



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to our new and continuing members. When I think back to the preparations the Committee and I were planning for the start of our 2022 Term 1 Lectures it struck me that our Covid language has changed. Words such as vaccine passes, QR Code checking and Red Light Setting are no longer commonplace. Some Covid requirements have gone and with the move to the Orange Traffic Light Setting we have greater freedom, albeit with masks remaining a requirement in many instances and strongly encouraged at our lectures.

Embassy Lectures: After delivering all Term 1 lectures via Zoom, with many having an attendance of around 200 plus connected devices (including Dunedin U3A members who contributed towards our Zoom licence), the Government changed to the Orange Traffic Light in time for the start of Term 2. The lobby renovations (planned for completion at the end of June) did not deter the enthusiasm and the palpable air of excitement of members at once more being in a face-to-face situation, socially connected with our common interest in learning. Our Programme Coordinators, Robin Halliday, Gill Sutherland, Philip Harrison and Doug Helps continue the high standard of identifying and timetabling varied topics with expert speakers. Gill and Philip, our newly appointed Programmers, have quickly got to grips with their role and enriched our presenter list with their contacts. We very much appreciate suggestions of speakers and topics from our wider membership – please let us know if you have a topic and speaker whom you think would engage our audience. Robin and Doug are retiring after five years' wonderful input to U3A.

Email Lecture Reminders: After many years of emailing weekly reminders Roger Chapman gave notice of his pending 'retirement'. The committee is thrilled that Faith Atkins, a new member, and Paul Armstrong who at the time was leading a Walking Group have accepted a job-sharing role. Many thanks Roger, for your work, your very helpful mentoring and to Faith and Paul for so capably taking over the job.

Events: Sue Dale has made a wonderful start in her new role as Events Coordinator. Many of you will have enjoyed the different and interesting events organised over our May holiday break. Keep watching out for Events on our website including our mid-winter **Matariki lunch** at the James Cook Hotel on Friday, 1 July.

Special Interest Groups: The number of Interest Groups has grown. Linda Beckett keeps in touch with the groups' leaders and reports on progress at our Committee meetings – thank you Linda. If you have an idea for an Interest Group that you would like to lead, please contact Linda.

Front of Desk Volunteers: Jeannie Buxton is our new Volunteer Coordinator and was ready with the roster for Term 1 but of course with Zoom our volunteers were not needed. This has now changed and we very much appreciate Jeannie and the volunteers who assist her.

Finance and Subscriptions: Gwen Levick's report describes the renewal process that is currently under way. Our Treasurer, John Rutherford, confirms that subscriptions are unchanged at \$40 for all the lectures and interest groups you wish to attend. This is a very busy time for Gwen and we are sad that after five years Gwen will be leaving at our AGM in September.

Final Thoughts: Our U3A is superbly supported by many volunteers. My thanks to Rae Julian for producing our informative Newsletters, to Tricia Walbridge for her role as Secretary and to Ian Goodwin, Anthony Fletcher and Bruce Levick for contributing to the running of the lectures.

Best wishes, **Barbara Crump**