



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

24th August 2020

Covid-19 presents challenges for everyone who wishes to plan an event, U3A Dunedin included.

The Board knows, from members' feedback, that the preferred method of delivery of our courses is by face-to-face meeting. The social aspect of U3A Dunedin is often as important to some members as is the content of the programme, and we know that maintaining good social networks is vital for mental and physical well-being. Prof Yoram Barak has shared a number of articles on the topic which we have placed on our web site (see the *News and Coming Events* section).

We believe that we can offer our programmes in a face to face manner at Alert Level 2 with some safeguards.

- The over-riding precaution is that if any member is at all unwell and possessing Covid-19 symptoms, they should stay at home and contact their doctor
- If any member is at all nervous about the risks, they would be better staying at home
- A maximum of 90 at each course to allow for staff presence at Golf and Bowling Clubs
- The use of masks is not mandatory, but is acceptable and U3A Dunedin will have some on hand for attendees' use if required, but we ask that you provide your own so far as is possible
- Social distancing of 1 metre inside the venues is vital
- Presenters, Convenors and Assistants need to be willing to be involved – if they are unwilling, presentations will be cancelled and the usual cancellation procedures will be followed
- Hospital grade hand sanitiser will be provided
- The Government Covid Tracer app is unique to each venue and members will be encouraged to use that if they have a suitable 'phone
- Normal U3A Dunedin attendance lists will be used with one Course Assistant completing the form for everyone to avoid sharing of pens
- If required for contact tracing our membership database can produce names, addresses and contact 'phone numbers at short notice
- At present it is not certain but it may be possible for tea and coffee to be provided at each venue – it is likely to be served rather than self-service to avoid touching milk jugs, urn taps etc
- No food will be provided.

Our next series begins in mid-October, and we may be fortunate enough to be under Alert Level 1 rules by then, in which case we will be able to increase the number of course attendees and act in a more usual way. The Board and Programme Committee are working together to ensure that we produce the very best possible outcomes for members. The fact that we have transferred so much of our operations to the internet allows us far greater flexibility that we would have had a few years ago.

Very best wishes

Alan Jackson
Chair 2018-21