

Kāpiti U3A (Inc)

Annual Committee Report

2023



This is the 31st Annual Report from the U3A committee to members.

Committee

Your committee met on 6 occasions. It continues to be difficult year to recruit committee members. The committee provides an oversight role of U3A matters and there is minimal time commitment. Early in the year Margaret Stevenson-Wright and Paula Morgan had to withdraw for personal reasons. Judith Nathan volunteered in June but then had to resign to manage her other commitments. The committee had a volunteer as Treasurer but after going through the training, Covid intervened and the offer to help was withdrawn. We are fortunate that Wim Oosterhoff who is new to the area and has experience with Nelson U3A volunteered to join the committee and to take on administration work. Late in the year Julia Kennedy volunteered her services as Secretary.

Thanks go to Phil Glasson, Paul Goodhead, Sharon McIntosh and Judy Turner for keeping the organisation running through 2023

Membership

Current membership of U3A as at 31 December is 409 – exactly the same as last year.

Finance

U3A finances continue to be in a healthy state. The committee thanks all those members who added an extra as a donation when renewing their sub.

Interest Groups

The committee appreciates the work of those members who have put in the time and energy to keep our Interest Group programme alive.

Kapiti U3A has maintained a programme with 23 Interest Groups meeting with varying frequencies during the year.

The committee continues to promote a flexible Interest Group programme which by use of the website and the Newsletter enables members to start a group with minimal hassle and groups can run for a few sessions or a whole year. The philosophy of U3A is “members helping members”.

It remains challenging to get new interest groups off the ground. We have piloted some ideas but reaching critical mass for viable groups has been problematical. We urge members to come forward to join/lead new groups if you have an interest (you don't need to be an expert - groups can share the load, and many of our successful groups do just that). Remember, U3A is about social connections and maintaining active minds.

Kaleidoscope continues to be the flagship Interest Group. Around 50% of U3A members enrol for Kaleidoscope and about 60% of U3A new members are those who want to attend Kaleidoscope. The committee owes Jane Griffith and her Kaleidoscope team for a very big “thank you” for maintaining the high standard of this programme.

Website & Newsletter

These are our main methods of communicating with members.

Your committee would like to put out a regular newsletter but this depends on having a volunteer to produce something both entertaining and informative. As a compromise the committee will send out news as and when required by email. Email is the key method of communication. With postage costing \$2 a letter and the time involved in printing, enveloping and distributing hard copies of a newsletter we have to rely on email.

The website has had a redesign – mainly behind the scenes. It continues to be the main way of keeping members informed but this purpose is not very successful if our members do not use it. This is a challenge for many organisations dealing with the older age group in the 21st Century. People who are raised in a climate of electronic communication will naturally use websites but for those not familiar with this approach it remains an issue. There is little we can do as Society at large has adopted electronic communications as the norm.

Administration

Marian Cadman stepped down as Administrator in March. Your committee advertised, interviewed and appointed a replacement but unfortunately due to totally unforeseen circumstances they could not take up the position. Phil Glasson covered the membership administration for the remainder of the year.

After reviewing the change in the Administrator’s position resulting from moving our membership to a cloud based approach and the abolition of cheques and the PO Box the committee decided to cease the engagement of a contractor. Instead committee members will manage all the administrative work and the significant positions will receive a modest honorarium at the end of the year. The committee was advised that the Government had closed the COGS fund which was the source of an annual grant towards the cost of engaging a paid Administrator.

2023 Directory

Committee:

Phil Glasson
Paul Goodhead
Julia Kennedy (from December)
Sharon McIntosh
Judith Nathan (June – November)
Wim Oosterhoff (from October)
Judy Turner

Life Members:

Brian Mexted 2014
Anne Wall 2020

Kapiti U3A Committee

January 2024