



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

13th August 2022

Kia Ora koutou to all members of U3A Dunedin,

Your Board met earlier this week and this e-mail is to update you on our discussions and decisions.

We were very pleased that Series 2 went so well. There were some obvious interruptions with COVID, for both speakers and members but your convenors and assistants were flexible and agile in providing alternatives and rearranging schedules. Overall evaluations were positive and members appreciated both the range of topics and presentations. Thank you to those who generated ideas for future courses which we are following up.

We have made a decision to remain vigilant with our policy on COVID 19 for our next Series this year commencing in two weeks. We will review this again later in the year and base our decisions on the current epidemiology. Our policy states you must be vaccinated against COVID 19 and that you wear masks to the venues and when you are seated.

Of course, mask exemptions will be respected. We will continue to provide morning and afternoon teas and you are able to choose whether you participate in this activity. We will also continue to open windows and doors to facilitate ventilation at our venues and we remind you to wear warm clothing and bring knee blankets on cooler days.

Our Treasurer, Evan Taylor, who ably manages our finances tells us we are meeting our commitments for this year. We have agreed to purchase another computer as one we currently use needs replacing. We have been notified from both the Otago Golf Club and Leith Bowling Club of increases in prices for our refreshments, so a recommendation of a small increase in course fees for 2023 is supported. We have also reviewed our increase in postage, envelopes, printing brochures and information, so those members who receive information via the postal service are likely to have a fee differential for 2023 in order to offset these costs. This is yet to be formally approved.

Interest Groups continue to thrive, with 16 groups currently, 3 in recess, related to COVID. A total of 227 members participate in these groups, which is very pleasing. The newsletter of these activities is of a very high quality and most interesting.

Our membership is currently 905 persons. We had a larger number withdrawn over the past year, some moving cities, others presumably related to COVID, but we have welcomed 38 new members over the past month. We do hope you find interesting groups and courses to stimulate your thinking, and you meet many new and interesting people at our venues.

Alan Jackson updates our website on a regular basis with wide and varied learning opportunities, do keep a close eye on these activities across a wide range of subject areas.

Our FORUM, published four times a year will continue to update you with our activities.

Meantime, Noho Ora, Kia ora, Stay safe, stay well.

Linda Kinniburgh

Chairperson,

Board U3A Dunedin 2021-2023