

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another busy year with some new courses and our favourite ongoing courses. I am always surprised at the levels of skills and knowledge in the community and the number of people who are prepared to share this knowledge by running courses.

We are constantly trying to find new course leaders and have published lists of courses people have asked for. Unfortunately, they don't always coincide so our list is only slowly diminishing. If you think you could contribute your knowledge and skill, please contact me and we will see what we can do. We can start courses mid-term by emailing members and putting the details on the web site (www.kapitiU3a.com) so there is still time to dive in! The list of course suggestions is below.

I have been president since 2014 and it's time for me to step down. I will stand for re-election at the AGM but 2018 will be my final year. As yet we do not have anyone volunteering to take my place. If you are interested in coming onto the committee and possibly eventually taking the position please contact me at the email address inside the front cover. I do not intend to depart from this universe so will be around to guide and mentor you with a view to you being proposed for president next year. I cannot continue in this position much longer and would like to find time to attend some courses myself.

Regrettably we had to review the U3a membership subscription this year. The subscription had not been looked at since Kapiti U3a started in 1993 and we have been absorbing additional costs, mainly postage. Whilst we are in a sound financial state at the moment if we had not revised the subscription our treasurer calculated we would have run through our reserves in four years and would leave a future committee with no funds for future activities.

As usual at the AGM, the new course booklets will be available for pickup and there will be a box for Kaleidoscope joining slips. We will not be accepting subscription renewals and will not issue a booklet unless you have renewed.

Thank you to all those great people who run courses, to those who act as convenors for courses and those who help keep this wonderful organisation going.

Functions

This year we had our Christmas function at Parklands instead of the golf club. Unlike at the golf club the weather was perfect and it worked out well. Parklands has the advantage of easier access and not having to use golf trolleys to get to the club room, so I think Parklands will become our venue of choice in future. The party was well attended, and some members wrote letters of thanks and feedback. Next time we will have plates for food instead of having to use serviettes.

Web Site

If you want to find up to date information on our courses or what is happening in U3A I suggest you look at our web site which is www.kapitiU3a.com. Phil Glasson is doing an excellent job in maintaining the site. It does pay to keep an eye on the site as course details are sometimes changed and we do publish them on the web.

Donations

Many thanks to those members who give us a donation or 'rounded up' their subscription fee. It's much appreciated and helps keep us going.

Membership

Do remember to renew your membership. We quite often get calls from members complaining that they have not received a Course Booklet and we find they have not renewed their membership. Many more members are renewing their membership by online banking which makes administration much easier, see details later in this document.

Subscriptions

Please remember that it takes time to process and print the course newsletter/booklet and we will only be printing enough for the current members. So, if you are going to renew your subscription please do it asap so we can include for you in the print run.

We will only be emailing the booklets to the members who have paid their subscriptions.

Courses

The Course Booklet for this semester is currently being edited. If you would like to run a course, please let me know using the contact details at the front of this notice of meeting. – It's not too late.

I hope you have noticed the new outings 'courses' introduced by Heather Fagg!!

Here are some suggestions but if you have a skill or interest do consider what you would like to do.

- Discussion groups like the one Fred McCausland's 'Current Affairs Discussion Group' or 'T4u' as run by Lyn Bennett. Both are over subscribed
- Travel interest group. In addition to the one Alison Maysmor is already running.
- Beginner Italian and Mandarin.
- Vegetarian cooking course.
- Arts & Crafts and photography courses.
- An ethnic dining group.
- Cooking. Sharing favourite recipes
- Understanding addiction
- Climate change, Environmental sustainability
- Moral Philosophy. Values (non-religious)
- Islam. Sufism
- Courses to do with science of any sort

Your Committee

I want to thank and acknowledge the members of the committee for the work they have done in the past year. These dedicated people have given their time and energy in running U3a and making it grow.

They are:

Colin Payne –Treasurer

Carole Ralph – Secretary, and Administration

Lyndell Fitzgibbon– Membership Secretary

Pat Brockie – Functions and Hospitality

Phil Glasson– Web manager

Peter Belgrave – Equipment manager

Gavin Wright died a few days after the Christmas party. He was a regular and reliable attendee at the committee meetings and always constructive. He is sadly missed.

Kay Hollis, our auditor, is not well and Dermot Whelan has kindly undertaken to audit our books. We wish Kay a speedy recovery.

If you would like to get involved with U3A please make yourself known by filling the nomination form further on in this booklet or contact me. We will be very happy to co-opt you on to the committee, so you can find a role that suits you.

Roger Currier
President Kapiti Coast U3A