



# Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

7<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Kia ora koutou to all our U3A members.

The Board of U3A Dunedin met last week and as Chairperson of the Board I am updating you all on our discussions and plans for 2023. We do have another meeting in December this year to finalise our finances, discuss any potential policy changes and ratify final course preparation for Series 1.

At the same time, we are aware that we need to find a new leader for the Interest Groups, as Trish Irvine has resigned from this position. Trish was instrumental in the resurgence in interest of these groups, and we very much appreciated her contribution to U3A. We will miss her leadership.

I do need to let you know over the programme committee and the Board we have some long serving people indicating their retirement from this work at the end of this year. It would be great if some of you would consider taking on these voluntary roles. Meetings are scheduled for five times per year, but of course with additional responsibilities there is additional work to complete between meetings. Trish Irvine was my Deputy Chair for the Board so with her resignation I am looking for someone to take on this role. I can discuss the role and responsibilities with interested members at any time. Do get in touch.

Our Treasurer, Evan Taylor, is retiring, and this role is pivotal to our charitable organisation. Suggestions on a person we could contact or volunteering to do this would make our transition much easier as Evan is prepared to work with a successor. He is also prepared to talk with anyone interested on the scope of his role. Do contact Evan directly on [evan.taylor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:evan.taylor@xtra.co.nz) for this discussion.

The Board will re-evaluate its position on COVID next year based on current government policy. We are aware that changes will be based on the incidence of COVID and new variants which are more prevalent with more visitors to Aotearoa. We will advocate for masks but of course we will respect your decision to wear one or not.

At our meeting we have set the subscription at \$30 for 2023, and courses will have a base cost of \$50. This reflects the increase in our venue and refreshment costs. We decided not to request additional resource to cover costs for our postal members, however, for 2023, any new members will need to have an email address.

The Board has agreed to purchase a new projector, the one we have has failed us on several occasions in Series 3. We have also decided to trail a roaming microphone in our courses to enhance the perennial situation we find ourselves in, where many are not able to hear the question asked. We will omit the questions on evaluation forms on 'venue' particularly related to heating and ventilation. You will be able to make a comment under general comments if you have an area of concern you wish to draw to our attention. We appreciate how much our venues do to ensure our comfort.

One area of ongoing discussion is the access of our courses electronically to those who are unable to attend, and for us to establish an archive of talks which can be recorded and viewed at any time in the future. We have agreed to trial this development at one of the courses in Series 2 (Winter). We are aware of the costs for this venture and of course this continues to be a factor for us all to consider. More information on this as we progress our plans.

I will be in touch with you all again in December, updating you with our next meeting outcomes. You will receive your invoices in the next few weeks and when finalised, brochures for next year's Series 1 2023 will be available in December. I intend to meet with Interest Groups facilitators, who do an amazing role in regular meetings, to assist with finding a new coordinator.

Ka mihi nui, best wishes

Linda Kinniburgh

*Chairperson,  
Board U3A Dunedin 2021-2023*