

Kāpiti Coast U3A Inc



Report of the Committee For the year ended 31 December 2024

This is the 32nd Annual Report from the Kāpiti Coast U3A Committee to its members.

Committee

The committee met on six occasions in 2024, with two additional meetings held via Zoom to complete the 2024 AGM. The committee primarily provides oversight of U3A activities. Committee members have joint responsibility for ensuring Kāpiti Coast U3A maintains financial good health and meets its obligations as an incorporated society and as a registered charity. Committee members take individual responsibility for different aspects of the society's administration, including the website, the newsletter and finance and membership.

In 2024, we welcomed three new members to the committee: Wim Oosterhoff as Treasurer and Administrator, Dave Hornblow as Newsletter Editor, and Julia Kennedy as Secretary.

We wish to extend our thanks to Paul Goodhead, who chose not to seek re-election at the 2024 AGM, and who served as a committee member from 2022. We note that both Sharon McIntosh and Judy Turner, who have also served since 2022, do not wish to seek reelection at the 2025 AGM. We thank Sharon and Judy for their contribution to the society's governance and wish them well for the future.

Membership

As of December 31, 2024, the membership of Kāpiti U3A stood at 377. By mid-March 2025, this number had increased to 424.

Finance

Kāpiti U3A remains in a healthy financial position. The committee thanks those members who included an additional donation when renewing their subscriptions. Further details can be found in the financial statements.

Interest Groups

The committee greatly appreciates the efforts of members who have dedicated their time and energy to keeping our interest group programme vibrant and engaging. In 2024, Kāpiti U3A maintained 19 interest groups, meeting at varying frequencies throughout the year. Groups can run for a few sessions or for the entire year. We continue to promote a flexible interest group programme that allows members to readily initiate new groups through the website and newsletter. This aligns with the U3A philosophy of "members helping members."

Annual Committee Report - Interest Groups (cont)

The new interest groups in 2024 included two focusing on music: an Opera Interest Group and the Jazz Lovers. We encourage members to come forward to join or lead new groups. You do not need to be an expert - many successful groups share leadership responsibilities. The committee will continue to promote interest groups through the website and newsletters.

Kaleidoscope remains our flagship interest group, with approximately 50% of U3A members enrolling in this programme. Around 60% of new members join U3A specifically to participate in Kaleidoscope. The committee extends a special thanks to Jane Griffith and her team for their outstanding work in maintaining the high standards of this programme.

Website and Newsletter

Our primary methods of communication with members are through the website and newsletter. In 2024, Dave Hornblow joined the Committee as Editor of Kapiti U3A News, producing quarterly newsletters with his wife and co-editor, Pauline. Members' feedback indicates that these newsletters are greatly appreciated.

The website underwent a redesign, primarily behind the scenes, to improve its functionality. While it remains a main platform for keeping members informed, encouraging regular usage among members continues to be a challenge. This is a common issue for organisations serving an older demographic in the digital age. Although we recognise these challenges, electronic communication has become the societal norm, and we will continue to utilise it as a primary communication method.

Administration

The committee decided to discontinue the engagement of an external administrator following a review of the Administrator's role, transition to a cloud-based membership system, and use of the PO Box. Instead, a committee member (Wim Oosterhoff) is responsible for the membership administration. Committee members holding significant roles receive a modest honorarium at the end of the year.

2024 Committee Members

Phil Glasson, Dave Hornblow, Julia Kennedy, Sharon McIntosh, Wim Oosterhoff, and Judy Turner.

Life Members

- Brian Mexted, 2014
- Anne Wall, 2020