

Message from the U3A Dunedin Chair 28th August 2021

Kia ora koutou to all our members.

The U3A Dunedin Board and Programme Committee met last night to consider our status in “lockdown” and plan for our upcoming series of courses. We know we are likely to be in Level three next week by Wednesday, but there is no certainty on how long we will remain at that level.

Over the past week, your convenors have contacted all speakers, with a view to flexible delivery. Some have the capability and willingness to deliver their talks on Zoom, many are unwilling or unable to do so. We have also contacted our venues to make decisions on a potential timeframe for the series over the rest of this year.

We have two challenges. One was that some courses had been constructed as a ‘whole’ so taking one or two talks out of context would be a disservice to the speaker and you as an audience. Secondly, the Otago Golf Club could not accommodate us after Labour Weekend, which means postponing courses further this year would not work for us. Complicating our decisions is the unknown of COVID levels over the next two weeks, as we do have to be in Level 1 or Level 2 with reduced numbers to facilitate face to face courses with current numbers.

Therefore we have made a decision to postpone all courses for this series; of course, a disappointment for you all and for us. They will all be rescheduled to 2022.

For all enrolled members we will credit your account with the course fee, which can be used for 2022. If anyone would like a refund, then you are able to contact our Treasurer, Evan Taylor, directly with your bank account details for this refund. Evan will complete this task over the next few weeks as he has recently had surgery. His email address is: evan.taylor@xtra.co.nz

We have set up a small committee to review all the options and potential of some additional face to face lectures in October. Obviously this can only eventuate if we are in Level 2 or Level 1. Level Two will mean only 70 enrolments for the individual sessions. We plan formal enrolment but they will be at no charge for attendance. More information later.

What we have completed is a list of additional resources for you. This is attached at the end of this message, we hope you enjoy the selection. If people are interested in any of the lectures, Dorothy Kerin is happy to facilitate follow up participatory sessions for greater social connection, similar to an online discussion group. Please contact Dorothy directly with your thoughts. Email: dorothybrowne@hotmail.com

Thank you for your feedback to date, we are disappointed but will continue to think of ways of connecting you and with new learning.

Kia kaha, kia ū, kia manawanui. (be strong, be forthright, be stout hearted)
Kia pai tō wiki mutunga (have a good weekend)

Linda Kinniburgh
Board Chairperson
U3A Dunedin

Spring 2021

SERIES 3 REBORN

Regrettably, current and likely future Covid restriction levels have made it impossible to go ahead with our Series 3 Spring courses as originally planned. These will now be offered in our 2022 programme instead as far as is practicable.

Meanwhile, all need not be lost, as in their place are some suggestions for you to take up:

Leith Bowling Club Lectures. These are planned as a series of one-off in-person presentations on different subjects given weekly at the Leith Bowling Club, October / November, dependent on being at Level 2 or better. Limited capacity will require prior enrolment.

Our Magazine Page. Here are numerous links to interesting articles, strong on health and wellbeing (Prof Yoram Barak) and literature (John Hale), but also covering travel and some music.
<https://u3adunedin.org.nz/?Magazine>

U3Aonline Lectures. Based in Australia, this virtual site offers a wide range of about 80 courses—world affairs and history, nature and science, writing and lifestyle. Only A\$30 to join up and take any number of courses. <https://www.u3aonline.org.au/content/our-courses>

TED Talks. Over 3700 short talks on every conceivable subject often delivered with dramatic flair. Fully searchable database and no charge. <https://www.ted.com/talks>

Dorothy Kerin of our Programme Committee would be happy to discuss online any of these or other talks with other members. Email: dorothybrowne@hotmail.com

Toitu Videos. A great selection on Otago history mostly delivered by Sean Brosnahan, a born presenter. Topics include: Gold in Otago, Chinese in Otago with Jim Ng, and the Journey of the Otagos. Also Talking Pictures and Curator's Corner. Search on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/>

Discussion Groups. Could well be worth your joining at this time. There are fifteen active ones, including one on Podcasts. <https://u3adunedin.org.nz/?Discussion%20Groups>

BBC 4. In Our Time. Podcast hosted by Melvyn Bragg. About 920 expert panel discussion episodes of a huge range of subjects—literature, history, philosophy, science, religion, and even mathematics. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl/episodes/player>

Otago Polytechnic Boxing Fitness. Moderate, accessible fitness exercises delivered through Zoom suitable of older ages during the weeks of levels 3 and 4. See Linda.

Virtual Museum/ Gallery Tours. There are many, all easily Googled. This is one of the best showing five: Louvre, Hermitage, Vatican, Metropolitan NY, National Museum Madrid.
<https://matadornetwork.com/read/best-museums-visit-virtually/>