



## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

It is my privilege to present the Annual Report for 2023, the 30th birthday of U3A Wellington City becoming an Incorporated Society. The earliest courses of groups such as Heritage of Western Art and Literature and Music Appreciation began in 1991 under the name of Ohariu U3A, and renamed in 2007. We have developed and grown from those early days and this report highlights the achievements and challenges over the past year and acknowledges the contribution made by our volunteers in fulfilling U3A's goal of promoting lifelong learning and social engagement among our members. For the first time in three years members have been able to participate in activities without covid lockdown interruptions. Fifty-eight Embassy lectures will have been delivered by year end and participation in Special Interest Groups and events have been enjoyed by many.

### **Membership**

We remain the largest New Zealand U3A with over 1,100 members and the only U3A delivering a year-long lecture programme. Our Membership Secretary, Faith Atkins, was expecting a busy membership renewal period over June/July but due to PayPal coding errors this has been delayed. We were hoping to implement Stripe as our payments provider but have run into compatibility problems with our database which has delayed implementation. In the meantime, current membership remains valid until implementation of the new system is complete

### **Financial Report**

The financial statement for the year ending 30 June 2023 is available in this Newsletter. (Refer Appendix A). The Annual Accounts Report notes a significant deficit for the year ending 30 June 2023 of \$26,802.29. Subscription income in the financial year was significantly less than earlier years due to issues with PayPal that prevented subscription renewals while a replacement system was being implemented. Subscription income that was paid through PayPal in June 2022 was about \$20,000 compared with \$360 in June 2023. Annual Accounts will be presented for approval at the Annual General Meeting and then submitted to Charities Services. Thank you, John Rutherford, for your continued prudent financial management and for your regular financial reports at Committee meetings

### **Lectures**

The lecture programming team has again provided outstanding presenters and topics this year. Gill Sutherland, Sue Driver, Brian Pauling and Philip Harrison each brought their enthusiasm and knowledge in arranging and hosting their speakers. We appreciate the support and help of Manager Richard Sinnott, Technician Darryl Burnand and the theatre's team with our use of the theatre. Many dedicated and committed volunteers generously contributed their time and expertise to ensure the smooth facilitation of lectures. They include the technology lecture team of Ian Goodwin, Saskia van Schouten, Malcolm Wheeler and Anita Williams, 'microphone runners' Bruce Levick and Glenda Lewis, Front of House team coordinated by Committee member, Jeannie Buxton, who also provides the Committee with lecture attendance statistics, and the 'All Member' email team of Libby Clark and Paul Armstrong. Thank you for a wonderful year. Our organisation owes its success to the dedication and

commitment of our volunteers to make U3A Wellington City Inc the vibrant and dynamic organisation we enjoy.

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

Along with the lectures 22 SIGs were organised by our passionate volunteer leaders and these groups remain at the heart of our organisation. The groups empower our members to explore new fields of interest and share their knowledge with like-minded peers. Committee member Linda Beckett coordinates and meets regularly with the group leaders and we appreciate her enthusiasm and encouragement of any member interested in leading a group. Such groups provide the opportunity for increased socialisation and learning amongst a smaller cohort than those attending lectures.

### **Visits and Events**

Sue Dale, Events Coordinator, has done a great job with offering a variety of events over the four holiday breaks from lectures. We were disappointed that the Matariki lunch did not go ahead due to insufficient numbers. Thank you for keeping us active Sue.

### **Website and Newsletter**

Alison Dixie, Website Administrator, and Rae Julian, Newsletter Editor, have kept us updated with the lecture programme, Special Interest Groups and the latest news. Thank you both for keeping communication lines open.

### **Committee**

Four Committee members will be 'retiring' at the 12 September Annual General Meeting. We are pleased to have nominations for all the roles of Programme Coordinator, Newsletter Editor and President. The remaining committee members have agreed to their re-nominations. Nominations remain open until one week before the AGM (no nominations are received at that meeting). We will miss Rae Julian's thoughtful contribution in her role as Newsletter Editor, Programme Coordinator Sue Driver, who has invited topical and excellent presenters, and Alison Dixie, our capable and talented Web Administrator. Thank you for your excellent work. Much appreciation also to Secretary, Tricia Walbridge. I am most fortunate that during my five years as President, I have enjoyed collegial and capable Committee members willing to 'go the extra mile' in ensuring that U3A continues fostering a learning environment that promotes personal growth, friendship and wellbeing.

### **Final Remarks**

In conclusion I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our members, volunteers and committee who have contributed to the success of U3A Wellington City Inc. You have made our organisation a truly exceptional and inspiring community. Thank you all.

***Barbara Crump***