

Marlborough U3A



Newsletter No 2: May 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.

Date	Speaker	Afternoon Tea
13 May	Brian Morris Travels Worldwide since a Young Man	<i>Memory Lane Music</i>
10 June	Paul Eden Nepal - the Experience	<i>Maya Aztec Group</i>
8 July	Paul Davidson Making Marlborough - the Migrants' Story	<i>Photography</i>
12 Aug	Angus Welsh From West Point to Omaka - a Dresser's Journey	<i>Origin of English Words</i>
9 Sep	Lewis Jones Fire Safety in the Home	<i>TBA</i>

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	Paul Stanley	u3a.marlborough@gmail.com	021 663 518
Treasurer	Marilyn Cowe	treasurer.u3a.marlb@gmail.com	022 648 8692
Courses	Ann Moore	anncm09@gmail.com	021 109 1800
Publicity	Ann Turnbull	turnbullann2@gmail.com	020 4144 0371
Speakers	Ann Anderson	ullington@pobox.com	579 4955
Newsletter	Liz Griffiths	lizgriffiths8@gmail.com	027 257 3397
Catering	Linda Batchelor	lindabatchelor@yahoo.com.au	021 239 3175

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 31 January

Our preferred payment method is by internet banking, to account 01 0598 0033084 01

Thank you.

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 Members

Well, here we are in Autumn – leaves falling everywhere after their wonderful colour changes, covering lawns, filling gutters and giving us the makings of great compost – food for our gardens. There's been a distinct change in the weather with colder evenings and mornings – time to add another blanket to our beds. Wasn't it great to have the recent rain though – we needed it so much, but of course that means, for those of us with gardens, we'll need to keep up with the lawn mowing and weeding even more now. Ah, the joys of our homes and our surroundings.

I do hope those of you who are taking advantage of all our study courses and groups are enjoying them – it's great to have so many options to choose from isn't it. Your committee constantly works to source materials for them so as one series of lectures finishes other options open up. We recently purchased seven more Great Courses DVD sets and these are being offered a couple at a time to spread them out over the year. Enrolment forms are provided at each monthly meeting for you to sign up to the course that interests you. If you aren't able to come to the monthly meetings you can contact Ann Moore, our Groups Coordinator to find out what's newly on offer.

I want to thank all our members, including some of our newest members, who are taking on convening and hosting roles – it is very much appreciated and helps to make U3A Marlborough so successful. Recently we have been able to have some groups meet in slightly larger premises than our individual homes - the Alzheimers Centre and now the Library are currently in use for this. We do encourage members to share the convening and/or hosting roles – this spreads the load and means that no one has too much to do. It is not a difficult task – mostly just a regular reminder to your group and sorting out who will bring morning or afternoon tea. In general, modest group expenses are the responsibility of the group. Your group may be called upon to provide brief notes for inclusion in the quarterly newsletter - this can be the part of the role of the convenor or another group member may wish to contribute in this way. Your group may also wish to share your experiences and knowledge gained at monthly meetings.

Your committee has been working on making changes to our constitution as required under the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022. We are told that **“the changes will make incorporated societies' structures and processes more robust, help societies govern themselves, and give societies and members more options when things go wrong. In practice, this means you'll probably need to rewrite your constitution to add the additional requirements of the new Act.”** All incorporated societies need to reregister and when they do so, they will come under the new Act, which can be found at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz>.

This work has been so ably led by our Secretary, Paul, who has done a sterling job in gathering all the necessary changes into a very large but understandable document. The wording has been gone over with a fine-tooth comb by the committee and our examiner Max Currie. After a thorough examination we are now happy with the final document. This will be presented to you all for your final agreement at a special general meeting to be held as part of our monthly meeting on the 12th of August. Prior to the meeting you will receive an emailed copy of the proposed new constitution.

We have another birthday coming up in July so do come along and help celebrate our 23rd year of learning, growing, sharing and friendship. Membership numbers (currently 275) continue to grow with new folks joining each month – I do hope you are all enjoying our monthly meetings and also our interest groups. We have had some wonderful speakers with a great turnout of members, averaging over 100 recently. I think everyone was particularly fascinated by our most recent speaker from the local police force, Aaron and his police dog Cole – what a huge German Shepherd he is! I certainly wouldn't want to be on the wrong side of the law if he was after me!

Wishing you all good health and good cheer, and warmth through the winter months.

Helen

Life is so ironic - it takes sadness to know happiness, noise to appreciate silence, and absence to value presence.

Course Coordinator's Report

Everything seems to be going well with courses running smoothly. There are currently 23 DVD courses being shown, mostly in members' homes, with the library as the venue for Everyday Engineering.

There are still several courses that do not have enough signed up to yet. These are:

- Armchair Travel – people recounting their adventures around NZ and overseas.
- Museum Masterpieces – The National Gallery of London
- My Favourite Universe
- In the Footsteps of Vincent Van Gogh
- History

If you are interested in any of these courses, please let me know.

Also, at the last meeting I introduced two new courses which are:

- **The Lost Worlds of South America** – where you will explore the earliest cities in the Americas: the wonders of ancient technology: Mummies, headhunting, and fanged deities: the great Moche civilization: glories of Andean art: and the magnificent Inca:
- **Exploring the Roots of Religion:** Stonehenge. Machu Picchu. The Acropolis. The Great Pyramids at Giza. Why were these massive sites created? What impulse drove ancient cultures to devote such time and labour into these projects? Why are we so transfixed by their presence today? And what do these and other mysterious sites reveal about our ancestors—and about humanity as a whole?

They sound very interesting. If you agree then sign up at the next meeting, or notify me that you are interested beforehand to ensure you get a space on the course!

It was also pleasing that one person signed up for Mah-Jong and two for Scrabble. More are welcome.

I would welcome any ideas for future courses. Please get in touch if you have any good ideas

Ann Moore

Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and our Need for a New Constitution.

Secretary's Comments

Marlborough U3A is an incorporated society, and we need to remain so. Under the new Act, we need to reregister in the next 18 months, but before we can do that our constitution needs to be amended to comply with the requirements of the new Act.

Due to the vastly different format now required, it proved easier to rewrite the constitution completely, using the 'constitution builder' template provided by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies. In doing so we have kept those elements from the old one which were still relevant - such as the 'purposes' clauses - and phrased the remaining articles, as far as possible, to retain the spirit of the original.

The new constitution will need to be approved by a General Meeting, and as the President said in her report, we intend to hold a Special General Meeting at the start of our normal August monthly meeting to do that. A copy of the proposed new constitution will be emailed to members with the formal notification of the SGM, so that they will know what they are being asked to approve. However, as most of the changes are mandatory to comply with the new Act, the committee will not be asking members for proposed changes.

If anyone wishes to study the new Act, it can be found at <https://www.legislation.govt.nz>.

Spoiler Alert: it's extremely boring!

Paul

Reports on Courses and Groups

Super Scrabble

I have always been an advocate for going outside one's comfort zone. I suspect many people belong to U3A to do this too - seeking new things and challenges to keep the body and mind engaged.

I found a new vehicle to take my mind outside my comfort zone recently - the little known board game "Super Scrabble."

If you are familiar with the scrabble board, think twice the size. Think 200 tiles. Learn that four corners of the board allow you to quadruple your word count! And there are several tiles which allow you to do the same with a single letter. This means if you can get your Z - worth 10 points - on one of those squares it's worth 40 points.

By now you are getting the big picture of the challenge this game can now provide. I applied to the committee to acquire a set for my scrabble group, as everyone who played using my borrowed set just loved the experience. The committee looked very favourably upon my request and now I have it.

I am interested in gathering up more people for our scrabble group and part of this meeting would be access for people to the extended new game. If there was enough interest I would also take names to organise a second group for another day of the week.

At present we meet at Gerry Lawsons home, 15 Rene Street, Springlands, on the first Monday afternoon of the month at 2pm. There is a wide range of skill amongst the group, but we encourage and support each other's endeavours and it is a fun group to belong to. It's been operating for 16 years with changes in members as life evolves.

If you are interested in taking this further, please contact me - either land line (579 3355) or cell (027 345 3844)

Jackie Hall - Scrabble Convenor

The Science of Extreme Weather

This course is now half way through, and is quite different from most of the other 'Great Courses' in its format. Rather than a rather staid lecturer in one of those familiar sets, this one is set in a rather Science-Fiction version of a 'Meteorological Observatory' and is presented by a dynamic and informal young lecturer. Every session starts with videos of mayhem and destruction caused by weather.

"Stormy Weather", as we now refer to it (after President Biden's recent quip about his predecessor's problems) is primarily about weather in the USA, which seems to have cornered the market in extreme weather by having just about every variety of it, affecting almost every corner of the country. So far we've learned about extreme temperatures, rain and fog, and covered the anatomy of 'normal' thunder storms and the super-cell ones for which America is notorious. This month we've learned about tornadoes (great timing, as it's peak season in Tornado Alley right now) and are about to move onto severe winter weather, before the climax of the course, which deals with hurricanes. We are unanimous in our verdict that there's nowhere in the USA where we would want to live - though there are also some non-meteorological factors influencing our judgement!

We'll be running through to the end of the year, so it won't be available for rerun until next year.

Paul

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: Margaret Reilly, 027 222 9608.
- **American Civil War and Abraham Lincoln:** currently being planned.
Contact: Ann Moore, 021 109 1800.
- **Ancient Writing and the History of the Alphabet:**
1st Monday at 2pm. Contact: Paul Gunningham, 021 0801 0148
- **Barbarians of the Steppes:** TBA – 3rd or 4th Fri. Contact: Charles Riley 578 0109.
- **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 (starts March 1st): Contact: Colleen Cox, 027 241 1467.
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.
- **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:** 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.
Group 2: - 2nd Tuesday at 2pm. Contact: Ann Anderson, 579 4955.

- **History:** 3rd Tuesday at 1.30pm. Contact: Margaret Fairhall, 578 2507.
- **History of India:** 3rd Tuesday at 2 pm.
Contact Anne Whitaker, 021944989 (annecw1948@gmail.com)
- **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: Marilyn Welsh, 577 9114.
- **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.
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.