

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It turns out that I have been doing it all wrong! At past AGMs I stood for president hoping you would reject me and find someone else more suitable but of course you decided I was the man for the job. Recently it was pointed out to me that our rules require the president to be elected by the committee, (normally at the first committee meeting after the AGM), which is of course elected by you U3A's members. So, all these years I have been a fraud pretending I was president when I wasn't. Presumably that's enough for me to be impeached and perhaps imprisoned unlike some other person who shall be nameless! It means I am an unsuitable person to be your president from now on and can only be an ordinary member at best. That's if you will have me!

I became 'president' in 2013 and 6 / 7 years is long enough. I will still be around and intend to run a few courses if you will have me.

We are constantly trying to introduce new courses, but the problem lies with finding someone to be a course leader. The list below is the current list of requested courses people have asked for. If you think you could help we will gladly support you in setting up and running your course.

- 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, one is just starting up! Yay
- 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

Our rules 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!

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!

Peter Jackson was taken ill this year and was unable to complete his two popular courses in Philosophy and Psychology in the 21st Century, and the rise of the digital age. He is recovering at home and we hope he will soon be fit enough to resume where he left off.

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. Kaleidoscope starts this year on Monday 2nd March.

Courses

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 in the 'Plateau', although inclement the weather was an improvement on previous years – (we have had a history of choosing the wettest day of the year!) It think the event was a great success and would like to thank Mary Oldham and the Parklands staff for its organisation and catering.

Part of the reason for the function was to thank those who contributed to U3A during the year, course leaders, convenors etc. As the Plateau has a limit of about 80 people we couldn't possibly accommodate all our members so we decided to charge a nominal \$10 the 'normal' members who wished to attend.

Previously several people had indicated they would be attending but didn't and this meant that someone missed a chance due to restricted numbers.

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.

Change of Rules

We want to make some changes to our Rules, (constitution). To do this we gave you the opportunity to see the proposed changes using a link in the Christmas Newsletter. If you still want to see the changes go to <http://www.kapitiU3A.com/about-us/rules/>. You can also download a copy of the present Rules and the proposed new Rules from this page.

If you do not have Internet access and would like to see a paper copy of the Proposed new Rules then please contact Maureen, our Administrator on 04 972 1084 (the 04 is needed)

To change our Rules, we must have a formal agreement of members at the AGM so we will be putting forward the following motion at the AGM.

THAT the present Rules of Kapiti Coast U3A Incorporated be replaced by the draft set of rules publicised to members with the notice of this meeting.

It is intended to put the new Rules to the meeting as one motion and it will not be practical at the AGM to consider amendments to individual clauses. If you have any concerns please make them known before the AGM.

We will have a few hard copies available at the AGM if you want to see them there.

Anne Wall – life membership

We are proposing that in recognition of her long service to Kapiti U3A, we make Ann Wall a life member of U3A. Mary Oldham will be giving a review of Anne’s service and a presentation of a certificate.

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 - Resigning

Carole Ralph – Secretary and Administration - Resigning

Lyndell Fitzgibbon– Membership Secretary

Phil Glasson– Web Manager

Mary Oldham – Functions and Hospitality – Resigning

Maggie Harris – Functions and Hospitality - Resigned

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