



# Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

29<sup>th</sup> April 2019

The Board met for two hours this morning and we welcomed some new members: Jane Johnson, Jeanette Leigh and Rob Lawson. They bring huge experience with them. It is essential to have new blood coursing through the veins of the Board for the future. We gave a round of congratulatory applause to University Representative Dr James Rodgers (and his wife in absentia) on the birth of a son a few weeks ago. It doesn't often happen that the Board celebrates a birth like this.

Enrolments for Series 2 are slow so far apart from the *Delivering Justice* course which looks as if it might be oversubscribed by closing day (May 3<sup>rd</sup>). We have sent a summary of all six courses to members to encourage enrolment – even though we know it is traditional that many members take overseas holidays during the winter season to escape the cold and wet.

A reminder that when you use your member login on the U3A Dunedin home page – in the space which reminds you which course you have enrolled in – after the ballot has been run it now tells you which course you have been **accepted for**. You still get e-mail or paper notification in the usual way. Friends can help our “paper members” to check their choices in the event of a postal hold up.

At the end of Series 1 courses, the course feedback form was available on paper as well as on-line. This has given us a tremendous amount of feedback about what you think of the courses and in particular we note the difficulties raised by so many members in seeing the screen at the Golf Club from the sides or the back and the problems with microphones.

In response: we have reduced the size of the audience at the Golf Club to 150, we have ordered a second spare headset as one was broken during Series 1 and there was no spare to hand and we have on order a special microphone to be used by the audience during question time. Those of you who have seen them in use at TED talks will understand when I say a wireless microphone within a large spongy cube which can be thrown along a row.

We do, of course, use the members' suggestions for future courses in planning coming Series and we collate all those suggestions and group them to be sure that we are offering courses covering the range of interests. That is a huge job as members are full of ideas.

Discussion Groups are growing apace and we are absolutely delighted. As always, it only takes a small number of enthusiasts on any subject to get a group going and if you think you could gather a few U3A friends in an activity Ngaire Bates will be pleased to hear from you (454 2170). Participants in these groups do have to belong to U3A.

The new lanyard option was available at the AGM and during the lectures in Series 1. I hope that all members who wanted one have now got one. New members will have their lanyards sent via the post. The key thing is to wear a name badge so people can use your name in conversation.

Most people have noted that the North End Post Office has closed and functions have been absorbed into the University Bookshop. **There is no change in our PO Box address.**

*Alan Jackson*  
*Chair 2019-2020*