



# Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

31<sup>st</sup> October 2018

Probably the most important matter to come from the Board meeting this week is the report from the Donations Working Party (Chair: Steve Baird with Dame Norma Restieaux, Sue Cathro, John Burton and Gil Barbezat) who have been thinking about what U3A could best do not only with some of the accumulated funds, which were talked about at the last AGM, but also how to recompense Presenters at our various series. They have given a good many ideas to the Board, for which we are most grateful, and the Board will hold a special Board meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November to try to reach a decision for 2019.

Meanwhile the Board, this week, approved disbursements of \$1000 each to Marine Science, English, Psychological Medicine and Foundation Studies at the University in respect of the outstanding courses that we have had in Series 2.

The lanyards, which have been talked about earlier, and one you can see on our web site being worn by Prof Alan Horsman on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, have been purchased by the Board and will be swapped for the old name badges, starting at the AGM (bring one – get a replacement). If you wish to continue with the old name badge or use one of your own lanyards – that’s fine – badge wearing is the thing so we can address each other by name. We have 250 lanyards and will order more if they prove very popular.

A new development in Series 3 has been to add two videos to the resources available to attendees. Links to both can be found in the usual way by logging in as a member, going to Courses and Resources, Details of Past Courses, then click on the green *Associated documents for A (or F)* and the links are there associated with the 6th presentation. The videos are associated with the Africa course (A) and the Energy Course (F). We have placed the video of the “Zero Carbon” panel discussion in the public arena but the Africa one is in a U3A Dunedin private area on YouTube.

The records of past courses from our beginnings in 1995 and other papers, which together show the development of our organisation, are scattered amongst many homes of good people who have served as secretary, chair of various committees and so on. Some are even in a storage container. This Board has decided to sort them all out, to put as much as possible on the web for the benefit of the whole membership, pass on records to The Hocken as appropriate (and aren’t we fortunate to have Stuart Strachan, a former Hocken archivist, amongst us to advise?) to store what needs to be stored and to take the rest to document destruction. Jane Higham is driving this project with an energetic Working Party.

Someone, from another U3A, raised the issue of the use of the word “University” as in “University of the Third Age”, with the Minister of Education. He was bound to remind the questioner that “University” is a specific term, defined in law for a special institution and unable to be used willy nilly. Thus you may have noticed that we now simply use **U3A Dunedin** or **U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust** on our web site and correspondence. The Minister is quite happy with the use of U3A – and we all know of many organisations which only use the letters rather than the full title (KFC, CCS, WW).

Changes are inevitable and to be expected. We know that and so adapt and progress.

*Alan Jackson*  
*Chair 2018-2019*