



**U3A**

**WELLINGTON CITY**

U3A Wellington City, PO Box 24529, Manners Street, Wellington, 6142

[www.u3awellingtoncity.org.nz](http://www.u3awellingtoncity.org.nz)

## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

Despite Covid-19 continuing to interrupt on occasion, we have had a successful year and continued enjoying stimulating and informative lectures and activities.

### **Lecture Programme**

By the end of this year a record number of 58 lectures will have been delivered. Most of them were at The Embassy and the others were via Zoom. Attendance this year has varied significantly, from 112 to 346 (Luke Malpass), with an average attendance of 215. This is close to the average number that attended at the Embassy based talks during 2020.

The weekly emailed lecture reminders sent for many years by Roger Chapman will soon be done by Aidan Kay as Roger is retiring this year. Thank you Roger for your reliable and constant work in this area.

The Programme Coordinators will soon be turning their attention to the 2022 programme and appreciate your suggestions of speakers and topics.

### **The Embassy**

We continue to enjoy the support of Manager, Caleb Button, and Technician Darryl Burnard who sets up the sound and projection facilities. We have agreement that the terms of the contract will remain the same for next year's lecture dates.

We have an excellent team supporting our Embassy lectures. Sound and media expert, Ian Goodwin, continues to take care of lecturers and their presentations. In his absence Anthony Fletcher and Tony Thomson take over. Ian and Bruce Levick make sure questions are heard by delivering the microphone to members. We very much appreciate their work.

### **Volunteers and Front Desk**

Volunteers are pleased with the improved scanning process at lectures resulting from the new computer and upgrade of the scanning software. Sadly, Dougal Congalton, who project-managed the work as well as coordinating the "front of house" volunteers is 'retiring' at the AGM and will be greatly missed. In addition to his Front Desk role, Dougal has been a valuable committee member, organising with Aidan Kay the U3A business cards and providing statistics on attendance numbers. We are fortunate in receiving a nomination for his role.

Shortly we will check with this year's volunteers and invite them to continue their commitment for 2022 as well as inviting other members to help a few times a year in setting up the scanning equipment and greeting members. Please ask at the desk for Volunteer forms if you are interested in helping.

### **Finances**

The financial statement for the year ending 30 June 2021 is available on our U3A website. Treasurer, John Rutherford, provides the Committee with regular financial reports and notes a surplus for the year ending 30 June 2021 of \$8,503.64. The surplus is a result of the increase in members, increased cost of subscriptions for June renewals as well as the suspension of Embassy lectures due to Covid-19 lockdown. All functions, other than the Volunteers' Christmas Cocktails, are organised on a 'break-even' basis. There were some functions for which there were charges in the reporting period, but almost all income and expenditure relating to the 2021 Midwinter luncheon on 3<sup>rd</sup> July occurred in this financial year.

Following the independent reviewer's report of our annual accounts they will be presented at the Annual General Meeting and a return then submitted to Charities Services.

### **Membership and Survey**

The winter months of June and July keep our very efficient Membership Secretary, Gwen Levick, extra busy with membership subscription renewals. It is pleasing to see membership numbers have increased and once the renewal period is over, likely to be over 1,200.

Shortly we will invite members to complete a short "satisfaction" survey that Rae Julian developed and members completed two years ago. This year's survey will be online as well as hard copies made available.

### **Visits and Events**

The popular Holiday Events programme run by Aidan Kay keeps us entertained and informed during the breaks in our lecture programme. Aidan has worked for five years offering interesting and varied activities. He is retiring at the AGM and we have received a nomination for the role.

### **Website and Newsletter**

We endeavour to keep you updated on the latest events and happenings in our region. Our Website Administrator, Alison Dixie, does great work in continually updating our website with the lecture programme and the latest news. Newsletter Editor, Judith Nathan, has done a super job with the three annual newsletters. We are sorry that Judith is retiring after a short time in the role due to a move from Wellington and wish Judith well for her next adventure. We are pleased to have a nomination for the role.

### **Special Interest Groups (SIG)**

Recently SIG Coordinator, Linda Beckett, met with most of the leaders of our 18 interest groups to introduce herself and get to know how she and the committee can help. As a result of the meeting a new Bylaw, specific to SIGs was developed under the

authority of Rule 15.1 of the U3A Constitution. A copy will be given to each group leader, a copy filed with the Committee and a copy made available to members on request. If you wish to start a new group (or a second group where there is a waiting list for an existing group), Linda is very happy to help you.

### **Committee**

I am most fortunate in working with 11 committed, collegial and capable committee members, including our excellent Secretary, Tricia Walbridge. While we will miss those who are retiring at our upcoming AGM, we look forward to working with the four nominees and the committee members who have been nominated for re-election at the AGM.

Barbara Crump  
President