



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

7th December 2020

Your Board held its final meeting of the year this morning – a face to face meeting at the Golf Club.

One of the issues raised was that some businesses are not now accepting cash – this is because of Covid-19 potential infection, but it again underscores the changes taking place in our midst and our need to be able to cope with them. Of the approximately 900 members, 800 use internet banking. Telephone banking is an alternate to internet banking and I believe that banks will help customers to set up phone bank accounts and spend time showing them how to use it. I also learned over the weekend that Age Concern are running lessons on cell phone use for seniors. That's useful if you don't have a grandchild handy.

We have just taken delivery of a new batch of lanyards and from 2021, replacement lanyards will incur a cost of \$5 and that will simply be charged to the U3A Dunedin member account – no cash will be needed. New members will receive a lanyard as part of their membership fee as at present and do remember that the old hard plastic name badges with a pin are still acceptable. The position is that a U3A Dunedin – supplied name badge needs to be worn at U3A events.

The Golf Club is proposing an increase in the price of refreshments and we will communicate further at the end of January to see how members wish to respond to that.

Recently the Government declared a climate emergency and as part of U3A Dunedin response, the Board decided to buy carbon credits for what we have calculated to be the cost of running U3A Dunedin for a year. Currently that is \$400. The Board also decided that when we bring in speakers via airline journeys, we will pay the carbon offset that Air New Zealand and other airlines offer. We need to set an example for our grandchildren and help them realise that we are not indifferent to this problem. At an individual level we all do what we can and try to save the 2% reduction needed to reach the Government goals. Car-pooling is an obvious one when we can. Prof Rob Lawson will help us to manage this and ensure that our credits go towards native tree planting.

In response to the excellent courses delivered during Series 3 the Board will donate \$2700 in appreciation. Annette Riley and I are just about to write the 27 thank-you letters to presenters.

I am conscious as always of the work done by our team of 30 towards running U3A. My thanks to them: their work will not stop over summer. On behalf of the Board, my best wishes to you all for a very Happy Christmas.

Very best wishes

Alan Jackson

Chair 2018-21