

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to the U3A 2020 year and a special welcome to new members. We have just had our first 2020 committee meeting where the lecture programme for the first half of the year was presented. We are excited by the variety of topics with excellent speakers, including many that members suggested in our survey. Many thanks to Robin Halliday, Rae Julian and Doug Helps for the thoughtful, detailed and time-consuming work they have put into our programme. For 2020 we have added four more lectures.

Our current membership is just over 1,100 but we have room for more and our hard-working Treasurer, Tony Thomson, is keen to increase our income to keep our finances in a healthy position. We are therefore having another membership drive. If you know anyone who hasn't heard about U3A Wellington please let them know the variety of lectures and Special Interest Groups available for a subscription of just \$35. We will have flyers advertising U3A that can be distributed at your club(s), local halls, retirement villages, church, etc.

Many of the Special Interest Groups have been visited by Coordinator, Alan Wright, and he reports that several new groups have been suggested. Once these have been finalised we will let you know. If you are interested in joining any of the groups (or wish to start a new group) please contact the coordinator - details at the end of the Newsletter and on our website. Our survey results show that many of our members attend both lectures *and* at least one Special Interest Group. U3A membership is necessary for anyone attending an Interest Group only.

Our Front Desk volunteers make a valuable contribution to our lecture sessions by attending the scanning desk, greeting members, welcoming guests and other duties. Dougal Congalton, Volunteer Coordinator, has organised the roster and notified the helpers. He is ably assisted by Linda Beckett who will take turns at being available to assist if there are any issues during the scanning process. Thank you both for this important work.

Our 2020 U3A Award was presented to Gillian Marie who is commencing her PhD in History. The focus of her thesis, *The Missionary's Wayward Daughter. How Sarah Bland (nee Henry) Passaged Through the Pacific 1797-1843*, is on the second stage of cultural encounters in Tahiti prior to conversion to Christianity. The impact of the first Protestant Mission in Oceania, the experiences and subsequent policies such as child-rearing and schooling are examined. Gillian's presentation will be later this year.

Events' Coordinator, Aidan Kay, has already made plans for the first two holiday breaks. See Pages 8/9.

Progress on our new website slowed over the holiday period but we are advised that the site could go live in February. Our Web Administrators, Alison Dixie and George Sutton, do a great job with uploading and removing outdated information and have agreed to join our committee. Attending committee meetings will keep them up-to-date with U3A behind-the-scenes business especially as it relates to our website. Welcome and thank you Alison and George.

Roger Chapman, an ex-Committee member and the person who kindly arranges the weekly emailed lecture reminders to all members, has two publications due out in March. You may remember that U3A advertised a competition for those over 60 to submit their work. Roger was successful in having two of his pieces included in two books, "*Love and Loss*" and "*Struggle and Success*." Roger's story "*But not for me*" appears in "*Love and Loss*" and "*Caligula*" appears in "*Struggle and Success*." The books have stories from around the world and will be published in many countries. Click the links below (or enter the url in your browser) to go to the pages on the publisher's website.

<https://exislepublishing.com/product/love-and-loss/> and <https://exislepublishing.com/product/struggle-and-success/> . You can place an order from these sites.

We are fortunate in having such a vibrant, active committee and interested membership. Thank you all.
Enjoy 2020 U3A.

Barbara Crump