

REPORT 2023 - FOR THE TIMARU U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

from Kevin Foley, President

INTRODUCTION

Lectures

These continued to be wide-ranging and of a good, even high standard. There is always a balance between meeting the needs of all our members while ensuring that topics are not too generalist and remain intellectually challenging. We would like more non-committee members to be involved in arranging topics and speakers. This trend must continue if we are going to lessen the load of the committee, respect the wishes of our members and use the undoubted talent and expertise among our members. A model that is emerging is for one or two members to work alongside a committee member in arranging a series. Or for a member to suggest a topic or a speaker and receive guidance from the committee in following this through.

We continue to have excellent relationships with tertiary institutions from which most of our speakers come. We commonly hear from them that we look after them well and they appreciate a large and attentive audience.

Our speakers often comment on the excellent audio-visual equipment we have and the team that put it all together. Most lectures are now recorded for members to listen to and watch later. We are very grateful for the expertise of the audio-visual team and their work every Monday.

Finances

Our finances are in a good state and our subscriptions are at the right level. The cost to each member to attend a lecture is just over \$2 which we consider is reasonable value for money. Our thanks go to Committee member Ron Paulin who has done a sterling job in managing our finances.

Membership

We have a membership of 307 and a total of 98 on a waiting list which we are gradually reducing. Only about half of our members attend our lectures which is good for our coffers. Some members do not attend for months on end and some do not all. This is their right and indeed if all our members wished to attend we could not fit them in. However not attending at all prevents a person on the waiting list from becoming a member. This is a conundrum of which the **Committee is aware and lets stand.**

The Committee

The success of U3A is the result of a hardworking group of your elected representatives. My thanks go to them. Our work is mostly fun and always satisfying. It is disappointing though that we have not received any nominations from the membership for places on the committee. No one is irreplaceable but if the current committee decided to saddle up and ride into the sunset one sunny day there would be no U3A in Timaru. So please consider being involved. We will be forced to co-opt in some way so if approached please consider it seriously.

The success of U3A Timaru is due to all who help in some way albeit small. -the providers of the afternoon teas, the stackers of chairs and the people who make each lecture a success.

I propose the adoption of this report.

Kevin Foley
President