



Letter from the Chair

U3A Dunedin

30th October 2023

Kia ora koutou, The Board of U3A Dunedin met earlier this week and it is my pleasure as your chairperson to report on our discussions.

I am very pleased to let our members know that Elizabeth Wilson, PhD, formerly Principal of Columba College, has accepted the position of Vice Chair of our organisation. This appointment was recorded as a unanimous decision in our Board. Elizabeth has academic, educational and management expertise and we are very pleased to welcome her into this position.

Financially this year has been more costly, and we are now running at a loss. As you are aware in your personal lives, costs are increasing and U3A Dunedin is no different in that our venues, our shared morning and afternoon teas, presenter fees, and our support team are all costing us more than last year. Our decision has been to increase our annual subscription to \$40 for the 2024 year. It had previously been at \$30 for many years.

We have agreed to keep our basic course fees at the same rate of \$50. However, for casual attendees the cost in 2024 will be \$15 per person for single session. This could be deducted from your account in lieu of needing to bring a cash payment.

We have also agreed to increase the cost to you for replacement lanyards. These will cost \$7 next year.

This leads to a request of our members. Evan Taylor has been our Treasurer for several years and wishes to find a suitable replacement. The person would need to be familiar with accounting practices. Evan is prepared to mentor a new person into this role. Is there anyone amongst our 950 members who would have an interest in this role? Please get in touch with a Board member or myself to discuss this role.

A small group of our committee went to the St Kilda Bowling Club to check out the facilities as a potential venue. Attractive to us was the size of the venue for those larger groups, and car parking was excellent. On the downside, however, we would need to put out chairs and put them away each day, find our own caterer, and manage the kitchen facilities, tea/ coffee, the dishes, and the clean-up. A big ask for our volunteers. We have put this on hold for the time being.

The Board has already approved four courses for Series One in 2024. Another two will follow. The Programme Committee is busy lining up courses for both Series 2 and Series 3, a great selection of topic areas which we know will please our members.

Finally, do keep an eye on our website where our Web Editor places requests for research participants. Advertising this research is one aspect of our formal Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Otago.

Noho ora, Kia ora (Stay safe and well)

Linda Kinniburgh

Chairperson U3A Dunedin 2021-2024