

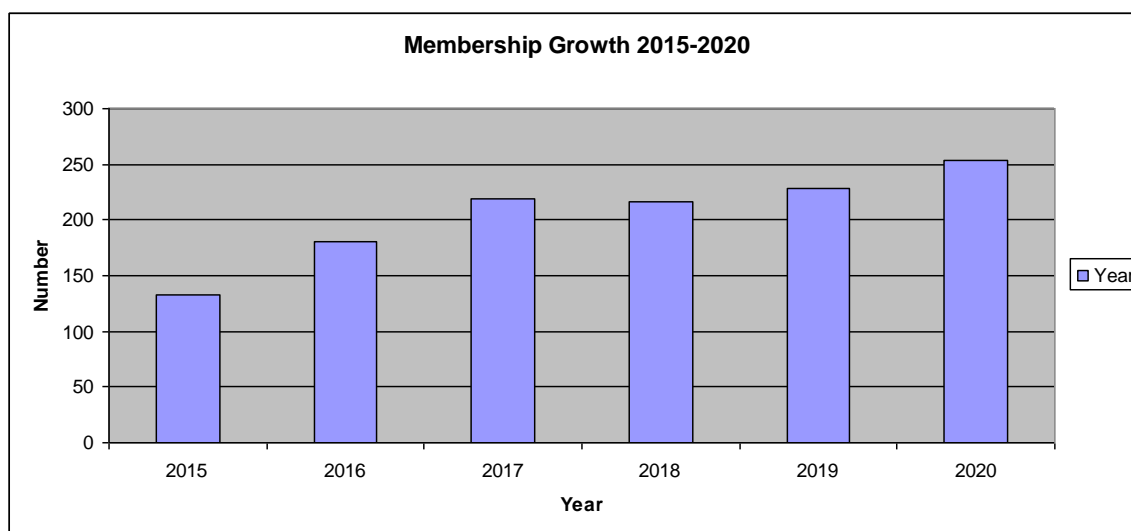


U3A CHRISTCHURCH NORTH WEST

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

It's been an unusual year with Covid-19 playing havoc with our lives and consequently our U3A programme which at best can be described as start-stop. Whilst it may have inconvenienced our normal functioning, in context, we all counted our blessings at being kept safe and well. For many, the lock-down period was a blessing and provided time to follow other passions. That said, we were pleased too to resume 'normal' living when we the lock-down levels enabled.

### MEMBERSHIP



As can be seen from the graph above, our membership, under the astute care of Membership Co-ordinator, Jan Need, continues to grow. This shows the power of word of mouth advertising, because it is by members introducing friends or family that we continue to expand. Attendance at meetings has risen too from an average of 220 in 2019 to 235 in 2020.

The fact that people are unable to travel overseas probably contributes to this, but it is great to see such hearty attendances at the monthly meetings.

A new member morning tea was held during the year, always a popular way of welcoming people to our branch.

## COMMITTEE 2020

President	Judith Millar
Secretary	Margaret Shearing
Treasurer	Cherie Wood
Programme Co-ordinators	Bruce Tulloch (retiring from committee) Anne Ny
Interest Group Co-ordinators	Brendan Ross Bev Orchard (retiring from committee)
Membership Co-ordinator	Jan Need
Member Name Labels	Glenys Aitken
Excursion Co-ordinator	Wendy Summerhayes (retiring from committee)
Website Administrator	Gillian Harris

## SPEAKING PROGRAMME 2020

Thanks to Bruce Tulloch and Anne Ny who have managed the speakers' programme through difficult times.

We got off to a great start in February, everyone keen to be back after the summer break. It was down hill from there in terms of regularity! However, to compensate we ran a series of "Lockdown Stories" to which members were asked to contribute. Thirteen contributors' stories were circulated between 20 March and 30 April and from the feedback members appreciated receiving the stories by email, which helped to keep us connected. My thanks to all the writers – you did a great job.

February	Dr Sue Bagshaw, Young People and the Future
March	Jo Bailey, Six People's WW2 Stories
July	Richard Rendle, Anne Ny, Mike Ryan "Home Grown"
August	Dr Daryle Deering, Drug Issues and the September Referendum
October	Annemarie Mora, Cathedral Reinstatement Progress
November	Dr Simon Pollard, Science, Pseudoscience or Junk Science

## EXCURSIONS

Under the careful guidance of Excursion Co-ordinator, Wendy Summerhayes, a restricted excursion programme continued, well supported by members who are now into the routine of paying online. This streamlines the accounting process and makes administration easier.

### Programme

El Noor Mosque	September
River Queen, Kaiapoi	November
Christmas Lunch, Clearwater	December

## **INTEREST GROUPS**

Interest Group Co-ordinator, Brendan Ross, has worked with the convenors who, where possible, continued to offer a programme to members.

My thanks to convenors who are a vital part of U3A Christchurch North West. Frequently members comment that their participation in an interest group provides them with fun, friendship and makes belonging to U3A an important aspect of their life.

<b>INTEREST GROUPS</b>	<b>CONVENOR</b>
Book Sharing	Adrienne Parton
Book Club	Elizabeth Christie
Craft	Loraine Coker
Creative Writing	Sue Bickerstaff
Epicureans	Margo Donaldson
Film	Jo Bowley
History	Neville Fagerlund, Paul O'Connor
Little Garden	Shona Olykan
Mahjong	Gloria Gibb
Travel	Shona Olykan/Mary Palmer
Walking	Gillian Harris, Bev Orchard

A separate report from Interest Group Convenors is attached to this report for your information.

## **THANKS**

As you can see from the above, operating a successful U3A branch is heavily dependent on the contribution of individual members. I value and appreciate the time and effort that so many people put in to making ours a high functioning branch.

New blood is always required to keep our programme fresh and stimulating. For this reason expressions of interest are sought to replace members retiring from the committee. Unless we have a full complement, the programme we offer will be compromised, so I look forward to hearing from members who are prepared to be nominated for the committee.

I express my appreciation to:

- Margaret Shearing, Secretary and Cherie Wood, Treasurer who have slotted seamlessly into their roles.
- Jan Need is our Membership friendly face and Glenys Aitken most efficiently runs the labels board.
- Gillian Harris as website administrator keeps the website up to date and tutors committee members in operating our Google account efficiently.

My thanks to retiring committee members; Bruce Tulloch, Wendy Summerhayes and Bev Orchard. Members are aware of the contributions you have made and appreciate your time and talent.

I also acknowledge and thank the members who operate the sound desk at meetings; Ian Orchard, John Veitch and Richard Rendle. We could not do without you!

Janette Cleminson has organised the kitchen for the past two years providing tea/coffee and is retiring from that job. Thank you Janette for your generous service.

Once again, the Craft group put on a splendid display at the October meeting during which a raffle was held resulting in \$400 being raised for the Charity Hospital. Loraine Coker who volunteers for Youth Hub was thrilled with the outcome and expressed her gratitude for the support of the branch.

My best wishes for the incoming committee for 2020-2021.



Judith Millar  
President  
U3A Christchurch North West  
November 2020