

Wakatipu Queenstown U3A

Chairperson's Report 2015/2016

Our Performance

2015/2016 has been another successful year for the Wakatipu U3A

1. Following an effort early in the year to promote our activities more (increased presence in both the Mirror and Mountain Scene, Published articles - e.g. Global Warming, increased request of members to get their friends along) membership has increased from 180 to 233
2. Our Financial position has benefited from an improvement in income of \$6,702 due to increased subs from \$10/year to \$25/ year from increasing membership and number of weekly attendees.
3. Our total equity has improved from \$4,628 to \$5,802 in 2015/2016, a net gain of \$1,174
4. Our audio visual equipment and ability to manage these top end speakers has recently been upgraded - we now have the latest computer, projector, speakers and speaker microphone systems.

Our Vision and Scope

Our Vision for U3A and its Monday lectures has been to assemble people who have either expert knowledge e.g. Bill Harris on the Middle East, or Dr Jason Young on China or we have had speakers with unique experience e.g. Suze Kelly who was actually on Everest at the time of the recent devastating earthquakes, and Bruce and Margaret Jefferies who have managed conservation projects around the world.

By this means we have sought to give you information and insights not readily available elsewhere.

We have had 25 lectures this year covering major international issues, health, design and architecture, the environment, and other cultural topics. We have had 4 active study groups - Music(2), Art and an English History group.

We continue to maintain close collaboration with other like minded groups e.g. Catalyst, Shaping our Future, Wanaka U3A, and other local groups.

Retiring Committee Members

This year we will bid farewell on the Committee to Mary Stammers-Smith, and Bob and Justine Cranfield. Mary was a founding member of the Wakatipu Group and is well known to most of you. Thank you Mary for 'getting us off the ground'.

Bob has been a past Chairman of the group and Justine is current Secretary and also past Treasurer . Both have been with the group since its inception. The contribution of all of these 3 has been enormous. Thank you so much.

New Committee members will be elected at the AGM

Finally, a thank you to Marion who has the data base, clippings, contacts and general file that enables her to find these high quality speakers. At the end of the day, U3A is likely to stand or fall on the quality of its lectures and study groups. Thus we are very grateful to Marion and grateful also to you as members for your interest and continued support.

Athol Dixon

Chairperson