



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

1st February 2021

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

We were silent for a moment to remember the contribution of Patricia Thwaites, one of our Programme Committee. Pat died on 9th January and leaves a big gap in many hearts.

Jeanette Leigh will take over the production of replacement lanyards brendaj.leigh@gmail.com (021) 058-6973 (texts only) and a \$5 fee will be debited from the U3A Dunedin account. If you have requested a replacement lanyard, do keep an eye on your account balance so that you have enough funds for the courses you wish to attend.

Lanyards for new members will be posted by Membership Secretary, as before, as part of the initial subscription.

The Board agreed to support a forestry development in Southland via Ekos Forest Carbon Projects. We will review the contribution for 2022 in November this year when we see what our carbon footprint for 2021 has been and what the prevailing carbon price is. This is one way in which we can look our grandchildren in the eye and keep the faith on climate change.

We can all make a contribution by using Ride Share, either asking for shared travel or offering to provide a spare seat. Ride Share becomes active on our web site two weeks before courses start and for the first two weeks of a new Series. We rely on the spirit of co-operation amongst our members to make this work. Course Convenors can make requests to match passengers and drivers at the first of the new lecture Series.

Over 180 wish to attend and there are only 150 places for the *Women Leading the Way* course. There will have to be a ballot but there is still room in all the others. The *Cosmos Unpacked* course is almost full. If there are spaces for single attendances at that, the fee will be \$20, whereas single lecture attendances elsewhere (where the course is not full) is \$10. When a course is full, of course there can be no single session attendances.

I have had to take the Programme Committee to task for the quality of the offerings in Series 1 – they are so good I have had to enrol for five courses.

The Golf Club is raising the price of the catering. The increase will be absorbed by U3A for Series 1 but please do prepare for slight increase of costs at courses at OGC in later Series.

As often mentioned, life is becoming increasingly digital and now ANZ is phasing out cheques on 31st May. The recommendation is to ask the bank for assistance in setting up telephone banking, to ask friends for help, to seek some training at the Dunedin City Library, via Senior Net etc. A website

<https://digitalinclusion.nz/> offers further help. In extremis, our Course Convenors will accept cash (not cheques) for course fees. They will bank that money into U3A Dunedin account on your behalf. That will help payments from you to us but in dealings with businesses not accepting cash, other strategies will be necessary.

The Agenda for the AGM is on the Public Documents part of our web site, together with the invitation for lunch – you can come to either or both. All the documents to be discussed will be there as well, as they have been for the past several years. Please let Board Secretary Marion Potter mw.potter42@gmail.com know if you plan to attend the lunch.

We do need some more members to help with the workload on Programme Committee and the Board. Linda Kinniburgh lindakinniburgh52@gmail.com will be delighted to hear from volunteers, as will Ngaire Bates ngairemichael@gmail.com for the Discussion Groups.

Volunteering is a key sign of a healthy society, and being a socially and mentally active participant in something like U3A Dunedin is a great help in the ageing process. Please always remember that the people who work for U3A are volunteers and so be considerate in your dealings with them: negativity and criticism are rarely helpful.

This is my last Letter from the Chair – at the first Board meeting after the AGM a new Chair will be voted in by the Board and a bright new era will begin. I've really enjoyed the job.

Very best wishes
Alan Jackson
Chair 2018-21