

# Marlborough U3A



## Newsletter No 1: January 2024

Marlborough U3A is an Incorporated society affiliated with, but independent of, U3A NZ.  
It is managed by an elected committee.

**Monthly Meetings** are 2pm on the 2nd Monday of each month (except January) at the **Cloudy Bay Funeral Services** rooms, 15 Boyce St, Blenheim.

| Meeting Dates | Speakers                       |   | Afternoon Tea Groups |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 12th February | <a href="#">Russ Smith</a>     | Scams – recognizing and dealing with them | London Group No 1    |
| 11th March    | <a href="#">Jim Hasseldine</a> | Alcohol and Drugs                         | Poetry Appreciation  |
| 8th April     | <a href="#">Philip Fowke</a>   | UK Concert Pianist                        | Mah Jong             |
| 13th May      | <a href="#">Brian Norris</a>   | Picton's Marketing Ninja                  | Memory Lane Music    |

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

### Committee

|                    |                 |               |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| President          | Helen Hannay    | 578 1574      |
| Vice President     | Peter Yeoman    | 578 5643      |
| Secretary          | Paul Stanley    | 021 663 518   |
| Treasurer          | Marilyn Cowe    | 022 648 8692  |
| Course Coordinator | Ann Moore       | 927 3754      |
| Publicity          | Ann Turnbull    | 020 4144 0371 |
| Speakers           | Ann Anderson    | 579 4955      |
| Newsletter         | Liz Griffiths   | 027 257 3397  |
| Catering           | Linda Batchelor | 021 239 3175  |

email (Secretary) [u3a.marlborough@gmail.com](mailto:u3a.marlborough@gmail.com)  
email (Treasurer) [treasurer.u3a.marlb@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.u3a.marlb@gmail.com)  
U3A bank account 01 0598 0033084 01

**Life Members :** [Jacqui Buttle](#), [Gavin Kerr](#), [Neville Lawson](#), [Gwyneth Lowe](#), [Ann MacDonald](#),  
[Murray MacDonald](#), [Lindsay Moir](#), [Charles Riley](#)

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## President's Report

### *Greetings Fellow U3A Members*

***“The most beautiful things in life are not things. They're people and places, memories and pictures. They're feelings and moments with smiles and laughter.”***

I read this recently and thought, “how true”. While some times in our lives might not have been so good, there are surely some good memories we can enjoy and reflect upon. The people we have met along life's journey, the adventures and experiences we have shared and places we have lived in or visited, hopefully have all added value to our lives.

For some it's special times with families, happy memories of children's hugs and laughter and the reward of seeing our children become good citizens and people we are proud of. Time spent with our children can bring such happiness and as they become adults, we have an altogether new way of making and sharing memories. If we are lucky enough to have sisters and brothers we have grown up with and who we have made special memories with, these moments can hopefully sustain us in our hard times.

For others it might be new friendships we make throughout our lives and activities.

Good friends can surprise you with unexpected outings, which reinforce our pleasure in life –simple things like a trip to the beach with a chair, a thermos and a biscuit to enjoy the calming effect of the sea while watching others have fun fishing or swimming or just paddling. Or perhaps a spontaneous trip to a concert with a meal to follow meant a special share day. Just enjoying our wonderful scenery here in Marlborough and sharing this with a friend or two is also a very real joy in our sometimes too busy lives.

Achieving a personal goal, an afternoon in the garden, a trip to the movies, a walk in the forest, a lazy afternoon with a good book, or an unexpected call from someone special – they all add to beautiful memories we can cherish and enjoy.

We may also have some wonderful memories of time spent with those who have now left us at the end of their lives – the love we have shared with them must be of great comfort to us as we grieve their loss.

As we grow older I think it is important to share our special moments and reflect on the most beautiful things in our lives. Whatever your special memories and feelings are I hope they have perhaps helped you through tough times and sad moments as well as bringing you joy, smiles and laughter.

I wonder how many of you have written down some of your special memories to share with your children and grandchildren or other family members? We, as U3A members, have been privileged to have heard from some of you about the wonderful lives you have lived and the things you have experienced. But so often, this knowledge dies with us and a wonderful history is lost, so I would encourage you to record in some way the experiences you have lived through in the coming year and enjoy sharing them with your family and friends. It may be a document you have to keep going back to as memories surface – I have found that to be the case!

I hope 2024 is a good year for you all as we share our ongoing learning and times spent together in friendship.

My very best wishes to you all and I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings.

*Helen*

## Course Coordinator's Report

Towards the end of last year, I bought some new DVD courses from 'The Great Courses' website – namely:

- **Black Holes, Tides and Curved Space-time: Understanding Gravity.**
- **The Remarkable Science of Ancient Astronomy** - note 2 groups
- **The Great Tours – Ireland and Northern Ireland** - note 2 groups.

These new courses are now ready to start:

- Paul and Barbara Stanley and Phillip and Clair Scadden are sharing hosting of **The Remarkable Science of Ancient Astronomy** as the number signed up exceeded the ability of members to host comfortably.
- The **'Ireland and Northern Ireland'** course has also been split in half, with Ann Turnbull and Ann Anderson sharing the hosting on separate days of the month - starting with Ann Turnbull on 6th Feb at 1:30pm and Ann Anderson hosting the other starting 13th February at 2pm
- **Maya to Aztec** - Ann Turnbull - host - on 3rd Tuesdays at 10am. 020 4144 0371
- **Essential Italy** - Ann Turnbull - host - 020 4144 0371.
- **Celtic World** - two groups again - Colleen Cox and Jackie Hall from their homes.
- **Black Holes, Tides and Curved Space-time** is in a different category. I accidentally bought two copies but was only charged for one! So, it can be divided into two groups very simply. However, only 9 people have signed up so far. If more sign up in February I will split the group into two. Of course, that will mean two hosts are required again.
- The **London Course** is also ready to **run again from March**. The two groups who participated in this course in 2023 really enjoyed it. Six people have signed up for this year so a couple more would be good.

The Hosts of all of these groups have agreed to share the materials in a timely manner. Please check the list of courses in this newsletter for more information. If you are interested in any of these courses and would like to put your name down as a back-up in case of resignations you are welcome to do so.

Other courses will be coming to an end in the first half of 2024 so if you are interested in any of them, please put your name and details down on the sheet in the foyer. Thanks to you all for the interest and enthusiasm you show for expanding your knowledge and aroha of our world!

Ngā mihi

**Ann Moore**

## Reports on Courses and Groups

**Wine Appreciation 1:** We have had a most enjoyable year, despite finding that a number of wineries are no longer able to cope with a group of our size (staffing problems?), especially during harvest and vintage. We have broadened our horizons well with the help of two members with contacts at North Island wineries, one in the Wairarapa and one in the far North. Each winery sent down a mixed half dozen which included some unusual varieties. We also did blind tastings of international wines (bought locally) and also of low- and no-alcohol wines. They were all enjoyable experiences, and we learnt a lot, and look forward to more meetings this year.

***Murray MacDonald***

**Classic Films 2:** Movies watched this year include Butch Cassidy, The Sting, Fiddler on the Roof, All About Eve, Some Like it Hot, On the Beach, Rear Window, and Picnic at Hanging Rock. We still have several original members from when the group started in 2006, and there are plenty of great movies still to see.

***Murray MacDonald***

**London 2:** We will be completing this DVD lecture series at our meeting in February. It has been a fascinating journey from a pre-Roman village to "the greatest city in the world", seeing how it bounced back from so many trials and tribulations. We've all learnt such a lot, both those born there and who have lived there, and those who just wanted to learn more. We'd recommend a new group starting up this year. There are 24 lectures; we watched two at each meeting.

***Murray MacDonald***

**Play Reading 2:** A small but very enthusiastic group has enjoyed a wonderful year with lots of fun, reading some interesting and amusing plays. Four of our members have travelled in from Picton every month and never missed unless it was unavoidable. However all good things must come to an end and it is with great sadness that we are calling it a day.

Since the Play Bureau moved from Dunedin to Tauranga it has proved more difficult for Margaret (Jarman) to get suitable material at an affordable price. So my sincere thanks go to Margaret for all the preparatory work she has done which has saved me, as leader of group 2, a lot of work.

It is not easy to sort out who can read what because of (i) differentiation of part numbers & (ii) participants. Margaret arranged all plays for 6 people, 7 people and 8 people and occasionally we ended up talking to ourselves - quite funny but challenging. So - "another one bites the dust"!

***Juliet Kirke***

**Note: Wine Appreciation 1, Classic Films 2, and the History Groups all have room for more members.** Please get in touch with the conveners of these groups if you are interested in joining them.

## Interest Groups and Contacts

Each of our groups meets on a specific day and week of each month. Please contact the Group Contact person direct if you are interested in joining any of the groups.

- **Ambles and Afters:** 2nd Friday at 9.30am. Contact: Mary Wightwick, 578 8747 / 027 440 2047.
- **American Civil War and Abraham Lincoln:** currently being planned.  
Contact: Ann Moore, 021 109 1800.
- **Barbarians of the Steppes:** TBA – 3rd or 4th Fri. Contact: Charles Riley 578 0109.
- **Black Holes, Tides and Curved Space-time: Understanding Gravity:** TBA.  
Contact: Paul Stanley, 579 2521.
- **Books and Authors Group 1:** 2nd Thursday at 2pm. Contact: Jackie Hall, 579 3355.  
**Books and Authors Group 2:** 3rd Tuesday at 10am. Contact: Wendy Cass, 578 9144.
- **Card Making:** 1st Thursday at 10am. Contact: Gloria Mitchell, 577 7833.
- **Celtic World Group 1:** 1st Friday at 2pm (starts March 1st): Contact: Colleen Cox, 027 241 1467.  
**Celtic World Group 2:** 1st Wednesday at 10am (starts March 6th): Contact: Jackie Hall 579 3355.
- **Classic Films Group 1:** 4th Thursday at 1 30pm. Contact: Bruce Dale, 578 9672.  
**Classic Films 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: Lindsay Moir, 027 694 9416.
- **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.
- **Documentary Films:** 3rd Wednesday at 10am. Contact: Lindsay Moir, 027 694 9416.
- **Essential Italy:** 3rd Wednesday at 2pm. Contact: Ann Turnbull, 020 414 0371.
- **Everyday Engineering:** currently being planned: Contact: Ann Moore, 021 109 1800.
- **Foundations of Eastern Civilization:** 3rd Thursday at 2pm. Contact: Lyn Coates, 578 5273.
- **Garden Group:** 1st Friday at 10am. Contact: Jan Richardson, 578 0989.
- **Great Tours - From Athens to Istanbul:** TBA. 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.  
**Great Tours: Ireland and Northern Ireland Group 2:** - 2nd Tuesday at 2pm.  
Contact: Ann Anderson, 579 4955.
- **History:** 3rd Tuesday at 1.30pm. Contact: Margaret Fairhall, 578 2507.

- **Heroes and Legends: the Most Influential Characters of History:** 1st Tuesday at 2 pm.  
Contact: Peter Yeoman, 578 5643.
- **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:** Host needed.  
Contact: Ann Moore, 021 109 1800.
- **Luncheon Plus:** 2nd Thursday at 11.30am. Contact: Lyn Coates, 578 5273.
- **Mah-jong:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 2pm. Contact: Evin Wood, 578 2093,  
evin42@hotmail.com.
- **Maya to Aztec:** 3rd Tuesday at 10 am. Contact: Ann Turnbull, 020 4144 0371.
- **Memory Lane Music:** Last Thursday at 10am. Contact: John Best, 027 246 1006.
- **My Favourite Universe:** currently under planning: Contact: Ann Moore, 021 109 1800.
- **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.
- **The Remarkable Science of Ancient Astronomy Group 1:** 2nd Friday at 2pm.  
Contact: Phil Scadden, 027 3463185.  
**The Remarkable Science of Ancient Astronomy Group 2:** 3rd Thursday at 10am.  
Contact: Paul Stanley, 579 2521.
- **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.
- **Water Colour Painting:** 1st & 3rd Mondays at 9.30am. Contact: Gavin Kerr, 572 7238.
- **Wine Appreciation Group 1:** 3rd Friday at 11am. Contact: Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.  
**Wine Appreciation Group 2:** Last Friday at 11.30am. Contact: Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.
- **Winston Churchill:** currently under planning, Contact: Ann Moore, 021 109 1800.
- **Writing for Grandchildren:** 1st and 3rd Mondays at 9.45am. Contact: Gladys Sloss, 578 3191.

**Please remember you must be a current financial member of Marlborough U3A to take part in any of these groups.**