U3A Christchurch North West

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR U3A CHISTCHURCH NORTHWEST TO BE HELD AT THE PAPANUI BAPTIST CHURCH, 144 SAWYERS ARMS ROAD, NORTHCOTE ON MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2017

Good morning and welcome to the Annual General Meeting 2017.

The branch has had another busy, active year. A major decision was taken in February to shift our venue from St Matthews Catholic Church hall to new premises, the Papanui Baptist Church in Sawyers Arms Road. The move had its challenges but it is an improved venue with better room for socializing before meetings plus more comfortable seating. The change of day from Wednesday to Monday did not suit some members which was regrettable.

The move has enabled us to re-open our membership which has continued to grow. Membership Secretary Kath Gibb is commended for the thoroughness with which she keeps the membership records. The table below shows the membership trend. The growth in membership of Christchurch North West is a reflection of the increasing popularity of U3A's throughout New Zealand. The over 55+ age group for whom we cater has a zest for living. By providing stimulating speaking programmes and opportunities for social interaction U3A plays a significant role for increasing numbers of members.

MEMBERSHIP	
2015	133
2016	181
2017	219

COMMITTEE 2017

Judith Millar	President
Bruce Tulloch	Programme Co-ordinator (retiring)
Kath Gibb	Treasurer/Membership Secretary (retiring)
John Veitch	Co-secretary/IC Technology (retiring from secretary's role)
Robert Sherlock	Co-secretary (retiring)
Elizabeth Christie Mary Palmer	Interest Group Co-ordinators
Gillian Harris	Events Co-ordinator/ Web Site Administrator
Wendy Summerhayes	Co-Members Name Labels/Events Assistant
Judy Milne	Members Name Labels (retiring)
Annabelle Rayner	Co-ordinator morning tea

Activities 2017

Speaking Programme

Bruce Tulloch has co-ordinated the speaking programme, inviting suggestions of speakers from the membership, drawing up a selection of speakers for the committee to consider, from which the programme is developed. The aim is to create a varied programme with a gender balance of speakers. Sometimes it is difficult to get speakers to commit because of their work schedules so the job requires patience and perseverance. Members have their own favourite speakers as the year progresses. The recommendation that I make to new members is never to miss a meeting because you think the speaker's topic may not appeal. You can be guaranteed that will be the one that everyone is talking about.

The monthly meeting with a speaker is one aspect of our U3A. Interest groups appeal to a wide range of members. Mary Palmer and Elizabeth Christie have co-ordinated the interest groups in 2017. Convenors of the interest groups make them happen.

Interest Groups	Convenor
Epicurians	Margo Donaldson
Art Appreciation	Val and Barry Cox
Book Sharing Group	Adrienne Parton
Bridge group	Graham Reed
Conversational French	Jill Fagerlund
Craft Group	Lorraine Coker
History	Adela Taylor/Norma Walker (retiring)
Mah Jong	Gloria Gibb/Robyn Draper/Sue McKinnon
Technology	Dorothy Bradley/Pat Colenso
Ted Talks	John Veitch/Barry Cox (retiring)
Theatre Film Group	Jo Bowley
Travel	Shona Olyken
WEA Book group	Virginia Fitch

I pay tribute to Adela Taylor and Norma Walker who after six years of co-convening are retiring from the position. Under their leadership the history group has flourished. I am happy to report that David Sutherland and Neville Fagerlund are taking over the responsibility.

Excursions

Under the able leadership of Gillian Harris a variety of trips has been organised this year. These include:

- an autumn and a spring trip to Broadfield gardens
- a walk around Travis Wetland conducted by Dr Colin Meurk
- a Red Zone excursion
- a visit to SOFIA, the US NASA aircraft,
- a tour of the Airforce Museum at Wigram,
- a tour of the Isaac Theatre Royal
- a visit to Homebush Stables to come in November.

We also had a mid-winter lunch at The Chateau where we will also hold the Christmas lunch in December. Gillian is thanked for the time and effort in organising these events. She is ably assisted by treasurer Kath and Wendy Summerhayes.

SEMINAR:
Around the World in a Day: New Zealand's Global Connections
In August U3A Christchurch North West hosted the above seminar. 130 people registered including members from 12 other U3A's. It was a big undertaking which a sub committee worked hard to organise. It was held at the Christchurch Chinese Methodist Church in Merivale, a beautiful venue.
Speakers included:

- Dr Adrian Macey, Victoria University – A Global Outlook
- Dr Alex Tan, University of Canterbury – A Focus on Asia
- Dr Serena Kelly, University of Canterbury – Changing Times in UK and Europe
- Associate Professor Peter Field, University of Canterbury – Which Way for the USA?

Network Canterbury
Christchurch North West is an active member of the Network Canterbury, an umbrella committee that supports the formation of new clubs and runs an annual seminar. 25 of our members participated in the Network Canterbury 'Curious Minds' Seminar in May.
Four of our members assisted at the Positive Ageing Expo held at Papanui High School in October.

Other Events
One of the guiding principles of U3A is that "Learning shall take place in a friendly, supportive and social environment". To facilitate this we consider it important that new members are made to feel welcome. We have held four new members morning teas this year. These are popular and well attended, giving new members the opportunity to identify each other as well as members of the committee. In April we decided to honour 20 of our longest serving members with at a special Gold morning tea. It was appreciated that some of our members who can not always attend monthly meetings made a special effort to attend.

Bereavements
It is with regret that we record the recent death of two of our members:

Adalene Thomas, (d.15 October)
June Forsyth (d. 21 October) – Our condolences to June's husband Mike Betty, who is also one of our members.

Special Thanks
Special thanks are due to those members who are standing down this year from positions of responsibility. In particular:

- Bruce Tulloch who has done a conscientious job of speaker co-ordinator over many years. He joined U3A Christchurch North West in 2003, and joined the Committee in 2005. He was on the inaugural Network Canterbury committee which hosted the 2007 International Conference in Christchurch. He served as Network Chairperson in 2012/13. In 2008 he was elected Chair of U3A Christchurch North West from which he retired 2014. Since 2009 Bruce has co-ordinated the speakers, a role which he has found rewarding and stimulating. Bruce is thanked for the service which he has given to the U3A movement and Christchurch North West in particular.

- Kath Gibbs is relinquishing the role of treasurer which currently is paired with membership. Kath is a fastidious book and record keeper. Not only has she fulfilled the treasurer/membership role, she has assisted Gillian with excursions and events. Kath's input has been huge and will be missed. She had no experience as treasurer when she took on the role and is willing to help transition the incoming treasurer into the job.

- John Veitch and Robert Sherlock are relinquishing their roles as joint secretaries.

- Judy Milne is stepping down from Members Name Labels.

- Adela Taylor and Norma Walker are retiring as History Group Convenors.

A healthy organisation has a turnover of volunteers. Changing committee members brings fresh enthusiasm, ideas and skills. I thank this year's committee for their commitment not only in attendance at monthly committee meetings, but also for the way in which they have carried out their various roles. It has been a happy, harmonious year. I wish the incoming committee well for continued success in 2018

Judith Millar
President
U3A Christchurch North West
13 November 2017