



# U3A



## DUNEDIN

Newsletter, Issue No 4

Date: January, 2005

### From The Chairman:



Feeling I lacked background of how U3A had started, and its different forms, has led to some interesting reading.

A large organisation, with 400 members as we have in Dunedin, is the exception in New Zealand. In most other centres, groups are kept smaller so that all members can meet together, often on a monthly basis, usually with a speaker on a general topic and possibly with short contributions from members, on topics under study. Such meetings may also facilitate circulation of information and registration for future courses as well as allowing more interaction among members.

Actual course groups (study groups) may be quite small, say 15 people who may meet in members' homes. Individual members of a group are each assigned a specific topic which they research, and later present to the other members.

This style of learning follows more closely the original concepts put forward by the late Peter Laslett, one of the initiators of U3A in Cambridge, UK in 1981.

"Every member is expected to learn, and, if he or she is in a position to do so, to teach as well.... There is therefore no division between teacher and taught"

Another quote from Peter Laslett:

"Those who teach also learn and those who learn also teach".

We all know the truth of this - passing information on to another person helps to embed the details in our minds and aids our own understanding of the subject. We all learn through the process of teaching.

To date, the Book Discussion Group is the only continuing group of this type within U3A Dunedin, although individual U3A members with particular interests and expertise regularly contribute to, or are solely responsible for, our formal lecture courses.

Our Newsletter has previously mentioned the Board's desire to introduce more courses where members contribute, and which might involve more inter-active teaching/learning. In 2005 we are planning for this to become reality from Series 2. See **Looking Ahead**.

Elizabeth Timms

## Looking Ahead

A wide-ranging course entitled "What does it mean to be Human?" is planned for Series 2, along with the first example of a new development - a small group interactive course where all members will participate in the study and share their findings. A further course of this type will be offered in Series 3.

The Book Discussion Group will also be offered again, overlapping both Series 2 and Series 3. If numbers warrant it, an additional Book Group could be established. This might need a member willing to organise the group.

Other proposals for courses are in the pipeline but details are yet to be finalised.

Jenny Laws, Programme Coordinator

University of the Third Age Charitable Trust, Dunedin  
Address: C/o The Secretary, 5A Fifield St, Roslyn, Dunedin  
Email: [graysinn@clear.net.nz](mailto:graysinn@clear.net.nz)

Chairman: Elizabeth Timms  
Secretary: Judith Gray

Phone: 467 2141  
Phone: 467 2619

# Important - Please read this

Course Brochures for five Series 1 courses for 2005 are enclosed with this newsletter. Would members please note the closing date for course applications stated on the application forms and remember to indicate your choices on the forms. Late applications will only be considered after the ballot if there are any unfilled places.

If you have not received a letter of rejection from Rodgers and Associates by 18 February 2005, then you may assume that you have been accepted for your first choice course. If you have any questions about your acceptance for any Series 1 course after the ballot, please get in touch with Judith Gray, Secretary, or with Rodgers and Associates.

The ballot system is working well, and gives applicants a fairer chance of success. Members of U3A who are 90 years or over are given automatic entry to one course in each series, i.e. the course that they list as first preference. They are still required to pay the normal course fee. The Course Organiser and Course Assistant for each course do not pay the course fee and are not counted in the balloted 50 person maximum.

Recently there have been several unexplained gaps in attendance at popular courses. The Board realises that sometimes absence from attendance at one or more sessions of a course is unavoidable because of illness or other unexpected circumstance. If you find before a course begins that you are unable to attend at all, please contact the Secretary or Rodgers and Associates. Most of our courses are over-subscribed, and there may well be someone else willing and able to take your place. The Board has a policy to cover course refunds in such situations:

*Any member who has to withdraw from a course because of illness shall be entitled to a full refund of the course fee paid provided that he or she notifies the Secretary, the Treasurer, or Rodgers and Associates before the course begins.*

*Any member who withdraws from a course for any other reason shall be entitled to a refund of 80% of the course fee provided that he or she notifies the Secretary, the Treasurer or Rodgers and Associates at least twenty four hours before the course begins. Any person who takes the place vacated will pay the full course fee.*

*No refunds shall be given once a course has begun.*

If you find, once a course is under way, that you will have to miss one or more sessions, please let your Course Organiser know.

*If you hear of any U3A members who have not received this newsletter, and the course brochures, please ask them to contact either the Secretary or Rodgers and Associates as soon as possible. It means that a membership form or renewal form and the accompanying \$10.00 fee have not been received from them.*

Judith Gray, Secretary to the Board.  
Telephone 467 2619 or Email  
graysinn@clear.net.nz



Summer School 2005 is well under way, but U3A members may be interested in developments for future years. In response to demand, the current programme has offered a much wider range of papers in the Humanities which may be taken for interest or credit and have no prerequisites.

For several years, the University has permitted people to enrol in papers for interest only but without a reduced tuition fee. I have recently received approval in principle to propose the reintroduction of an 'audit-only' enrolment in selected papers. This would allow attendance of lectures for a partial fee. During 2005, I shall keep U3A members informed on how this progresses.

Working with the U3A Board during 2004 has been most enjoyable. Many thanks and good wishes to all members, who have continued to make me welcome in my 'in attendance' role.

Dr Claire Matthewson

## Freedom, Religion & Spirit



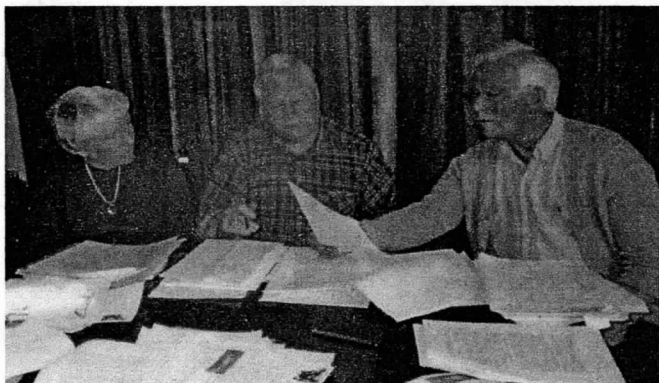
Albert Moore's course on *Freedom, Religion and Spirit* in the first series for 2004 was so heavily over-subscribed that the Board agreed with a suggestion from members that a lasting record be produced.

Albert was in full agreement and enthusiastically set to writing in longhand what had been a largely spoken lecture series. He has expanded it with answers to class questions and his conclusions.

The booklet could be regarded as a summing up of his life's work.

Three Board members plus Albert formed a subcommittee to produce the 86 page booklet. They were Honor Anderson, Wilson Daniel and Michael Shelton.

The booklet is in its final stages of production, when a definite price will be set. It should be in the \$10 - \$12 range. Members will be notified when the publication is available.



U3A Publication Sub-Committee at work

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## BOARD BUSINESS

### RESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER - Michael Shelton

Michael Shelton resigned from the Board and from U3A Dunedin in November, due to a sudden decision to move to Wellington. We accepted his resignation regretfully, for Mike has been a key member of the sub-committee working on the publication of Albert Moore's course *Freedom, Religion and Spirit*.

While he had also organised the course on *Antarctica* in 2003 and has been assistant for several other courses, we are particularly indebted to Mike for his many hours on the word-processor transcribing Albert's hand-written original material. This painstaking work and his journalistic experience, have been invaluable in the publication project. We wish him well in his new environment.

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## Cultural Tour Notices

Brooker Travel is seeking expressions of interest for a tour of Russian art and architecture in June 2005.

The tour would be led by Peter Stupples, formerly of the Department of Art History and Theory, University of Otago, a specialist in the art and architecture of Russia. In 2002 he ran a course on Russian art for U3A Dunedin and gave the inaugural William Mathew Hodgkins Lecture at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery in August, 2003.

The tour is planned for three weeks in June 2005 and will include return airfares from New Zealand to Moscow with a 3-4 day break in Copenhagen enroute, four nights in Moscow, visits to the Kremlin, the Tretyakov Art Gallery, the Pushkin Museum of Modern Art with its superb collection of French Impressionists — particularly the works of Gauguin, the Russian folk art museum at Abramtsevo, and many other attractions. Four night in Suzdal then on to Tver, Novrogod and finishing with seven nights in St Petersburg with visits to the Winter Palace, the Catherine Palace at Tsarskoe Selo, the palaces of Pavlovsk and Peterhof, two

days of guided walks through the centre of the city along the Nevsky Prospekt to the Admiralty, through the embankment Gardens and the Summer Palace of Peter the Great and around the Fortress of Sts Peter and Paul.

Brooker Travel is now accepting registrations for this tour. The tour will have an estimated cost ex Christchurch of NZ\$11,500.00 on a share twin basis. This cost will include airfares, Russian visa, accommodation, breakfasts and some dinners, sightseeing and much more.

Please contact either Julie MacNamara at Brooker Travel in George Street on 474 6126, or Peter Stupples, 477 1722.

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**TRILOGY UNITED TRAVEL** is offering two tours in 2005 which may be of interest to U3A members.

The first, from 17 to 24 July is to Norfolk Island and incorporates an option to enrol in a Writers and Readers Festival.

The second (for pensioners only) is called an Australian Rail Experience and involves a visit to Adelaide, travel to Darwin on "The Ghan" and several interesting side trips.

For further information, please phone Trilogy United Travel on 04 9025476 or send an email to [travel@trilogytravel.co.nz](mailto:travel@trilogytravel.co.nz) or visit their website at [www.nztourism.net.nz](http://www.nztourism.net.nz)

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## How other New Zealand U3As operate

Details from Marlborough are given as an example of a common format for New Zealand U3A activities. A similar approach is followed by groups in many other parts of the country including Auckland and suburbs, Nelson and Wellington. Newsletters from Marlborough U3A show that they follow the pattern of monthly meetings of all members with smaller study groups which meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly in member homes (see *From the Chairman*). They are supported by the Nelson/Marlborough Institute of Technology and may use their facilities if needed for larger groups. Some courses have a limited number of sessions eg. Out and About (infra-structure of the community - parks, water/waste, health, leisure), Geology, Astronomy. Other study groups appear to be long-term, meeting throughout the (normal school) year with topics such as Armchair Travel, Music Appreciation, History - events and people, Famous and Infamous people, Poetry, Life writing, Classic films. It appears that where numbers and space permit new members can join a group at any time. While most groups are led by the members, a few topics have a tutor e.g. Art History, French (which aims to help people communicate in French - no previous study of French needed).

With monthly meetings ideas for new topics can be explored and the interest of members gauged before detailed planning is undertaken.

Future topics mentioned in the September newsletter include Anthropology and Antarctic Studies, the latter to be based on an 8 module course prepared by U3A Online. This includes prepared course notes for each module which would be distributed among group members who would each present a topic to the group.

## COURSE STATISTICS, 2004

	Number Applied	Accepted #	Average Attendance	Total Rejected * (1st, 2nd, 3rd choices)	
<b>Series 1</b>					
French Grand Opera	69	51	44.0	18	
Southern Maori	60	51	48.8	9	
Human Reproduction	35	28	23.3	7	(2 withdrew)
New Zealand Poetry	44	36	30.7	8	
Freedom, Religion & Spirit	112	52	46.0	50	
<b>Series 2</b>					
The Southern Ocean	84	51	46.1	33	
Modern Medicine - Historical Perspectives	78	53	43.3	25	
Otago Harbour - Shipping / Sea Transport	46	36	28.8	10	(1 withdrew)
<b>Series 3</b>					
More Psychology in Everday Life	92	50	46.3	42	
Greek Tragedy	40	32	24.6	8	
Shakespeare	55	51	39.8	4	
Computing	19	16	13.6	3	
Is Justice in Aotearoa New Zealand Just?	100	51	42.8	49	

# **Numbers Accepted:** Beginning with Series 3, the Course Organiser and Assistant were no longer registered as course participants and are not included in the Series 3 statistics.

\* **Rejection numbers overstate the true position:** They include all rejections irrespective of preference. If a member has listed these preferences **and has paid for only one course**, when they are ballotted into their first choice, their second and third alternatives should not be (but at this stage still are) part of their rejection total.

*three*

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The members of U3A Dunedin are grateful for the assistance provided by Otago University Print in producing this newsletter.

The Newsletter Team : Brian O'Rourke (Editor), Mervyn Cranefield (Layout and Design), Elizabeth Timms (Board Liaison).