

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We have been treated to a wonderfully eclectic, informative and absorbing first term of the 2019 lecture series with term 2's programme promising more of the same. Thanks to all those who have made suggestions for presenters and especially to the Programme Coordinators for their efficiency in arranging speakers and the programme.

Participants of the Interest Groups have enjoyed the social interaction and learning within their areas of interest. The coordinators' presentations were informative and well received. If you would like to start or join a group please contact coordinators Margaret and Ian Garrett.

For 14 years Rodger Sparks has been our very competent and obliging Web Administrator. We greatly appreciate his work and especially the long service he has given to U3A. He has now decided to hand over duties and we welcome and thank two new volunteers, Alison Dixie and George Sutton to the Administrator role.

Membership renewal will commence in June. Be aware that members who joined partway through the current financial year will need to renew their subscriptions as there are no *pro rata* rates. Full details about the renewal process are given in the membership section of this newsletter.

The committee has decided to update our website. Improvements will include a fresher design showcasing U3A Wellington and improved simplification and automation of

some processes that involve a lot of time by some committee members. The new system will address some of the limitations of the current system and make life easier for committee members.

The Embassy rental contract for 2020 has been settled at a favourable rate, subject to confirmation of lecture dates. Consideration is being given to starting lectures earlier, perhaps in mid-February and possibly extending to early November. Volunteer Coordinator, Glynn Woodbury, reports improved attendance of volunteers on their rostered front of house duties. The personalised emailed reminders of those on duty are likely to have helped. If you can help on the front desk please contact Glynn. He is planning to run more training sessions shortly.

Our Holiday Events Programme, organised by Aidan Kay, have always been a welcome addition once the regular lectures cease. This year's invitations to the New Zealand School of Dance and the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research have extended our range somewhat, but left room for visits to Matiu Somes Island and the Beacon Hill Signal Station at the Harbour mouth.

Enjoy the next term's lectures and events.

Barbara Crump

President

