



Difficulties for Christchurch U3As after the earthquake disasters

Another year has come and gone and what with the tragedies in Christchurch and the Bay of Plenty following on from the disasters of 2010, many people will be glad to see it behind us.

One can only feel for our fellow U3A members in Christchurch. There are ten or more U3A groups in and around Christchurch, all different to ours and based on the British self-help model.

Two groups met at the historic Arts Centre which was very badly damaged in the February earthquake and is closed for the foreseeable future. Two met in the Christchurch Art Gallery which was taken over by the City Council and Civil Defence as a centre of operations. It is not likely to reopen for normal business until the early part of this year.

I imagine that none of the groups were unaffected and all have had to make significant changes to their organisations, most of them having moved out to temporary locations in North-West Christchurch which was less affected by the seismic upheavals. Our thoughts are with them.

OUR UNIVERSITY LINK

At its November meeting, the Board said farewell to Dr Claire Matthewson who, as Head of Summer School and Continuing Education, had considerable involvement in the drawing up of the Memorandum of Agreement between U3A and the University of Otago in 2003. This Agreement has been updated every two years since.

An antidote to dotage?

A common problem these days: do you need different glasses to find your other pair of glasses?

We may sometimes be in our anecdotage, but not our dotage. Some of the best senior moments in a stimulating future can be learning something new and interesting in a U3A class.



★ Message from Chairman

Claire has provided a valuable connection between U3A and the University and we will miss her contribution to our meetings. Fortunately her successor, Dr Elaine Webster, will play a similar role in future.

Here in Dunedin in 2012 we look forward to another year of stimulating education grateful, as ever, to the many individuals who make our courses so popular. *John Burton*

You are 1 in 7,000,000,000!

World population reached 7 billion last November. By 2050, an estimated 2.3 billion more people will be added. **See page 3**

and we're getting older . . .

By 2050 a third of Europe's population will be over 60 years of age, and by 2035 the number of people over 80 will have doubled. The World Health Organisation estimates the need for capacity in the health sector under the current system may increase dramatically at a rate of 120% up until 2050. [www.sciencedaily.com]

Misplaced fears? **See page 4**

★ administration

By Judith Gray · Secretary to the Board



Six course brochures for Series 1, 2012 and the application form accompany this newsletter – a feast of choices for members to consider. Please note the deadline for the receipt of applications at Rodgers Law is Wednesday, 8 February at noon.

May I remind you all, both new and longstanding members, of a number of matters which make our operations more effective.

- * Please do not send application forms to me — they should always be sent to Rodgers Law, and the accompanying cheque should be made out to Rodgers Law.
- * You may apply for up to three options, but unless you actually wish to attend more than one course, you do not need to send money for more than one. Make sure that your choices and preferences are clearly indicated, and that only one first choice is marked.
- * Remember to complete the name and address panel on the reverse of the application form for quick response after the ballot.
- * Keep the brochures for any courses for which you have applied, so that you have the correct date, time and venue information available when courses start.
- * If you withdraw for illness or other reason before the start of a course you may be entitled to a refund of all or part of

the fee, provided that the Secretary, or Rodgers Law is advised before the course starts.

- * Members over the age of 90 have automatic entry to one course in each series prior to the ballot taking place. Applications should be made in the normal way. This does NOT mean admission without payment of the course fee. Rodgers Law staff have information about members who fit into this category.
- * If by any chance you miss out on gaining entry to any course for any one series you are guaranteed a place in one of the course options for which you apply in the next series.
- * Please sign the roll at the first session of any course you attend and tick the appropriate boxes on the list at subsequent sessions. Accurate attendance records are needed for sourcing funding from the University of Otago.
- * The Board appreciates that parking is a problem but please be considerate when parking at the Colleges — access for delivery vehicles and emergency services should not be compromised.
- * Do remember to turn off mobile phones during lectures. A ringing phone is disruptive.

★ looking ahead

By Sue Cathro · Programme Co-ordinator



As you can see, I am back as Programme Co-ordinator with a sub-committee of John Burton, Sue Harvey, Jane Higham, and Rosemary Hudson. We have been able to build on the efforts of John Burton and the 2010-11 Programme Committee, who had done most of the initial work for Series 1, 2012. We are confirming dates and times when I write, in preparation for the brochures with this newsletter.

We have seven confirmed courses for members in the first series. You can enjoy a choice of courses on *Printmaking as Art*, *What Chemists Do*, *The Industrial Revolution*, *Masterpieces of Western Religious Music*, *Gold*, *Dunedin Monuments and Science Fiction - 'Frankenstein,'* and *'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.'*

Indian Conference

The Indian Society of Universities of the Third Age is holding an International Conference, to be held at the Chinmaya Vibhooti Conference Centre, Pune, India, from October 12-14 this year.

It is assisted by the U3A Asia Pacific Alliance, an informal group of country representatives, meeting weekly by teleconference, which is currently run by a 'core group' of seven, listed at <http://u3a-asiapacificalliance.org>.

The conference theme will be "One Family, through U3A." Full arrangements for travel and registration, plus details of the conference programme, will be announced on the website <http://u3a-indiainternationalconference2012.org>.

Planning for Series 2 and 3 is well advanced, with courses on Adventure in Art, Marine Science, Africa and Making Music in Dunedin, to name a few that we are working on.

Some of you will recognise a course subject that you have put down in a course evaluation. The Committee does take notice of what you suggest and, if possible, we act on these ideas and suggestions.

Hold-ups for money!

Please don't send your cash to Rodgers Law as postal money orders. That forces their staff to have to visit a Post Office and join a queue for the payment.

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Global population is a **BIG** problem



Global warming is not the world's only problem. How about global population growth? Total population was expected to hit seven billion last year, up from six billion in 1999. Between now and 2050, an estimated 2.3 billion more people will be added -- nearly as many as inhabited the planet as recently as 1950.

New estimates from the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations also project that the population will reach 10.1 billion in 2100.

It is estimated that the population of the world reached one billion for the first time in 1805. It would be another 122 years before it reached two billion in 1927, but it took only 33 years to rise by another billion people, reaching three billion in 1960. Thereafter, the global population reached four billion in 1974, five billion in 1987, and six billion in 1999.

It was projected to reach seven billion in October 2011, and around eight billion by 2025–2030. The world's population has grown slowly for most of human history. It took until 1800 for the population to hit 1 billion. However, in the past half-century, population jumped from 3 to 7 billion. In 2011, approximately 135 million people will be born and 57 million will die, a net increase of 78 million people.

These sizable increases represent an unprecedented global demographic upheaval, according to David Bloom, Clarence James Gamble Professor of Economics and Demography at the Harvard School of Public Health, in a review article published July 29, 2011 in *Science*.

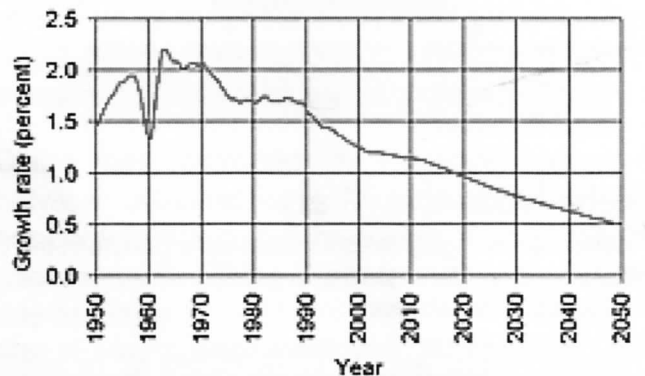
Over the next 40 years nearly all (97%) of the 2.3 billion projected increase will be in the less developed regions, with nearly half (49%) in Africa. By contrast, the populations of more developed countries will remain flat, but will age, with fewer working-age adults to support retirees living on social pensions. The issues immediately confronting developing countries are different from those facing the rich countries.

World population milestones (USCB estimates)

Population (in billions)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Year	1804	1927	1960	1974	1987	1999	2012	2027
Years elapsed	-	123	33	14	13	12	13	15

Population trends indicate a shift in the 'demographic center of gravity' from more to less developed regions. Many developing countries will likely face tremendous difficulties in supplying food, water, housing, and energy to their growing populations. [Sources: *Science*, *Wikipedia*.]

World Population Growth Rates: 1950-2050



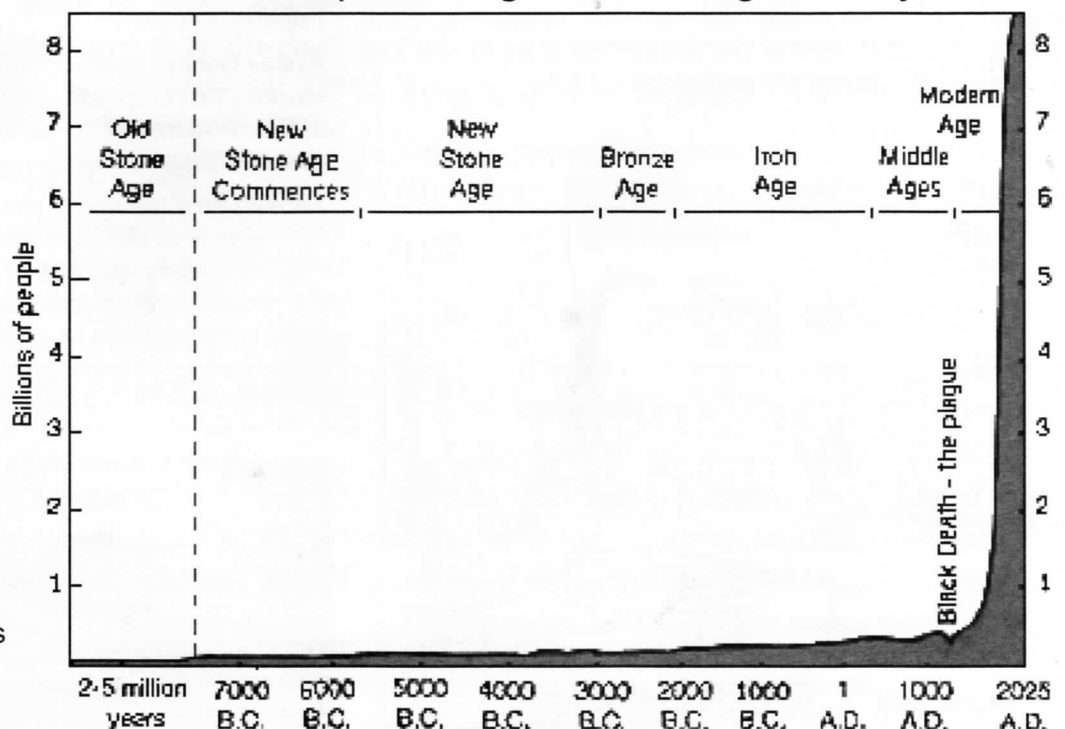
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base, July 2007 version.

World Population growth through history

The human race is running!

Visit this website:
www.worldometers.info/world-population/

You will see how the world population is growing, with big figures racing before your eyes constantly — the births exceeding deaths in numbers as the population continues to inexorably rise. It's scary!



Misplaced fears on older population trend?

We have all heard about the population growing older and the fears this causes, among younger people especially. 'How are we, younger, and fewer, going to pay for these growing numbers of older folks,' they ask. 'They are going to 'break the bank.'

Part of this problem results from a flawed model of ageing and health. The traditional measure divides the proportion of the population 65 and older, by the number of working age people under 64. This indicator assumes that people over 65 become societal burdens, who need the care and resources of those who work, in order to survive. However, the good news is that as life expectancy has increased, the number of years spent in good health has been increasing as well.

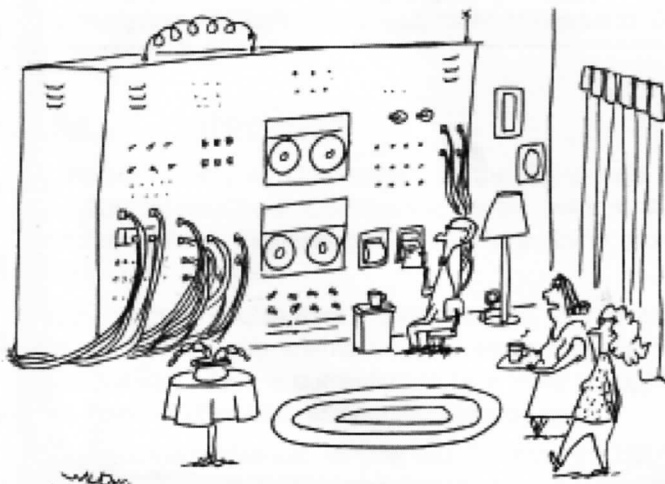
For example, in the United States, the proportion of disabled people 65-74 declined from 14% in 1982 to 9% in 2004. This shift has implications for health care costs, because most of these costs occur in the last few years of life. Thus it remains an optimistic secret that as the retirement age increases, and as people become increasingly healthy and mobile, the costs to the society will be far less than the worriers predict. It is time to share the secret.

[From *Remeasuring Ageing*. by Warren C. Sanderson & Sergei Scherbov.]

Help from the Web

A campaign is urging the six million older people in the UK who have never been online to get connected as a way to help stave off loneliness.

The charity Age UK (<http://www.ageuk.org.uk>) is calling on net-savvy friends and relatives to help the older generation take their first steps in the digital world. A survey suggests that less than half of the UK's over-55s use the internet. By contrast, 58% of older citizens in Norway and Luxembourg are online. The statistics, collated by Eurostat, show that 43% of UK citizens aged 55-74 are web users. The average across Europe is 28%.



'He still refuses to upgrade.'

[Oldie magazine archives]

WWW sites for the word-wily

Some websites for those interested in learning odd lingos or 'Paleo Babble':

<http://www.stooryduster.co.uk> offers an instant illustrated translation service for such arcane Scottish terms as 'To stammle' - as in:

'Jings yer pulse is fairly fleein, but ah'm no a real nurse ye ken. I wiz jist bikin bye on the way tae a fancy dress foy when ye suddenly stammled intae the leerie stoup.'

[Artist's translation below! - Ed.]



<http://www.abc.net.au/civics/globalcitizens/ozstrine.htm> is the place for non-Australians to find a great guide to the mysteries of 'Strine.'

<http://michaelsheiser.com/PaleoBabble>: Here's a blog that has been strongly recommended in this New Gullible Age. It describes itself as 'Your antidote to cyber-twaddle and misguided research about the ancient world.' The banner on the site displays a flying saucer visiting the Great Pyramid of Cheops!

Family factors

Alistair Darling, England's ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, recently told of the occasion his daughter, while travelling in Burma, sent him an e-mail saying "Daddy, is it true you wrecked the economy?"

Another time the scene was the House of Commons. The occasion was Darling's first budget presentation. In the Visitors' Gallery was Alistair's mother. Alistair Darling was mid-budget flow delivering his vital words of economic and fiscal wisdom when he glanced up, only to see his proud mother who had travelled down all the way from Scotland specially, head in hands, fast asleep.

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U3A Dunedin is most grateful for assistance from Dr Elaine Webster (Director, Summer School and Continuing Education, University of Otago) in producing this publication.