

Marlborough U3A



Newsletter No 4: October 2024

Marlborough U3A exists to provide educational and interest activities for those who are no longer in full-time employment, to stimulate their intellectual cultural and aesthetic senses, and to provide an opportunity for them to meet, share experiences and pursue common interests.

Monthly Meetings are held at 2pm on the 2nd Monday of each month (except January) at Cloudy Bay Funeral Services rooms, 15 Boyce St, Blenheim. Entry from the carpark only (not Boyce Street please).

Date	Speaker		Afternoon Tea
11 November	Dave Parsons:	Emergency Preparedness	Watercolour Painting Group
10 December	Ket Bradshaw:	Wilding Pines Project	Wine Appreciation Group 2
13 January	No Meeting		
10 February	Sari Lewis:	Health Mission in Vanuatu	Writing for Grandchildren Group

Reminder: a gold coin, please, towards the afternoon tea costs.

Committee

President	Helen Hannay	hjhannay@slingshot.co.nz	578 1574
Vice President	Peter Yeoman	blen.yeoman@xtra.co.nz	578 5643
Secretary	Jill van Angeren	u3a.marlborough@gmail.com	
Treasurer		treasurer.u3a.marlb@gmail.com	
Courses	Ann Moore	anncm09@gmail.com	021 109 1800
Courses	Sarah Gunningham		021 105 8559
Publicity	Ann Turnbull	turnbullann2@gmail.com	020 414 40371
Speakers	Ann Anderson	ullington@pobox.com	579 4955
Catering	Linda Batchelor	lindabatchelor@yahoo.com.au	021 239 3175
Newsletter	Helen Hannay		

Subscriptions

A \$10 membership subscription is payable on joining U3A Marlborough.

Thereafter annual subscriptions are payable **after** the Annual General Meeting (usually held on the 2nd Monday in October) and must be paid by the following 31st January.

Please note: Subscriptions are now due and our preferred payment method is by internet banking, to account 01 0598 0033084 01.

Thank you.

Life Members: *Jacqui Buttle, Charles Riley, Neville Lawson, Lindsay Moir, Ann MacDonald, Murray MacDonald, Gavin Kerr, Gwyneth Lowe.*

Caring for families. Caring for our community.

SPRINGLANDS CHAPEL

Cloudy Bay
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Katy, Jo, Ryan, Gwenda, Jayden, Ann, David, Janice, David

President's Report

Warmest Greetings Everyone

Well, another AGM has been and gone, which of course signals the coming of the end of 2024 – only another few months and already Christmas is being promoted in the shops! As always, we are left wondering where the year has gone.

We sadly farewelled Marilyn Cowe and Paul Stanley from the committee at the AGM and presented them with a small gift in recognition of all the work they have done for U3A Marlborough as Treasurer and Secretary – we will miss their expertise and enthusiasm on our committee. We are very fortunate to have a new volunteer, Jill van Angeren, taking up the mantle of Secretary but still need a volunteer to fill the role of Treasurer. Marilyn is able to continue until December and is very happy to assist whoever answers the call to take up this position. So, members, please think seriously about offering your services if you feel you can help.

The rest of your committee members have again volunteered their time along with one new recruit, Sarah Gunningham, and I know they will continue to give sterling service to you. My thanks go to all who assist with the smooth running of our highly successful society – what a wonderful group of people we have. I would also like to thank our members for their confidence in re-electing me as President for another year.



I recently enjoyed a week in the Northland on a short tour up the west coast as far as Cape Reinga and then back to Auckland down the east coast. Only 13 in our tour group and a lovely bunch of people to share the journey with.

It was so refreshing to see the green fields and hills and so many areas of native forest cladding the hills and in the paddocks. We visited the amazing Kauri Museum at Matakohē, then journeyed on to Opononi where we received a beautiful welcome at our hotel from local Māori young people. While there we took a fascinating walk in a Kauri forest, followed by a visit to “Manea – Footprints of Kupe” – an amazing presentation which included feeling the spray of the ocean on our faces and the sensation of octopus tentacles and seaweed round our legs as part of the story!

Moving on we then travelled through Rawene where we visited Clendon House and then crossed by ferry across the Hokianga harbour to continue onwards to Doubtless Bay where we stayed for two nights. The next day we joined another tour bus for the trip to Cape Reinga and Ninety Mile Beach. The walk down to the lighthouse was on a long, well-made path which unfortunately provided us with a very steep climb back up to the bus. Lots of huffing and puffing was experienced!

Off again, we next travelled to Kerikeri, where we checked out the Stone store, New Zealand's oldest surviving commercial building, and Kemp house which was built in 1821-1822. We finished that day's travelling in Russell where we stayed in the Duke of Marlborough Hotel. Early in the morning three of us took up the option of a Hole in the Rock Dolphin cruise – neither of which we actually saw! The weather decided to disrupt the sea making it unsafe to venture out to the Hole in the Rock so we cruised round the islands instead, went ashore in a lovely bay for lunch (the weather had cleared up then of course). From there we went to the Waitangi Treaty House and grounds where we were given a guided tour and finished the day in Paihia with a delightful meal beside the harbour.

Our final tourist stop was in Whangarei where we had another guided tour around the Hundertwasser Art Centre (only finished two years ago), a most interesting place to spend time. Leaving there we returned to the Auckland Airport where the group dispersed to their various home towns, a happy group with new friends made.

Finally, may I please remind you that if you sign up for one of our courses and you find you are then unable to attend on the agreed day and time, you must let your Group Convener know so anyone of the waiting list can be offered your place. Also please let your host know if you are unable to attend any of the sessions – they go to a lot of trouble setting up for the group and it is most disappointing when after all their preparations people simply don't turn up!



My best wishes to you all.

Helen Hannay

Course Coordinator's Annual Report October 13th 2024

2024 has been a very exciting year for this Courses' Organiser. The Great Courses where we buy all our DVD Courses has been having huge sales as they are getting rid of most of their current courses so they can make room for new ones.

The Great Courses website is a wonderful resource as we are provided with knowledge, understanding and experiences of countries, history, science, people and the future. Because the prices of courses have dropped to as low as \$10-\$30 (US) we have been able to purchase many more of them than in previous years. So, this financial year I have bought 15 new courses! Most of them are currently being shown but I still have five to introduce next year. These are The Wisdom of History, Polar Explorations, The Great Tours: Experiencing Medieval Europe, African American History, and the History and Archaeology of the Bible. So, there is certainly a lot to look forward to next year!

There have been problems with finding places to show these courses as many of us no longer have DVD players or do not have room for bigger groups. We have been very fortunate to be able to use the library meeting rooms for three of our courses, and we also use the Alzheimer's meeting room for one course. It's important that everyone who has the room to run courses in their homes lets me know that they are available as it makes organising the courses much easier.

We also have many other courses running monthly that do not need any extras such as DVD players and TVs etc. One which is now running again is the Armchair Travel group which is proving to be very popular, with not only talks about personal journeys but also has invited guests, occasionally, to talk about their adventures around the world.

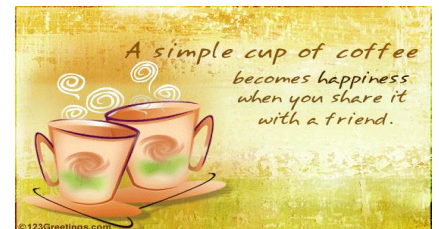
To the members who selflessly run courses and have done so for many years - I would like to thank you so much for your service. Although there are too many to thank individually you are all very much appreciated. Where would we be without you!

I would also like to welcome any new members to U3A and hope you will find something that is of interest to you so you can join us on our continuing knowledge journey. I hope in 2025 U3A continues to provide all of us with the opportunities to enjoy making friends, learning new things and taking part in enhancing our knowledge about our world.

Thank you

Ann Moore

Courses Organiser



Committee Vacancy

With our current Treasurer sadly leaving Marlborough for family reasons, we urgently need a volunteer to join our committee and take on this vital role. Full details and handover process will be available from Marilyn and backup from our Examiner, Max Currie is offered if needed.

Do please come and join our wonderful team – our finances are not complicated but an ability to use spreadsheets is vital.

Please contact our President if you feel you can take on this essential position. Ph 021 081 53343 or email hjhannay@slingshot.co.nz

Treasurer



Interest Group News and Updates



Classic Movies 2

After about 15 years we still have a few of our original members! All enjoy viewing a wide range of film types, and discussing them over afternoon tea/coffee. We have a full complement of 13 members.

Black Holes, Tides, and Curved Spacetime: Understanding Gravity

The course is fascinating and the lecturer very good, though some of the concepts and the maths used is a bit beyond most of us. However, it is amazing to see how the science was discovered so long ago by people making calculations and observations using their “Mark 1 brain and eyeball”.

The 24 lectures will keep us going into the first half of next year. We have only six in the group which is a pity, but discussions afterward are interesting and indicate that everyone is learning about many things that are quite new to them. That's what U3A is about!

Murray MacDonald - 579 4844

Picton Discussion Group

We had a very interesting speaker on the history and present use of the Transistor. It was very informative. However, it was a real shame that the members attending were very small and I felt sorry for the presenter, that the audience was so sparse.

Partly because of the low attendance, we are going to abandon the group for the next 2 months, but will present a picture show and history of Lord Howe Island at our December meeting. We will then discuss the future of the group.

Rosemary and Geoff

The Great Tours Ireland and Northern Ireland

Ireland is a place of song and stories, 40 shades of lush green landscape, tragic history, incredible art and literature, majestic cathedrals – both Roman Catholic and Protestant - and castles.

All of the above is included in this tour and you will not be disappointed.

It is a great course both for those who know Ireland and those who don't. Even those with Irish ancestry will learn more about the country.

If you have already studied the Celts, you will recognize their influence in Ireland.

It is a magical country - the only disappointment so far is we haven't seen any leprechauns!

Ann Anderson

Maya To Aztec - Ancient Mesoamerica Revealed

This course is a tale of two great cultures, together with many others in between.

Mesoamerica is all of Mexico from coast to coast and some of Guatemala.

The advances in science, technology and art in Mesoamerica is far greater than most people realize and was well ahead of other cultures.

Coffee and bananas were first grown in the area and the Mayans built pyramids before the Egyptians. The stone carvings are amazing. Gold was mined.

The Mayans lasted for 4,000 years from 2000 BC. The Aztecs for 300 years.

The Mayans created a system of letters and numbers, sports stadiums, the 60 second/minutes which we use in time today.

Your mind will be stretched and your brain stimulated by all the information in this course.

The presenter is enthusiastic and knows the subject inside out.

Ann Anderson

The Iliad and Homer's Odyssey

Professor Vandiver makes it vividly clear why, after almost 3,000 years, the *Iliad and Homer's Odyssey* remain not only among the greatest adventure stories ever told, but also most compelling meditations on the human condition ever written.

This strangeness and distance throw sharply into focus the timeless human issues that encompass the Trojan War and Odysseus's subsequent journey, fighting wars, voyaging to strange lands on the shores of wine-dark seas, dealing face-to-face with gods and monsters. The two DVD Courses are beautifully narrated with knowledge, humour and clarity. We thoroughly enjoyed the Iliad and have almost completed The Odyssey.

Ann Moore

The Barbarians of the Steppes

Dr Harl presents a course that puts the Steppes in the centre of Eurasian History. Attila the Hun and Genghis Khan loom large as two of history's most fearsome warrior-leaders. Accounts of the ruthless conquests of these men called "The Scourge of God" and "Universal Lord" both fascinate and repel. Yet few people today are aware of their place in causing campaigns of terror to sweep across the Eurasian steppes, toppling empires and seizing control of civilizations which still reverberate today – e.g.; the fall of the Roman Empire; the start of Buddhism and Islam; The Great wall of China; the spread of the Russian Empire.

It is a very thorough and fascinating course outlining history explained by a man who really knows and understands ancient history.

Charles Riley recommends this course.

The American Civil War

Ken Burns brought to life America's most destructive and defining conflict. It is a film full of digitally enhanced images mostly ordinary young men fighting for their beliefs. It is a comprehensive and definitive history of the American Civil War, and in 1990 was the recipient of 40 major film and television awards, including two Emmys and two Grammys. It is harrowing and also addictive to watch! Thoroughly recommended!

Ann Moore

U3A Ambles and Afters



For their October wander the Amblers visited Rarangi Beach for a walk along the sea front.

A cracker Marlborough day greeted the walkers as did the flourish of spring flowers.

The group meets on the second Friday of the month at different locations for an easy wander and a chat followed by a cuppa.

Margaret Reilly



Scrabble Group 1

Super Scrabble is such a treat for its participants, and brains are being extended to new horizons by the months. We are so grateful to have this excellent resource.

Jackie Hall

The Great Tours – From Athens to Istanbul

This is probably the 3rd or even 4th time this course has run. The 7 participants in the current course all agree that it is thoroughly enjoyable and one of the best. Even if you know the Aegean area, the history and information imparted by the lecturer Professor John R. Hale, a renowned archeologist, will increase your knowledge and understanding of the world we live in today.

Almost everywhere you look you will find archaeological wonders – more of the history has been preserved than perhaps any place on earth. To travel through the Aegean is to travel through the history of Western civilization. Homer composed his poetry along the shores, Hippocrates made the West's first systematic medical observations.

Istanbul – formerly Constantinople – stands at the crossroads of East and West. The Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia are 2 outstanding places to visit. Istanbul is now and always has been, a melting pot of cultures.

Professor Hale gives numerous traveler tips like must visit places, taking water with you and wearing a hat! The current course will be completed in January.

Garden Group

Members of the Garden Group have decided to spread their wings a little this year and have planned a day trip to Nelson in November where we will be visiting two gardens in Upper Moutere and Appleby after enjoying

morning tea at Melrose House. We have hired a bus to take us all and will make it a round trip coming back through Tophouse and the Wairau Valley. More to follow in a later newsletter!

Helen (on behalf of the Conveners)

Notes from Ann, our Courses Organiser

Some current courses will be reaching their end early next year so members should keep an eye on what is being displayed in the foyer at Monthly Meetings for upcoming new courses. If you can't make it to these meetings, please check out your newsletter. You will find who to contact for more information listed there.

Generally, I have tried to keep the groups small so more people can host courses. This has not worked particularly well if those who sign up then find they can no longer attend and we are left with only two or three members turning up. Therefore I will increase numbers again – up to a maximum of 10 unless we can find a venue to hold larger numbers. I have decided to draw a thick black line on the sign-up forms to let you know when a course can be considered full and anyone below that line will be put on the waiting list.

Please do let me know if the decided date or time of the course does not suit you so we can offer your space to the next person on the waiting list.

As a courtesy to your host please remember to put in an apology for absence if you are unable to attend any session of the course - your host takes time to set up for the day and often has to move furniture and make other necessary arrangements to accommodate you. Don't just not turn up with no explanation or response to email reminders! Thank you.

New or Repeat Courses to sign up for:

- ✓ **Barbarians of the Steppes**
- ✓ **Heroes and Legends in Literature**
- ✓ **My Favourite Universe**

Contact Ann Moore, 021 109 1800.



It was confirmed at our recent AGM that our Annual Subscription would remain at \$10 per person. This has to be one of the best value membership fees around!

Payment is now due and must be paid by the 31st January 2025 to retain your membership.

Our preferred payment method is by internet banking, to account 01 0598 0033084 01, but can be made at the monthly meetings if this is not possible for you.

Thank you all and we look forward to your continued membership of U3A Marlborough.

Interest Groups and Contacts

Please remember you must be a current financial member of Marlborough U3A to take part in any of the Interest groups which are listed for your information on the following pages.

Each of our groups meets on a specific day and week of each month. Please contact the Group Contact person if you are interested in joining any of these groups or come along to our monthly meetings and sign up for our new groups.

- **A History of India:** 3rd Tuesday at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Anne Whitaker, 021 944 989.
- **Ambles and After's:** 2nd Friday at 9.30am. **Contact:** Margaret Reilly, 027 222 9608.
- **Abraham Lincoln:** 4th Friday at 2pm. **Contact:** Ann Moore, 021 109 1800.
- **Ancient Writing and the History of the Alphabet:** 1st Monday at 2pm. **Contact:** Paul Gunningham, 021 0801 0148.
- **Armchair Travel:** 4th Wednesday at 2pm. **Contact:** Helen Hannay, 578 1574 or Ann Turnbull, 020 4144 0371.
- **Black Holes, Tides and Curved Space-time: Understanding Gravity:** 3rd Tuesday at 2pm. **Contact:** Paul Stanley, 579 2521.
- **Books and Authors:** 2nd Thursday at 2pm. **Contact:** Jackie Hall, 579 3355.
- **Card Making:** 1st Thursday at 10am. **Contact:** Gloria Mitchell, 577 7833.
- **Celtic World**
Group 1: 1st Friday at 2pm. **Contact:** Colleen Cox, 027 241 1467.
Group 2: 1st Wednesday at 10am. **Contact:** Jackie Hall 579 3355.
- **Classic Films**
Group 1: 4th Thursday at 1 30pm. **Contact:** Bruce Dale, 578 9672.
Group 2: 3rd Thursday at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.
- **Classical Music:** 1st Monday at 10am. **Contact:** Brian Mudge: 027 226 3630.
- **Comparative Religion:** 3rd Thursday at 2pm. **Contact:** Trish Johnson, 027 241 7021.
- **Current Issues:** 1st Tuesday at 9.45am. **Contact:** Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.
- **Discussions on Points of Interest.** 1st Wednesday at 10 am at Picton Library.
Contact: Rosemary Jorgensen, (03) 573 5245.
- **Documentary Films:** 3rd Wednesday at 10am. **Contact:** Lindsay Moir, 027 694 9416.
- **Everyday Engineering:** 4th Friday at 2pm. **Contact** Marilyn Cowe, 022 648 8692.
- **Exploring the Roots of Religion:** 4th Tuesday at 2pm. **Contact** Sheenagh Barron, 577 6434 or Ann Moore, 021 109 1800.
- **Garden Group:** 1st Friday at 10am. **Contact:** Jan Richardson, 578 0989.
- **The Great Tours – African Safari:** 3rd Thursday at 2pm. **Contact** Robin Cox, 578 4115.
- **Great Tours - From Athens to Istanbul:** **Contact:** Ann Anderson, 579 4955.
- **Great Tours - England, Scotland and Wales:** 2nd Tuesday at 2pm. **Contact:** Peter Yeoman, 578 5643.

- **Great Tours - Ireland and Northern Ireland**
Group 1: - 1st Tuesday at 10am. Contact: Ann Turnbull, 020 4144 0371.
Group 2: - 2nd Tuesday at 2pm. Contact: Ann Anderson, 579 4955.
- **History:** 3rd Tuesday at 1.30pm. Contact: Margaret Fairhall, 578 2507.
- **Homer's Iliad and Odyssey:** 3rd Monday at 2pm. **Contact:** Ann Moore, 021 109 1800.
- **Life Writing:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Lis Davys, 579 3167.
- **London: A Short History of the Greatest City in the Western World:** 3rd Monday at 2pm.
Contact: Sarah Gunningham, 021 105 8559.
- **Lost Worlds of South America:** 1st Tuesday at 2pm. **Contact:** Peter Yeoman, 578 5643.
- **Luncheon Plus:** 2nd Thursday at 11.30am. **Contact:** Marilyn Welsh, 577 9114.
- **Mah-jong:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 2pm. **Contact:** Evin Wood, 578 2093, evin42@hotmail.com.
- **Memory Lane Music:** Last Thursday at 10am. **Contact:** John Best, 027 246 1006.
- **Origin of English Words:** 4th Thursday at 2pm. **Contact:** Margaret Conway, 579 1956.
- **Physics in Your Life:** 1st Tuesday at 2pm. **Contact:** Ann Anderson, 579 4955.
- **Poetry Appreciation:** 2nd Friday at 2pm. **Contact:** Jan Poswillo, 578 9834 or 021 142 6931.
- **Photography:** 1st Monday at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Charles Riley, 578 0109.
- **Scrabble Group 1:** 1st Monday at 2pm. **Contact:** Jackie Hall, 579 3355.
Scrabble Group 2: 3rd Thursday at 1 30pm. **Contact:** Lyn Blaker, 972 3739.
- **Science of Extreme Weather:** 1st Thursday at 10am. **Contact:** Paul Stanley, 579 2521.
- **The Decisive Battles of World History, and History's Great Military Blunders and the Lessons they Teach:** 4th Thurs at 10.0am. **Contact:** Angus Welsh, 577 9114.
- **The Remarkable Science of Ancient Astronomy:**
Group 1: 2nd Friday at 2pm. **Contact:** Phil Scadden, 027 346 3185.
Group 2: 3rd Thursday at 10am. **Contact:** Paul Stanley, 579 2521.
- **Watercolour Painting:** 1st & 3rd Mondays at 9.30am. **Contact:** Gavin Kerr, 572 7238.
- **Why Insects Matter:** 2nd Friday at 2.00pm, **Contact:** Ann Anderson, 579 4955.
- **Wine Appreciation Group 1:** 3rd Friday at 11am. **Contact:** Angus Welsh, 577 9114.
Wine Appreciation Group 2: Last Friday at 11.30am. **Contact:** Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.
- **Winston Churchill:** 4th Thursday at 2pm. **Contact:** Robin Cox 578 4115.
- **Writing for Grandchildren:** 1st and 3rd Mondays at 9.45am. **Contact:** Gladys Sloss, 578 3191.

