



Two nonagenarians enjoy their U3A, and views

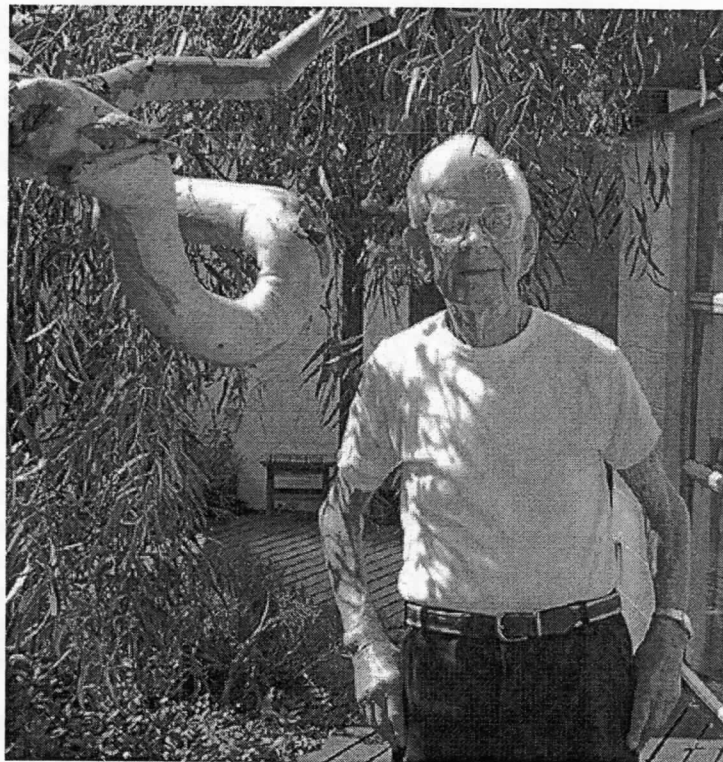
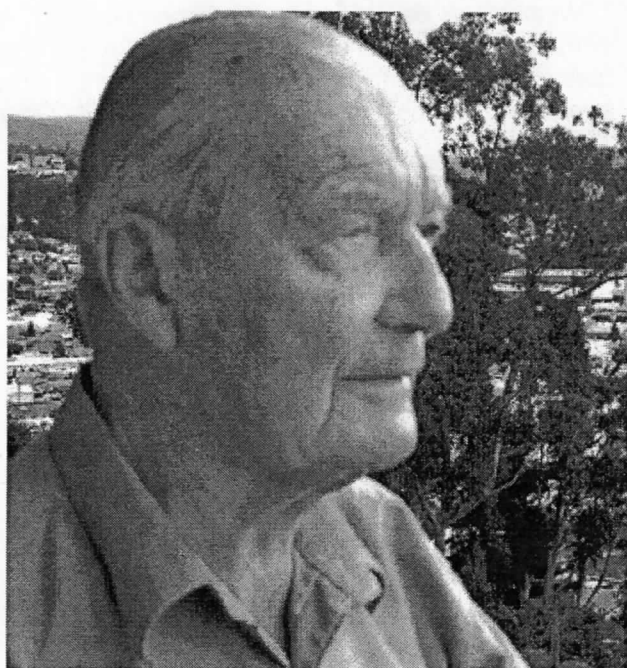
We salute a pair of fit nonagenarians — two of the very senior members we are proud to have in U3A Dunedin.

One is James Robinson, Emeritus Professor of Physiology at the University of Otago. James will be 93 in June and keen to be in the "Living on a Plate Boundary" course this session.

The other is Donald Skegg, 94, who moved from Auckland to Dunedin seven years ago — and into our U3A. He is going to enjoy the course on "Every Picture Tells A Story."

Although his background was in medical science, Prof. Robinson has become interested in geology and its developments, including plate tectonics, since attending our previous lectures on earth science. He was a foundation member of U3A Dunedin and the first group he attended when it started in 1994 was about geology.

He's lost count of courses he has attended but now limits himself to one or two a year.



Above: James Robinson enjoys the sun in his garden.

Below: Donald Skegg has a grand view over the city from his balcony.

James regularly goes on walks, including a recent two-hour stroll around Ross Creek. Home is in Maori Hill, where he enjoys the sun in his sheltered garden, keeps in touch with family and friends via email on his Mac G3 laptop, and also keeps fingers nimble playing on the electronic piano keyboard.

James was born in England and educated at Cambridge. He retired as professor of physiology at Otago in 1980. He was married to the late Marion Robinson, Emeritus Professor of Nutrition, who retired in 1989 and died four years ago.

While previously not too worried about global warming, he says it's become a concern that the rate of growth of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is now known to be increasing faster than the warming itself.

Views on U3A? "A wonderful idea for the retired — I have found it tremendously useful, and my wife did too when she was a member. It's a great way of keeping up with professional friends and also meeting new ones."

Donald Skegg, former 'Pom who married a New Zealand girl' and physical education master at King's College, Auckland for 30 years, is now 'living on the

Continued Page 2

ADMINISTRATION

Positive reaction
to the new forms

By Judith Gray, Secretary

With this newsletter are course brochures for series 2. Reaction to the introduction of the new course application form has been very positive. Members' choices were very clear and we believe that providing a written response to all applicants has been beneficial.



Judith Gray

You will also find enclosed an invitation to the AGM and luncheon to be held at 1 pm on Thursday, 5 July. Acceptances for the lunch should be returned to Rodgers & Associates with your cheque, no later than Friday, 22 June 2007.

My husband and I have sold our house and will be moving in late April. We do not have a new permanent address or telephone. My email address will remain the same <graysinn@clear.net.nz>, and mail sent to PO Box 117, Dunedin, 9054, will find me. If you need to contact me urgently by telephone I suggest you call Rodgers and Associates (474 0847) and they will pass on a name and number for me to call you back.

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust will be held at Salmond Hall, Knox Street, Dunedin, on Thursday, 5 July 2007, immediately following a luncheon which will commence at 12.15 pm.

Nominations for membership of the Board for 2007-8 will be welcome and nomination forms are available from Judith Gray, Secretary to the Board, (email graysinn@clear.net.nz) or from Rodgers & Associates. Nominations close on Friday, 22 June 2007.

— Judith Gray, Secretary to the Board

A little learning is a dangerous thing

Personally, I am always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught. ~ Winston Churchill

I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.

~ Albert Einstein

Learn as if you were going to live forever. Live as if you were going to die tomorrow. ~ Mahatma Gandhi

Corrections

Early committee member Jessie Loughrey was misspelt as Laughtrey in our last newsletter. Apologies also for an error in last November's issue where the name of John Ravenwood, reporting on the Book Group, became truncated.

Nonagenarians and their views

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

edge' getting a superb view of Dunedin city from the windows and balcony of his flat.

Educated in London, Donald trained in physical education at Loughborough and then in Denmark and later taught in England. During war service in the RAF he married a Kiwi and they travelled to New Zealand after the war. When he finally retired from teaching, David joined NZI Bank, retiring a second time at 75.

He is naturally proud that his two sons, David and Peter, went to Oxford for postgraduate study and lectured there until appointed to Chairs (medicine and law respectively) at the University of Otago — where David is now Vice-Chancellor. Donald's wife died in 1999 and early in 2000 he left Auckland for the Frances Hodgkins retirement Village. "From here I continue to enjoy the delights of Dunedin and the 'million-dollar view' from my apartment."

At the grand age of 94 Donald still drives his car regularly but also gets plenty of exercise. He joined U3A when he came to Dunedin seven years ago and likes to do three different sessions a year. ("It's like going to church . . . it's something I do on a regular basis," he explains.) He is interested in architecture, so pleased to be in the art course.

All our members over the age of 90 have a valued perk: guarantee of a place in a chosen U3A course.

U3A literary competition

The U3A Central Coast (New South Wales) is running its 13th annual Australia and New Zealand literary competition, with entries closing on 24 August 2007. There are prizes of \$200, \$100, and \$50 in each of two sections: Short Story (fiction, 500 - 2,000 words) and Article (non-fiction, 550 - 2,000 words).

Winners will be notified by 31 December 2007. All entrants must be financial members of U3A and entry fees are A\$5 per entry. (Full conditions and entry forms available by request from our Secretary, Judith Gray.)

Nothing has changed?

In our modern system of civilisation, celebrity (no matter of what kind) is the lever that will move everything.

~ Wilkie Collins, 'The Moonstone' (1868).

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
CHARITABLE TRUST, DUNEDIN

Address: C/o The Secretary,

PO Box 117, Dunedin, 9054

email: graysinn@clear.net.nz

Chairman: Honor Anderson ph: 473 0200

Secretary: Judith Gray (ph: see note above.)

News from U3A Board meetings

Seeking notes?

If you have missed some notes from U3A sessions, or want to get the notes for courses which you missed in the ballot, a tip is: ask a friend for a loan so that you can make copies. A member offered to pay for notes in a whole course she had missed, but this raised various issues discussed in the March meeting of the U3A Dunedin Board. While sympathetic, it decided meeting such requests was too difficult administratively.

'Faking It'

For the rerun of the earlier course on "Faking It" to be held in the next series, preference will be given to those applicants who did not succeed in the ballot after requesting that course earlier. It follows the same format as in 2006 but with some variation in examples discussed, and a new topic (musical hoaxes) to be contributed by Professor John Drummond.

Donation to University

U3A Dunedin is giving a donation of \$5,000 to the English Department of the University of Otago, in recognition of its help to us. It will be suggested that the funds be used to buy books for the development of an Irish Studies collection and bookplates may show U3A as the donor.

Resignation from Board

The resignation from the Board of Ted McCoy has been accepted with regret by U3A Dunedin. Ted found himself under deadline and work pressures completing a book on architecture, a factor that he had previously warned about on election.

Aim: learn and help others learn

U3A had its beginning in France in 1972, started by traditional established universities, but by 1979 many variations were occurring, e.g. in the UK U3As were largely volunteer, self-help organisations but Dr Peter Laslett, of Trinity College, Cambridge, formed a committee to work on guidelines. The result, known as the Cambridge Model, in summary is:

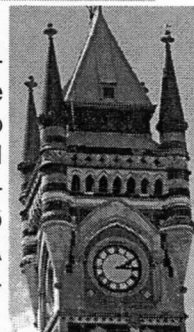
1. A U3A consists of a body of persons who undertake to learn and to help others learn (or in other ways to assist in the functioning of the organisation.)
2. Joining a U3A is a question of personal choice. No qualifications are required for admission, no formal assessments are offered.
3. The curriculum of a U3A is as wide as its human and financial resources permit, the preference of members is the only criterion of what is done. It is the notion of coming together to learn from one another which encourages retention of the word "university" in the title. This echoes the original idea of a university as a community of scholars, in other words a co-operative of persons devoted to a particular educational activity.

[Extract from an Internet 'Brief History of the Universities of the Third Age' by U3A Ohariu Inc, in Wellington.]

UNIVERSITY UPDATE

By Dr Claire Matthewson

The recent re-signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the U3A and the University of Otago takes us into a third period of good partnership. For their part, University staff are clearly continuing to enjoy their engagement with U3A members and the short course programme.



The Tertiary Education Commission has decided that during 2007 the community education activities of all eight universities will be subject to a process audit. The quality management systems that support our joint U3A-Otago programme are very robust, in my view. The audit will be conducted by the Universities Academic Audit Unit, preceded by a self-review.

The University's 42nd Foreign Policy School — on Environmental Governance and State Autonomy in a Changing Climate — runs from 22-25 June 2007 at Salmond College. It looks very interesting.

Programme and registration details are available from <http://www.otago.ac.nz/otagofps/>

Read . . . and inwardly digest?

We can all read — but at times to "inwardly digest" can be a problem. For example, in the brief quotations below, none of the individual words is likely to be any problem, but when they're put together, and if you know nothing of who wrote them or when or where or why, how do you know what weight to give them, or whether you've got the intended sense?

1. The recklessness of their own ways destroyed them all, the blind fools, they devoured the cattle of the Sun and the Sungod blotted out the day of their return . . .
2. The elephant's nature is that if he tumbles down he cannot get up again. Hence it comes that he leans against a tree when he wants to go to sleep . . .
3. For lack of prey the lion dies at last, and the whelps of his lioness are scattered.
4. In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me . . .
5. May your breasts be clusters of grapes, your breath sweet-scented as apples, your speaking, superlative wine.
6. Jesus said Split a piece of wood; I am there. Lift up the stone, and you will find me there.
7. The seed of God is in us. Now the seed of a pear tree grows into a pear tree; and a hazel seed grows into a hazel tree. A seed of God grows into God.

If you are told the words you are reading come from a 'holy book' does that alter what you make of them? Does it affect the 'inwardly digesting'? If these things interest you, consider our Second Series course: 'How to Read a Holy Book'.

— Donald Feist

[For sources of these quotes, see page 4]

Links made with Cheadle U3A

A group of 43 members of the Cheadle Staffordshire U3A visited Dunedin for two nights recently during a New Zealand tour.

The chairman, past chairman and their wives met with Dunedin U3A office-bearers and our Mosgiel opposite numbers for an informal evening meal. Much information was shared by the group (partly pictured at right).

Cheadle has a large number of small groups whose activities range from tramping to music appreciation and lots of interests in between. For a population of about 12,000, Cheadle has a larger membership than Dunedin U3A.

*Reading is to the mind what
exercise is to the body.*

~Sir Richard Steele (1672 ~ 1729)



International Affairs

Disappointingly, because of the high demand, a number of members missed out on the Middle East course. Professor Harris, who was speaking in the course, also in March gave a public lecture at a meeting of the Dunedin branch of the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs.

Members interested in current affairs might consider joining the Institute, Antony Wood advises. Around six or seven meetings on a variety of topics are held during the academic year, at 8pm at the university. The annual subscription of \$35 includes a subscription to the bi-monthly *New Zealand International Review*, as well as being mailed about branch meetings.

[To join, write to the Branch Secretary, N.Z.I.I.A., Prof Kevin Dawkins, Faculty of Law, University of Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin.]

Inwardly digested?

The seven passages (quoted page 3) came from:

1. Homer: *The Odyssey*, Book 1, 8-10.
2. *The Book of Beasts* [A 12th-century work in Latin] p.26
3. Job 4;11 [*Jerusalem Bible*]
4. Julia Ward Howe. 19th century. Verse 3 of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.
5. "The Song of Songs" ch 7, vv. 8-10 [*Jerusalem Bible*]
6. *The Gospel of Thomas*, 77
7. Meister Eckhart [13th - 14th century].

Websites for the interested

www.miniclip.com/games/en/ You could show small grandchildren this! London *Daily Telegraph*: 'Stacks of sites . . . collect online games, but this is the best, with relatively restrained advertising and an environment that parents would think safe.'

www.spikemagazine.com: worth a visit for interests in books, music, art and travel.

www.madsci.org boast 36,000 answered questions in its Random Knowledge Generator. The Collective Cranium of scientists provides quick brain gratifications.

www.intute.ac.uk database for academics, teachers, students and researchers allows access to both subjective-specific and cross-subject resources.

<http://utopia.utexas.edu> accesses the University of Texas at Austin's vast reservoir of knowledge and cultural assets. Free to anyone, anywhere.

*If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint,'
then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced.*
~ Vincent Van Gogh

Edited by Geoff Adams

Phone: 467-2278

Email: hgadams@slingshot.co.nz

Elizabeth Timms — U3A Board liaison.

U3A Dunedin is grateful for assistance from Dr Claire Matthewson (Director, Summer School and Advisor, Distance Learning and Continuing Education, University of Otago) in producing this publication.