



Christchurch North West

ANNUAL REPORT FOR U3A CHISTCHURCH NORTHWEST 2019

The branch has had another busy, active year. Our goal of improving the audio/visual equipment was achieved with the Papanui Baptist Church accepting our offer of a donation towards a technology upgrade. The data show and drop down screen have enhanced presentations, with the membership generally agreeing that it was money well spent.

MEMBERSHIP

Jan Need as Membership Secretary has the responsibility for recording guests in attendance, keeping the membership register up to date and liaising with the treasurer. New members are always welcome, with word of mouth probably the most effective way of introducing new people. Attendance at meetings varies between 50-60% but one of the good things about U3A membership is the freedom to attend as one's time permits, although of course we hope to attract a good turnout of members at every meeting.

MEMBERSHIP as at 31 October	
2015	133
2016	181
2017	219
2018	217
2019	228

Morning teas for new members were held in March, June and October. U3A Christchurch North West prides itself on its friendliness, believing that the opportunity to socialize at both monthly meetings and as part of interest groups is a cornerstone of our branch.

COMMITTEE 2019

President	Judith Millar
Secretary/Website Administrator	Gillian Harris (retiring from secretary)
Treasurer	Wendy Summerhayes (retiring from treasurer)
Programme Co-ordinators	Bruce Tulloch Chris O'Connor (retiring from committee)
Interest Group Co-ordinators	Annabelle Rayner (retiring from committee) Brendan Ross
Membership Co-ordinator	Jan Need
Members' Name Labels	Glenys Aitken
Excursion Co-ordinators	Bev Orchard (retiring from Excursion Co-ord) Chris O'Connor
Technology Co-ordinator	John Veitch (retiring from committee)

ACTIVITIES 2019

Speaking Programme

Bruce Tulloch with Chris O'Connor have provided a varied and interesting speaking programme throughout the year.

February	Freida Looser	History of Chocolate
March	Valda Thornley	What Sneaks through Customs
April	Kimberley Wade	Music as Therapy
May	Sam Mahan	Art and Activism
June	Dr Peter Field	Religion's Influence on the USA
July	John Sullivan	Community Lawyer
August	Dr Clemency Montelle	The Origins of Science
September	Sarah Quadir	Effect and Response of Mosque Attack
October	John Milligan	Putting Surplus Food to Good Use
November	Professor Islay Marsden	Marine Life and Environmental Issues

The variety and quality of speakers ensures that our members enjoy a stimulating and challenging programme. We are so fortunate in Christchurch to have such a diverse range of talent in the community from which to draw.

Interest Groups

Epicureans
 Book Sharing Group
 Conversational French
 Craft Group
 History
 Mah Jong
 Technology
 Film Group
 Travel
 BDS Book group
 Walking
 Poetry
 Te Reo

Convenor

Margo Donaldson
 Adrienne Parton
 Jill Fagerlund
 Lorraine Coker/Janette Cleminson
 Neville Fagerlund/Paul O'Connor
 Gloria Gibb (overall convenor of 6 groups)
 Dorothy Bradley/Pat Colenso (group disbanding)
 Jo Bowley
 Shona Olyken
 Virginia Ffitch
 Bev Orchard/Gillian Harris
 Wendy Summerhayes
 Jan Need

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. As you can see, many members work behind the scenes to provide depth to our programme. Many people find that membership of an interest group provides not only stimulation but lively social interaction which is one of the core aims of U3A. (A separate report from the Interest Group convenors is attached).

EXCURSIONS

Under the able leadership of Bev Orchard/Chris O'Connor assisted by Gillian Harris a variety of excursions has been organised this year. As Bev is standing down from this role we thank her for the enterprise with which she carried out this position.

Excursion programme 2019

March	Tai Tapu sculpture garden
April	Guided city walk
May	Kilmarnock Enterprises
June	Volunteer Week – 0800 Hungry
July	Mid Year lunch, Garden Court Brasserie
August	Riccarton House
September	City Walk
October	-
November	Kate Valley Landfill and Garden Tour – Ohinetahi, Governors Bay
December	Christmas Lunch

SEMINAR:

Network Canterbury – Curious Minds³

U3A Christchurch North West is an active member of the U3A Network Canterbury (Inc), the umbrella committee of U3A branches in Canterbury. 53 members from U3A Christchurch North West attended the annual seminar in May, “Curious Minds³ – challenge, inspiration and enlightenment”. Once again our branch played a pivotal part in the organisation of the seminar, with responsibility for the name labels and registration desk, a job which we now have down to a fine art. I undertook the role of overall responsibility for seminar registrations, setting up the Eventbrite web page and processing the registrations. This was a steep learning curve, never having undertaken anything like this before. That said, I am not making myself available for this task in 2020 so if you would like an interesting new challenge U3A Network Canterbury is looking for a volunteer. (It’s actually a really interesting job).

Thanks

As you can see from the above, many people contribute to the successful operation of U3A Christchurch North West. In particular I thank the committee who have conscientiously learnt and delivered on their various responsibilities. For some this has meant learning to use the branch email, Google Drive, spreadsheets, and more. None of that would have been possible without the talent (and patience) of Gillian to whom much thanks must go as in addition she is committee secretary as well as assisting with interest group co-ordination. Special thanks also to Wendy for her role as treasurer and careful custody of the books. To those committee members who are either retiring from their position or leaving the committee, hearty thanks for the time and effort you have put into your job. To the convenors of all the interest groups a sincere thank you also. A further thank you too to Janette Cleminson who, at short notice, volunteered to organise the morning teas. Along with a group of helpers morning tea service continued uninterrupted for which we are all grateful.

Thank you too to the Craft group who put on a display of their work at the August meeting. There are so many people with hidden talents, so it was good to see the variety of work that they do.

.To those committee members who are making themselves available again for 2020 – bravo! We need you. We are always looking for ways in which it can improve the programme so if you have speaker suggestions, would like to offer an interest group, accept nomination for the committee, or assist in any other capacity please do so. New people and fresh ideas help ensure we stay relevant to the membership.



Judith Millar
President
U3A Christchurch North West
11 November 2019