

Join the journey with the new President



New U3A Wellington City president, Bruce Levick says he sees the new role as a facilitator who enables others to contribute their varied skills and talents for the benefit of all members. A strong supporter of U3A, he invites members to join him on a journey that is “stimulating, sociable, enjoyable and fun.” A word of caution here: as you can read below, he is not your typical travelling companion!

Bruce and Gwen Levick emigrated from South Africa in 1975 and settled in Masterton. Bruce taught at Rathkeale College and in 1990 was appointed Principal. In 1996 adventure beckoned when he saw an advertisement for principals at a chain of private Islamic schools in Pakistan.

He subsequently became the principal of a school of over 1,600 students in Islamabad and, in a second assignment, was appointed to a school of over 2,300 students in Karachi. This provided a rich cultural experience and also amazing travel opportunities, including a trip up the Karakoram Highway (part of the Silk Road) to the Chinese border in their little 800cc Suzuki.

A completely different experience was a year’s assignment as VSA volunteers in a remote island in the Solomon Islands. Food supplies were limited and travel, often in rough seas, was in a motorised ‘canoe’ powered by a 40hp engine, providing some hair-raising moments.

A year’s teaching in England and another in the USA broadened his international perspective and again provided wonderful opportunities for travel and appreciation of western culture. A few years as Principal of Ruapehu College in Ohakune was an enriching experience, enabling him to gain a better understanding of Te Ao Māori.

Following a rewarding six years at the Ministry of Education, Bruce reluctantly retired at the age of 77 and now looks forward to making a meaningful contribution as President of Wellington City U3A.

Bruce Levick,
president@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz

Appreciation

With the new president and a new SIG coordinator (Page 3) the Committee is complete. Bruce Levick thanked acting president Barbara Crump for her efforts in securing the new appointments. Her institutional knowledge and boundless energy, combined with the invaluable assistance of the Secretary Tricia Walbridge, Treasurer John Rutherford, and other members of the committee, ensured a smooth transition in a time of change, he said.

New Secretary needed for U3A Wellington City

Every role benefits from a refresh from time to time, and Secretary of U3A Wellington City is no different! It is an annual appointment made at the Annual General Meeting, along with the other voluntary Committee positions. There is an expectation that the Secretary will serve for five years, but this is certainly not essential.

There is a proposal in the draft amended Constitution to be submitted at the AGM in September that the Secretary be made one of the Officers of U3A, along with the President and Treasurer. It is a pivotal role, although more “behind the scenes”, while the President is the public face of the organisation.

The primary duty of the Secretary is the smooth administration of U3A. This primarily involves:

- Four Committee meetings - preparation of the Agenda, any background papers or reports, Minutes and any follow up actions, in consultation with the President.
- AGM – as above, with organisation of nominations to the Committee for voting at the AGM.
- Lectures – writing letters of thanks with a Unity book voucher for each presenter.
- Authorisation of payments, with the President or Treasurer, from U3A’s accounts.
- Ensuring U3A meets its commitments as a registered charity and incorporated society (informal legal advice is always available if needed).
- General – responding to enquiries from U3A members/potential members and external organisations. Updating list of Committee members and significant U3A dates through the year.

If you enjoy being at the heart of an organisation, making a very valuable contribution, and knowing how much this is appreciated, this could be the role for you. A secretarial background is certainly not necessary, but comfort with basic computer skills – email, Word – is important.

If you would like to know more about the role do contact our current Secretary, **Tricia Walbridge**, who steps down at our AGM in September, at tricia.walbridge@gmail.com or 027-563-5109.

Welcome
A warm welcome to the
65 new members who
have joined U3A
Wellington City this year,
bringing the total
membership to 1259.

Subscription renewal due

We are reaching the end of the financial year when your membership will need to be renewed. During June, personalised renewal links will be sent to all members with email addresses and reminders will be mailed to all those without email addresses. The membership fee remains at \$40 for the year to 30 June 2025.

The renewal information will contain all the details you require but, as always, if you have any concerns please contact me on membership@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz

Please continue to talk to your friends and contacts about the benefits of belonging to U3A Wellington City and direct them to our website if they are interested in joining us. New members are always welcome. Membership starts on 1 July 2024 but anyone can join from today onwards for 2024/25 membership which entitles you to enjoy our exciting programme of lectures, events, and interest groups.

Faith Atkins, Membership Secretary

From the new SIG Coordinator



*Enjoying travel: Demetra at
Meteora in Greece*

As a relatively new member of U3A, Demetra Kennedy says, I have very quickly come to appreciate the value U3A provides to its community of stakeholders both through its lecture programme and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) activities. So, when the call was made for a SIG Coordinator this seemed a good way to become more involved.

The position appeared closely aligned with my previous roles and personal strengths in organisational strategic planning, and relationship management. Honestly, I'm a "doer"! With a surplus of discretionary time, I felt this role was a good investment. So here I am!

The SIGs enhance the value of U3A membership. They provide opportunities for greater social contact, intellectual stimulation, mental and physical wellbeing activities- all at the same time. Consequently, the SIGs have become increasingly popular and demand to join is increasing. My first and most important job is to meet the wonderful team of volunteer coordinators who are responsible for running the groups and together focus on the future for the interest groups, discussing ways to expand access to the groups without adding to the burden for the coordinators.

Demetra Kennedy, sigcoordinator@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz

The canasta group needs new members. Contact Margaret.morrell60@gmail.com

All the latest at www.u3awellingtoncity.org.nz

Find the full list of Committee members on our website, which is also the source of the latest information on:

- Upcoming lectures by month; Slides from recent speakers (Lecture Archive tab)
- Current and recent newsletters (News/Newsletters)
- Coming U3A activities (Events Programme tab)
- Special Interest Group meeting times and places (Interest Groups tab)
- Non-U3A talks, concerts, plays (News/non-U3A Talks/Events tab)

Thanks to Malcolm Wheeler for keeping the site up to date.

Sunday Roasts a monthly event

Make a note – at 12.30 on the last Sunday of the month meet for a roast lunch, to be held at different restaurants around town. An ideal opportunity to join other members in a relaxed setting.

Contact Sue Dale at:

events@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz



Your thoughts please...

Newsletter editor Janet Tyson and designer Saskia van Stockum (newsletter@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz) are keen to know your thoughts on the new look, and any other content you would like to see in the newsletter.

Record attendance at U3A lectures

More than 300 people came along to four of the Term 1 lectures, with the trend looking set to continue into Term 2. That is an acknowledgement of the great work done by the Lecture Programme team.

It also makes for a busy time for the Front of House team who check everybody in, including at times a number of guests. Fortunately, Front of House and Volunteer Coordinator Jeannie Buxton says, last year's technical problems have been overcome, with assistance from team member Malcolm Wheeler. There is now a more settled registration roster, so the process should be quick and straightforward when people bring their card to scan. Jeannie asks that guests bring their \$5 in cash as there is no eftpos. President Bruce Levick, an experienced front of house volunteer himself, said Jeannie deserves many thanks for her persistence in overcoming some daunting challenges with the registration system.

What's on over winter

Term 2 lectures will finish on Tuesday 25 June. Term 3 lectures resume 8 weeks later, on Friday 16 August. Despite this long break, there will still be 59 lectures delivered in 2024, as the series started earlier than usual and will finish later than in previous years. With a variety of activities on offer, there will be no mid-winter lunch this year.

Interest groups will continue to meet as scheduled, and you will not be surprised to learn that Sue Dale is cooking up some novel and exciting adventures, including another bus odyssey.

Some key dates are listed below for your diary, but keep an eye on the website for updates as well.

From **Saturday 1 June**: Subscription reminders being sent out
(membershipsecretary@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz)

Friday 7 June: SIG Co-ordinators Meeting (sigcoordinator@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz)

Saturday 15 June: Circa theatre matinee, End of Summer Time (events@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz)

Tuesday 25 June: Last lecture, Term 2

Friday 28 June: Matariki holiday

Sunday 30 June: Sunday Roast, St John's Bar (events@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz)

Tuesday 1 July: New financial year

Tuesday 23 July: Last committee meeting before AGM

Sunday 28 July: Sunday Roast, tba

Wednesday 31 July: Film festival begins at the Embassy

Saturday 3 August: Newsletter 127 published with Term 3 lectures

Sunday 11 August: Film festival ends

Friday 16 August: First lecture, Term 3

Tuesday 10 September: AGM at 10 am, before lecture.

U3A Wellington City – www.u3awellingtoncity.org.nz

“Providing opportunities for continuing education that promotes the ongoing development and wellbeing of our members”.

Lectures on Tuesday and Friday at the Embassy Theatre from 10.30-11.45.

Enquiries and feedback: info@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz