



## U3A sponsors conservation for national, scientific icon

### ★ Chairman's message

U3A Dunedin enjoys a close relationship with the University of Otago.

The university has a mandate to share its knowledge with the wider public, and does so not only with financial support, but with the provision of lecturers to our series of courses.

In return, U3A periodically makes disbursements, particularly to the participating departments' libraries. This year, in addition, we are funding [up to \$10,000] the restoration of a national scientific icon, the 'Hector Geological Map'.

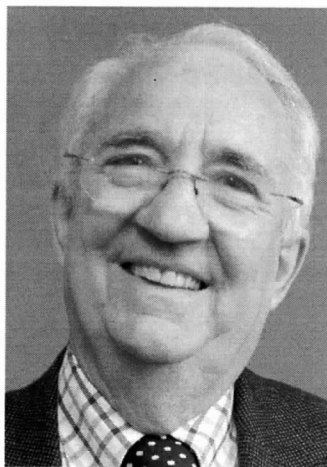
Like the William Smith geological map of 1815 (England, Wales and part of Scotland) hanging in Burlington House, London, our Hector map has a very colourful history. It is hand-drawn, enhanced by water-colours, measuring approximately 1500 x 1300mm.

It is a geological map of the Province of Otago, prepared in 1864 by James Hector for the Otago Provincial Government. And it was the first really detailed map of a large region of New Zealand.

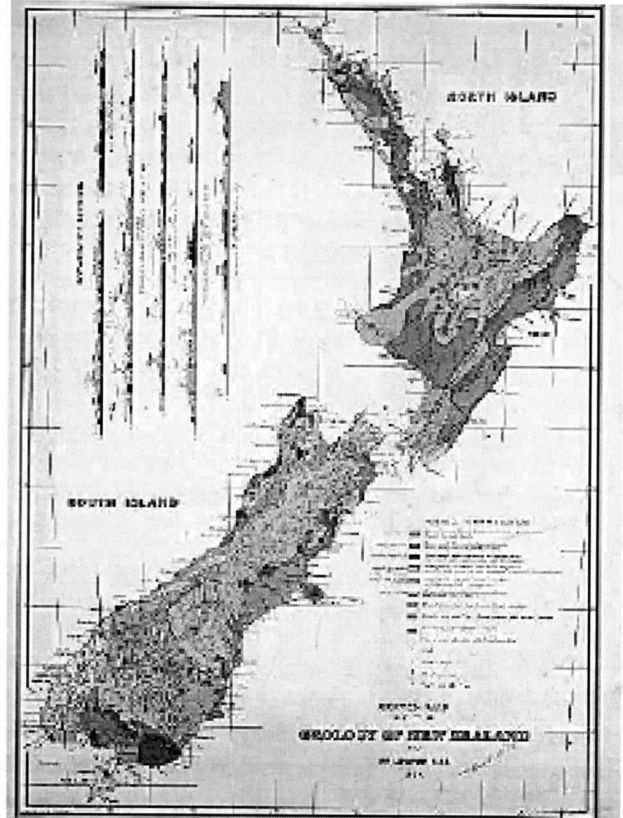
It is a truly historic document and the culminating achievement of Hector's years as a geologist who, on his own, carried out a reconnaissance of the South Island south of the Waitaki River.

For many years, the map hung in the Geology Department of the University. It is well remembered by older members and former students of the department as a treasure and beautifully executed work. In the late 1970s, it "disappeared" but was assumed to be in the Hocken Library to which it had been bequeathed many years ago. After a lot of investigation by interested parties, it was eventually found.

Although the map has been kept rolled up for many years, is now very fragile and in need of conservation, it is salvageable, and will be professionally restored. It will also be specially photographed so that a high resolution



By Graham Batts



ABOVE: not the 'Hector Map' of Otago's geology — that map is too delicate to unroll. This is an Internet photo of the large geological map of the whole country that James Hector prepared for the New Zealand Industrial Exhibition in Dunedin in 1865. It incorporates observations from all those who had examined different parts of the country, especially Hochstetter, Haast, Crawford and Hector himself.

electronic copy may be available for teaching and study purposes.

It is interesting that in our Series 1 course entitled 'Dunedin's Written Treasures,' our speaker, Stuart Strachan, listed the Hector map as one of the 25 most outstanding treasures of the Hocken Library.

It is also interesting to note that Professor Richard Norris, the presenter of 'Living on a Plate Boundary' was a fellow undergraduate with the geologist and author Simon Winchester at Oxford. It was Simon Winchester who wrote the book *The Map that Changed the World*, being the tale of William Smith. That map greatly influenced the thinking of Charles Darwin!

## ★ administration

By Judith Gray

Secretary to the Board



A number of members sent their renewal forms for 2010 and cheques directly to me, and this happened again with the course applications for Series 1. Please note that all forms and money should be sent directly to Rodgers Law, as indicated on the forms. If I happen to be away, the delay in the material being received could mean that the deadline for courses could be missed.

A small number of members were not successful in gaining a place in Series 1. In most cases this was partly due to the fact that only one option was marked. The "Health Care Ethics and the NZ Health System" was the most sought after choice, with "Living on a Plate Boundary" and "Dunedin's Written Treasures" the next most popular. There were 344 of the available 350 places filled by a total of 336 members.

The Annual General Meeting of the U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust has been planned to be held at Salmond College on Thursday, 8 July, following the annual lunch. A form for that function is also enclosed with this mailout for completion and return to Rodgers Law by 18 June. Please note that nominations for membership of the U3A Board also close on Friday, 18 June. Nomination forms are available from me.

Accompanying this newsletter are the course brochures for Series 2. The deadline for applications is noon on Wednesday, 12 May 2010. It would be very helpful, both to the staff at Rodgers Law and to me, if all members applying for courses would complete the 'cheque enclosed' box on the application form and also the question which asks how many courses each member would wish to attend if their applications were successful.

### Membership trends

Total membership always hovers near our cap of 500. Vacancies are regularly filled from a changing waiting list of about 40. When the newsletter last checked, 10 people were about to be offered places.

## UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE CHARITABLE TRUST, DUNEDIN

Address: C/o The Secretary,  
PO Box 117, Dunedin 9054  
Email: [graysinn@clear.net.nz](mailto:graysinn@clear.net.nz)

Chairman: Graham Batts ph 477-4880  
Secretary: Judith Gray ph 471-9913

[Registered Charitable Institution - #CC22345]

## ★ looking ahead

By Sue Cathro

Programme  
Co-ordinator



We have worked hard to provide an interesting range of courses for the winter series. In Series 2, 2010, you can look forward to the Southern Sinfonia's *Inside the Orchestra*, and a *History of Dress Highlights*. Six well-known scientists will tell us of their *Journeys in Science*, and there's the participatory course on *The Victorian Age* [more on this: next page]. There's a chance to acquaint yourself with poets *W. B. Yeats and Seamus Heaney and the Ireland of their Times* and also a course with the intriguing title of *A Painter's Lot is not a Happy One*.

Looking forward further to Series 3, the confirmed courses are on *Charles Dickens' Career as a Novelist*, *The History of 1960s*, *The Natural History of Otago*, *The Nervous System* and *Visual Arts in Otago*. Work continues to finalise these and their presenters and to develop one more course. Already these give a good variety from which to choose.

The Board always appreciates suggestions and does take note of the ideas mentioned in course evaluations. If you have a particular topic you would like to learn more about, please contact a member of the Board so that it can be approved at a meeting. If you are able to, please suggest the name or names of those who could be approached to present such a course. You do not have to be on the Board to organise a course and you could be the one to run it. There are guidelines available to help you do this. Make us an offer!

### Writing competition

The U3A Sunshine Coast (Australia) invites entries in its 2010 Writing Competition. Prizes of \$150, \$75 and \$25 may be won in four categories. Short Story is limited to 1,000–1,500 words, Rhyming Poetry 20–40 lines, and Free Verse up to 40 lines. A new category this year is Challenge: "One Thing I Don't Want To Tell My Grandchildren" 1,000–1,500 words.

This is open to members of any U3A, and retired or semi-retired people eligible to join U3A.

Inquiries to your Secretary or newsletter editor for entry fees, conditions of entry and entry forms; or consult <http://sites.google.com/site/u3ademo>

### Value of science

In general, we don't value science as much as we should. It lives beneath the surface of everything we touch and taste. So let's look again at science: what is it doing for us already? How is it going to drive us to a better future? Internet surfers click-on <http://sciencesowhat.direct.gov.uk/SSWFindOutMoreFavourites.aspx> and see how science is touching you.

# U3A Dunedin's proud history of useful charitable donations

James Hector was born 100 years before I was, so I did not know him. Even when he began his geological survey of Otago in 1861 my antecedents were only just arriving. But I do feel some satisfaction in my role as Treasurer of the U3A Board as we assist in the liberation of Hector's iconic map.

We are an educational and social organisation, but we should not forget that our title is 'U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust' and that we are registered as a charitable entity with an emphasis on community education and benefit.

Our relationship with the University of Otago is both formal (through a co-operative financial agreement) and personal (through easy access to staff and administrative assistance) — without which our courses would indeed be less varied, and more expensive.

Knox and Salmond Colleges, with more recently the Leith Bowling Club, provide quality facilities and friendly helpful personnel, and are an important part of our success.

The oft-quoted 'charity begins at home' is never more true than for us, and with the recognition of that maxim we have over the years, returned some of our surplus to further the work of education in these organisations and by extension, the wider community.

Our gifting record really begins about 2004/5 with contributions to the University Library, each directed to



## New course with a difference:

## Chance for keen members to delve into the Victorian Age

In the second semester we are experimenting with a rather different type of course in that it will be mainly, though not exclusively, participatory, being designed to give some members the opportunity to research an aspect of Victorian life either individually, in pairs or as part of a small group, then present their findings to the whole group. It will run for eight weeks from early July.

Whether one's main interest is science, politics, social reform, engineering, history, art or literature, Victoria's reign was a time of extraordinary change, innovation and eccentric characters.

There will be three introductory sessions to enthuse everyone to rush off and focus on a particular area of study:-

*An overview of the period* (Jenny Laws)

*Aspects of Victorian London* (Judith Cowley)

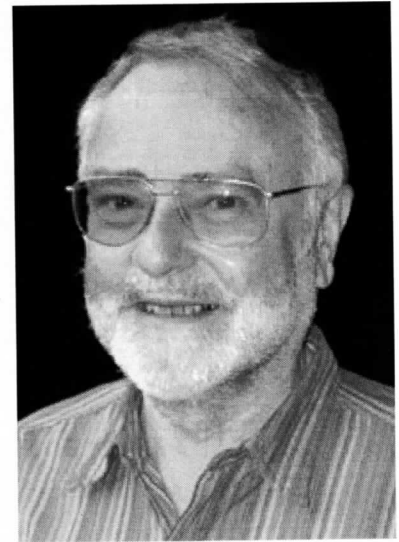
*Isambard Kingdom Brunel* (Graham Batts)

Then we hope for about 12 further presentations from the floor over the following weeks.

I have found researching my topic a most enjoyable and absorbing exercise for the brain and anticipate those who opt to take this course will too. — Judith Cowley

By Bill George

Treasurer to the Board



specific department resource material, influenced through assistance with our courses by those departments. Some of these have been newly established, such as Scottish and Irish studies, others with areas where information resource gaps have been identified.

Equipment levels at Knox and Salmond Colleges, and the Knox College Library, have been enhanced, and this has the spin-off of better facilities for us as well.

Leith Bowling Club was assisted with block out curtaining which will make our visual presentations more easily viewed.

As an example of a co-operative effort, the video and sound installation at Salmond College was a joint contribution with the Student Association and College Administration.

Over the past six years we have thus given, in cash or kind, some \$55,000.00 and have pledged support to the Hector Map project to the amount of \$10,000.00 at present.

At the same time we have kept our costs reasonable, due to the link with the University and in no small way the many hours given freely by our trust members, course organisers, and overall supervision of affairs by an efficient board of management.

The workload at times is heavy for these persons and it is always open to U3A members to provide courses based on their own expertise or experience for others to enjoy.

## Thoughts of Einstein

Quotations from the words of physicist Albert Einstein:

'When a man sits with a pretty girl for an hour, it seems like a minute, But let him sit on a hot stove for a minute — it's longer than an hour, That's relativity!'

'The hardest thing in the world to understand is income tax.'

'Time is what a clock measures.'

'The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.'

'I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.'

## A poet's enthusiasm for charity

'Give all thou canst; high Heaven rejects the lore  
Of nicely calculated, less or more.' — Wordsworth





[Oldie magazine archives]

## What the deuce! . Dr Seuss?

The cleverly written patter poem below is best read aloud quickly. It has been posted on various websites and widely circulated by email,

Authorship is commonly attributed to famous American children's writer and cartoonist, Dr Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel, famous for his *Cat in the Hat*). Astute recipients may have suspected that the piece was not actually penned by Dr Seuss (who died in 1991) and it was linked to him simply because of its comical rhyme style.

In fact, the piece has been claimed to be part of a longer poem written by Gene Ziegler in 1994 titled 'A Grandchild's Guide to Using Grandpa's Computer.' See it and its history on Gene Ziegler's website [www.geneziegler.com/clocktower/index.html](http://www.geneziegler.com/clocktower/index.html)

### Why Computers Sometimes Crash!

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,  
and the bus is interrupted at a very last resort, and the  
access of the memory makes your floppy disk abort,  
then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, and  
the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash,  
and your data is corrupted cause the index doesn't hash,  
then your situation's hopeless, your system's gonna  
crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house, says  
the network is connected to the button on your mouse,  
but your packets want to tunnel to another protocol,  
that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall...

And your screen is all distorted by the side-effects of  
gauss, so your icons in the window are as wavy as a  
souse; then you may as well reboot and go out with a  
bang, 'cuz sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang.

When the copy on your floppy's getting sloppy in the disk,  
and the macro code instructions is causing unnecessary  
risk, then you'll have to flash the memory and you'll  
want to RAM your ROM — then quickly turn off the  
computer and be sure to tell your Mom!

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust will be held at Salmond College, Knox Street, Dunedin, on Thursday, 8 July 2010, immediately following a luncheon which will commence at 12.15 pm.

Nominations for membership of the U3A Board for 2010/2011 will be welcome and nomination forms are available from Judith Gray, Secretary to the Board, (P O Box 117, Dunedin 9054; email [graysinn@clear.net.nz](mailto:graysinn@clear.net.nz)). Nominations close with the Secretary on Friday, 18 June 2010.

Copies of the agenda and other papers for the Annual General Meeting will be sent to all members who accept the luncheon invitation, or are available on request from the Secretary.

*Judith Gray*

*Secretary to the Board*

## World conference

The recent U3A World Conference held at Chitrakoot University, in India, was neatly put into context by several delegates from abroad. Dianne Delchau, President of U3A Online Australia, said "the conference gave an opportunity for people from all parts of the world to meet and share.... it presented a wonderful opportunity to reach out to people we would otherwise not be able to reach.

Wensley Wilcox, delegate from New Zealand, commented: 'As U3A members, we are supporters of life-long learning and the most significant "learning" comes from being prepared to embrace new experiences as well as out of books. I think you may rest assured that we counted ourselves lucky to have attended the conference.'

## What . . the Dickens!

Our course on Charles Dickens' career as a novelist, planned for Series 3 this year, will be led by Prof. Alan Horsman and is bound to be a popular one.

Its main focus will be on the following novels: *Pickwick Papers*, *Oliver Twist*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, *Dombey and Son*, *David Copperfield*, *Bleak House*, *Little Dorrit*, *Great Expectations* and *Our Mutual Friend* —but the writer's other novels will also be referred to.

*Edited by Geoff Adams*

Ph:467 2278 Email: [hgadams@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:hgadams@slingshot.co.nz)

Elizabeth Timms — U3A Board Liaison

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