



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

4th December 2018

Your Board has had a very busy few months leading up to Christmas. In August I reported that a Working Party was set up under Steve Baird, to see what we should do with our capital surplus. We have had a special Board meeting to discuss their excellent report (which you can read on the web site along with 2018 public documents) and decided to distribute \$70 000 between a project to commemorate the University's 150th Anniversary and another community project – yet to be agreed upon.

Another Working Party has been busy looking at our Archives – where are they all, what needs to be kept, what can go to The Hocken, what can go to document destruction? This group will continue under Jane Higham during Christmas and by the start of Series 1 should have completed that task. If you happen to have copies of the earliest course brochures or other records that you think should be in our archive, please contact Dame Norma Restieaux (477 4607) or Rosemary Hudson (477 1068) to discuss. Please do this as a matter of urgency as the work is underway now.

As part of that project we are putting all of the course brochures, from the very beginning on the web site (See “Courses and Resources” → Details of Past Courses). Thanks to Lloyd Smith, the project is almost completed. Copies of FORUM are also being added to the web and they will be found in the “Newsletter Forum” section. Early copies are especially interesting. Geoff Adams is driving this project.

Others in the U3A Team have been busy preparing the course brochures for Series 1, others are working on the AGM arrangements, others processing the membership renewals, and we are looking to replace those members who have worked so hard as part of the Team and who are now ready to retire and just enjoy the lectures. We have just welcomed Rob Lawson to the Board and hope to welcome two more at the AGM.

We do want to make the Discussion Groups more active – a survey of what members would like has been run and there is no shortage of ideas. We may need to swell the ranks of the Team behind Discussion Groups but meanwhile we shall try to work on their Newsletter and mail it to all our members on e-mail. Tauranga doesn't have the same large lecture series that we have but they do have 99 active Discussion Groups – and that shows that we can grow U3A in a similar direction.

The batteries in the defibrillator unit at Leith Bowling Club have reached their use-by date and Freemasons, U3A, the Bowling Club and possibly another Freemasons grant are covering the almost \$1000 replacement cost. Well done Doug Holborow for driving this project.

At the conclusion of a series of lectures on ‘Introduction to Brain Health’ (Series 2 2018) given by Professor Yoram Barak, a number of members were moved to form a group to promote the use of a new personalised music therapy for people experiencing dementia. This group became *Music for Dementia* a charity originally intended to focus on encouraging Care Homes to adopt the therapy but the first few people to benefit from this programme have come from the community in collaboration with Alzheimer's Otago. If you would like to know more please visit www.musicfordementia.org.nz or contact Deirdre Tucker (482 2473) or Lynda Jackson (473 6947).

Isn't that a lovely note on which to enter the Christmas Season?

Very best Christmas wishes to you all.

Alan Jackson Chair 2018-2019