

U3A WAKATIPU

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 12TH NOVEMBER 2012

It gives me great pleasure to present the third annual report for U3A Wakatipu, from the Chair

We have now been up and running for over three years and have a membership of over 300 members. Our members continue to regularly attend the lectures and we usually have between 60 and 80 people in attendance. We have had to oscillate between the Events Centre and St Margaret's Hall this year, and the general impression gained, is that members prefer the latter, given ease of parking and general access. The incoming committee will address future venues.

We ended last year on our usual high note with a wonderful musical presentation on Schubert, from Professor Terence Dennis and Judy Bellingham.

The year started in February with a series of lectures on "Valuing our Flora and Fauna". Our keynote speakers were Ruud Kleipaste, "Bugs and Biodiversity", Dr Geoff Rogers "Birds Beasts and Burning" and Professor Sir Alan Mark "Mountain Tops to Oceans Depths".

March was our "Medical Month" with Dr Richard Egan, Associate professor Debbie Young and one of our own members Dr David Hunt, enlightening us on Spirituality matters relating to cancer, gene therapy for Parkinson's Disease, and a career in Anaesthesia, respectively.

Our April topic was "Ethics in Society" and we had three excellent speakers, Dick Hubbard, Marie Schroff, the Privacy Commissioner, and Professor Sylvia Rumball, informing us on business ethics, privacy concerns and medical ethics.

In May we studied Economics with Dr Niven Winchester, Professor Geoff Kearsley, talking on the global economy and the economy of tourism. Our series concluded with three local speakers, Judith McLellan (WINZ), Kenneth Walker (Salvation Army), and Verona Cournane (Happiness House), talking on financial hardship in the Wakatipu.

We went into recess in June/July as many of our members travel to warmer climes, and our weather is unpredictable when considering travel for our speakers.

Marion Borrell has run two study groups during this time and a third one starts on Friday 9th November. As Owen Marshall is due to give us a presentation later this month, Marion's study groups have involved his short stories and poems. The last group for the year will study his book "The Larnachs". The committee, and I know, all the members are very

