



# Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

31<sup>st</sup> July 2023

Kia ora koutou, to all our U3A Dunedin members, I hope you are keeping warm on such cold days.

Next week our Series 3 commences, wrap up warmly and come to warm venues and enjoy meeting old and new friends. Several courses have room for additional enrolments. We also have the facility of casual attendees at courses that have not been oversubscribed, we welcome you to join us for individual presentations. The cost is \$10 per session.

Your Board met last week, and this email is an update of our activities and plans over the past two months.

Our membership is at 951, and we still have new members joining. This interest demonstrates our commitment and reputation of providing interesting and eclectic courses and stimulating Interest Groups.

The Programme Committee reported Series 1 courses for 2024, are almost fully planned. The proposal for filming a lecture series will not eventuate for Series 3 as the application for funds has not been approved yet. We will review our position at the end of this year. This committee of 18, are committed and working hard to achieve the range of courses we enjoy.

Interest Groups keep us in touch regularly with an excellent newsletter. A trip on the Monarch is planned for this month.

Our web editor, Alan Jackson, is busy with uploading the PowerPoints and resources for you from the lecture series. Alan is also managing the frequent requests from the University of Otago research projects asking for participants. There are currently nine different projects on our website. Please take a look.

(<https://u3adunedin.org.nz/?News%20and%20coming%20events>). He has on the same web page several key lectures, some on Zoom and some face to face for you to access. Our website is a fantastic source of information for our members.

We are underway with planning a First Aid course for Course Assistants to enhance our confidence and capability to manage any situations where our members become unwell or need additional support.

Our Board plans to approach the DCC to ask if we could have painted parking lines on Duke Street, outside the Leith Bowling Club. With care on the road and with some off-street

parking we may create more parking spaces for all and more effective and efficient parking. We do request that all leave the parks beside the venue for those with mobility challenges.

As an organisation we are aware of sustainability challenges and have donated in the past to the Tumai project for planting trees. We need to consider the phenomena of 'greenwashing' and we are setting up short life working party to consider this and provide a report to the Board outlining a future proposal. If this is an area of interest, we would welcome some members join us for these discussions. Please get back in touch with me.

Lastly, we celebrate our first recipient of a U3A Dunedin scholarship. Julia Watkin, a PhD student plans to use this money to travel to a conference in Slovenia where she will extend her interest in improving mental health for young people.

Next week we commence our Series 3 for 2023, we hope you enjoy these courses.

Noho ora, Kia ora (Stay safe and well)

***Linda Kinniburgh***

*Chairperson U3A Dunedin 2021-2024*