

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR U3A CHRISTCHURCH NORTH WEST TO BE HELD AT
ST MATTHEWS CHURCH HALL, ST PATRICKS CHURCH, BRYNDWR AT
10.10 AM ON WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2016**

Good morning and welcome to the Annual General Meeting 2016.

The branch has had a busy, active year with the membership continuing to grow. At this time last year we had 133 paid up members. We now have 181. Membership Secretary Kath Gibb will give fuller details in her report.

The popularity of U3A as a positive, educational organisation is growing throughout New Zealand. There are many reasons for this, but in part it is the autonomy that each branch enjoys to create and develop its own style. Our model of a monthly speaker with optional interests groups appeals to many for its casual flexibility.

I believe that the increase in membership is due to the fact that we meet monthly which is a manageable commitment, the quality of the speakers we enjoy plus the growing number of interest groups. None of this happens without the dedication of the committee and interest group convenors. I would like to acknowledge the people who make U3A Christchurch North West happen for you.

Interest Group Reports

Convenor

Epicureans

Margo Donaldson

This group meets once a month. The restaurant chosen each month is made by suggestions from the members. These suggestions include Asian, Indian, Italian foods and the JCB restaurant at Merivale has also been visited.

Art Appreciation

Val and Barry Cox

This large group meets twice monthly at a café for a coffee and chat before setting out to the chosen gallery. On some occasions they have had a session at an artist's home. They have had some very interesting outings and seen many wonderful exhibitions.

Book Discussion Group

Adrienne Parton

As a new group members have enjoyed simply hearing of other people's reading and sharing authors and books recommended. It is a low key and relaxed group which has reached capacity with 7 members meeting once a month.

Bridge Group

Graham Reed

This is a small group that would like some new members to learn the skills of the game of Bridge. They meet on a Tuesday afternoon.

Conversational French

Jill Fagerlund

The French Group has had an interesting year. We celebrated Bastille Day with a lunch, viewed several French films – some without subtitles and polished up our French accents by listening to spoken French on CDs.

Craft Group

Lorraine Coker

This group meets monthly on a Wednesday from 1pm -4pm and members can come within this time or stay for the full time. Some of the crafts worked are: patchwork, knitting, crocheting, button work, felting and mosaic work. There is room for more members to share and gain skills.

History Group**Adela Taylor/Norma Walker**

The members of the History Group have had the pleasure of having two sessions with Frieda Loosa as well as presentations given by members on many varying aspects of history. Some topics discussed this year include: Catherine the Great, the Arab-Israeli Conflict Freya Stark and Missing Monarchs

Mahjong Group**Gloria Gibb**

Group 1 The first group of 6 members is going well as they are all gaining experience and have developed their knowledge around the game. They meet weekly and could maybe take 2 more experienced players.

Group 2 This group of 5 is learning and going along nicely. Another 3 new players could join this group. Currently meeting weekly.

Technology Group**Dorothy Bradley**

About 30 people have made use of the opportunity this group provides. There have been 2 Samsung groups and 4 Ipad groups each running about 4 weeks duration.

TED Group**Barry Cox**

There are 6 members in the TED group. They take turns in choosing 2 talks for the meeting and afterwards there is time for discussion. They are intending to live stream the ChCh TEDX talks on October 29th.

Film Theatre Group**Lynne Jamieson**

Meet once a month and choosing a variety of movies. Meeting for coffee first half an hour before movie

Travel Group**Shona Olykan**

The travel group meeting once a month have armchair journeyed in the following countries. Veitnam, Egypt, Poland, the Channel Islands, Africa, and the Greek islands. Everyone has enjoyed the stimulation of not only each speaker's adventures but their cultural experiences as well.

WEA Book Group**Virginia Fitch**

This is a very congenial group who have been together a long time Some of the books particularly enjoyed this year have been The Light between Oceans by MK Steadman, Access Road by Maurice Gee and two Carl Nixon Ch Ch related stories Settlers Creek and Rockinghorse Road

I should also like to acknowledge the contribution of Carola Morton who for many years ran the popular home film group.

2016 Committee

Bruce Tulloch	Speaker Co-ordinator
Shona Olyken } Jill Fagerlund }	Interest Group Co-ordinators
Gillian Harris	Excursions/Events Co-ordinator Web Site Administrator
John Veitch	Secretary/IC Technology
Kath Gibb	Treasurer/Membership Secretary
Lynne Jamieson	Members' Name Labels

Activities 2016

New members' afternoon teas

Whilst these have been a feature of our branch for some time, because of the rapid increase in numbers for the last two we needed to go 'big' so we hired the Hagley Golf Club Café. These events were attended by approximately 30 new members and committee providing a fun and informal way for people to meet. The positive feedback from new members confirms the belief that these opportunities help contribute to the convivial atmosphere at monthly meetings.

Excursions

These were re-introduced this year under the able leadership of Gillian Harris who has an exacting eye for detail. Trips organised include the Red Bus Rebuild Tour, a guided walk around Travis Wetland lead by Dr Colin Meurk, a tour of the house and garden at Ohinetahi, Governors Bay, a tour of historic Riccarton House. These activities were keenly supported, members appreciating the opportunity to do 'something a bit different'. We also had a mid-winter lunch at The Chateau where will also hold the Christmas lunch in December. Gillian is thanked for the time and effort in organising these events.

Communication

The committee considered how best to improve communication with members, especially as the internet is now such an integral part of our daily lives. One of the challenges for us as seniors is to keep up! The committee considered that we can actively support our members by modelling best practice hence the decision to employ a professional web designer to give our site a make-over. Most of you by now will be familiar with the site <http://christchurchnwu3a.co.nz/> which is both contemporary and user-friendly. Gillian devoted many hours to the development of the site and is now web administrator. It has a waiting list facility which currently has 25 names on it. Thank you for your work Gillian, and also to John who managed the site previously.

Because the site contains all the information on programmes and interest groups, the newsletter is now substituted by a simple monthly [President's Reminder](#) email. For the relatively few members who do not have an email address we encourage them to buddy with someone who can keep them informed.

Accommodation

We have closed our membership because we have reached capacity at the current venue. Considerable time has been spent throughout the year looking for an alternative, larger venue but so far without success. In preparation for a possible future move to alternative premises a recommendation for a subscription increase for 2017 is being made.

I would like to especially thank those committee members who are standing down:

Jill Fagerlund
Shona Olyken
Lynne Jamieson

Your contribution has been much appreciated and we thank you.

I also want to acknowledge Janine, Office Manager at the church, for her unfailing cheerfulness and willingness to accommodate our needs, and also Pat McErlane who caters for us each month.

It has been my pleasure to preside over U3A Christchurch North West in 2016, to share great company and stimulating times. In conclusion I wish the incoming committee for 2017 all the best.



Judith Millar
President
U3A Christchurch North West
2 November 2016