

Kia ora U3A Dunedin members.

We have taken advice from the Medical Officer of Health, from our medical colleagues, and watched the predictions of both the government and our epidemiologists. To keep you all safe and well the Board has now regretfully made the decision to postpone our Autumn Series One courses. These were scheduled to commence at the beginning of March 2022 for a period of six weeks, which coincides with the predicted surge in COVID cases.

This is most disappointing for us all, as we know how important socially as well as educationally the face-to-face courses are to members. But as a socially responsible organisation with a vulnerable demographic, there was little choice but to postpone.

It is important to note this is a postponement, not a cancellation, and we will be meeting regularly with a view to rescheduling, potentially as our Spring series. This will of course depend on presenters' continued availability, so some changes may be needed.

At the same time we will investigate technologies, and their costs, that may assist our more vulnerable members to participate in our educational sessions.

Alan Jackson has posted on our website a rich array of learning opportunities. Details of these are under Magazine, requiring a member's login, and News and Coming Events (which doesn't require a login). We intend to look for an assistant to help us communicate with you on a regular basis what is available online from many organisations.

Currently the Auckland Libraries are offering a series of heritage talks by Zoom in February and March free of charge which you may be interested in. The contact addresses are also on our website. (under News and Coming Events).

Barrie Peake has contacted Wellington U3A and once again they are happy for us to join their Zoom weekly lecture sessions when available. These are excellent presentations as we saw last year. Details will be posted on our website.

Interest Groups are flourishing, and if you have ideas, wish to join or facilitate a small group please contact Trish Irvine on [trishjockloch@gmail.com](mailto:trishjockloch@gmail.com) to discuss your contribution here.

The Board has also decided to postpone our AGM, scheduled for Thursday 10 February. Our venue at Salmond Hall is no longer available on our planned date, so we will be making a new time when this can be held safely.

The Programme Committee and the Board will continue to work hard assessing our situation at this difficult time, looking for learning opportunities that will keep our membership safe and engaged.

Linda Kinniburgh

Chairperson

