



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

7th September 2020

Although the day has been sunny and warm, we were in sombre mood at the start of our Board meeting this morning as we remembered the warmth and liveliness of former Board member Jude Hathaway. She leaves uplifting memories in all our hearts.

For the first time in several months, we met face-to-face, well distanced and very Covid-19 aware.

As I indicated in an earlier letter the annual membership fee for 2021 will be reduced to reflect the “lower level of service” that Covid-19 has brought about. It was decided that the fee for 2021 will be \$15 for those who had paid the full subscription in 2020 but would be the usual \$30 for all new members.

Despite the uncertainties of the current situation we have had nine new members since the last Board meeting. We do hope that Series 3 can proceed as planned but we are trying to anticipate eventualities and if it is not possible to offer food at the courses, as we usually do, we will make a credit to the member’s personal U3A Dunedin account.

The Discussion Groups Newsletter will have a new Editor next month as Jill Geary has now retired from that role. The bright and informative newsletter that Jill produced has been responsible for a veritable explosion of activity in Discussion Groups and we are very grateful to her for the time and expertise that she brought to the job. The Newsletter will continue to be produced monthly under the keyboard of Bill Stanford – wonderful to have all of this talent in U3A Dunedin.

Elaine Webster has been the University’s Representative on the Board for several years and is now moving north to new opportunities. We shall apply to University for a successor.

At the conclusion of our meeting we held a morning tea for the five excellent people whose awards of Life Memberships of U3A Dunedin was accompanied by considerable acclamation at the AGM in February. Their service has been mentioned in FORUM and it was salutary to reflect how the organisation has evolved since the mid-nineties. Judith Gray, Sue Cathro, Bill George, Douglas Holborow, John Shanks. Secretary Marion Potter arranged the special refreshments, a cake which Judith cut, and handsome lapel badges. There will be photos in FORUM.

The Board plans to use the Zoom software to meet for most of the time but will start and end the year with face-to-face meetings.

For those of you who plan to attend Series 3, I do hope that you enjoy meeting old friends in familiar settings again.

Very best wishes

Alan Jackson
Chair 2018-21