



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

27th January 2020

I have often noted that U3A Dunedin never sleeps and your organising team has been busy over summer: welcoming 18 new members, accepting membership renewals, planning for the AGM, mailing out AGM materials and the brochures for the courses and enrolling people into courses as well as further planning for courses later this year and into next.

821 out of 941 members have paid their renewal fee – those not paid are unable to enrol for a course and when the deadline runs out – will simply be retired from the membership list. They will have to reapply for membership later if they wish to continue.

Kiwi Bank will not use cheques after February 28th and likely other banks will follow. We shall find a solution for members who might struggle with that change as far as U3A Dunedin is concerned.

There are spaces left in all the Series 1 courses, the one on the Otago Peninsula is the most popular so far with 128 people indicating a wish to attend at time of writing. Closing date is 30th January.

In week 2 of this Series, we shall test the emergency evacuation procedures once at each venue. We will choose the courses with the most attendees. This will not disrupt the programme at all and will undoubtedly teach us a few things about the way we manage our safety procedures. The Course Convenors and Course Assistants will run the drill and keep members fully informed.

If you use your smart phone or tablet to access the U3A Dunedin web site, you will find it is far friendlier and easier to read than before. The adaptation has been carried out by our brilliant Web Master John Shanks. Using a desktop computer is hardly different from before. At the top right of every page there is a “Log in to MyU3A” link. That is the new way of referring to logging in to see your personal details such as whether you have renewed your subscription, enrolled for courses, your name and address details, opportunities to use Ride Share and so on. Your user name and membership number is on your name badge (lanyard) if you ever forget it.

On the News and Coming Events page there are details of free University events that members may find of interest and there are requests for help too. One person asks for help from people with experience in raising funds and a post-graduate asks for volunteers in brain stimulation research.

On the Public Documents page, there are papers relating to the AGM, the tribute given at Jane Higham’s commemoration (Brain O’Rourke’s tribute is there too), and the details of the U3A Dunedin Scholarship which we have drawn up with the University Scholarships office and which we are funding with \$50 000.

This year Jude Hathaway (473 0416, judeyh@xtra.co.nz) will look after printing and distributing lanyards – requests will be taken at all courses during weeks 1 and 2 and lanyards supplied to each venue at the start of week 3. New members receive their lanyard in the post from the Membership Secretary.

Very Best Wishes

Alan Jackson Chair 2018-2020