



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

13th February 2023

Kia Ora koutou, Greetings to you all,

U3A Dunedin had a Board meeting this week and this letter is an update of our recent activities.

Appointment of Officers for 2023.

I have been appointed as Chairperson for 2023, my third year in this position. I am delighted to continue in this role for one more year, thank you for your confidence. Mind you, there were not lots of people scrambling for this role.

Our Treasurer is Evan Taylor, Secretary to the Board, Phyll Esplin, Minute Secretary, Gretchen Kivell. We have not as yet appointed a Vice Chairperson.

We welcomed four new members to our team. Elizabeth Wilson, Andre Smith, Graham Corbett, and Jane Malthus. All bring a range of skills and expertise necessary for optimal functioning of the Board and I look forward to working with each and every one of these new Board members.

Reports were tabled from meetings held over the past two weeks. The Programme Committee are poised to commence Series 1 next week, and the Board approved three of the six courses for Series 2. Series 3 has been scheduled and members are currently working on these. We hope you will enjoy the range of courses on offer.

Interest Group facilitators met with me recently. Our agenda was to shape a communication strategy in this area of growth. We are currently working on this plan.

Your Board approved in principle a questionnaire to be sent to members. This will be anonymous, no personal information is sought, and the questionnaire relates to the demographics of our members.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) went well, with smaller numbers attending. We enjoyed hearing about the Financial Strategy of the University of Otago from Sharon Van Turnout, their Chief Financial Officer.

We were pleased to announce at this AGM we had signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Otago the previous week. Important aspects of this MOU are:

- An annual lecture from a senior staff member to members of U3A
- A representative from the university staff on our Board with full voting rights

- Access to all departments and academic staff for teaching in our courses
- Staff who can consider their contribution to U3A as community service for recognition in promotion rounds.
- Access to U3A members for research participation with appropriate ethics approval

We are very pleased with this outcome and my thanks to Barrie Peake and Stuart Strachan for their perseverance and support with this document.

A great positive start to 2023 from U3A Dunedin.

Ka mihi nui,

Linda Kinniburgh

Chairperson Board U3A Dunedin 2021 -2023