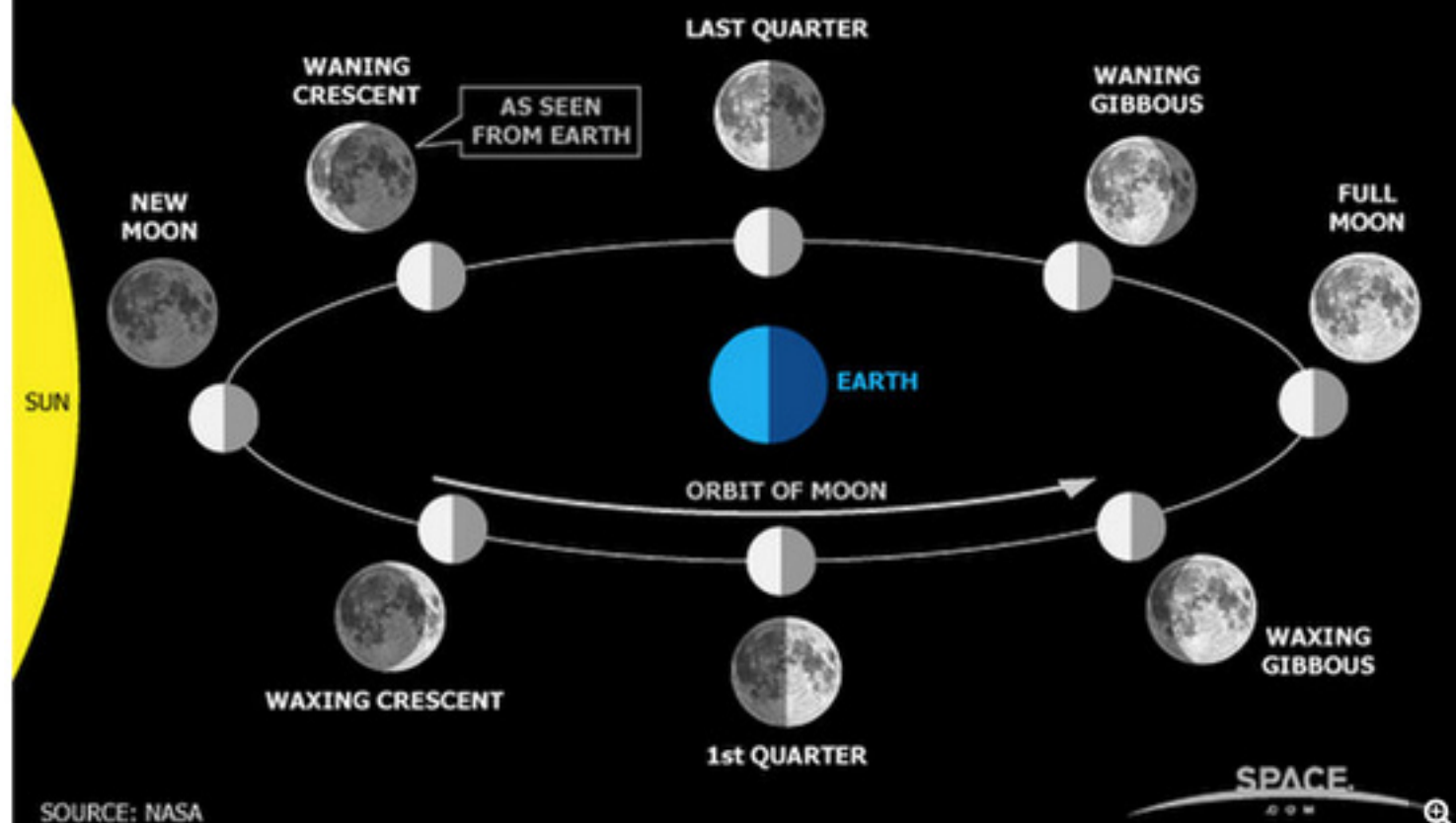
As the Earth and moon orbit the sun together, the pattern of day and night on the lunar surface constantly changes. We refer to the percentage of illumination on the visible face of the moon as the moon's "phase." There are 8 major named phases that have been known throughout human history.



MOON'S "NEAR" SIDE,
VISIBLE FROM EARTH



MOON'S "FAR" SIDE,
HIDDEN FROM EARTH



SOURCE: NASA

'Blue Moon' happening on October 31

A Blue Moon will happen on October 31 this year. It will be called a Blue Moon because it will be the second of two full moons to occur in a single calendar month, a rare occurrence. The last Blue Moon by this definition of the term happened on March 31, 2018. The October one will be all the rarer for occurring with Halloween Eve.

The phrase "once in a Blue Moon" has been around for more than 400 years, according to Philip Hiscock, a folklorist at the Memorial University, Newfoundland explained that the earliest use of term was much like saying the moon is made of green cheese — it indicated something absurd. "He would argue that the moon is blue" was similar to saying, "He would argue that black is white."

The meaning evolved to something akin to "never." "I'll marry you when the moon turns blue" became the equivalent of "I'll marry you when pigs fly."

"Most Blue Moons look pale gray and white,

See the moon phases and the difference between a waxing and waning crescent or gibbous moon in this Space.com infographic of the lunar cycle each month.

indistinguishable from any other moon you've ever seen," according to NASA. "Squeezing a second full moon into a calendar month doesn't change the physical properties of the moon itself, so the colour remains the same."

But it turns out that the moon can appear bluish, as it did in 1883 after the volcano Krakatoa erupted. Dust in the air acted as a filter, causing sunsets and the moon to turn green and blue all over the world.

Some silly wonders . . .

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

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!

Robots are taking over?

Robots are coming! On our pavements, in our skies, in our stores... Over the next decade, robots will enter the mainstream of retail business. As countless robots work behind the scenes to stock shelves, serve customers, and deliver products to our doorstep, the speed will accelerate.

Back in 2016 Amazon announced Prime Air — the promise of drone delivery in 30 minutes or less in the USA. On August 3, 2016, Domino's Pizza introduced the Domino's Robotic Unit, or "DRU" for short. The first home delivery pizza robot, the DRU looks like a cross between R2-D2 and an oversized microwave. Sensors help it navigate, while temperature sensors keep hot food hot and cold food cold.

Already, it's been rolled out in ten countries, including New Zealand, France, and Germany, but its August 2016 debut was critical—it was the first time people had seen robotic home delivery..

DELIVERY ROBOTS

A dozen or so different delivery bots are fast entering the market. Starship Technologies, for instance, a startup created by Skype founders Janus Friis and Ahti Heinla, has a general-purpose home delivery robot. Right now, the system is an array of cameras and GPS sensors, but upcoming models will include microphones, speakers, and even the ability (via AI-driven natural language processing) to communicate with customers. Since 2016, Starship has already carried out 50,000 deliveries in over 100 cities across 20 countries.

Along similar lines, Nuro (co-founded by Jiajun Zhu, one of the engineers who helped develop Google's self-driving car) has a miniature self-driving car of its own. Half the size of a sedan, the Nuro looks like a toaster on wheels, but has a mission. It has been designed to carry cargo—about 12 bags of groceries (version 2.0 will carry 20)—which it's been doing for select Kroger stores since 2018. Domino's also partnered with Nuro in 2019.

As these delivery bots started to take to US streets, others may streak across the sky. After Amazon



announced its Prime Air, companies ranging from Walmart to Google and Alibaba jumped on the bandwagon.

While delivery bots start to spare us trips to the store, those who prefer shopping the old-fashioned way — i.e. in person — also have plenty of human-robot interaction in store. In fact, these robotics solutions have been around for a while.

HUMANOID ROBOTS

In 2010, SoftBank (a Japanese multinational conglomerate that is headquartered in Tokyo) introduced Pepper, a humanoid robot capable of understanding human emotion. Pepper is cute: 4 feet tall, with a white plastic body, two black eyes, a dark slash of a mouth, and a base shaped like a mermaid's tail.

Across Pepper's chest is a touch screen to aid in communication. And there's been a lot of communication. Pepper's cuteness is intentional, as it matches its mission: to help humans enjoy life as much as possible. (SoftBank owns stakes in many technology, energy, and financial companies. It also runs Vision Fund, the world's largest technology-focused venture capital fund, with over \$100 billion in capital.)

Over 12,000 Peppers have been sold. "She" serves ice cream in Japan, greets diners at a Pizza Hut in Singapore, and dances with customers at a Palo Alto electronics store. More importantly, Pepper's got company.

WAREHOUSE ROBOTS

In the USA Walmart uses shelf-stocking robots for inventory control. Best Buy uses a robo-cashier, allowing select locations to operate 24-7. And Lowe's Home Improvement employs the LoweBot—a giant iPad on wheels—to help customers find the items they need while tracking inventory along the way.

The biggest benefit robots provide might be in-warehouse logistics. In 2012, when Amazon dished out US\$775 million for Kiva Systems, few could predict that just six years later, 45,000 Kiva robots would be deployed at all of their fulfillment centres, helping process a whopping 306 items per second during the Christmas season.

And many other retailers are following suit. Order jeans from the Gap, and they'll be sorted, packed, and shipped with the help of a Kindred robot. In an old arcade game you picked up teddy bears with a giant claw. Now that's Kindred, only her claw picks up T-shirts, pants, and the like, placing them in designated drop-off zones that resemble tiny mailboxes (for further sorting or shipping).

The big deal here is democratisation. Kindred's robot is cheap and easy to deploy, allowing smaller companies to compete with giants like Amazon.

As human labour costs continue to climb, robots are sure to be coming... It's going to become increasingly difficult for store owners to justify human workers who call in sick, show up late, and can easily get injured. Robots work 24-7. They never take a day off, never need a break, health insurance, or leave, helping to process a whopping 306 items per second during the Christmas season.

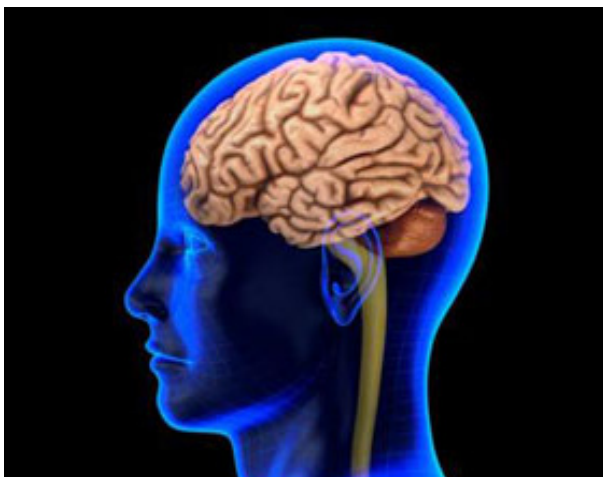
- [World U3A]

Pills hard to swallow

I bought some expensive "brain-stimulating" pills at a health store. But it wasn't until I got home that I read the label.

"This is just rosemary extract," I complained to my husband. "I can't believe I spent all that money for something that I have growing wild in the yard!"

"See?" he said. "You're smarter already."



Is drinking red wine good for your health?

I want to look after my brain but can I drink alcohol? Is wine good for the brain? Here's the good news from neuroscientists. Small intakes of alcohol will protect you against dementia.

How do they know? Scientists in the UK analysed data from 23 studies looking for any relationship between cognitive decline and memory loss in older adults. Their surprise finding? 'Low to moderate alcohol use is associated with a 38% reduced risk of dementia, and a 32% reduced risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.'

Of course, common sense rules! But you can enjoy one guilt-free glass of red wine and know it can benefit your brain and memory health. Red wine is good for the brain.

In one large study (1000+ people over 65) in Pennsylvania were tested at two-year intervals for memory, problem-solving and reasoning skills. Again, light and moderate drinkers experienced less decline than non-drinkers.

In another large study of 7,485 Australians aged between 20 and 64 years of age the same results were found: People who drank moderately (up to seven drinks a week for females and up to 14 drinks a week for males) performed better than abstainers on all measures of cognitive abilities. The antioxidant resveratrol is the secret.

Mayo Clinic (USA) reports that resveratrol is important in the maintenance of the hippocampus, gives greater connectivity between the neurons, helps prevent blood vessel damage and reduces low-density lipoprotein — high levels of this cholesterol raises the risk of heart disease and stroke. Excessive alcohol use leads to reduced reasoning and memory skills.

From the University of Virginia: "The resveratrol in one glass of red wine three or four times a week may be enough to help slow the progression of cancer-feeding proteins, helping to starve certain cancer cells."

What if we don't drink alcohol? Don't worry! German researchers in a recent study found that using a 200 milligram resveratrol supplement boosted short-term recall and improved concentration.

More good news! The compound resveratrol is found in dark chocolate, peanuts and blueberries, too. Anyone for a glass of pinot noir and chocolate? **[Memory Foundation]**

Professor's lecture is aided by golf balls

A professor stood before his philosophy class then picked up a very large glass jar and filled it up with golf balls. He asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. Then the professor picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He again asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

Now the professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. The sand filled up the tiny spaces. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students laughed and responded with a hearty 'yes.'

Then the professor produced two glasses of wine from under the table. He poured both of the wines into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. Students applauded.

Professor: 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things; your family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favourite passions; things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.'

'The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else; the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life: If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you may lose the plot. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness.'

'Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18 holes. There will always be time to clean the house and do the fixing jobs. Take care of the golf balls first; the Things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.'

Then a student raised her hand and asked what the wine represented. The professor smiled. 'Glad you asked. It goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of glasses of wine with a friend.'



Bouquets?

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

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

'I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it.' ~ Groucho Marx

Old Geezer's Clinic

More than 2 billion dollars is generated by online dating. An old physician, Dr Gordon Geezer, became very bored in retirement so decided to re-open a medical clinic. He put a sign up outside that said: "Dr. Geezer's Clinic. Get your treatment for \$500 — if not cured, get back \$1,000.- Doctor."

Dr Young, positive that this old geezer didn't know beans about medicine, thought this would be a great opportunity to get \$1,000. So off he went to Dr. Geezer's clinic. Prescriptions follow below.

Dr Young: "Dr. Geezer, I have lost all taste in my mouth. Can you please help me?" Dr Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from the box 22 and put three drops in Dr. Young's mouth." Dr Young: 'Aaagh! -- This is Gasoline!' Dr Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be \$500."

Dr Young gets annoyed and goes back after a couple of days, figuring to recover his money. Dr Young: "I have lost my memory, I cannot remember anything." Dr Geezer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put three drops in the patient's mouth." Dr Young: "No you don't -- that is Gasoline!" Dr Geezer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be \$500."

Dr Young (after having lost \$1000) leaves angrily and comes back after several more days. Dr Young: "My eyesight has become weak --- I can hardly see anything!" Dr Geezer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that so, 'Here's your \$1000 back' (giving him a \$10 bill). Dr Young: "But this is only \$10!" Dr Geezer: "Congratulations! You got your vision back! That will be \$500."

Moral: Just because you're "Young" doesn't mean that you can outsmart an "old Geezer." Remember:: don't make old people mad. We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to annoy us.

Little laughs

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

I have some batteries that were given out free of charge..

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

Re courses: courses@u3adunedin.org.nz

Re Membership: members@u3adunedin.org.nz

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

Wonder why?

Considering Atheism is a non-prophet organisation.

Why is abbreviation such a long word?

You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish.

The other day I held a door open for a clown – thought it was a nice jester..

Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.

Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.

I changed my iPod's name to 'Titanic.' It's syncing now.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, yet I'd swear I've never met herbivore.

MARGANAS

For something serious for brain cells to consider try 'marganas.' (i.e. anagrams.) An anagram is a word or phrase made by rearranging the letters of another word or phrase. No letters can be used twice or left out. Crossword puzzle solvers will be very familiar with anagrams. Some examples below (words on left, anagrams on right in italics.)

Otago: = *O goat* Slot Machines = *Cash Lost in 'Em*

Evangelist = *Evil's Agent* Semolina = *Is No Meal*

The Morse Code = *Here Come Dots*

The Public Art Galleries = *Large Picture Halls, I Bet*

Alec Guinness = *Genuine Class*

'To be or not to be that is the question, whether tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.' = *In one of the Bard's best-thought-of tragedies, our insistent hero, Hamlet, queries on two fronts about how life turns rotten.*

Geoff Adams (= *Off mad sage*)

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

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Ancient history of city transport in Dunedin

The Dunedin City Council operated and managed most public transport until 1986 including the cable cars (similar to the famous San Francisco ones) between 1881 and 1957, electric trams from 1900 to 1956, trolley buses from 1950 to 1982 and motor buses from 22 April 1925 to 1986. From 1986, management of bus services became the responsibility of the Otago Regional Council; the city council continued as a contracted operator of many services through its subsidiary Citibus.

New Zealand Railways (NZR) operated commuter trains from the Station to Port Chalmers and to Wingatui and Mosgiel until 1979 and 1982, respectively. [Reintroduction of rail services has been suggested from time to time.] NZR, through its Road Services division, from 1985 known as Cityline, also operated motor buses to the suburbs of Warrington, Cherry Farm, Brighton, Outram, and Mosgiel until Cityline was privatised in 1991 – the Dunedin fleet was sold to Newtons Coachways.

In early times, there were ferries connecting the central city to Port Chalmers and Portobello, but these ceased between the 1930s and 2018 as road connections along the harbour's edge were improved.

Former privately owned public transport operators

Flashback to laying the rails for Dunedin's first electric trams, that followed the horse-drawn ones. This is a view from the old Exchange to "Jacob's Corner."

in Dunedin included Turnbulls , Newtons, Otago Road Services, all of which operated services over several decades from the 1950s to the 1980s and 1990s. From the late 1980s onwards, Cesta Travel (later called Southeastern) and Dunedin Passenter Transport operated a wide range of routes on various short-term contracts.

In late January 2020, the Dunedin City Council voted to reduce bus fares while exploring the re-establishment of a commuter rail link between Mosgiel and the Dunedin city centre. This would include allocating NZ\$600,000 to bus subsidies.

- [Wikipedia]



THE CUPOLA, an architectural feature in the centre of the Dunedin Railway Station.