



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

12th June 2023

Kia ora koutou to all our members.

Last week your Board, U3A Dunedin met, and this email is an update for you of our agenda and discussions.

Membership numbers are around 938. We welcome new members and offer best wishes to those who are withdrawing. We have enjoyed good enrolments for both Series of Courses this year, Series 1 had very positive feedback and Series 2 is going well, we are into our last week of presentations.

Our treasurer reported we ran at a loss in Series One this year. Costs which were greater than anticipated related to IT support and videoing a course. Of course, the videos are a fantastic resource, however, if we continue with this venture, we will in the future need to revisit both costs and our revenue. Zoom is a great tool for both speaker convenience and to obtain the 'best' speaker for the topic. This also incurs IT costs but does save us paying for any airfares and accommodation.

Our FORUM continues to be an informative and interesting newsletter. Thank you to Bill Stanford for all his preparation and editing, he does a marvellous job here. As intimated in our FORUM, we are discussing a plan for those who are less mobile to have an opportunity to utilise the closest parks at Leith Bowling Club. Otago Golf Club have provided one carpark closer to the venue for this purpose but at times we do need more close carparks. We will continue to update you on this item.

Interest Groups are thriving and many of you attend these on a regular basis. Andre Smith, the new Coordinator has been visiting groups to meet you all, with positive outcomes.

Your Board has approved providing a First Aid course for those who are regular 'Course Assistants'. We do need to be confident that we can respond appropriately to any medical event at our venues.

The Programme Committee presented the courses for Series 3, for this year. These were approved and we do look forward to presenting these options for enrolment very soon. The Programme Committee is also forward thinking and has outlines for much of 2024 in the planning stages. One of the greatest challenges for our Programme Committee is meeting some expectations of speakers in terms of remuneration. We are aware from our research that many U3A organisations remunerate speakers and many of our speakers do travel to Invercargill and Central Otago as specialist subject presenters. Again, we will be analysing our costs structures against reasonable expectations.

Our Web Editor wishes to remind our membership of the range of information available on our website. From current and stimulating readings, to information about research projects you may wish to be involved with, to the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions), with up-to-date information about U3A processes.

We welcome your suggestions, your comments, we are all happy to assist you enjoy this wonderful organisation.

Ka mihi nui

Linda Kinniburgh

Chairperson U3A Dunedin 2021-2024