

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

An interesting year, somehow I actually managed to attend one of our courses almost for the full semester. This makes a change from just popping in on courses to see how they were going. My aim at the beginning of a semester is to attend a session of all courses and I normally fail with life and grandchildren getting in the way.

I am delighted to tell you that again we are to receive grants from COGS, The Community Organisation Grants Scheme, and the Lottery Grants board totalling \$15,000 over the next three years. This makes administration of U3a much easier and we are very grateful to these organisations.

Again, Kaleidoscope was our flagship course and the team excelled themselves by running three six weekly sessions each with two excellent speakers, I did manage to attend a few sessions of Kaleidoscope and it was lovely chatting to as many people as I could.

Having about four hundred members is a bit of a problem for me as I don't know all your faces but most of you know what I look like. This results in me going around Kapiti with a permanent smile on my face in case I fail to acknowledge a member. If you see a strange person with a permanent smile on his face it's probably me so please understand if I don't recognise you.

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!

Here is a list courses which have been suggested to us and which we would like to fill.

- Discussion groups like 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)
- German speaking
- First Aid
- Islam. Sufism (explanation or history of)
- Courses to do with science of any sort

The rules of U3a do not allow us to run political or religious courses though they probably don't prevent us commenting on the activities of a certain President!

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 2019 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. You might remember this paragraph from last year!

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.

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 again had our Christmas function at Parklands but in the Plateau instead of the Recreation Hall. This venue is clearly better but has a limit of 70 people - though next time I think we could squeeze in a few more! The weather was perfect and it worked out well. The party was well attended, and some members wrote letters of thanks and feedback.

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 'round up' their subscription fee. It's much appreciated and helps to keep us going.

Membership

Please 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.

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

Phil Glasson– Web Manager

Mary Oldham – Functions and Hospitality

Maggie Harris – Functions and Hospitality

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