

From the President: Registered and incorporated

Thank you to the hundreds of members who attended the Annual General Meeting on 9 September.

The AGM unanimously passed two important motions: approval of the new Constitution and re-registration of U3A Wellington City as an Incorporated Society. The Constitution and re-registration documentation were submitted to the Companies Office on the following day. Notification was received by return email that both were acceptable, and that U3A Wellington City had been re-registered as an incorporated society under the the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

We welcome the following new members to our committee: **Pauline Edwards** (Treasurer), **John Marwick** (Membership Secretary), **Libby Clark**, **Anna Cottrell** and **Ewen Coleman** (Programme Team). They had all been contributing before the AGM was held and join the returning members **Beverley Dixon** (Secretary), **Janet Tyson** (Newsletter Editor), **Simon Louisson** (Programme Team), **Demetra Kennedy** (SIG Facilitator), **Malcolm Wheeler** (Website Editor and IT) and **Sue Dale** (Events Coordinator). As well, **David Werry** has taken over Front of House management but is not a committee member.

I look forward to working with the new committee – they are a talented, devoted team who will ensure that we maintain the high standard of lectures and activities that U3A offers. Enjoy term 4!

Bruce Levick,
president@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz



Hands up at the AGM show unanimous approval for the new Constitution. Photo: Gwen Levick.

On a lighter note:

Bruce's lament

*Oh, give me your pity. I chair a committee
Which means that from morning to night
We attend, and amend, and contend, and defend
Without a conclusion in sight.
We confer and concur, defer and demur,
And re-iterate all of our thoughts.
We revise the agenda with frequent addenda;
And consider a load of reports.
We compose and propose. We suppose and oppose,
and the points of procedure are fun!
Various notions are brought up as motions,
We resolve and absolve, but never dissolve,
There's always more to be done.**

**Adapted from a poem by Phong Ngo*

Out and about with U3A Events (events@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz)



Left: The cast of characters on the St James stage are U3A members enjoying a tour of Wellington's historic theatres, led by Ewen Coleman (third from left).

Below: Trevor Fitzjohn of TeePee Cider explains a tricky stage in cider making to the group who savoured a day in the Wairarapa.

Photos via Lyn Holland, Janet Tyson



New SIGs on the drawing board

Look for more information in Term 4 about proposed new SIGs now that **Demetra Kennedy** (sigs@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz) is back from a visit to Corsica. Two definite ideas on the drawing board are an environmental issues group, and pickleball, for the energetic.

Joanne Gapes (shakespeare@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz) has taken over as the new coordinator for the Shakespeare SIG, which meets on alternate Wednesday mornings on the Terrace. **Mike Drain** (photography@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz) advises that the Smartphone Photography group will alternate their weekly Friday meetings between Te Papa and the Quaker Meeting House, where they have more space to display and discuss what members have produced.

Important information about membership cards

At its last meeting, the committee decided that, from 30 November, there will be a \$10 charge to replace a lost membership card.

As **John Marwick** (membership@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz) explains, postage and handling costs are among the logistical issues surrounding the current system of providing cards to prove membership and record attendance, along with unpredictable delays in printing and postal delivery:

Because of the delay for members receiving their cards I have started to send out a link to a digital image of the new card with a barcode to scan when attending lectures. At present this must be done manually for each card but, in the future, I hope we may be able to automate this. It is a feature we are seeking in the database review.

I note that quite a few members have already uploaded photos of their cards to their phones and use this to sign in. You can either just save a photo of the barcode, or you can upload such a photo to one of several Apps that are available such as *Folio Wallet*, *Supercards* or *Klarna*. If you need help, ask someone who has already done it.



Term 4 topics: Art, carpets, fungi and more

The team delivering our acclaimed lecture programme is now headed by **Libby Clark** (programme.leader@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz), and includes **Simon Louisson**, **Anna Cottrell** and **Ewen Coleman**. Term 4 brings the total of lectures for this year to 60. Dates and topics are correct as at 1 October 2025. As both the order of events and the title of the talks can change, go to www.u3awellingtoncity.org.nz/lectures, and check the weekly email for the latest information.

Tuesday 7 October

Graeme Douglas

Paintings and patrons – why collect art and how to do it



Graeme Douglas

Friday 10 October

Monica Webb

A born crusader: the political life of Lady Anna Stout



Monica Webb

Tuesday 14 October

Felicity Wong and Stuart Niven

A city without heritage is like a person without memory.

Friday 17 October

Julia Marshall

It takes a village to raise a reader



Anna Williams

Tuesday 21 October

Anna Williams

Uzbekistan 2025: “Where have all the carpets gone?”

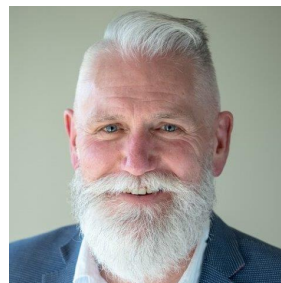


Julia Marshall

Friday 24 October

Professor Michael Baker

Learning from Covid-19 and preparing for what comes next



Geoff Ridley

Tuesday 28 October

Geoff Ridley

A mycology of New Zealand in 10 fungi



Michael Baker

Friday 31 October

Lizzie Bisley

Modern Art at Te Papa



Suzanne Snively

Tuesday 4 November

Dr Beverley Lawton

Eliminating cervical cancer within grasp

Friday 7 November

Professor Hamish Spencer

Why there are two sexes and what this doesn't mean



Lizzie Bisley

Tuesday 11 November

Dr Jonathan Adler

Palliative care

Friday 14 November – final lecture for 2025

Suzanne Snively

Gracefully defusing what the Treasury describes as the Timebomb of an Ageing Population

Meet the new Committee members



John Marwick: Membership man on the move

I was born in Northern Ireland from an Irish mother and Orcadian father who met at a blind date during WW2. I grew up in Lancashire, trained as a doctor in Edinburgh, spent time in Bermuda and Yellowknife (NWT Canada), and finally got stuck in New Zealand 50 years ago. I had thought I was on a multi-year working holiday that would see me eventually become a GP in Scotland. Instead, I was a GP in Upper Hutt for ten years; then 10 years as National Director of the vocational training programme for GPs; followed by 15 years as

a senior adviser and manager in the Ministry of Health. My last 15 years have seen me involved in a range of different consultancy contracts as well as some locum GP work.

Now I'm retired I can enjoy more time with my wife, our two children and two mokopuna. I love to travel; we are in Japan as you read this. I like to walk the Eastbourne beach and bush and ebike to Pencarrow and beyond. I act and direct in community theatre; my roles include Macbeth, Prospero, Lear, Malvolio – and you should have seen my Bottom! I dance Argentinian tango every week and have travelled eight times to Buenos Aires following that passion.

Susan and I joined U3A in April 2024 and have enjoyed the fabulous lectures as well as two special interest groups. I took over as Membership Secretary in June this year. So far so good.

Ewen Coleman: “The play’s the thing”

Ewen Coleman's strong theatre connections were already proving an attraction for U3A members before he joined the committee as a member of the Programme Team. The Theatre Appreciation Group (theatreapp@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz) he set up earlier this year has got off to a strong start.

Actor, Tutor, Director, Administrator, Adjudicator, Ewen has been involved in Theatre in some form or other for most of his life.

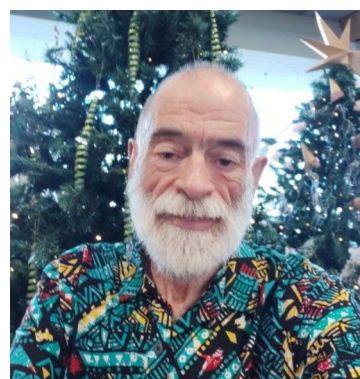
Since 1980 he has directed over 100 productions of various kinds, including musicals and One-Act Plays, and worked with all the major community theatre groups around the Wellington Region.

As an accredited adjudicator he has been adjudicating since 1986 and has adjudicated numerous theatre festivals around the country over these years. He is a life member of Wellington Repertory Theatre, Theatre NZ, and the Association of NZ Drama Adjudicators.

He was theatre reviewer for the *Evening Post* then *Dominion Post* for 30 years and still reviews local community theatre productions. Currently a trustee of Theatre Archive NZ, he is on the committee of various local theatre groups. He was also actively involved with the Wellington Community Arts Council, being Chairman for 4 years and on various Creative NZ and WCC arts committees.

Ewen worked for the University of Otago, Wellington medical school at Wellington Hospital for over 40 years and has only recently retired from there.

He was awarded the QSM in the 2024 New Years Honours for services to theatre and was the 2023 Wellingtonian of the Year: Arts.



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Pauline Edwards: Fostering our finances

Pauline Edwards is one of the newest U3A Wellington City members, but she has already added value to it – introducing more new members and putting her name forward as the new Treasurer (treasurer@u3awellingtoncity.org.nz).

Pauline joined up after coming along on the first *Bring a Friend for Free* day. She found familiar faces including players from Karori Bridge Club, which she joined when she retired from her career as an investment analyst with AMP.



Pauline, who now lives in Karori, was born and grew up in Miramar. Her parents ran the Mitre 10 store that used to be in Lyall Bay. Her past activities included starting races for the Port Nicholson Yacht Club, a mainly onshore role that sometimes involved a sail on a keeler.

Her current activity is the land-based and at times more dangerous pursuit of trapping feral cats and kittens so they can be rescued, desexed and if possible rehomed. The fun part is fostering a succession of kittens in preparation for rehoming. “There are problem numbers of cats in parts of Wellington, so people want them to be eliminated. Desexing them is a humane way to manage the population so people can continue to have them as pets,” she says.

Pauline says U3A is great value for money, and the quality of the lectures make it easy to recruit new members. “The most surprising topics can be fascinating – it depends so much on the presenter.”

Anna Cottrell: Documenting life



New Programme Team member **Anna Cottrell** is a documentary producer/director and oral historian, with a post graduate diploma in Journalism from the University of Canterbury. With a background in television News and Current Affairs she has directed and produced documentaries for over 30 years.

She travelled widely filming the award-winning *One Child Family* in China, in South Africa during apartheid and under the hijab in Iran.

After two trips to rug-weaving nomads in Iran with Oriental rug repairer Anna Williams, another highlight was filming Sir David Attenborough. He spent a month with the Qashqai nomads for the BBC. He enjoyed taking part in *The Kiwi, the Knight & the Qashqai*.

Recent mini-series include *Shine On Katherine Mansfield*, featuring young creatives inspired by Mansfield’s legacy. It is posted on Newsroom, RNZ and YouTube. Five series of *Great War Stories*, described as a “taonga”, are on the NZ History site.

As a student Anna took part in protests including against the Vietnam War. 50 years later she produced *OHMS! PROTEST!* commemorating overthrowing Compulsory Military Training CMT. (Now on Māori+)

The Wahine Disaster 50 Years On, described as “compelling” and “brilliant story-telling” played on Choice TV.

With a colleague, **Jennifer Bush**, Anna set up the Migrating Kitchen Trust celebrating cultural diversity in exhibitions and festivals. Over 35 communities shared their history, culture... and recipes! Other voluntary activities include mentoring at Arohata Women’s Prison. Tennis is her relaxation, and “struggling with the cello”.

Anna has loved her working life and was recently awarded an MNZM for services to documentaries and migrant communities.

A warm welcome to new members

Our membership fluctuates at this time of the year, **John Marwick** reports. At the end of August, membership expired for those 139 members who had not renewed by the end of the grace period. Welcome to the 65 new people who have joined since the August newsletter:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| ● Rosemary Adkins | ● Sue Dobbie | ● Fiona Mines | ● Bronwyn Slater |
| ● Miranda Ainsworth | ● Helen Dobson | ● Joanne Morris | ● Paul Sulzberger |
| ● Joy Austin | ● David Egley | ● Rex Nicholls | ● Gail Thomason |
| ● Peter Bacos | ● Mary Ellen Gordon | ● Barry Norris | ● David Tinsley |
| ● Nancy Bailey | ● Alison Harrison | ● Liz Odell | ● Jenny Tong |
| ● Kumar Bajaj | ● David Inns | ● Raewyn Owen | ● David Townsend |
| ● Dolina Barker | ● Kathryn James | ● Kay Parker | ● Valerie Townsend |
| ● Donna Beechey | ● Catherine Joseph | ● Edward Petersen | ● Anastasia Tsalis |
| ● Lynn Benson | ● John Kane | ● Penny Phillips | ● David Turner |
| ● Ian Bond | ● Jim Kebbell | ● Peter Preston | ● Celia van Vliet |
| ● Vivienne Bond | ● Linn Latta | ● Lynley Preston | ● Robert Wallens |
| ● Linda Burgess | ● Glenis Levack | ● Eva Radich | ● Scott Wilson |
| ● Barry Chisholm | ● Michael Lowrie | ● John Rainey-Smith | ● Jennifer Young |
| ● Bob Cijffers | ● Ann Mace | ● Jennifer Read | ● Janet Ziegler |
| ● Merrill Coke | ● Christeen McKenzie | ● Stephen Sawrey | |
| ● Edith Curwood | ● Debbie McLeod | ● Sarah Sawrey | |
| ● Jacob de Feijter | ● Gregory McPheat | ● Valerie Schenk | |

We now have 1454 current members.

Missed a lecture? Download the slides

A reminder that most of our presenters make their slides available for download after their lecture. Slides from the current month are at u3awellingtoncity.org.nz/programme/. Anything earlier will be at u3awellingtoncity.org.nz/lecture-archive/ listed in date order. When you find the one you want click on the blue Download button at right.

Those who missed Rebecca Macfie's powerful presentation describing her work on the systemic factors behind poverty, Hardship and Hope, can also follow up with two just published BWB Texts: *Hardship and Hope: Stories of Resistance in the Fight Against Poverty in Aotearoa* by Rebecca Macfie, and *Pakukore: Poverty by Design* edited by Rebecca Macfie, Graeme Whimp and Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich.



Appreciating volunteers

U3A Wellington City's elected committee is the hub of a much larger wheel of volunteers who keep activities running smoothly, in ways that range from sending emails to coordinating SIGs. All these vital volunteers will be invited to a lunch on **Friday 14 November** to thank them and acknowledge their important contribution.

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