



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

27th July 2020

Your Board had a very productive meeting this morning, again using Zoom conferencing software. This saves the cost of hiring a meeting venue, about 26 car journeys and some hours of travel time.

The ability for members to check their U3A Dunedin account is almost ready - you will be able to use it by Wednesday teatime. You will need to log in using your membership name and number. It will show the credit for those who enrolled for Series 1, (apart from those who donated their refund to the University Student Hardship scheme), and any other credits there might be, such as overpayments for courses. Please do check your account within the next two weeks (before Series 3 enrolments open as you can use Series 1 credit against the course fees of Series 3). If there are any errors, please contact the Treasurer directly evan.taylor@xtra.co.nz 454 5803.

Our plan to hold a normal face-to-face Series 3 is going ahead. There will be four half courses of 3 lectures each and four full courses of the usual six lectures. The details for these courses will be posted on the web site very soon.

There are over 100 members actively involved in Discussion Groups and it is heartening to see people getting back together. We know we shall have to be ever vigilant: stay at home at the first sign of any untoward symptoms, practise good hand washing and be kind to each other.

A new addition to our web site is a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). The commonest question we are asked by prospective members is “Is there a Waiting List?” and the answer is “No – that was dismantled about four years ago”.

We do have new members joining us, and all new members who have paid, will have their name badge and lanyard before Series 3 begins sent via DX post.

Banks are phasing out cheques, promoting telephone banking and offering tuition to people in those techniques. Whether you have a computer or not, you will be able to do remote banking and not use cheques. We know we have a very small number of members who like to use cash only and we shall continue to accommodate them as in the past. We shall have to get used to the new regime like it or not. We will not cause any of our members to quit U3A Dunedin because of this.

Five of the six lectures for Series 1 2021 are fully planned – Easter arrives very early next year, all the courses will avoid school holidays so that members on grand-parenting duties will not have to miss lectures.

Once more I take my hat off to the Board and Programme Committee for the work they have done to ensure that U3A Dunedin continues to function well despite the crisis.

Very best wishes

Alan Jackson
Chair 2018-21