



Christchurch North West

ANNUAL REPORT FOR U3A CHISTCHURCH NORTHWEST TO BE HELD AT THE PAPANUI BAPTIST CHURCH, 144 SAWYERS ARMS ROAD, NORTHCOTE ON MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2018

Good morning and welcome to the Annual General Meeting 2018.

The branch has had another busy, active year. We have been in the 'new' premises for over a year now with the larger space for socializing before meetings a real advantage. One of the disadvantages is the quality of the audio/visual equipment but the committee is currently negotiating with the church to contribute towards an upgrade which hopefully will be available early in 2019.

MEMBERSHIP	
2015	133
2016	181
2017	219
2018	217

First I wish to acknowledge the passing of two of our members; Doreen Tulloch a member of 16 years and Malcolm McRae, a more recent member. Our condolences were extended to Bruce Tulloch and Marie-Therese McRae at their sad loss.

Membership has remained static with room still for new members. Attendance at meetings varies between 50-60% which is testament to the busy lives members lead, travel being a favourite pastime, and minding grandchildren high on the priority list too.

Throughout the year morning teas for new members were held in March, June and September. These events provide a good introduction to U3A Christchurch North West with 57 new members invited to attend to meet with committee members. New members appreciate the opportunity to get to know each other in a smaller group situation.

COMMITTEE 2018

President	Judith Millar
Programme Co-ordinators	Mary Palmer (retiring) Chris O'Connor Elizabeth Christie (retiring) Glenys Aitken
Interest Group Co-ordinators	Mary Palmer Elizabeth Christie
Membership Co-ordinators	Jan Need Annabelle Rayner
Excursion Co-ordinators	Bev Orchard Chris O'Connor
Secretary/Website Administrator	Gillian Harris
Treasurer	Wendy Summerhayes
Technology Co-ordinator	John Veitch

ACTIVITIES 2018

Speaking Programme

Mary Palmer, Chris O'Connor and Glenys Aitken have provided us with a great selection of speakers throughout the year. The subjects have been many and varied:

February	Roger Clark (our member)	His role as officer in charge of Scott Base
March	Professor Geoffrey Rice	1918 Influenza Pandemic and its effect on NZ
April	Keith Norton	Fires, Food Parcels and Funerals
May	Margaret Copland	Heritage Storyteller
June	Wil McLellan	Co-founder/Director EPIC Innovations
July	Gavin Bishop	Author and Illustrator
August	Dr Tim Curran	The history of forestation in NZ
September	Michael Toothill	Kilmarnock Enterprises
October	Mike Shatford	Product development of robots in industry
November	Rebecca Logan	Project Manager Sport Canterbury

I constantly give the same advice to members: never stay away from a meeting because you think the topic doesn't sound appealing. Speakers are chosen with great care to provide a balance of education and entertainment. My thanks to Mary, Chris and Glenys who have excelled in their roles.

Interest Groups

Epicureans
Book Sharing Group
Conversational French
Craft Group
History
Mah Jong
Technology
Film Group
Travel
BDS Book group

Convenor

Margo Donaldson
Adrienne Parton
Jill Fagerlund
Lorraine Coker
Neville Fagerlund/Paul O'Connor
Gloria Gibb (overall convenor of 6 groups)
Dorothy Bradley/Pat Colenso
Jo Bowley
Shona Olyken
Virginia Ffitch

New Groups 2018

Walking
Gold Card Expeditionists
Retirement Conversations

Bev Orchard
Judith Millar
John Veitch

New Groups 2019

Two new groups are proposed for 2019, Poetry and Te Reo. If there is sufficient interest a Winston Churchill group will be formed.

Interest Groups add a dimension to U3A providing both participation and social opportunities for many members. A requirement for membership of an interest group is that one must be a member of our U3A branch. My thanks to all the Interest Group convenors without whom the interest groups would not exist. (A separate report from the Interest Group convenors is attached).

EXCURSIONS

Under the able leadership of Bev Orchard, a variety of trips has been organised this year. Unlike interest groups, if space is available members are able to bring a friend/family member on an excursion. This is a good way to introduce people to the concept of U3A and we have gained new members from this practice over time.

Excursion programme 2018

March	Riccarton House tour
April	Guided city walk
May	Westpac Rescue/Flying Doctor visit
June	Volunteer Week – members at St Vincent de Paul for a morning's work
July	Mid Year lunch
August	Art Gallery tour
September	Garden Tour – Otahuna Lodge
October	Heritage Week – Addington Cemetery tour with member Paul O'Connor
November	Quail Island
December	Christmas Lunch

SEMINAR:

Network Canterbury

U3A Christchurch North West is an active member of the U3A Network Canterbury (Inc), the umbrella committee of 17 U3A branches in Canterbury. Sixty two members from U3A Christchurch North West attended the very popular seminar in May, "Curious Minds² – challenge, inspiration and enlightenment". My thanks to our committee members who helped make this day a success by organising and managing the registration desk.

Special Thanks

Special thanks are due to those members who are standing down this year from positions of responsibility. Mary Palmer and Elizabeth Christie who have co-ordinated the Interest Groups and Mary as the leader of the Programme sub committee have made valuable contributions. The imagination and enthusiasm that they have brought to the roles is much appreciated.

From the busy programme that has been offered it is clear that the committee works hard to provide opportunities in line with U3A principles - to provide affordable learning opportunities for older people, with the emphasis on learning for enjoyment which shall take place in a friendly, supportive and social environment. On behalf of the membership I express grateful thanks to all committee members for the time and interest they apply to their various roles. It is a pleasure to be part of such a hardworking, harmonious group.

To the incoming committee I wish you well for 2019.



Judith Millar
President
U3A Christchurch North West
12 November 2018