



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

8th March 2021

Kia Ora koutou. This morning, at the first Board meeting after our AGM in February, I was appointed to the Chairperson position of the Board of U3A. I am very pleased to represent all our members in this position, but it is a team of dedicated people in U3A who make the activities happen. As Steve Jobs is reported as saying “great things in business are never done by one person, they’re done by a team of people”.

The Board appointed a Vice-Chair this morning, Dr Barrie Peake. Barrie will be a great support to me in this new role as will the rest of the committee, whom I respect and look forward to working with. Your treasurer, Evan Taylor, Secretary to the Board, Marion Potter and Web Editor, Alan Jackson were reappointed to their positions today. Thank you to all who agreed to continue on the Board in a variety of roles.

It is interesting and challenging times we live in, just as we get to work less in paid employment and enjoy more leisure time, including our ‘volunteering’ for organisations, we continue to plan, strategise and navigate through such things as COVID levels, earthquakes, tsunami warnings, disruptions to travel, and inclement weather patterns. Then we put on our masks to protect us and others whilst we are just trying to make our space a better place for our grandchildren and whanau.

Through all this calamity it is great news we will be able to commence the rest of our courses in Series One this week to our members. I am pleased we have captured your interest as we have had higher numbers than usual enrolling and many of you enrolling in more than one course.

One of the decisions made at our Board meeting this morning, is to restrict the number of our team, to two people who can email and message our members. We want to avoid mixed messages which add to our workload and can be confusing to all of us.

I am pleased to report our membership at 896, with 21 new members. Welcome to the new members, we hope your experience of U3A is a positive one and that you feel you are able to enjoy the courses, discussion groups and the variety of topics chosen. Of course, you can contribute through the committees’, any topics or speakers that you feel will be universally interesting.

Courses planned for Series 2 commencing in June, are *Safety Matters, Exploring Hocken Collections, Engineering in Dunedin, Humour and Laughter, Dunedin Innovators and Innovations, and Artificial Intelligence*. Again interesting, eclectic and varied topics, something for everyone.

Series three is also in the planning stages, more to look forward to.

The Forum newsletter has a deadline date of the 14th March 2021. Geoff Adams, a recently celebrated ‘Honorary Life Member, is the publisher of this regular update of all our activities.

I look forward to being in this role and to your feedback, and communications.

Very best wishes

Linda Kinniburgh
Chair 2021-2022