

# Riccarton U3A

## WELCOME TO THE FINAL NEWSLETTER FOR 2024

This is the first Newsletter for Riccarton U3A. As we have not had the opportunity to design a new logo or letterhead the heading may look bare but the information is still there. Likewise other changes will not take effect immediately.

Following a very successful programme in 2024 we can advise that the planning for the 2025 programme is now underway. To enable you to plan ahead the dates for 2025 are set out in this newsletter. Further details of Course 1 will follow in the first Newsletter for 2025.

At the AGM on November 22 we advised members that there will be no change in the annual subscription which will remain at \$90.00 for the 2025 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 2025.

We have also attached several other documents to this Newsletter.

a) Draft Minutes of the AGM held on 22 November 2024. Please check these and let our Secretary Pip Voller know by return email of any corrections to these by 31 January, 2025.

b) A copy of the Chair's Annual Report to the AGM.

## PROPOSED 2025 PROGRAMME DATES

### Course 1

February 21 to March 21 Course will include a lecture on Lyttelton Harbour by Jane Robertson and 3 lectures by John Rogers (who recently presented on the Antarctic Treaty). 1 lecture is yet to be finalised.

### Course 2

March 28, April 4 and 11, and 2 and 9 May. There will be no lectures on 18 April (Good Friday) or 25 April (Anzac Day) David Hodgson (who recently presented on Beyond the Farm Gate) will be presenting a course of 5 lectures.

### Course 3

May 23 to June 13 and June 27. There will be no presentation on June 20 (Matariki).

### Course 4

July 11 to August 8.

### Course 5

August 22 to September 19.

### Bus trip

Planned for 3 October.

### Course 6

October 10, 17 and 31 and November 7. There will be no lecture on 24 October (Labour weekend).

### AGM

This will be held prior to the November 7 meeting.

### End of Year Lunch

November 21.

#### Chairperson

Wendy Gallagher  
Phone 022 090 5982  
Email  
[gwaswendy@gmail.com](mailto:gwaswendy@gmail.com)

#### Secretary

Pip Voller  
Phone 021 257 6931  
Email  
[pip.voller@gmail.com](mailto:pip.voller@gmail.com)

#### Treasurer

Ann McWhirter  
Phone 022 453 1923  
Email  
[ann@mcwhirter.net.nz](mailto:ann@mcwhirter.net.nz)

#### Membership

Email  
[arts.centre.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:arts.centre.u3a@gmail.com)

## Riccarton U3A, Information for Members, 2025

Our meeting location is in the Kahikitea Room at Rārākau Riccarton Centre (199 Clarence Street). Lectures are held on a Friday morning 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. There are five standard courses during the year with a shorter Mini Course at the end of the year.

Members are notified about course details by newsletter, preferably by email, prior to each course.

### Annual membership

Under our Rules of Constitution, 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, Ann McWhirter, at email [ann@mcwhirter.net.nz](mailto:ann@mcwhirter.net.nz) Mobile 022 453 1923

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

**Rārākau 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 your handbags etc, are safe at all times. Please make sure that you are not blocking the ability of the public and other users of the facility 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, sign 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 once only at a charge of \$5. If they wish to attend more lectures then a discounted rate of \$20 is payable for each series that they attend. Should they wish to become full members that amount would be credited to them against the membership fee charged in that year.

**New members.** When coming to your first meeting, please identify yourself to a committee member who will be wearing a name card with their name printed in red. 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 spilt 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.

## **MINUTES, ARTS CENTRE U3A AGM, RARAKAU COMMUNITY CENTRE 22/11/24.**

**Welcome** Wendy welcomed us to the meeting.

**Apologies** Mary Scally, Annette Byers, Peter and Lynne Williams

**Minutes of the 2023 AGM** These were taken as read and confirmed. Wendy/ Merv.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Wendy presented a detailed report outlining our first year in the new location which has proven to be very successful. Our membership has grown from 47 financial members a year ago to 60 now. We have had a range of very engaging lectures in the new, attractive and very functional venue. Wendy/Clyde.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Clyde Phillips presented the financial report that proved that the move to Rarakau Community Centre was a very good one with the rent being much cheaper. We are now in a much better financial situation with more members, and people also attending for individual courses. Clyde was thanked for all the work he has put into this transitional stage of our venues and finances. He has also decided to stand down as treasurer after many years of wonderful service to our U3A.

### **General Business**

1. Wallace thanked Wendy for the large amount of work done this year with the transition to our new venue and all the research she put into organising the details.

2. Wendy indicated that some members had discussed a possible name change for our U3A because the name Arts Centre could be confusing to prospective members as the group no longer meets at the Arts Centre where they met some time before the Earthquakes. Wendy called for suggestions and it was decided to take a vote to decide this. Suggestions were:  
Riccarton U3A (formerly Arts Centre U3A),  
Riccarton U3A

Riccarton U3A

Riccarton Arts Centre U3A

After the vote it was decided to rename our group as Riccarton U3A.

### **Election of Committee**

Peter Williams, after many years of much appreciated service has decided to stand down from the committee in addition to Clyde Phillips. The remaining committee are happy to remain.

Wendy called for two nominations for the committee. Merv agreed to remain as Vice Chairperson.

Nominations were made for Ann McWhirter and Patsy Clegg. Both accepted and Ann kindly agreed to be the treasurer. Wendy/Pip.

The 2025 committee and officers of the Riccarton U3A are as follows.

**Chairperson** Wendy Gallagher

**Vice Chairperson** Merv Altmonts **Secretary** Pip Voller **Treasurer** Ann McWhirter.

Sandra Lamont, Annette Byers, Jenny Tait, Mary Scully, Wallace Woodley, Patsy Clegg. This committee was approved by those present at the AGM.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.40 am

## **2024 Chairperson's Report**

**Members of Arts Centre U3A, it is my pleasure to present the chairperson's annual report for 2024**

**This year has been my first year as chair of this branch. It has been a learning curve with many changes.**

**Prior to the 2023 AGM the committee was seriously discussing the closure of our U3A. The rent for premises at St Marks was high, the branch funds were dwindling and an imminent hike in fees was our only option if we were to stay open. Fortunately, we were able to procure our current premises in Riccarton for less than half the fee we were paying last year. This meant that we could hold the fee for the year at \$90.**

**At the start of the year the committee ran a promotional drive to increase our membership. I am pleased to report that at the AGM last year we had 47 financial members. Today we have 60 financial members representing an increase of 21%. We hope to attract a few more members next year.**

**2024 has delivered an eclectic mix of lectures. We started the year with a five week programme on Alexander Pope delivered by Judith Coullie who will also be delivering our last lecture of the year after this meeting. An in depth look at the New Zealand Justice system followed with a five week series delivered by various professionals working in the field. A Pot Pourri of five lectures followed where we present unrelated topics to members. The following series Truth and Lies in an Age of Misinformation attracted a lot of interest from members. Finally, today we conclude our year with the last lecture in a four week pot pourri series.**

Our October outing saw members travelling by bus to view the Kate Valley Waste Management Facility. Members viewed an organically and environmentally positive way of managing the enormous amount of waste that we now generate. The visit was followed by lunch at North West Café Amberley.

Many of you have been aware that Arts Centre U3A has been a member of a Canterbury Network of branches. Due to an absence of people prepared to stand for office, this organisation is due to officially close this afternoon at South Library. Four of us from different branches, including myself, have put forward a proposal for a new look network. The new network will meet twice a year with the underlying aim to share speaker information and to support each other with procedure and problem solving.

I will close my report by acknowledging the work of our current committee members who all work cheerfully and tirelessly to provide the membership with a friendly and stimulating meeting. Clyde Phillips is leaving the job of treasurer after serving the branch for six years. Thank you Clyde for all you have done to keep our branch running efficiently. Peter Williams is also standing down today. He has been on the committee since 2018. Please put your hands together to show your appreciation.

Finally, I look forward to 2025 and another interesting year as Chairperson of Arts Centre U3A. Please always feel free to approach me with suggestions or criticisms as to how we can improve our service in the future.

I move that my report be accepted. Could I have a seconder.