



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to our new members and continuing members. We now have 1,207 members but we still have room for more at the Embassy lectures and in some Special Interest Groups. Feel free to hand out our U3A business card – available at the Embassy foyer scanning desk - to anyone you think may be interested.

Lectures: Our *physical* lecture programme was interrupted for just one week in March when we returned to Level 2 Covid-19 restrictions. The Zoom application again proved useful in delivering the lectures virtually.

The NZ International Film Festival which was scheduled from 29 July to 15 August has been postponed to November, thereby making the Embassy available for four additional lectures which will be held in the first two weeks of August. This increases our total lectures to 58 for the year – a record. Congratulations and thanks to our Programmers. Please contact us if you know of an interesting speaker with an engaging topic.

Special Interest Groups: Coordinator, Linda Beckett, has met with most of the leaders of the 18 groups and you will see in her report the wide variety on offer. Linda is always interested to hear of your special interest and can assist you to set up a group.

Front of Desk Volunteers: We are pleased that our new computer and upgrading of the scanning application has made life easier for volunteers who report a much speedier and more reliable process. Thanks to Dougal Congalton, Volunteer Coordinator, for managing the implementation and liaising with Sam Devoy, of IT Spinach.

Subscriptions: Gwen Levick's report describes the renewal process, that is currently underway. As indicated at last year's Annual General Meeting subs will be \$40 which will contribute to the increased Embassy rental.

Committee Vacancies: Four of our excellent committee members Judith Nathan (Newsletter), Aidan Kay (Events), Rae Julian (Programming) and Dougal Congalton (Volunteers) will be retiring in September and we are looking for people to take on their roles. We have one nomination for the Newsletter role. Have a chat with any of the Committee to see if you should have a go! There are four committee meetings each year that are friendly, productive, efficient and often entertaining. My thanks to all committee members for being such a great team and while we will miss the outgoing members and thank them for their service, we look forward to new people.

Significant Others: U3A is superbly supported by many volunteers. My thanks for the on-going help with lectures given by Roger Chapman, Ian Goodwin, Anthony Fletcher, Tony Thomson, Bruce Levick, the people who attend Front of House and to the Coordinators of the Special Interest Groups. Without you, U3A would not function.

We look forward to the second half of our U3A programme.

Barbara Crump, President