



The Illustration at the top of the page is "The Arts Centre" Christchurch. From a Print by New Zealand Artist, Lawrence Leitch.

WELCOME TO THE FINAL NEWSLETTER FOR 2023

Following a very successful programme in 2023 we can advise that the planning for the 2024 programme is now underway. To enable you to plan ahead the dates are listed in this newsletter. Further details of Course 1 will follow in the first Newsletter for 2023.

At the AGM on November 10 we advised members that there will be no change in the annual subscription which will remain at \$90.00 for the 2024 year. Details on what is covered in the subscription and payment methods follow under the heading **Annual membership**. We would ask members to pay this at the earliest opportunity, preferably by 31 January 2024.

We have also attached several other documents to this Newsletter.

- a) Draft Minutes of the AGM held on 19 November. **Please check these** and let our Secretary Pip Voller know by return email of any corrections to these by 31 January, 2024
- b) A copy of the Chair's Annual Report to the AGM.
- c) As agreed at the AGM we will now be meeting in the Kahikitea Room at Rāraka Riccarton Centre (199 Clarence Street). A street map showing the location of our **new venue** is attached

PROPOSED 2024 PROGRAMME DATES

Course 1

February 16 to March 15

Judith Coullie on the English poet, translator, and satirist Alexander Pope

Course 2

April 5, 19 and 26 and May 3 and 10

Course 3

May 24 to June 21

Course 4

July 12 to August 9

Course 5

August 30 to September 27

Course 6

October 25 and November 1, 8 and 22

AGM

November 22

End of Year Lunch

November 29

Other possible topics together with more detail on Course 1 will be advised in the first Newsletter for 2023.

We also expect to have a Day trip by bus in October.

Chairperson

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U3A Arts Centre, Information for Members, 2024

Our **NEW** meeting location for 2024 will be in the Kahikitea Room at Rāraaka Riccarton Centre (199 Clarence Street). Lectures are on a Friday and are usually around a common topic known as a Course. Each course consists of 5 weekly lectures with a gap of two to three weeks between courses. The Mini Course at the end of the year is shorter. Lectures are held on Friday mornings.

Members are notified by newsletter either by post or preferably email, prior to each course.

Annual membership

Membership is from 1 January to 31 December in any one year. A single fee of \$90.00 is payable before the end of January. This covers all lectures, but does not include the Bus Trip or the End of Year lunch. Members may arrange payment with our Treasurer, Clyde Phillips, 322-8849 or at ctam@xtra.co.nz

If paying by **Internet banking**, please add your name and the subject(s) of the payment e.g. Membership Fee, bus trip charge, etc. Our bank account number is 06-0996-0091423-00.

Rārakau Riccarton Centre opens at 9.45am in order for members to meet for morning tea at 10am. The lectures start at 10.30am.

In the Foyer. Be aware that the foyer is a public place and ensure that your handbags etc, are safe at all times. Please make sure that you are not blocking the ability of the public to pass.

Name cards are provided for enrolled members. Wearing a name card confirms your membership. Please remember to wear yours at each function.

Attendance Register. Members will, on arrival, be invited to tick their attendance in the Register at the reception desk in the lecture room. Please ensure that you carry out this function as we may need to provide the venue with a list of attendees in the event of an emergency.

Members wishing to bring a friend may invite them to **one** lecture. The entry price for your visitor will be \$5. If they wish to attend a lectures series (of 5 lectures) then a discounted rate of \$20 is payable at the commencement of the series.

New members. When coming to your first meeting, please identify yourself to a committee member who will be wearing a name card with a red dot upon it. The committee member will welcome you and see that you obtain your name card.

Please inform a member of the Committee if any liquid or food is spilled while having morning tea.

Question Time. Unless a speaker indicates that questions are welcome during the lecture, please refrain from asking a question until the end of the address. Indicate to the Chair that you have a question by raising your hand and wait for the microphone. When asking questions, please hold the roving microphone horizontally and speak directly into it so we may all hear.

We wish you all the best for the New Year and look forward to seeing you in 2024!

Your U3A Committee

Minutes of U3A Arts Centre AGM, 10th November 2023, 10.30am.

Welcome Wallace Woodley welcomed us to the meeting.

Apologies Susan McDonald, Peter & Lynne Williams, Jan Wikaira, Don McNickle, Jane Symonds.

Minutes of the last AGM These were taken as read and confirmed. Merv/Wendy.

Chairperson's Report Wallace presented a full report (enclosed), covering the lectures and activities for the year, and also thanked the committee for their contributions. He also brought to our attention that in spite of having visitor guests paying for individual courses, the increasing costs of maintaining our schedule such as building hire, speaker's fees, etc, the committee has determined that some hard decisions will need to be made as we move forward. He reported that under General Business today we will be discussing a possible change of meeting venue for next year or a large increase in our subscription fee. The treasurer, Clyde, will also discuss this further today. Wallace/Clyde.

Treasurer's Report Clyde presented the financial report (enclosed). As mentioned in the Chairperson's report, Clyde explained that at this stage we can't rely on our reserves any longer. This was shown on the data projector (also enclosed in a printed version). He reported that we have to make a decision whether to stay in the present location and raise the sub to \$120 or find a new venue where we could keep the sub at \$90 a year. Also some speakers are asking a higher fee now. It was mentioned that there are at least 5 other U3A groups in this vicinity and perhaps we should change our venue to another area. Clyde/Jenny.

General Business

Research into possible new venue

As discussed in both the Chairperson's report and the Treasurer's report, research needed to be made into the possibility of shifting to a new venue. Wendy Gallagher has very kindly put a lot of time and energy into doing this. Earlier in the week she arranged a meeting for the committee to inspect the Kahikitea Room at the Riccarton Community Centre, 199 Clarence Street.

The facilities available include stackable seats, projector, wide screen, full kitchen services, and ample nearby free parking. The charge would be \$32 per hour (no extra charge for the kitchen) and a smaller room would be available at \$16 for committee meetings (if required). The venue is currently unreserved on Friday mornings next year. We would need to bring to each meeting materials such as refreshment items and our banner. The building is only about 6 months old and includes high technology so we would not need to bring a data projector, etc.

Our subscription fee could remain the same, or be adjusted slightly, depending on the number of members opting to transfer, but the catchment area is wide and there is no apparent competition with other U3As nearby. New members may be attracted to this venue which is also on a bus route and close to Riccarton Mall.

After discussion, it was moved that we arrange to shift to the Riccarton Community Centre after completing the necessary application procedure. Again Wendy has agreed to do this. Wallace thanked Wendy for all the work she has put into this. It was a *unanimous* decision. Lorraine Walker/David Chilvers.

Election of Officers and Committee

After several years of skilled leadership Wallace has decided to stand down from being Chairperson. He was thanked for all his work and the committee decided to present him with Life Membership. Teresa has decided to stand down also. She was thanked for her long service to the committee and her work on the Welcome Desk.

The 2024 Officers and committee are as follows:

Chairperson Wendy Gallagher

Deputy Chairperson Merv Altmments

Secretary Pip Voller

Treasurer Clyde Phillips

Committee Annette Byers, Sandra Lamont, Jenny Tait, Peter Williams, Wallace Woodley.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.30am.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

With pleasure I present my sixth U3A Arts Centre Annual Report, this time covering the activities since the last Annual General Meeting in 2022.

We concluded the year, as usual, with our End-of-Year Lunch at Monteith's Bar, Avonhead Mall.

Our regular pattern of Friday morning weekly meetings resumed in mid-February, enjoying the cosy atmosphere of this Main Lounge. Unlike the previous year, our schedule was uninterrupted, apart from a small hiccup in September when our appointed speaker succumbed to the Covid virus and we needed to tweak our intended programme.

Our First Course of five talks (February-March) was presented by Frieda Looser, a regular lecturer here. Her topic was 'Slavery, Black Lives Matter and Human Rights'.

Course Two's title (April-May) was 'Pacific Past, Present and Future' and lecturers were Professor Steven Ratuva (generously, on three occasions), Dr Sam Hampton and Dr Madi Williams.

The Third Course (throughout June) was centred on 'Christchurch Voluntary Welfare Organisations'. We heard from Greta Bond, representing Age Concern Canterbury; our committee member, Wendy Gallagher, speaking about Lifeline; John Milligan from the Christchurch Food Bank; Michael Toothill of Kilmarnock Enterprises; and Corinne Haines from Christchurch City Mission.

Course Four (July-August) was a Pot Pourri of different topics. Kate Russell shared details of 'Hagar International – Stopping Slavery; Healing and Empowering Survivors'. Eric Livingstone spoke about 'The Life of Rewi Alley – Extraordinary New Zealander'. Gavin Bishop, children's author, told us of his 'Stories behind the stories'. Dr Colin Meurk's subject was 'Stand Up for “Sky Song City” of the Super South'; and Byron Clark canvassed modern conspiracy theories and 'How the 'alternative right' took hold in New Zealand'.

At the start of Course Five, due to the involuntary absence of our next popular and frequent lecturer, Dr Judith Coullie, and a fortnight before her talks eventually began in mid-September, we shared a BBC video documentary entitled 'The Untold Story of Jane Austen – Behind Closed Doors'. Subsequently, Dr Judith presented a series of five lectures entitled 'Re-reading Jane Austen' comprising an Introduction and week-by-week examination of the novels, *Northanger Abbey*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma* and *Persuasion*.

Our annual Bus Tour took place on Friday 20 October. Led by Dr Colin Meurk and Dr Sam Hampton, each of whom had earlier in the year presented a talk on their scholarly interest, the outing was a six-hour Landscape and Ecology field trip titled '360 Trail, The National Park City and Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Geopark'. 35 members enjoyed visiting numerous points around the city including Curletts Detention Basin, Sugarloaf Reserve, Pony Point (above Cass Bay), Lyttelton (for lunch), McCormacks Bay, and Travis Wetland. At the various stops our guest leaders explained the significance of each place in the vast and sometimes quite ancient geological and botanical history of the region.

Course Six, an abbreviated Pot Pourri series (October-November), began with a talk about 'The Regeneration of the Ōtākaro River Corridor' [Christchurch's Earthquake Red Zone] presented by Hayley Guglietta, Manager of the Avon Ōtākaro Network. The next speaker was Lily Purdon of Sports Canterbury who encouraged us to consider 'The Importance of Strength and Balance' in avoiding falls, and, following today's Annual General Meeting, Sniedze Plesovs will share with us, through videos, the experiences that she and 40,000 others had while attending the 'XXVII

Nationwide Latvian Song and XVII Dance Festival', a five-yearly event.

Next Friday is Canterbury Anniversary Day, a one-week gap before we complete our year's programme with the End-of-Year Lunch to be held again at Monteith's Brewery Bar in Avonhead Mall starting at 12 noon.

In summary, we will have enjoyed 31 presentations throughout 2023 by 20 lecturers, pretty good value for this year's \$90 subscription.

Unfortunately, for historical reasons, we are probably the smallest U3A, and though we have benefited to some extent from the financial advantage of having a few guests from other U3As join us for some sessions, because of the increasing costs of maintaining our schedule – building hire costs, speakers' fees, etc – your committee has determined that some hard decisions will need to be made as we move forward into the future. Under General Business today we shall be discussing a possible change of meeting venue for next year, or a necessarily large increase in our subscription fee. (Our Treasurer will speak more to that in due course.)

We are all truly grateful to the members of the committee who have met formally six times and served us so well during the past year. Specially warm acknowledgement is given to Merv (Altmonts), Deputy Chairman, for all his labours on our behalf, including the preparation and publishing of the Newsletters that have informed us of vital information connected with our scheduled weekly meetings, the various speakers and their topics. Thank you, Clyde (Phillips), our very able Treasurer, for keeping watch over our financial situation; thank you, Pip (Voller), our Secretary, for all your work; warm thanks to Sandra (Lamont) and Annette (Byers) for your weekly preparation and serving of morning refreshments; many thanks, Teresa (Macintyre) for hosting the Welcome Table and overseeing the weekly attendance register; and thank you, Jenny (Tait), Wendy (Gallagher) and Peter (Williams) for assisting with all other matters required to keep our U3A ticking along. Warm thanks to all committee members who have organised topics and speakers during the past twelve months, and a special 'thank you' to those committee men who have skilfully organised the preliminary setting up of electronic equipment required for our meetings.

On your behalf, Merv (Altmonts) and I have attended the quarterly committee meetings of the U3A Network Canterbury, which comprises 18 separate groups stretching from Timaru to Rangiora. (Four of these U3As meet on different days here at St Mark's Church.) A helpful benefit of this collaboration is gaining information about suitable speakers and the topics that have appealed to other groups.

We express our appreciation to St Mark's Presbyterian Church for the opportunity to gather here and for kindnesses received from the comfortable relationship we enjoy.

Finally, thank you, all members of U3A Arts Centre, for your friendly understanding and helpful co-operation during the past year, and for creating such a relaxed and warm social atmosphere as we have assembled here throughout 2023. As I have been your Chairman for six years since 2017, I think it is now time for you to have another person at the helm.

I wish all members a Very Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with delight, and look forward to your continued presence here when we resume in mid-February next year.

Thank you.

Wallace Woodley
Chairman

Rārakau Riccarton Centre Street View 199 Clarence Street



Location on Map

