

## The times they are a-changin'

Changes in our lives, in our families, in society and the nation, are all inevitable. So are those within U3A Dunedin. By the time this message reaches you the Annual Meeting will have been held with the election of new Board members.

### Two long-serving stalwarts who will be retiring deserve special mention:

*Sam Sneyd* (Chair, 2003/4) has been a strong advocate for the inclusion of a wide range of scientific subjects in the Lecture Programme. He has also actively organised and led such courses.

*Michael Andrewes*, who merits the description "Mr. Music", has been an energetic promoter of music and especially opera in the Programme repertoire. He has launched a variety of memorable and well-supported courses and has assisted with others.

In addition, *Judith Crane* has been a very enthusiastic and hard-working organizer of several popular courses on historical subjects and others in political studies.

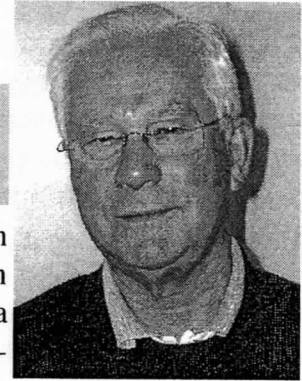
In recent years *Diana Wilson* has given valuable assistance in the running of a number of courses. The contributions of all four in planning discussions at future Board meetings will be greatly missed.

### Four new Board members will bring with them a rich fund of knowledge and expertise from their respective backgrounds:

✧ Dunedin-born all-rounder *John Burton*, Emeritus Professor of Dentistry at OU, grew up near Woodhaugh Gardens and developed early a love of nature and the outdoors. He and Chris are at present on a walking tour of Brittany and Southern France. In past years John has organised and led tramping excursions in the UK and parts of Europe on behalf of Travel and Learn (Calder & Lawson) and the University of Waikato.

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dr Wilson Daniel >



✧ Well-known Dunedin architect *Ted McCoy* is in the process of writing a book besides being resource person for the current course on "Architecture-Building Dunedin". He has always been fascinated by the richness of modern and heritage buildings in the UK and NZ. He derives much enjoyment from music, reading, photography, collecting paintings, and golf.

✧ *Graham Mortimer*, a Southlander born and raised in Invercargill, Emeritus Professor of Paediatrics and former Dean of the Otago Medical School, is relishing the diversity of courses provided by U3A which he did not experience in his career in medicine. He plays golf, walks around the city hills, enjoys home hobbies and a new computer, is compiling a family history and is President of the Otago Medical School Alumnus Association.

✧ *Susan Cathro* was in the Queen's Birthday Honours with the QSM for more than 30 years' service to the Dunedin community in a number of organisations. As a member of the National Council of women, she won

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### Members elected to Board

Honor Anderson	Judith Gray
Graham Batts	Sue Harvey
John Burton	Jenny Laws
Susan Cathro	Ted McCoy
Wilson Daniel	Graham Morimer
Donald Feist	Elizabeth Timms
Bill George	Anthony Wood

(The Board elects its new Chairperson at its first meeting on 11 July, after we have gone to press.)

## ADMINISTRATION

By Judith Gray, Secretary

The brochures for Series 3 for 2006 are enclosed with this newsletter. There are four full courses, and one course on Digital Photography with a limit of 20 participants. Members who have attended Part 1 of the course on Soviet Russia will have preferential entry to Part 2 but all members are welcome to apply.

Please remember when completing the enrolment forms that although you are free to submit several application choices, each person may apply for only one first choice. Keep a note of the order of your preferences. Your cheque should accompany your application forms. If you are making application for more than one course, please note that you do not have to send in a separate cheque for each one. The closing date for applications is Wednesday, 9 August 2006.

If you have not received a letter from Rodgers & Associates on or about 18 August advising that your application has been unsuccessful, you should assume that you have been accepted for your first choice course.

Should you have any questions about your acceptance or otherwise after that date, you should contact the Secretary, Judith Gray (telephone 467 2619 or email to <graysinn@clear.net.nz>) as all enrolment and course material will have been passed on to her by Rodgers & Associates.

If you find before a course begins that you are unable to attend the course and wish to withdraw, please get in touch with the Secretary as there is likely to be someone to take your place. Absences from single sessions should be notified to the Course Organiser.

Copies of the Annual Report and the Annual Financial Statements are available for those members who did not attend the Annual General Meeting on 6 July. Please contact the Secretary, who will be happy to send you a copy.

**FOUND:** A tartan scarf was found in the Frank Nichol Room after the final session of "Richard Wagner, the Early Operas" course. (Contact the Secretary.)



## LOOKING AHEAD

By Jenny Laws  
Programme Co-ordinator

Now that so many details have to be in place for each U3A course months before it is actually delivered, planning a long way ahead is vital. With Series 2 well under way and Series 3 almost ready for publication, we are now busy thinking about Series 1, and beyond, for 2007.

In order to make sure we have plenty of material to draw on, we now have a sub-committee which has been formed specifically to consider new and repeat courses and the way they are put together in each series so that we get as balanced a programme as possible. Members' suggestions on the evaluation forms will be a great help in this task.

So far we have the firm offer of a course from John Hale on *Paradise Lost* and another one from Colin Gibson on "Journeys in Fantasy Literature" (probably Series 2). Several other ideas are in the pipe-line and cover a wide range of topics from science, history, politics and the arts.

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

*Continued from page 1*

a distinguished service award in 2002, and she is well-known for her work with the NZ Federation of Graduate Women.

As I relinquish the Chair, I am grateful to my colleagues on the Board for their encouragement during my term of office. I look forward to writing my "memoirs" and to visiting my families in the USA sometime in 2007!

One of the real bonuses in belonging to U3A Dunedin is meeting other people and forming new friendships in the context of both lecture-style courses and especially small discussion/interest groups. The forthcoming Series 3 — which includes a continuation (Part 2) of the current popular "After the Great Dictator" and interesting courses in literature, ecology, and digital photography, besides the continuing Book Group — offers such opportunities for this type of rewarding experience. It's well worth repeating: enjoy selecting your preferences!

**Wilson Daniel** (Outgoing Chairman)



## COURSE REPORTS

**“Faking It”:** Ross Grimmett’s use of Powerpoint technology was appreciated in this entertaining course, with Murray Hanan assisting on legal aspects, and Paul Tankard’s session on literary hoaxes. Course member Donald Cullington brought an example of a musical hoax by a “clairvoyant” to the last session — and played some of the music during the coffee break.

**“Richard Wagner: the Early Operas”** gained Terence Dennis also some rave reviews for his lecturing. The popular class enabled the first opportunity for many to many to hear for the first time some excerpts from Wagner operas (or see them on DVD) which are rarely accessible compared with the later operas.

**Cosmology:** organiser Sam Sneyd says much credit went to the three members of the University of Otago Physics Department (Craig Rodger, David Hutchinson and John Bahr) who took a great deal of trouble to prepare their talks and make sure they dovetailed.

**“Ethnic and Civil Conflict in the Post-Cold War World”:** a repeat of the course previously offered by the University’s Political Studies Department to U3A Invercargill was much appreciated for its diversity of topic and presentation by the lecturers. In 38 evaluation forms returned, most participants felt the course could not have been better. More background notes, maps and brief reading references were suggested by some.

**“What Does It Mean to be Human?”:** A big proportion of 32 evaluation forms praised the variety of speakers and their interpretations of the topic — the very “human” approach of presenters.

### Friendship Force

Dunedin has the southernmost of the 600 clubs in 60 countries linked to Friendship Force International, a non-secular, non-profit organisation based in the US and fostering friendship. Newly established, it’s looking for members interested in exchanges involving people from different parts of the world.

Members can act as hosts (early in November they have 25 “ambassador” visitors arriving from Montreal, Canada) and also travel themselves to exciting places to live and be escorted by locals in their city.

Contacts are: Anne Pentecost (president) 476-1253, Rona Potiki (secretary) 454-6355, Heather Dunckley 467-5971 (recruiting.)

## Fun in small groups

There were only seven members in the study group on **“Pilgrimage Through the Ages,”** but all commented on the pleasure of taking part, the opportunity for interaction, relaxed sharing of ideas, experiences and resources (books and photographs) and the friendliness in a small group.

The course evaluation forms produced interesting comments on how greater participation in small groups could be encouraged.

These included making it clear that participants could work in pairs or threes to carry out research and share in a feedback presentation — as some people are anxious about having to present material, even to a small group.

The pleasure of doing the research should also be emphasised in promoting small groups; it was hoped that the enthusiasm of members of small groups be would spread by word of mouth.

One member mentioned in the ‘Faking It’ course reports that study group presentations could be 20 minutes — longer ones would be “daunting.”

### You asked for it!

Suggested future U3A courses have included the following (from members’ evaluation reports):

Influence of China and Japan in past and present relationships; prominent Otago citizens of the past, and ordinary people who have contributed; cooking demonstrations; jazz; Otago identities in the first 50 years of settlement.

Also: health issues in the over-60s; more psychology and philosophy; environmental studies; drugs and medicine; US governments and politics; Norse mythology; 20th century music; history of textiles; birds and bird watching; NASA space probes; native plants; orchids; gardening; art appreciation.

### UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE CHARITABLE TRUST, DUNEDIN

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**Talking points**

About 115 members attended the AGM at Salmond Hall on Thursday, July 6, following the usual hearty luncheon.

The Chairman's Report and the Financial Statemen,(circulated to members) were duly passed and Board members elected — see page 1. In brief discussion during general business, some members pointed outthat if another U3A were to be set up in Dunedin it would be an autonomous group (not a branch of this one), that the current financial surplus of U3A Dunedin should be reviewed, and that although speakers' expenses were being paid there could also be consideration of small donations like petrol vouchers to show members' appreciation.

Food's up, heads down — a corner of the dining room at Salmond Hall before our AGM.

**Quick quotes**

*The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled.* ~ Plutarch.

*Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.* ~ W.B. Yeats.

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 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.



QUESTION TIME

*Contributed by a member*