



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

10th June 2019

The Board had a wide-ranging meeting this morning and approved all the courses for the 2019 Series 3 Spring Series as well as planning several for Series 1 Autumn 2020 (and even two for Series 2 2020). The Programme Committee and Board are keen to ensure that the suggestions made in the end-of-course feedback forms are taken into account. The Programme Committee now has 14 members, and that is not a rigid limit.

Our Discussion Groups are working brilliantly and there are almost 90 members involved in a range of groups. That Team has expanded to six to cope with the extra courses – and they will be happy to hear from people who have ideas for more groups.

The on-line feedback worked extremely well after Series 1 and we have modified the pro forma a little as a result. We shall have slightly different feedback forms for the Golf Club and Leith Bowling Club and we shall investigate your tolerance of parking issues.

In response to questions about how the balloting system works we have produced a leaflet on the Public Documents part of the web site – you don't have to sign in as a member to read it. It is at the bottom of the page.

Also there you will find a leaflet explaining how to ensure that U3ADunedin e-mail address is Trusted by your e-mail software (ie mails from us don't go into your SPAM folder). Some members do tell us they have not had such and such an e-mail and we know they have been sent. We monitor all e-mails that are "bounced back" for whatever reason and so we know what is going out. We cannot monitor what happens when the message gets to you, but if you miss something, the first place to look is in SPAM/Junk folder.

When you log in as a member, in the member information area (on the right hand side of the page) you can send a test e-mail to see if things are working – you will see a green tick to show the mail has been sent, and then you should soon get an e-mail in your inbox to say that all is working well.

As we move to a more web-based organisation, we do sometimes have glitches with links in messages being broken – once we know about that, we fix it within moments and send out a correction. (In that time about 50 members will have written to tell us about the problem).

With our current fee structure, and by doing as much via the web as we can, and with our team of about 30 volunteers, we keep costs down. We did make an overall loss last year of almost \$2000 but there is no plan to increase fees this year.

A dozen members of the "U3A Team" attended a four hour Red Cross training course before the start of Series 1. Of course we did a feedback and it was given an average of 9.16 out of 10 – really good. We hope that we shall not have to use the skills we learned there at U3A courses but it is valuable to have regular refresher courses (the certificates we were given remind us to go back in two years' time). There is a defibrillator at each of our venues.

I hope that you are really enjoying your U3A, and if you are on a winter break, I look forward to seeing you at our next Series.

Alan Jackson
Chair 2018-2020