

WELLINGTON CITY U3A INC
PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Membership

Membership renewal commenced in June and Gwen Levick, our super-efficient Membership Secretary, has been very busy over these past months. We undertook a membership drive, with some success, and some of you have helped distribute a flyer around your community. Within just one month we welcomed 46 new members and at the time of writing we have 1,048 members, an increase over last year's 962. The green membership card is a permanent, personalised card and therefore not changed when membership is renewed. For those who have joined recently please feel free to contact the Special Interest Groups' coordinators if you think you may wish to join any of the groups. Thank you, Gwen for your membership and database work.

Fees

This financial year's annual membership fee of \$35 and \$5 visitor fee for lectures remains unchanged. Visitor fees remain a significant source of income.

Finances

Details are available on our U3A website. Tony Thomson, our conscientious and hard-working treasurer provides the Committee with regular financial reports and has maintained our finances in a healthy state. For the 2019 financial year we posted a small surplus but we are facing a possible deficit for the current financial year. The committee are therefore proposing an increase in subscriptions, to \$40 per annum, taking effect from July 2020. The fees for a guest visit remains at \$5. Functions and events, like the mid-winter lunch, are all self-funding. The only exception is the volunteer November social function which U3A pays for.

Debbie Mickell, the independent reviewer, has completed her review of our annual accounts and states they present fairly the position of U3A Wellington as at June 2019. Since we are a registered charity Tony will send a report to Charities Services once the Financial Statements have been presented at the Annual General Meeting. Thank you, Tony.

Embassy

We continue to enjoy the facilities at the Embassy and are treated well by the Manager, Caleb Button, with whom we have an agreement for a further a one-year contract for 2020, at the same rate as this year's. We will negotiate a second year nearer the time.

We greatly appreciate the services of Darryl Burnand, the Embassy technician who sets up the sound and projection facilities for us. We also appreciate members Ian Goodwin, Alan Wright and Anthony Fletcher who ensure notices appear on the Embassy screen and set up our speakers' presentations. Ian, Alan, Anthony and Doug Helps are active with the two roving microphones during question time. Thank you for ensuring questions can be heard and navigating the stairs with agility.

Lecture Programme

Many members have been complimentary on the choice of presenters and topics over the past year. Thank you, Rae Julian, Robin Halliday and Doug Helps for a wonderful programme. We usually have a great turnout for lectures but the Embassy's large Grand Theatre can accommodate more. For the month of June attendance ranged from 152 to 265.

We plan to add two extra lectures at the start of the year and a further two at the end of the year. This extension is for a trial period which will be reviewed. Already, many lectures have been suggested for 2020 but there's room for more and we need your input and suggestions before we finalise the programme by the new year. Please contact Rae, Robin, Doug or any other committee member with your suggestions of topic and presenter.

To Roger Chapman, many thanks for continuing with the weekly email detailing the coming lectures. We value these weekly reminders.

Glynn Woodbury, Volunteer Coordinator, has done a great job organising the "front of house" volunteers. They do an important job in setting up the scanning equipment and welcoming members. The newsletter has a volunteer form and forms will be available at the AGM for members who wish to sign up for 2020. If you can help please fill out a Volunteer form and give/send to Glynn or one of the committee members. Glynn unfortunately can no longer continue in this role and if you could contribute to the successful running of U3A by taking up the role, with support from Glynn in the early stages, this would be much appreciated.

Visits and Events

We are kept informed of upcoming Holiday Events organised by enthusiastic and capable Aidan Kay. Aidan organised another very successful mid-winter lunch at the James Cook that continues to serve our requirements for this event. Tom Frewen was the guest speaker and drew on his experience in the news media, including his 22 years as a Parliamentary Reporter. His entertaining talk indicated concern for the future of 'real' information in this era of fake news. We celebrate our volunteers at our end-of-year social function.

Newsletter

Heather Nelson, our Newsletter Editor does a sterling job with the three excellent, informative newsletters each year that contain a wealth of essential and useful information. Heather ensures copy is sent in a timely fashion, has a keen eye to spot typos and inconsistencies with the result of reliable information and publication dates. Thank you, Heather.

Special Interest Groups

Margaret and Ian Garrett are retiring from the committee as Special Interest Groups Coordinators after five years' unstinting service. They have liaised with Group Leaders to ensure updated information is provided to our newsletters, kept our database updated and organised group presentations for the lecture programme. During their time the Play Reading group and the Writing group have ceased. This has been balanced by the start of two Walking groups, Book Group Four and the Philosophy. We have one nomination for the committee to replace Margaret and Ian. Thank you Margaret and Ian for the capable leadership of the interest groups.

Victoria University U3A Award

Paul Dunham won our \$2000 award this year. The award will contribute to the costs of his Doctor of Philosophy in Music. Paul will be speaking at U3A later this year.

Website

Our website is undergoing a facelift and backroom improvements. The changes will help facilitate efficiency and time-saving with some of our important work, particularly that done by our Membership Secretary. Gwen has a high workload with subscription renewals and ensuring our database is accurate and up-to-date. Aidan Kay, Events Coordinator will find the upgrade also helpful in keeping track of large numbers of those attending his holiday events and outings.

Rodger Sparks relinquished the Web Administrator role earlier this year after 14 years of service. Rodger has had many roles in our organisation, including committee member, Front of House Manager, Website Administrator and is now enjoying being 'just one of the crowd'. Thank you, Rodger for your excellent work over such a lengthy period.

We are fortunate to have two new Website Administrators, Alison Dixie and George Sutton. Thank you both for so willingly taking on the job.

Survey

We will soon be inviting all members to give us feedback on U3A activities via a short survey. A link to the survey will be sent to those of you with email and also a hard copy will be available for those who don't use email.

Committee

Thank you to our wonderful committee members who have done a marvellous job in keeping U3A running so well. They put in many hours and are a fun group of people. We look forward to welcoming a new Special Interest Groups' Coordinator and a Volunteer Coordinator. The other members have agreed to remain on the committee for the coming year.

Secretary, Keri Logan, does a great job of minute writing and making sense of our committee meetings, along with other duties; thank you Keri. Thanks also to Doug Helps who not only is a member of the Programme Coordinators team but is also Vice President.

Finally, thank you. U3A members who make U3A the vibrant and interesting organisation it is today.

Barbara Crump

President