



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

14th June 2021

Kia Ora team of 921.

The Board of U3A Dunedin met on Monday and from the latest figures presented by Lynda Jackson, our Membership Secretary, we now have 921 members. This is an increase on last month of 22 new members. We are very pleased to see the increased interest in our organisation, our courses and discussion groups. If any new members would like to be involved at Board, Programme Committee or Discussion group levels do get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

The Board meeting on Monday welcomed Richard Higham, as both a new member to the Board and the new Secretary to the Board. Congratulations to Richard as we welcome him to his new roles. His interview for the role went well. He has been a member for some time and he comes with extensive experiences in a role as secretary to the University Blues which produces a weekly report and he brings an enthusiasm for the activities of U3A Dunedin.

Our University of Otago representative on the Board, Dr James Rodgers has changed his role, so is no longer available to be our liaison person. Barrie Peake and I will meet with the University of Otago staff in the next two weeks to discuss this role and who might be the most appropriate from their perspective to update us regularly on university activities as related to U3A Dunedin.

Series Two is underway, and to date well attended and such positive comments have been received. I look forward to reading the formal evaluations as we prepare for courses for 2022 to ensure we have a great range of topics for you to choose. Series three, almost ready to publish is another interesting, eclectic mix of topics, including music, literature, art, medical matters, architecture, and whistle-blowers. We look forward to your enrolments when this opens mid July 2021.

Discussion Groups continue to flourish, there is a new Poetry group, and we are looking to establish a “Plastic Free” group. The application form for Discussion Groups is now on the website for you to apply for a place in a group. Ideas and leaders for new groups gratefully received. Ngaire Bates has indicated to the Board she wishes to retire from her role as leader of these groups, she would be able to mentor a new leader until the end of this year, if you are interested, please get in contact with Ngaire, or a member of the Board.

Finally, our Congratulations go to Emerita Professor Carolyn Burns, one of our members, who recently, in the Queen’s Birthday honours list, received a ‘Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit’. A fabulous achievement, well done. Barrie Peake has kindly written an appreciation on her achievement published on our website in News and Current Events section.

Linda Kinniburgh
Chairperson of the Board