



# Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Kia ora koutou U3A Dunedin members

Your Board met on Monday, for the final time in 2021. A great meeting with the Programme Committee and Interest Groups fully represented. It has been another challenging year as we navigated our pathway through this pandemic and its effects on Dunedin, in particular on U3A, but we have also achieved much.

Without question, the major issue to be decided was our response to the new ‘traffic light’ system currently being introduced by the government. After careful discussion of options, the meeting unanimously made an important decision that needs to be noted by all members:

***That U3A Dunedin only accepts attendees with a valid vaccine pass at all of our activities***

This not only confirms our responsibility to keep you as safe as practicable but will also enable us to operate as normally as possible. It is pleasing that the Southern District reached 90% double vaccination this morning, a great team effort. Currently we are at Orange in the traffic light system. If we remain Orange for Series 1 lectures next year, masks at venues will not be required, and we can enjoy morning and afternoon teas with catch up conversations over a cuppa much as before.

The Leith Series lectures (alternative Series 3) were surveyed, and generally the feedback was positive, if somewhat muted. Some members clearly enjoyed the online version, but the responses also told us that Dunedin audiences continue to prefer face-to-face contact. For those who still struggle with technology we will consider another upskilling course in the coming months.

Next year’s Series 1 is ready for delivery, all courses approved and planned to commence in March 2022, with plenty of choice for all. Series 2 is also nearly prepared for May, and Series 3 is being developed. We are hoping with our high vaccination rates that this year there will be minimal disruption to our courses from COVID-19.

The Interest Groups are thriving with new members joining up in good numbers, which is pleasing. I hope you enjoyed reading in their recent excellent newsletter of the variety and the pleasure members are getting from these groups.

I want to thank all the Board members for their support this year—the Programme Committee for their adaptability to all contingencies and the Interest Group leaders for their perseverance. There has been a lot of work behind the scenes. Well done to all. The AGM for U3A Dunedin is at Salmond Hall on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Put the date in your diary

and come to hear the annual report followed by a talk on our contribution to sustainability and climate change.

Merry Christmas to you and your families, thank you for being members of U3A Dunedin, keep safe and we look forward to your participation in 2022.

Meri Kirihimete, me to tau hou. (Happy Christmas and New Year)

Linda Kinniburgh  
U3A Dunedin Board Chairperson