



From the President: Mission accomplished? Your view

The Mission Statement for U3A Wellington City is:

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

The Aims by which it does this are:

1. to share knowledge and continue the education of people of the Third Age
2. to provide activities and interests for people of the Third Age to enhance their wellbeing
3. to encourage members to form interactive groups, both to share knowledge and to pursue active involvement in new fields.

The above Mission Statement and Aims are, in my view, well chosen, and very accurately describe what our society aims to deliver.

At a special meeting in August convened to take stock and look to the future, your committee discussed whether our current activities were achieving those aspirational aims. The consensus was in the affirmative, but the feeling was gut rather than evidence-based.

We would like to be more certain how members assess what we are offering. It was decided, therefore, to conduct a survey similar to the one last carried out in 2021.

Since then, there has been a substantial increase, as well as a natural turnover, in our membership. It is timely that we ascertain your views and glean fresh ideas for speakers and activities.

Your views are valuable, and vital – we look forward to hearing them.

Bruce Levick,
president@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz

Your chance to shape future direction

Links to our 2024 member survey are being sent via email in the first week of October.

We are looking for feedback on our programme during 2024 as well as suggestions for going forward.

The survey should take no more than five minutes to fill in.

Your responses to the survey will be confidential. The results will be anonymised, and used to help us plan next year's lectures and events.

Please complete the survey by
Tuesday 15 October at the latest.

AGM report acknowledges support

U3A's 31st Annual General Meeting, held on Tuesday 10 September 2024, proceeded in the usual efficient manner ahead of the osteoporosis presentation by Professor Ian Reid.

Papers were circulated ahead of time and taken as read (and are still available at <https://u3awellingtoncity.org.nz/news-archive>). The business was over in less than 30 minutes.

Bruce Levick, re-elected unopposed as President, highlighted his appreciation for the systems in place and the enormous efforts by volunteers such as Libby Clark. She is stepping down from the committee but continuing roles including lecture planning, event planning, and being a microphone runner. He also said that it had been decided to delay final decisions on the amended constitution given that the deadline for doing so is a year away.

He thanked the Embassy Theatre for its support and praised the Inland Revenue Department for assisting U3A to manage the GST implications resulting from the delay in getting membership subscriptions caused by problems with PayPal and the transition to Stripe. This resulted in an atypically large income for the year from June 2023.

Treasurer John Rutherford thanked the group of members who have "shared their talents" and helped to successfully make the transition from spreadsheets to Xero, which amongst other things will make the management of GST much simpler. The President told a questioner that GST would be incorporated in rather than added on to membership subscriptions.

All previous members of the committee were re-elected, with the exception of Libby Clark and of Secretary Tricia Walbridge who was required to step down after five years. Bruce thanked Tricia for her unstinting, efficient service and welcomed Beverley Dixon as the new Secretary.



Welcome to our new Secretary

We would like to welcome Beverley Dixon (pictured) who has joined the U3A Wellington City Committee as its new Secretary.

Beverley retired from full time employment at the end of 2022, having had many years' experience, as executive assistant, personal assistant, and office manager.

While still at work she joined a Tuesday walking group with both working and retired members. Many of the latter came to the walk talking enthusiastically about the lecture they had attended earlier that morning, inspiring her to join U3A as soon as she could.

Beverley volunteers as a Wellington City Ambassador, assisting cruise ship passengers and other tourists during their visit to Wellington in the cruise ship season and other special events periods such as WOW and the FIFA World Cup. She is also a member of The Graveyard Shift - a group working monthly to clear and clean the St John's Trentham church graveyard, and volunteers for the annual Upper Hutt Bookfest run by the Heretaunga Bookfest Charitable Trust which raises funds for community groups.

On a personal note, Beverley has three adult children and two granddaughters with whom she likes to spend as much time as she can.

We are confident that Beverley's experience and skills will contribute to the continued effective running of the U3A committee.

Term 4 lectures

Full details of speaker and content can be found on the U3A [website](#)

- Tuesday 8 October:** No lecture, break between Terms 3 and 4
- Friday 11 October:** Digital safety in our modern tech age
- Tuesday 15 October:** Navigating the relationships between science and traditional knowledge systems: lessons from Japan
- Friday 18 October:** Why tell another World War Two story?
- Tuesday 22 October:** Adoption – an alternative view
- Friday 25 October:** Whither open government in 2024?
- Tuesday 29 October:** Death in Wellington – kōrero with a Funeral Director
- Friday 1 November:** The feminist and the fraudster: Mary and Waring Taylor
- Tuesday 5 November:** Crossing the bridge – entering Te Ao Māori (tbc)
- Friday 8 November:** Tbc
- Tuesday 12 November:** The work of Arts in Corrections in Aotearoa
- Friday 15 November:** The story of an unusual career in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors
- Tuesday 19 November:** The role of the church in addressing issues of state in 21st century democracy.
- End of Term 4. Dates for Term 1 2025 will be published in Newsletter 129 in December.**

Quick guide to lecture slides

Some quick pointers for using the website www.u3awellingtoncity.org.nz to follow up lectures that have been delivered. If the presenter's slides have been made available and loaded to the website, there will be a "download" notification next to each listing.

- To find slides for **lectures given in the current month**, go to [Lectures & Events>Lecture programme](#) and select that month.
- To find slides for **lectures given in previous months and years**, go to [Lectures & Events>Archive](#) and search by month, again checking for the "download" advice.

We are fortunate that most of our presenters are prepared to make their slides available for future reference. Often, the slides will be available the day of delivery, thanks to our Tech Team lead Ian Goodwin and his team.

Some items may be removed for intellectual property and other reason. This may cause a delay in loading the slides to the website, but anything that will be available should be loaded within a fortnight after delivery.

Be active, be involved, with a Special Interest Group

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are a very popular feature of U3A Wellington City's growing membership, to the point where many have waiting lists to join. Please don't let this put you off! If you are interested in joining any activity or group, contact the relevant SIG Co-ordinator – they are all listed on the [Interest Groups tab](#) on the website – and get your name on the waiting list so we know what the demand is.

We would like to ensure all members, especially new U3A members, who are interested in joining a SIG can do so in a timely manner. One way we can do this is to set up more interest groups. If you have a qualification, general interest or experience in any activity or topic and have a little time available to share this with other U3A members, we would very much like to hear from you.

For example, we need people with interest in walking, reading, arts, music, Tai Chi, Zumba, Bridge and languages. You don't necessarily have to be an expert in any of these areas. Session content can be tailored as needed and we will provide you with assistance, including venues, to set up your new special interest group. We can offer audio, visual and presentation technology.

If you have been on a waiting list to join an activity or group for more than six months or are having any difficulty getting onto one, please let me (Demetra Kennedy sigs@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz) know as soon as possible. I may be able to help you. Similarly, please contact me if you would like to discuss setting up a new SIG.

U3A members who are no longer active participants in a special interest group or know you will not be able to participate for an extended period, please advise the relevant SIG Coordinator as soon as possible so that other U3A members who are on waiting lists can join the activity.

Board Games Group

The new **Board Games Group** will start on **10 October 2024** and meet monthly from 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm on the **second Thursday** of each month at the **Wellington Quaker Meeting House**.

Bring along the games you like to play and have a fun afternoon playing them with other enthusiasts or learning to play a new one. Feel free to just come along and try out a selection of games such as Rummikub, 5 Crowns, Uno, Backgammon and many more.

Tea and coffee provided, feel free to bring some refreshment to share if you'd like to.

Contact: Margaret Morrell,
margaret.morrell60@gmail.com.



Four SIG groups meet at the Wellington Quaker Meeting House, 7 Moncrieff Street, Mount Victoria, which is also the venue for U3A Committee meetings. The Meeting House features on a Heritage week walk on 2 November.

Where, when and Co-ordinator contacts

Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings are held around the Wellington area, with the walking groups to be found in a different location each week.

To find out where and when for each group, go to the [Interest Groups](#) tab on the website which gives updated contact emails and a link through to the [Timetable-at-a-glance](#).

Welcome the godwits home

You have a unique opportunity to witness a once-a-year event, the return of the godwits on their epic non-stop flight from the Northern Hemisphere. There is world-wide interest in the spectacle of the birds arriving home. Limited seats are still available to come to this special occasion, hosted by the Manawatu Estuary Trust at Foxton, this **Saturday 5 October**.

Reservations at events@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz

We are taking a Ramblers' Coachline Minibus, departing from Wellington Station at 8.00 am. The fare is calculated depending on numbers, so bring a friend or three. The ceremony for the birds starts at 10.00 am, including a Maori welcome and address by Paul Battley of Massey University. It will be high tide, so you will be very close to the birds, and viewing scopes are available.

Bring your own lunch or eat at the nearby café. The event will go ahead regardless of the weather, and you will be back in Wellington by 5.00 pm. The minibus fare will be around \$50, depending on the number of seats sold.

Bar-tailed godwits. These amazing birds migrate from New Zealand to China and then to Alaska for the Northern Hemisphere summer. They return to New Zealand, flying up to 13,500 km in only 11 days. Photo: Manawatu Estuary Trust.



Lecture “out-takes”

The Term 3 2024 lecture programme has provided some outstanding sessions, always drawing a well-filled house and at times attracting audiences of over 400.

Congratulations must go to the lecture programme team for the interesting topics they have organised – and to the front of house team for processing numbers that at times went down the stairs, out the door and into the street. Great advertising for U3A!

For further follow-up and quick reference, below we have listed update and contact information for some of the issues raised in Term 3 presentations.

- To sign the petition endorsed by the Retirement Village Residents Association asking for the review of retirement villages to be actively progressed, go to: <https://www.unitedforseniors.org.nz/>. The petition is still open and has 10,000 signatures, as the review is expected to go to the ministers shortly.
- To help Behrouz Boochani, the high-profile Kurdish refugee journalist, raise funds to evacuate a fellow Kurdish journalist and human rights activist stuck in Türkiye for eight years, go to <https://chuffed.org/project/sponsorship-for-a-refugee> for details and to donate. The journalist, who cannot be named, would take up a humanitarian scholarship in Canada.
- To take the FRAX self-test on your risk for bone fractures and osteoporosis, as mentioned by Professor Ian Reid: <https://frax.shef.ac.uk/FRAX>
- Submissions to the first review of assisted dying in New Zealand, described by Jessica Young, closed on 26 September, with first findings expected in November.
- For more details of Shelley Brunskill-Matson’s presentation on suicide bereavement visit www.supportaftersuicide.co.nz/nocostsupportoptions

Eventful times

A group of 23 members greatly enjoyed the last night of Body Politic at Circa Theatre.

Extra art visits have been arranged (at right).

Sunday roasts have started again with lunch at Coene's at the Port Nicholson Yacht Club in Oriental Bay on 27 October, as usual meeting at 12.30 pm.

There still may be spaces to venture further afield, to welcome the godwits (page 5) or join the first of our Chatham Island visits, highly recommended for information and entertainment value and dining and photo opportunities.

Summer events are now being planned and will be in the December newsletter.

More art visits

On Tuesday 8 October and Friday 11 October, from 10.30 am to Noon, we have another opportunity to see Helen Beaglehole's lovely little Modernist house built to house her carefully curated collection of New Zealand art.

Helen will talk about the history of the Beaglehole collection, her new book about it, "Light and Reflections," and the designing and construction of the house.

The cost is \$20; to register events@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 1 October:** Links to member survey being sent out from now on.
- Friday 4 October:** Last lecture Term 3
- Saturday 5 October:** Welcome Godwits to Foxton (events@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz)
- Tuesday 8 October:** Term break, no lecture
- Tuesday 8 October:** Visit to Helen Beaglehole's house and art collection.
- Thursday 10 October:** First meeting, Board Games Group
- Friday 11 October:** First lecture, Term 4
- Friday 11 October:** Visit to Helen Beaglehole's house and art collection.
- Tuesday 15 October:** Deadline to return survey responses
- Sunday 27 October:** Sunday roast, Coene's
- Saturday 2 November:** Heritage Week visit to Quaker Meeting House
- Thursday 7 November – Tuesday 12 November:** Chatham Islands visit (H.Campbell@gns.cri.nz)
- Tuesday 19 November:** Last lecture Term 4
- Friday 7 December:** Newsletter 129 with holiday activities and 2025 dates

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