



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

14th February 2022

Kia Ora koutou, hello to all our members of U3A Dunedin.

On Monday your Board met via Zoom, and this *Letter* is to inform you of our activities and of our plans for this year. I must admit for me two hours on a Zoom meeting is exhausting, however, we do need to consider the safest means of communication at this time for all.

Alan Jackson as web editor presented a full and extensive list of learning opportunities. Please view both “News and Coming Events” and “Magazine” on our web for those lists. We realise it is not the same as socialising but these activities do keep our minds active and involved. Alan spends a great deal of time keeping the website up to date with current activities for our members.

Richard Higham tendered his resignation as Secretary to the Board. He has a busy schedule and he filled the position admirably in 2021. We thanked him for his contribution to this role. Richard will remain a member of the Board. We will be searching for a keen member to fill this position.

We have planned the AGM for U3A Dunedin to be on Thursday 12th May. Notices for the AGM must be with the members 28 days before the planned meeting, so you will be informed by the 14th April 2022. This meeting better serves us all if it can be face to face, and that is what we will aim for. If you have any interest in joining us on the Board, we would welcome your nomination, before the AGM. Let me know your willingness to be part of our team.

The Programme Committee reported the probability of the postponed Series 1 to be rescheduled to Series 3 in August/ September this year. This group will meet again mid-March to assess the situation with the pandemic, and with a desire to reschedule we will communicate with you our revised plan. We had many messages of support on our decision to postpone and thank you for your support over a challenging decision.

Interest groups are thriving. Trish Irvine reports an exponential interest and numbers are increasing to around 200. Their newsletter continues to be a successful source of information and potential for new and existing groups to expand. I am certain the social gatherings are meeting our membership needs. We are applying for a QR code for U3A Dunedin, which will make the recording of vaccine passes easier for us to manage.

Membership stands at 929 this month. We have a number of you who, to date, have not paid a subscription. We are assuming this may be because Series One was postponed. We have agreed to leave this at the moment and revisit at our next meeting. Of course, you are not able to join an Interest group, nor enrol in Series Two if your subscription remains unpaid.

Our finances are in good heart. The possibility of a potential reduction in fees for 2022, given our postponement of Series 1, was raised. This situation will be considered more fully at our May Board

meeting. We will keep you in touch with these decisions, based on potential expenses involved, such as adopting more technology.

I hope you all remain well over this challenging time for the predicted COVID infections. Take care of yourselves out there and keep up the mask wearing, the hand sanitising and washing your hands frequently.

Noho ora, Kia Ora (Keep well and safe)

Very best wishes

Linda Kinniburgh
Chair 2021-2022