



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

FRONT OF HOUSE

On the whole Terms 2 and 3 have run very smoothly despite encountering a few problems scanning membership cards due to problems with U3A's modem. This caused some frustration to both the volunteers at the Front-of-House desk and members. The Embassy staff were extremely helpful, however, suggesting we connect to the Embassy Wi-Fi. As this worked very well, we are grateful to the Embassy for giving U3A permission to continue with this arrangement. We have appreciated the volunteers arriving early and being so willing to offer their services. We could not manage without their help. It has been great having so many new volunteers who have been rostered with existing volunteers. Now we can easily cover volunteer absences due to overseas holidays.

The data we have obtained from scanning has shown that lecture attendances average 250 members. Topics that are particularly relevant to members are the most well attended, i.e., osteoarthritis, strokes, and global economic turbulence. This data is helpful for our programme team when selecting future speakers.

While it is good to see a lot of guests, it would be helpful if members could ask them to bring \$5 cash. We do not hold a large amount in our float for security reasons, so it is difficult to provide change for \$50 notes.

Jeannie Buxton

LECTURE PROGRAMME

**Lectures are usually held at the Embassy Theatre, 10 Kent Terrace
from 10.30 am until 11.45 am**

TERM 4 Friday 18 August to Friday 29 September

TERM 5 Tuesday 17 October to Friday 17 November

Sometimes the advertised lectures may change. If so, an update will be made under **Lecture Programme** on the U3A Wellington City website.

Friday 18 August

Claire Carruthers

Past, present and future; Wellington's iconic charity – Wellington Free Ambulance

Claire is an experienced major fundraiser with an extensive background in organisational strategy, relationship management and engagement at the senior leadership and governance level. Her previous role was at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington as the Campaign Manager where she launched their first philanthropic campaign for \$150million. In 2021 she won the Fundraising Institute of New Zealand's (FINZ) Fundraising Leader of the year award.

The presentation will focus on the amazing work of Wellington Free Ambulance as an iconic charity and as the only emergency ambulance service for Greater Wellington and Wairarapa, providing all services free of charge - 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. She will share the stories of the ambulance people, highlighting the many ways that they provide much more than a lights and sirens ambulance service and how much the services have grown over the last 96 years. *There will be insights into the past, our biggest challenges in the last two years, our current priorities and what we are planning for the future.*

Tuesday 22 August
¡Cuba Hoy!

Edgardo Valdés López

His Excellency Ambassador Edgardo Valdés López is a career diplomat. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cuba in 1982, where he has served as specialist in the Latin America and the Caribbean Department; specialist in the United States of America Department and Director of the Strategic Planning and Analysis Department at the General Political Planning Department. Abroad, he has served at the Embassies of Cuba in Peru, Ecuador and Mexico; and at the Permanent Cuban Mission at the United Nations and in Brazil. Ambassador Valdés presented his credentials to the Governor-General of New Zealand on 12 November 2019.

The Ambassador will give a brief talk about Cuba's remarkable history from the arrival of the Spanish to independence. After this came the influence of American politics, Presidents Batista, Fidel Castro, followed by the 'Bay of Pigs' and the Cuban missile crisis. He will also describe the more recent impact of Presidents Obama and then Trump on Cuba's current situation.

Friday 25 August

Dr Jemima Bullock

Transgender and non-binary; Exploring the nature of this seemingly modern phenomenon

Jemima trained as a psychologist and has worked extensively in a variety of roles within the UK NHS including almost 6 years at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London. She returned to Wellington to work at Massey University in 2014 and moved to working in her specialist role within Wellington's Endocrine Unit in 2016. She is currently a Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Neuropsychologist specialising in gender affirming health care and paediatric psychology for Te Whatu Ora in the Wellington Region.

Although homosexuality and transvestitism have openly existed within our communities for many decades, those with gender identification issues have only been seemingly prevalent over the past 5 – 10 years. In the seemingly more tolerant society of today, the media are preoccupied by gender assignment and gender neutrality. Might this make such matters more threatening to such individuals than it perhaps did previously? While conventional logic tells us that there are only two sexes, defined by biology, endocrinologists quite often see female patients who are genetically male, yet do not reflect the male phenotype. Transgender and non-binary are not explained by such phenomena. Are such individuals the result of a psychological state, environmental trauma, or are there more subtle underlying factors that we still need to understand? What indeed is 'gender'? Jemima will talk about her own experience and perspective from her work here and overseas.

Tuesday 29 August

Nicola Pauling

Whose line is this anyway? Improvisational theatre applied to the development, psychoeducation and wellbeing of people in their third age

Improviser, actor, and playwright Nicola Pauling, marries the work of Kiwi-born play theorist Brian Sutton Smith, Soviet-era psychologist Lev Vygotsky, American developmentalist Dr Lois Holzman and the originator of theatre games, Viola Spolin, into a unique programme of personal and community development. Nicola is the Creative Director of Voice Arts, a charitable trust that today works with over 250 seniors a week in the Wellington region.

Participants in Voice Art's programme of weekly classes are rediscovering their capacity to performatively play and reaping the benefits of this embodied practice. Nicola's presentation will showcase international research evidencing the use of applied improvisation as an experiential learning tool across a wide range of sectors, from people living with dementia, to neurodivergent children, medical professionals and to climate change awareness.

Friday 1 September

Dr Russell Tregonning

New Zealand's surgical team in Vietnam; Celebrating 60 years of service

Russell gained his medical degrees in New Zealand, specialising in orthopaedic surgery. He has worked as an orthopaedic surgeon in Wellington and then as Clinical Senior Lecturer at Wellington School of Medicine. Russell is a published author and member of various citizens' advocacy groups including

national antinuclear, climate and health groups and Wellington campaigns for the improvement in public transport and the preservation and enhancement of Wellington's urban and natural ecosystems. From 1963 till 1975, New Zealand provided succour to a war-torn and divided Vietnam, providing initially a 4-person surgical team (NZST) of two doctors accompanied by their families. Working directly in the war zone under extreme conditions and amid great deprivation, the Kiwis gained the respect of the local population as they treated all-comers, victims of war and disease. Although the Kiwis had to flee Vietnam in 1975, the Vietnamese did not forget the Kiwis who served them and the Kiwis did not forget the Vietnamese they served. In 1995 the NZVN HealthTrust was formed and the NZST and many other health workers returned and still work there today. This presentation on the 60th anniversary records an extraordinary story of the NZ Surgical Team for which all New Zealanders can be proud.

Tuesday 5 September

Professor Marc Wilson

Who'd be a young person? Perfectionism, body image, and self-harm

Marc Wilson is a professor of psychology at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington. He teaches and researches in the areas of social and political psychology, and adolescent mental health, particularly adolescent self-harm and suicide.

Marc says self-harm is much more common than many people think - his team's research showed that, in 2009, around half of our young people have hurt themselves without any suicidal intent by the time they leave school. Marc will talk about what they now know about why young people hurt themselves, focusing particularly on the role of emotions, perfectionism, and how young people think about their bodies. He will make some suggestions that he hopes will be helpful to both young people, and the people who care for them.

Friday 8 September

Antony Gomez

Discovering the Night Sky

Antony is the Vice-President of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand. He is passionate about promoting Astronomy through public outreach and education, showing others the wonders of the night sky. He has a keen interest in the physical sciences, especially in quantum physics and cosmology, which looks at the birth of the Universe and its ultimate fate. Antony works for the Ministry for the Environment as a senior scientist in the area of climate change.

This presentation takes you through a discovery of the night sky to help understand why the southern night sky is so remarkable. It explains how we can use the night sky as a compass; where we find the planets, and why they appear in a line; where we find the constellation that represent our star signs; and many more insights to the night sky. We will take a brief look at the different types of astronomical equipment to find and observe the spectacular planets, star clusters, exploding stars, nebulae and galaxies.

Tuesday 12 September AGM

Tim Grafton

Insurance, risk and climate resilience

Tim Grafton became Chief Executive of the Insurance Council of New Zealand Te Kāhui Inihua o Aotearoa in November 2012 and is vice-president of the executive board of the Global Federation of Insurance Associations. Tim has extensive experience in providing strategic, policy and communications advice to public and private sector leaders and was an adviser to former Prime Ministers and Ministers of Finance as well as leading private companies.

Risks are transferred to insurers who price and set the terms and conditions under which they are prepared to accept risk. As risks increase, insurance responds, as one would expect, by signalling that through price, terms, and conditions. Climate change is bringing more frequent and severe weather events globally and New Zealand has experienced that this year. How should New Zealand be managing these risks? What are the limitations of insurance? Where does responsibility for adapting to these risks and building greater resilience lie?

Friday 15 September

Anne Ross

Structured literacy: the what, the why and the how

Anne is a New Zealand trained teacher and has taught in New Zealand, Hong Kong and Shanghai. Reading a book, *Why Our Children Can't Read and What We Can Do About it?* challenged Anne's beliefs about reading. She went on to study related to the book and gained a qualification as a reading therapist.

Subsequently, she worked as a consultant to a phonics company and for 7 years trained teachers throughout Asia on how children learn to read and spell. During this time Anne also worked with students referred to her due to their difficulties with reading and spelling.

This talk will focus on the history of structured literacy, what it is and how it has developed throughout the English-speaking world. It will explain why structured literacy is an effective method of teaching and why

there is a groundswell of New Zealand schools adopting this approach. It will demonstrate that this science-based approach to teaching and learning is extremely effective when taught well.

Tuesday 19 September

Dr Janet Turnbull and Dr Brendan Ng

Geriatric Medicine: Sustaining health in older persons by dodging the myths and pitfalls of the third age

Janet Turnbull is a geriatrician and palliative care physician who has worked in the Wellington area for many years. She has experience in the development of services for the older adult, both in the inpatient and community areas and has special interests in Parkinson's, Alzheimer's disease, and Motor neurone disease. Brendan Ng completed his training in geriatric medicine in 2017, became Clinical Leader of the Older Persons, Rehabilitation and Allied Health Service at CCDHB in 2021, and started working on the Rehabilitation ward at Kenepuru in 2022. He has an active interest in frailty, dementia, polypharmacy, and more recently stroke and neurorehabilitation.

Population ageing is the success story of modern medicine. Unfortunately for most individuals, it is inevitable that changes associated with ageing result in an increasing amount and duration of disability before death. Over the past 30 years geriatric medicine has grown in knowledge about diagnosing and treating these problems. This talk will cover some of the issues of increasing frailty including falls, polypharmacy, dementia and other neurodegenerative disorders. Its aim is to both educate and empower the audience to dodge some of the many pitfalls associated with ageing in the modern world.

Friday 22 September

Marc Taddei

Why music? Are conductors really necessary?

Marc Taddei is the director of Orchestra Wellington NZ and the Vallejo Symphony Orchestra in California. Under his watch, Orchestra Wellington has surpassed all other NZ orchestras with the highest average attendance level for subscription concerts. He has worked with many great artists both here in NZ and overseas, both classical and popular. He has worked in film and TV in a number of countries including the UK and the US. He has conducted many orchestras around the world and has made over 30 orchestral recordings.

Classical music is a body of works of many types – opera/madrigals, chamber, and orchestral music, music for film and TV. What is the man out there waving his arms around doing, and how could he possibly control the many musicians in front of him? What makes a good orchestra and how has Marc Taddei created one of Wellington's finest?

Tuesday 26 September

Dr Jacqueline Leckie

The history of Indian migration to NZ

Jacqueline, a historian and anthropologist, has engaged with Kiwi-Indians since the 1970s. She is now an adjunct research fellow with the Stout Centre for New Zealand Studies at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington, and conjoint associate professor in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Newcastle.

Did you know that Indians first stepped on the shores of Aotearoa during the late 18th century? Or that an Indian may have discovered gold that led to the Otago gold rush? Have you ever wondered why there is a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in front of Wellington's railway station? These are only some of the questions that will be addressed in this broad sweep of the Indian diaspora to New Zealand. Much of this story has remained invisible. Just as this part of our national history was long excluded, so too has been the invisibility of the discrimination and racism faced by Kiwi-Indians.

Friday 29 September

Anne Waapu and Len Cook

Trends and insights into the experiences of different generations of Māori men with justice in New Zealand

Anne Waapu, he uri tēnei nō Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Hinemanu, Ngāti Kahungunu me Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangi. Anne grew up in Hastings surrounded by community leaders. From kaumātua to union reps to lawyers, their gatherings gave her an insight to the scale and diversity of mahi required to address issues between people. Anne now has a background in criminal justice psychology, Kaupapa Māori research and experiences with efforts to seek justice.

Len Cook was New Zealand Government Statistician from 1992-2000 and from 2000 to 2005 he was National Statistician of the United Kingdom. In 2015 he was appointed to the role of Families Commissioner and chair of the board of Superu. Len's longstanding interests are in the areas of population change and public policy, public administration, official statistics and the place of science in policy, more recently focusing on accountability and the justice system.

The distinctive past, present and future characteristics of Māori demographic change since 1900 will be discussed in the context of the social, institutional, legal and political changes that influenced the links

between Māori and the justice system. The intergenerational consequences and generational differences will be explained, with insights into what it means for the next two decades, given the current historically low rate of imprisonment of young men.

Term 4 Holidays

Tuesday 17 October

Annette Dixon

Reflections on the state of human capital in New Zealand

Annette retired from the World Bank at the end of 2022 after 24 years working in operations and corporate leadership roles. As World Bank Group Human Resources Vice President, she built the Bank's brand as the employer of choice in development, with a diverse and inclusive workplace. She was previously the Bank's Vice President (Human Development) and launched the Human Capital Project, including the Human Capital Index. Before leaving New Zealand, Annette was Chief Executive of the Ministry of Youth Affairs. She also worked in the Ministry of Health, the Department of the Prime Minister and in the Ministry of Women's Affairs.

In recent years it has become possible to measure the linkages between human capital endowments and the productivity of countries. This work complements traditional measurements of country assets such as natural and built capital. The Human Capital project provides a set of indicators which measure the productivity of the next generation of workers, compared to a benchmark of complete education and full health. This work has gained even more importance in the aftermath of Covid-19, which has seen losses in both education and health. Annette's talk will provide insights into the state of human capital in New Zealand, drawing on lessons from other countries.

Friday 20 October

Dr Hamish Campbell

The shape of the Chatham Islands

Hamish Campbell is a Wellington-based palaeontologist and geologist and is an Emeritus Scientist with GNS Science. His association with the Chatham Islands has been a 'constant' since he first went there with an Otago University archaeological project in 1975, spanning his entire career as a research scientist with the New Zealand Geological Survey and GNS Science (1978-2019). He has been leading tourist excursions to the Chathams on an annual basis since 2002.

Hamish's talk will present an up-to-date understanding of the geological history of the Chathams as part of Eastern Zealandia and in so doing will explain the unusual shape of Chatham Island in particular. He will also touch on key aspects of the human history that have shaped life in the Chathams as they are today.

Tuesday 24 October

Matt Dagger

Minimising food waste and enhancing food security – a national approach

Matt has spent the past 15 years working for not-for-profit organisations. He has a particular interest in projects that bisect social service and environmental sectors, especially initiatives which see the diversion of nutritious, high-quality food to communities in need. Previously the CEO of Wellington's local food rescue specialists Kaibosh, Matt is currently the Activation Lead of the Aotearoa Food Rescue Alliance, a national umbrella group that supports the work of 33 member organisations across New Zealand. Globally a third of all food that is produced is needlessly wasted before it reaches the consumer. This results in huge levels of waste through all the energy and water it takes to grow, harvest, transport and package it. Additionally, the disposal of food into landfill sees environmentally damaging methane released. Perversely, this is all occurring at a time when so many in our communities do not have enough to eat. Matt will talk about local and national initiatives to divert quality surplus food into communities of need in a way that is safe, dignified and efficient. He will also describe a range of projects across NZ which are taking a considered and coordinated approach to minimising food waste whilst creating and valuing our important food resources.

Friday 27 October

TBA

Tuesday 31 October

Dr Heidi Thomson

Creative melancholy: Robert Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy (1621) and English poetry.

Heidi Thomson is Emeritus Professor of English Literature at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington. She was born and educated in Belgium, studied as a Fulbright Student in the US, and has recently retired from Te Herenga Waka after 31 years in the English programme. She has worked primarily on topics about British Romanticism and has published widely on the life and works of Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Keats.

Robert Burton's massive tome, *The Anatomy of Melancholy (1621)*, is as relevant now as it was 400 years ago. Essentially a self-help book about the causes, symptoms, and cures of melancholy, the book has

inspired many artists and writers. This lecture explains what makes Burton's book so compelling and fascinating for readers today, and how it influenced the work of the Romantic poet John Keats.

Friday 3 November

Dr Ben Gray

Adult decision-making as we get older; a review of the law

Ben Gray was a GP at Newtown Union Health Service for 27 years. He has convened the undergraduate medical course in Professional Development and Ethics for the last 16 years. He is chair of the Wellington Welfare Guardianship Trust and on the expert advisory group for the Law Commission's work on a review of the Protection of Personal Property Rights Act.

Ben will briefly describe the aspects of current law that make health decisions for people who have impaired capacity (commonly from the onset of dementia), including the role of Enduring Powers of Attorney and Welfare Guardians. The law focuses on who makes a decision, not on how to make a good decision. Provisions for dealing with disputes are inadequate, relying on court processes only. The current law is not consistent with the United Nations Charter on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The Health and Disability Code of Rights presumes that health decisions are made by autonomous individuals with information from doctors, which is a poor description of the reality of what happens. He will discuss ways in which the legislation could be changed.

Tuesday 7 November

John McCrystal

Worse things happen at sea

John McCrystal is a Wellington freelance writer. He has written, co-written or ghost-written over 50 non-fiction titles on a wide variety of subjects. *Worse Things Happen at Sea* is the title of his latest book.

The presentation will be based on this book. Mystery, mishap, misery — shipwrecks have it all. Significant New Zealand shipwrecks will be compared and contrasted with landmark nautical mishaps from the wider world. You won't complain about being cold and hungry again!

Friday 10 November

Nicola Saker and Cherie Jacobsen

The enduring legacy of Katherine Mansfield

Nicola is Chair of the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Society. She is the author of *The Katherine Mansfield Cookbook* and *Woman in Love: Katherine Mansfield's Love Letters*, as well as many articles about Mansfield. Cherie is the Director of the Katherine Mansfield House and Garden, with a background as a theatre maker, producer and venue manager. She has worked as a researcher, writer and curator in the heritage sector.

Katherine Mansfield is New Zealand's most famous writer and 2023 marks 100 years since her death. This talk will address the reasons for her fame and the nature of her enduring legacy: her ongoing ability to inspire creativity in others, whether they be visual artists, ballet choreographers, ceramicists, writers or film makers.

Tuesday 14 November

Jane Wrightson

Retirement conundrums

Retirement Commissioner Jane Wrightson has recently been reappointed until 2026 by the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Jane's advocacy interests are in the economic wellbeing of older New Zealanders, equity, and ensuring evidence-based data is readily available to contribute to what can sometimes be heated debate.

She will address the time after the election - *what next for principled retirement policy?* The Retirement Commissioner is tasked with advocating for long term approaches in a short-term political world. What can possibly go wrong?

Friday 17 November

Mark Pascall

Cryptocurrencies: Giant nerdy ponzi scheme or force for good.

Mark has been involved in the cryptocurrency / blockchain / Web 3 space for over 8 years. He has co-authored a report *New Zealand: Unlocking Blockchain's Potential* and featured in an upcoming TVNZ documentary on the history of crypto in New Zealand. He founded The Wellbeing Protocol: a project to explore how web 3 can empower local communities and enable liquid democracy. He also ran the first university courses in the world on Decentralised Autonomous Organisations (DAOs) and was one of the founding partners of Metacartel Ventures, one of the first decentralised blockchain based Venture Capital organisations (at its peak controlling US\$60m worth of assets but with no bank account, office or employees). He also brought Vitalik Buterin (the creator of Ethereum - the second biggest blockchain with market cap of US\$227B) to New Zealand to keynote a conference.

In this presentation Mark will demystify the worlds of crypto, blockchain, Web 3, smart contracts and DAOs.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Overview of the period May 2023 – August 2023

For the most part, 2023's winter period has been one of continuity and consolidation for the Special Interest Groups (SIGs). As SIGs Coordinator, I always want to begin the Newsletter by acknowledging and thanking the Conveners who do so much to contribute to their groups. This contribution includes not only sharing their own interests in initiating groups, but also the time which is needed to build and maintain them. Due to their generosity, U3A has a wide-ranging selection of interest groups which are available to its members and we expand that selection with another new group detailed below.

New Group: Canasta/Samba/Bolivia Special Interest Group

We have a proposal for a new Special Interest Group, hosted by Margaret Morrell. The offer is for: *An enjoyable group for people who play, or would like to learn to play, Canasta; people who already play Canasta and would like to move onto Samba and/or Bolivia; and people who already play Samba and/or Bolivia.*

If you are, or might be, interested in any of these 3 levels of play, please contact Margaret margaret.morrell60@gmail.com or leave a message on Margaret's phone: 027381 3600, as she is away until the end of August. Once we know how many members could be interested, Margaret will convene a meeting to discuss suitable times and venues.

Handicrafts group

Our monthly gatherings (3rd Monday of the month, between 9am - 1pm, 157 Hataitai Road) remain popular with an increasing attendance. With 15 members, about 8 people attend each time and at the last gathering 10 people came, including 5 with sewing machines. People bring a variety of crafts including: sewing projects; alterations; mending; dress-making; cutting out (we have trestle tables which provide a big surface for cutting); quilting, knitting and crochet.

Members have a great depth of handcrafting experience which provides a wonderful opportunity for receiving advice on how to do something. Members do not need to be experienced hand crafters to join the group, as attendance provides a wonderful opportunity to learn. All attendees are women at present but men are welcome. Some attend regularly, some less often but this doesn't matter. We welcome all new people, with no waitlist. Please contact me if you have any queries, Diane Morgan: 0276729060 diane.morgan@xtra.co.nz

Music Appreciation Group

The Music Appreciation group is always keen to welcome new members. There is no waiting list, and you are very welcome to come along to see if it suits you. You don't need to have a great knowledge of music, just a love for it. Each session, one of the group presents a talk on a particular topic which, in recent times, have included Burt Bacharach, Birds in Music, Gilbert & Sullivan, Baroque opera, the American comedian Tom Lehrer and Irish music. Doing a presentation is entirely optional. We meet every second Thursday (not including school holidays) at St Ninian's, Karori from 10-12, including morning tea. Dates for the rest of the year are 3, 17 and 31 August, 14 September, 12 and 26 October, 9 and 23 November, and 7 December. For further information, contact David Barker 021 376 660 or u3a.wlg.musicapp@gmail.com

Current Issues Group – venue change

The Current Issues Group has returned to the Reflection Room in Malvina Major for its meetings from 10 am to 12 midday, on every second Wednesday of the month. This change of venue is from 9 August 2023 and for the foreseeable future. Michael writes: *The Current Issues Group has longstanding members and a regular number of new members. It is welcoming and enjoys discussing a wide range of current issues, both local and international.* michael.hodgen@xtra.co.nz

Te Reo Beginners' Group – Awaiting Future Participants

The fifth group concluded on July 11, and at this point there is no plan for further groups. There is, however, a short waiting list, and when (or if) more members indicate their interest in learning to pronounce and use te reo, another series could be organised. Please contact Libby if you have any questions or wish to be on the waiting list @ Libbyclark3@gmail.com

Linda Beckett, SIGs Coordinator

OTHER NEWS

Exercise classes

The exercise class for seniors at the Loaves & Fishes, Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, 2 Hill St, Thorndon meets on Fridays at 1 pm, followed by a cup of tea at 2 pm. This is sponsored by Age Concern Wellington and focuses on balance, stretching and falls prevention. For more details call 04 499 6648. The cost is \$3 per session.

These classes are also available in Mt Victoria (Quakers Meeting House), St Peters Church, and in the following suburbs: Newlands, Khandallah, Johnsonville, Vogelmorn, Brooklyn, Island Bay, Seatoun and Karori as well as a number of sites in the Hutt Valley, Tawa and Porirua and online. **Note that some are full.** Refer www.acwellington.or.nz/saygoexercise for more details.

Rae Julian, Newsletter Editor

Appendix A

Financial Statements (As prepared for review)

U3A WELLINGTON CITY INCORPORATED

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE	Notes	YE 30 June 2023	YE 30 June 2022
<u>Income</u>			
Subscriptions	1	20,485.00	41,060.10
Lectures (Visitors)	2	1,375.00	600.00
Functions	3	14,799.00	5,838.00
Bank Interest		2,277.58	483.82
Other	4		16.00
Total Income		<u>38,936.58</u>	<u>47,997.92</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Rent – Embassy	5	31,125.00	17,050.00
Book Vouchers		5,110.40	5,824.00
Functions	3	17,281.62	6,000.94
SIGs - Rent and Other Expenses		5,971.66	4,245.37
Donations	6	100.00	405.00
Newsletter Expenses		352.06	418.91
Postage & Stationery		376.56	323.40
IT Equipment & Services		3,386.44	2,383.98
Other Equipment		-	-
Sundry	7	2,035.13	2,634.32
Total Expenditure		<u>65,738.87</u>	<u>39,285.92</u>
Surplus / (Deficit)		<u>(26,802.29)</u>	<u>8,712.00</u>

FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 30 June 2023 as at 30 June 2022

<u>Bank Accounts and Cash Balances</u>		
Westpac 01 Account	14,593.51	27,537.03
Westpac 02 Account	11,894.60	14,252.76
Westpac Term Deposits	48,084.23	49,375.13
PayPal Account	795.64	11,005.35
Petty Cash	50.00	50.00
Total Bank Accounts and Cash	<u>75,417.98</u>	<u>102,220.27</u>

CASH FLOWS

YE 30 June 2023 YE 30 June 2022

Opening Cashbook Balance	102,220.27	93,508.27
Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>(26,802.29)</u>	<u>8,712.00</u>
Closing Cashbook Balance	75,417.98	102,220.27
Add Incomplete Payments	-	-
Closing Bank Accounts & Cash	<u>75,417.98</u>	<u>102,220.27</u>

Notes

1. Subscription income in the financial year was significantly less than in earlier years (about 50% of the previous year) due to issues with the PayPal that resulted in pausing the subscription process while a replacement system is put in place.
2. There were no Covid restrictions that affected our programme of lectures at the Embassy (as was the situation in previous years). This is likely to be one of the reasons that visitor fees banked during

the year were double those banked in the previous year.

3. All functions, other than the Volunteers and Christmas Cocktails, are organised on a break-even basis. There were a number of functions (including the Volunteers and Christmas Cocktails) for which there were charges in the reporting period but, apart from the final payment of \$1,700 for the Midwinter Lunch on 1 st July 2022 not being invoiced until that day, all income and expenditure relating these functions occurred in the 2022-2023 financial year.

4. This income is from members who made unnecessary payments and have chosen to not take up the offer of a refund.

5. With no Covid restrictions affecting our ability to hold all lectures at the Embassy, costs were significantly higher than for any of the three previous years.

6. The 2022- 2023 expenditure was for one instance where a lecturer requested a donation to a relevant charity be made in place of the gift of a book token

7. Includes PayPal Charges of \$649.71 and Public Liability Insurance of \$744.05