



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

9th March 2020

The Board of U3A Dunedin had its second meeting of the year today and following the AGM welcomed two new members to the ranks. Linda Kinniburgh (co-Chair Programme Committee) and Anneloes de Groot. Gretchen Kivell has been generous enough to offer to act as Minutes Secretary.

Series 1 courses now enter the third week and we see that 535 people are taking the courses.

We were able to approve all courses for Series 2 and some for Series 3. The details of the new courses will be posted when Series 1 is completed.

Thanks to all those who responded to the e-mail about the Series 3 course at the Otago Museum – we have enough positive response from members to plan that course now with a course fee of \$90 – when you consider the cost of one Planetarium ticket that is very modest fee for six sessions.

Also for Series 3 Harry Love spent a part of his summer doing a new translation of Euripides' *Hecuba* and *Women of Troy*. We plan to have those printed as part of that course – the printing quote is \$15. That course will be a prize for members who love to study the Greeks.

The annoying thing about U3A Dunedin is how to limit oneself to just a few courses each time. Some people do manage to attend four – but they are better than I.

Ngairé Bates was able to report that Discussion Groups now have 137 members. If members have ideas for groups that they think would be of interest, please do contact her 454 2170.

Last week we had two trials to see how well our venues could be evacuated in the event of an emergency. In earlier days when we were working full time, we probably experienced a fire drill every year. Our drills were successful – the Golf Club cleared in 2m17s and Leith in 1m47s. Both of those times are in the safety range for an emergency. Moving purposefully without turning around and talking is the key and I was impressed by the reaction of members to the exercises.

I would encourage members to pool transport as much as possible – partly to save parking congestion at the venues but also as a response to energy saving and a step towards making new relationships which are critical for our health. We know that when we live purposeful, connected lives we are better in every way.

At the end of February, any members who had still not renewed their membership subscription were retired from the list and so now we have 873 members of whom 63 have materials sent via the post. If any of those people do wish to re-join, it is simply a matter of making a new application.

Covid-19 cannot be ignored and no-one can say how it will affect Dunedin or U3A. In the meantime if you become unwell, we do urge you to stay at home. Good hand washing and consideration for others when sneezing, blowing noses, coughing etc will all help.

We remember that we have all survived a lot to reach the age we are, and we will use those experiences to keep on keeping on.

Very Best Wishes

Alan Jackson Chair 2018-2020