

# U3A DUNEDIN

*Newsletter*

July 2011  
No. 30



## CHANGE!

*By Sue Cathro,  
Chair, U3A Dunedin Board*

Nothing ever stays the same, and so it is with the U3A Board. This will be my last Newsletter contribution as Chair of the U3A Board, and as well, we reluctantly said farewell to three Board members this AGM.

Mayford Dawson has given four years of service and during this time has organised courses and been an Assistant many times. We will miss her quiet input and wise words.

Graham Batts joined the Board in 2005 and served as Chairman in 2009. He has presented a session of a course, organised others and has often been an assistant. With his business and technological background he brought a different perspective to our meetings, and we thank him for that input.

Antony Wood, became a member of the Board in 2004, and has organised and facilitated many courses. His liaison with the Department of History and his knowledge of University affairs has been a

valuable resource for the Board over the years, for which we are very grateful.

Although they have stepped down from office, all three will not be entirely lost to us as they will continue to be members of U3A. We are sure that they will continue to contribute with their ideas for courses and hope that they can enjoy participation without responsibility.

On behalf of the Board and members of U3A, I sincerely thank them for their work on our behalf.

We are fortunate in having received two excellent nominations, Rosalie Clarke and Doug Holborow for the new Board, and we look forward to working with them.



## OUR ANNUAL LUNCHEON



July 7: Members select food for U3A Dunedin's annual luncheon before the Annual General Meeting. A large number attended, as well as guests from Rodgers Law and Dr Claire Matthewson from the University of Otago.

## Those forms!

We received a number of late applications for Series 2 this year. Usually, these are rejected as the selection process is under way and courses have been filled, but there were spaces in some courses so the late applicants were placed in courses, though not their first choice in most cases. The course ballot is normally completed on the afternoon of the closing date so there is no time for late entrants.

There were also a number of forms where a degree of guesswork was involved. Please select only one first choice. Where the application is a joint one, indicate clearly which choices each member wants.

To continue grizzles: at each course session, having signed the roll at the first session, please tick the roll on each occasion that you are present. Our payments from the University of Otago for joint courses are based on actual attendance figures, and if there is any doubt as to whether the member was present, then my return counts them as absent. — Judith Gray

## SeniorNet seeks tutors

SeniorNet Dunedin gives tuition to people over 55 who wish to brush up their computer skills, both Mac and PC. Our tutors are volunteers. Currently we need more computer-experienced tutors for our group and if you are willing to help us even on an occasional basis I'd be delighted to hear from you. — Knola Jeffery, phone 467 2688.

## ★ administration

By Judith Gray Secretary to the Board

The Annual General Meeting of the U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust was held on Thursday, 7 July at Salmond College, after a very pleasant lunch attended by about 70 members. At the meeting the following were re-elected as members of the Board for the 2011-12 year:-

John Burton  
Sue Cathro  
Judith Cowley  
Bill George  
Judith Gray  
Sue Harvey  
Jane Higham  
Rosemary Hudson  
Norma Restieaux  
Brian Robinson  
Bill Wilson

At the closing date for nominations for the U3A Board two names for the three vacancies had been received:

Doug Holborow  
Rosalie Clarke

and they were duly elected also.

The remaining vacancy may be filled by co-option later – a matter for the Board to decide.

Officebearers will be elected by the Board when it meets on 19 July (too late for inclusion in this newsletter).

Series 3 brochures and the application form accompany this newsletter and the closing date for applications is Wednesday, 10 August. You will note that there is one course, *Genealogy*, which is for a small group, and has different times and venue from our usual ones; and *Medicines and Magic* which has one of its sessions at a different time of day and day of the week. Sometimes it is just not possible for presenters to fit into our time frames. The Board hopes that this will not discourage members for enrolling in these courses.

Once again, may I remind members not to park in the quadrangle at Knox College, nor in any other restricted spaces at Salmond and Knox, and to have consideration for service and emergency vehicles when parking elsewhere.



## ★ looking ahead

By John Burton Chairman, Programme Committee

The programme subcommittee currently consists of Sue Harvey, Jane Higham, Rosemary Hudson and me. Judith Cowley was a valuable member for several years until the end of 2010 and I must also acknowledge the work of Board member, Bill Wilson.

Everyone has worked extremely hard and newcomers have certainly found, as the old English proverb goes, 'there's many a slip twixt cup and lip'. Just when we think everything's sorted out, something untoward happens! This will be my last contribution to the Newsletter as I have resigned from the subcommittee but Sue Cathro has indicated that she will be happy to be involved again when she gives up the U3A Chairmanship.

The coming spring series includes several topics and speakers new to U3A. The School of Pharmacy is presenting a course entitled *Medicines and Magic* and many senior staff members are giving their time and expertise to the 6 sessions. It's certainly one I'm looking forward to. There is a course on *Contemporary India – challenges and prospects* – courses on other parts of the world have always been popular and this one should be no exception.

Then there's a course *Shakespeare and the Roman Revolution* which will be presented by Life Member, Professor Alan Horsman, *Ahead of their times – outstanding women, Democracy – why won't they listen* (particularly topical as it immediately precedes the General Election) and, hopefully a course on genealogy will complete the Spring package – surely something for everyone!

Programming for 2012 is well ahead and some courses are confirmed as far ahead as the Spring series! In the early

part of the year we anticipate there being courses on the graphic arts, chemistry, the industrial revolution, gold, and science fiction

. That doesn't mean to say there aren't gaps and plenty of work ahead for the subcommittee.

**Warning for males?**

A New Zealand Bioethics conference is being held in Dunedin next year (27-28 January), titled *No country for old men*. Professor Grant Gillett, at the Otago Bioethics Centre of the Medical School, sent the newsletter notice of this health care ethics event.

**Spectacular loan**

At a session of the *My Life in Writing* course, Penelope Todd wanted to read from her work. Unfortunately, she found she had left her glasses at home. No problem: she borrowed a pair from one of the audience.

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# How James Hector got his kicks. . .

Following the publicity for U3A Dunedin's sponsored conservation of the historic Hector Map of Otago geology, we are pleased to publish more information about the Scottish scientist James Hector — without hectoring!

Elizabeth Timms, former chair and prominent member of U3A Dunedin, recalled visiting Kicking Horse Pass in the Canadian Rockies in 2002. She was told the placename arose from an incident in 1858: James Hector (shortly after receiving his medical degree) had been appointed as surgeon and geologist on the Palliser Expedition to British North America (now Canada) to explore new railway routes for the Canadian Pacific Railway and to collect new species of plants.



Kicking Horse Pass, in the Canadian Rockies.

Exploring a mountain pass near the continental divide of the Rockies, one of Hector's packhorses fell into the river. As it was pulled from the water, his horse bolted, and while chasing after it he was kicked and knocked unconscious. Hector wrote in his diary: "In attempting to recatch my own horse, which had strayed off while we were engaged with the one in the water, he kicked me in the chest". His

companions, thinking him dead, dug a grave for him and prepared to put him in. Premature burial was cancelled when he regained consciousness. The pass has since been known as Kicking Horse Pass.

Hector retired in 1903, after four decades at the centre of organised science in New Zealand. In 1903 during a

visit to Canada, and said of his mishap: "When I regained consciousness, my grave was dug and they were preparing to put me in it. So that's how Kicking Horse got its name and how I came to have a grave in this part of the world." He died in Lower Hutt, New Zealand, in 1907.

On the Palliser expedition Hector established himself as a field geologist, natural historian and explorer, working in rugged conditions and relying on his own resources. For his work in Canada he was elected fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

## HECTOR'S DOLPHIN

He was appointed director of the Geological Survey of Otago, New Zealand, in 1861. He went on to have a lengthy career as a government-employed man of science in New Zealand, and during this period he dominated the Colony's scientific institutions, receiving a knighthood. After he left geology to become the curator of the Colonial Museum in Wellington he examined the first specimen found of the rare Hector's Dolphin (*Cephalorhynchus hectori*), found only in New Zealand and named after him.

A number of other species and subspecies have been named after Hector, including: the Buff Weka (*Gallirallus australis hectori*), Hector's Beaked Whale (*Mesoplodon hectori*), a New Zealand land snail (*Huonodon hectori*) and a New Zealand lamp shell (*Pachymagas hectori*).

## U3A and progress in audiovisual technology

In the beginning, as indicated in the February 2009 edition of this Newsletter, equipment used to assist in the presentation of topics for U3A members was secondhand and quite simple. It hasn't taken us many years to go from blackboard and chalk, to whiteboard and marker pen, to overhead projector, to 35mm slide projector and, more recently, to the much more 'high tech', laptop, USB drive, PowerPoint and data projector.

The first slide projector was donated and had been well used before it belonged to U3A. New equipment has been bought over time to ensure that we are able to provide good facilities for our presenters at all our venues.

Bill George has been treasurer of U3A for many years now and during that time he has also maintained and stored much of the audiovisual equipment owned by the U3A Trust in his own home. It is thanks to Bill that the equipment has been kept up to date and functioning to a very high level; and it's all been done at no cost to U3A. That time has

come to an end and the Board is investigating new ways of managing the technology which is an essential part of the armamentarium of the modern teacher and presenter. U3A members expect high standards of presentation and this means that we must keep our equipment compatible with that being used in the University where most of our presenters work.

Over the past few years, U3A has bought equipment and stored it at both Knox and Salmond College. It's obviously not feasible to move it all around all the time. So, as part of a 'quid pro quo' we have gifted equipment to the two colleges.

It is a little disconcerting to hear from time to time that some members seem to think we should be able to sort out all potential problems with the technology prior to each session. It just doesn't work that way. However, I know of no occasion when failure of technology has caused more

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Sir James Hector

# U3A editor publishing his books

A former editor of the *Otago Daily Times*, now your newsletter editor, Geoff Adams has been researching and writing a non-fiction book for many years and has finally become its publisher.

*Judge Ward*, subtitled 'Infamous New Zealand colonist and his two celebrity wives,' is the end-product of much research over more than 20 years throughout New Zealand, Australia and England. It was written and formatted on Geoff's computer and uploaded via the internet to Amazon Books, in the USA, that had it printed and is handling sales on its international market.

Geoff had toyed with making his historical biographies into a modern 'e-book' but then rejected the idea to retain it as a conventional copy in print for libraries and book shelves. The resulting 376-page text with some pictures, and laminated cover is better for being a library-quality book, he feels.

Charles Dudley Robert Ward ("Dudley" to his friends) had a notable career as politician, magistrate and judge, and came from a rich and powerful English family. Anne, his wife who died in 1896, became the first national president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and was a prominent suffragist with Kate Sheppard. His mistress Thorpe Talbot was a prize-winning novelist and journalist — after Anne's death, Dudley married the writer in his Dunedin house late in both their lives.

The project started when Geoff and Helen Adams, both keen U3A members, moved into the Maori Hill home (built c.1862) and were told it was "built by a Judge for his mistress." That rumour was wrong in some respects but right in others, says Geoff. 'I was amused at first then amazed, as I checked out the people involved and found more and more fascinating stories about three people that are sadly forgotten today. I hope my book resurrects them

## U3A's audiovisual technology

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than a brief delay or interruption to a lecture. All presenters are advised in writing of the equipment available at each venue and asked to come early so that everything can be checked prior to the start of each session. Unfortunately, this doesn't always happen as our presenters are fully committed and busy people.

Bill George has also been 'on call' for all venues at short notice. When there has been a problem it is Bill who has been called on. How are we going to manage without him? For the recent Winter Series, the Board, at short notice, approved a quotation from a Dunedin company to provide and set up audiovisual equipment at the Leith Bowling Club. This, at a reduced rate for this series alone, cost in excess of \$3000 for the twelve sessions! The Board has set up a small subcommittee to investigate alternatives for the future.

How can you help? Apart from being patient when things don't happen as quickly and smoothly as you would like, maybe you have technological skills and would be prepared to assist? Or perhaps you have other ideas which may help us. If so, would you please let Judith Gray, Bill George, or me know. — **John Burton** (477-7371)

to their place in our history.' It also corrects a lot of previously published pieces that were misinformed and boasts some discoveries — biggest being finding the 'lost novel' of Thorpe Talbot.

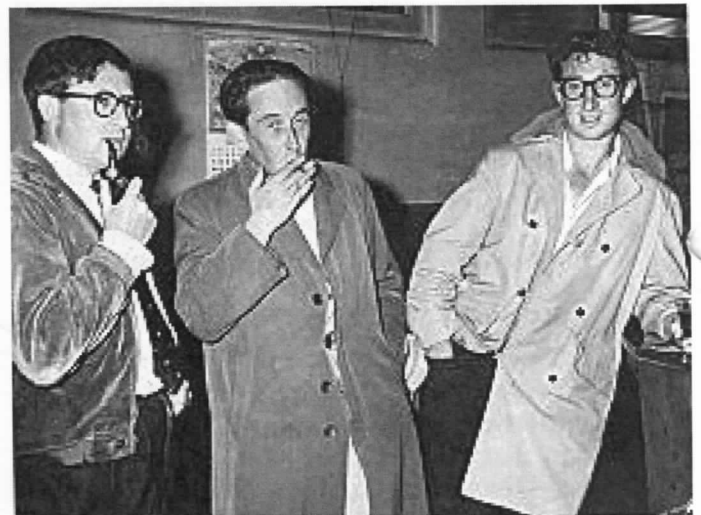
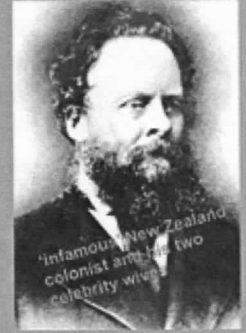
### Poetry book next

A second book, edited by Geoff, is getting ready to be sent off to Amazon. The title is *To Bind A Dream*, the collected poetry of Victor O'Leary (1927-2008). Victor was his 'old mate' from Otago University Literary Club days in the 1950s, who had a 'living funeral' ceremony in Dunedin and appointed Geoff to be his literary executor.

That book will boast a preface from poet Fleur Adcock, a friend of Victor who now lives in London, where she has held various literary fellowships and won numerous awards, including the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2006. Fleur was honoured with an OBE in Britain in 1996 and in 2008 was named Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to literature. She studied at Victoria University, Wellington, before lecturing and working as a librarian at the University of Otago, then moving to England, where she had spent her childhood, in 1963. (Fleur's sister is the novelist Marilyn Duckworth, who was another friend of Victor.)

[A website [www.geoffadams.co.nz](http://www.geoffadams.co.nz) has recently been set up to publicise the books.]

## Judge Ward



Poet Victor O'Leary (left) pictured in a bar-room discussion with James K. Baxter (centre) and Barry Crump.

*Edited by Geoff Adams*

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