

Marlborough U3A

Newsletter No 3: August 2023

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

Committee

President	Helen Hannay	578 1574
Vice President	Jackie Hall	579 3355
Secretary	Paul Stanley	021 663 518
Treasurer	Angus Welsh	577 9114
Course Coordinator	Ann Moore	927 3754
Catering	Marilyn Cowe	022 648 8692
Publicity	Ann Turnbull	578 4200
Speakers	Ann Anderson	579 4955

email (Sec) u3a.marlborough@gmail.com

Bank Account 010 598 0033084 01

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, except January, at 2pm. The venue is Cloudy Bay Funeral Services, 15 Boyce St, Blenheim.

Date	Speaker	Afternoon Tea
Aug 14	Kerry Walsh – Intrepid Sailor	Documentary Films
Sep 11	Senior Constable Russell Smith	Essential Italy
Oct 9	Vicky Baker – work on a Game Reservation	Eastern Civilisations

Please note: the AGM will be held on October 9 at 2pm prior to the general meeting. Your attendance is requested please.

As of now, only financial members of the society are receiving the newsletter – the recent drive for subscriptions proved very effective in getting members paid-up. Some people proved over-enthusiastic and have paid twice for this financial year! Their over-payments will be credited to next year's subs, and those members will be individually informed when the subs become due again - after the AGM.

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From the Editor

I have enjoyed trying to present this newsletter in a sensible, cohesive and informative way, although there has been some fake news involved around dates I told you. I wish to step back from this really interesting committee at the AGM, but am very confident there will be someone far more capable than me to provide this service. Are you out there, I ask? It is a fun job, and draws upon a lot of skills. Mine are diminishing, but that's because I invest my time in so many other things. Think seriously about coming forward to do this work at the AGM.

We would like suggestions for new groups which do not involve using technology. For example a new one is to be promoted related to Social Outings, details to come. There are many enterprising people in this organisation, full of ideas to bring people together around a common theme. Part of being in U3A is socialisation, getting to know others has been a key in promoting new insights and friendships, and the resulting stimulation is a great contribution to mental health and well-being. Floral Art, new crafts, learning new games may conjure up interest for example. A while ago Armchair travel was very popular. If you have any suggestions please tell Helen or Paul so the committee can discuss the practicalities of implementing a new group at a committee meeting.

Jackie Hall

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings Fellow Members

Here we are halfway through another year – are we getting any wiser as we age? Are we still learning, or just coasting through our latter years? I like to think that as U3A folk we are still just as keen to learn new things as ever, even if we don't always retain what we have heard or seen quite as well as when we were younger! Isn't it amazing that our brains are able to keep on absorbing new information - the only problem I see is that it is getting harder to dredge some things back up from the depths. Of course some people refer to this as "old age" or simply "losing the plot"! But we know better, don't we. 😊

It is good to see so many of you at our monthly meetings – but there is room for more of you. For those of you who do come may I suggest that you encourage those you know who don't to join us. I know some of you have other commitments on the meeting days but others are missing out on half of your membership benefits by not coming. Our enrolment forms for new courses are always available at the meetings for you to add your name to them – you may be missing out on taking part if you are not aware of what is coming up.

We have had a good selection of interesting speakers at the monthly meetings and I hope you are all enjoying hearing from them. If you have any ideas of other speakers or topics you would like to hear from or about please tell one of the committee or let Ann Anderson know directly. Ann is our Speaker Coordinator and her contact details are listed in this newsletter.

Likewise with the interest groups – please talk to Ann Moore, our Groups Coordinator, or another committee member if you would like to have a replay of previous courses or have an idea for a new group.

As many of us are living on our own we have had a suggestion that it would be good to have a "Social Outings" group to fill a need for folks to have a companion or companions to attend events, go to the movies, have a coffee or lunch, have a games morning or afternoon. Members of this group would share their contact details (phone or email) and could simply contact each other to arrange to do things together. Everyone would be responsible for their

own bookings/payments as required. Please look out for the enrolment form at the next monthly meeting or contact either Ann Moore or myself if you aren't able to be at the meeting and wish to take part.

As well as keeping our brains active, the social contact in our lives is so very important to our mental health. U3A membership gives us a chance to do both and, in my opinion, is a wonderful organisation which aids this. As we celebrate our 22nd year I would like to acknowledge our members who have been with U3A Marlborough since its beginning, all of whom are still very active members and who have made a wonderful contribution to our organisation. Thank you all.

In closing may I wish you all good health, warmth and friendship.

Helen



“Each day I’m thankful for the nights that turned into mornings, friends that turned into family, dreams that turned into reality, and likes that turned into love.”

FROM THE COURSE ORGANISER

It has been a year of ups and downs. On the upside we received 4 new DVD courses which are: **The Secret Life of English Words and their Origins; The Barbarians of the Steppes; In the Footsteps of Vincent Van Gogh** and **Physics in Your Life**. The first three have been eagerly signed up for and are presently being shown and discussed every month. The last one has been held off until later in the year when an existing group will have the time to view and debate it.

On the downside, there has been considerable difficulty in finding venues for groups to meet in, especially if the course needs a TV. Other options have been looked into. We were very grateful for the offer of the Alzheimer’s Conference room for a very reasonable donation each time (payable by those attending). The English Words and their Origins is meeting there on the 4th Thursday afternoon of each month and I have heard only positive comments about the venue. This room will also be available for other groups, if needed, but only on Thursday afternoons.

At the last committee meeting suggestions were made for two new groups – “**Social Outings**” and an “**Exercise Group**” consisting of members with similar interests and abilities. Both these groups would be a wonderful way to meet new people and form friendships, especially if you are new to U3A Marlborough. It would be great to have more courses that do not need a TV and DVDs, as the latter are what is causing the problem of space for groups in members’ living rooms.

At the next General Meeting I will put out forms for people to sign up to repeat courses of **Comparative Religion** and **The American Civil War**. Both these courses are of very high quality and those who have already completed them speak very enthusiastically about them. Please remember to write your details very clearly when filling out sign-up forms.

Ann Moore

Notice of Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Marlborough U3A Inc

will be held on

Monday 9 October 2023 at 2pm

At the Cloudy Bay Funeral Services Premises
Boyce Street, Blenheim

AGENDA

Welcome

Apologies

Approval of Minutes of the 2022 AGM

President's Report

Financial Report

Election of Officers:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Committee

Appointment of Accounts Examiner

General Business

- Subscriptions for 2023/24 to be set (*due for payment after the AGM*)
- Advance notice of changes to Constitution to reflect new Legislation
- Any other business

Nominations for Committee should be in the hands of the President prior to the meeting, or can be taken from the floor.

Please consider bringing your talents and expertise to any of the Committee positions so all members can continue to enjoy the many benefits of belonging to U3A.

After the close of the AGM we will have afternoon tea, followed by our Guest Speaker.





ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PAPERS – PREVIOUS MINUTES

MINUTES OF U3A MARLBOROUGH AGM – 10 OCTOBER 2022

The President, Gwyneth Lowe, welcomed members to the meeting. 75 members attended in person and apologies were accepted from a further 14.

Minutes of the previous AGM

These were taken as read and approved. There were no matters arising.

President's Report

What a pleasure it has been to lead Marlborough U3A over the last 6 years – and now as I present my final annual report let's give everyone top marks for resilience and ongoing enthusiasm throughout the months of challenges thrown at us by the pandemic.

Meetings have been held regularly, speakers have presented fascinating talks on a wide variety of topics and most groups have continued to gather to share a wide range of activities and learning experiences. As we age it is vitally important to keep physically and mentally active and socially engaged and U3A provides wonderful opportunities for all sorts of interests and gatherings. We have enjoyed another year of meetings in these lovely premises courtesy of Cloudy Bay Funeral Services and for that we thank them most sincerely.

My fellow Committee members have all been a joy to work with and my thanks go to them for their support and contributions to the running of this great group. Three are standing down at this election - Jacqui Buttle, Lyn Coates and myself. It will be exciting to have some new faces around the table. Good luck and best wishes to the new team.

Gwyneth Lowe

The report was accepted.

Financial Report

The treasurer, Angus Welsh, read his report, which had been examined and signed off by Walter Scott.

U3A has a solid foundation, with total funds of \$13,969.38, and it was recommended that subscriptions would remain at \$10 pp for the new subscription year.

The report was approved.

Courses Report

Ann Moore provided a brief report on the current state of courses and of new ones that have been purchased and are awaiting delivery.

Election of Officers

The following members were elected to the committee:

President: Helen Hannay (Gwyneth Lowe/Ann Moore- carried

Vice-President: Jackie Hall (Helen Hannay/Jacqui Buttle) - carried

Treasurer: Angus Welsh (Jacqui Buttle/Paul Stanley) - carried

Secretary: Paul Stanley (Jacqui Buttle/Ann Moore) - carried

Committee:

Ann Moore (Paul Stanley/Jackie Hall) - carried

Anne Anderson (Gwyneth Lowe/Paul Stanley) - carried

Ann Turnbull (Helen Hannay/Barbara Stanley) - carried

Marilyn Cowe (Paul Stanley/Ann Moore) - carried

Financial Reviewer: Max Currie volunteered to take on the task after the retirement of Walter Scott.

Life Memberships were conferred on Neville Lawson and Gavin Kerr in recognition of their long and dedicated work for U3A Marlborough, and the President presented them with framed certificates.

A small presentation was made to each of the two retiring committee members (Jacqui Buttle and Lyn Coates). Max Currie gave a glowing speech of thanks to Gwyneth for her long service as President. Helen then presented Gwyneth with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the membership.

There being no further business, the AGM closed at 2.25pm.



Life Members of U3A Marlborough

Jacqui Buttle, Charles Riley, Ann MacDonald,
Murray MacDonald, Lindsay Moir, Neville Lawson,
Gavin Kerr



U3A COURSES REPORT - GENERAL COURSE REPORTS

TED Talks

At our last meeting, we had an interesting talk on education and actual learning, and it seemed there was an absence of learning in the classroom, as well as the non-attendance at schools. A difficult problem to solve.

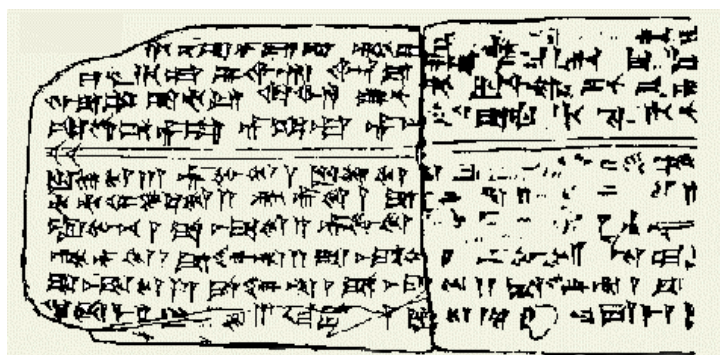
Next meeting one of our members will talk about the correspondence school, and we might have some related videos if we find one.

This will be as usual, first Wednesday of the month, 10am at Picton library.

Rosemary

Memory Lane Music Group report –

One of the items at our February meeting went as far down Memory Lane as one can go. In 1950 some clay tablets were unearthed at the site of the old city of Ugarit in Northern Syria. They date from around 1400BC and include the earliest “song sheet” ever found. It is a



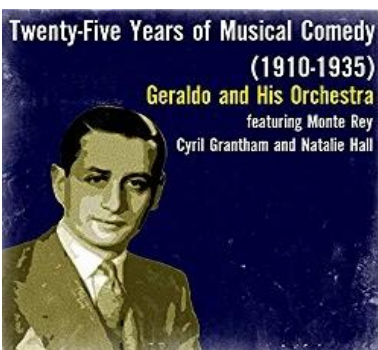
hymn to the goddess of orchards. Lutes and lyres were in use at the time but we listened to two unaccompanied (and slightly different) sung versions translated from the Hurrian cuneiform symbols – a copy is shown here – by Drs Anne Kilmer and Richard Dumbrill in 1974 and 1998 respectively. An instrumental version (played on a modern lyre

by Michael Levy) of Dr Dumbrill’s interpretation of the tablet inscription has also been recorded.

Also in February we were saddened to hear of the death of the foremost light popular music composer of the late 20th Century. Burt Bacharach died on the 9th and we included three of his distinctive tunes, and a tribute to his work, in the programme.



There have been several German (and at least three English language) films featuring the life and music of Johann Strauss. In 1963 the Walt Disney studios produced *The Waltz King*. Much of it was filmed in Austria and – sixty years on – it still looks and sounds very good. Bruce Dale screened this movie for us, in his theatre, for our March meeting.



Our April meeting took place a week before the coronation of King Charles III so we thought it appropriate to include a royalty-related item. In 1935 Columbia recorded a two 12”-disc selection entitled *Twenty-five Years of Musical Comedy (1910-1935)* to coincide with, and celebrate, the Silver Jubilee of King George V’s coronation.

The orchestrator (whoever he was) did a pretty good job of fitting one West End show tune from each of those years into the 16 minutes available on the discs. The selection ranged from “Come to the Ball” (*A Quaker Girl*, 1910) to the last item,

"I'm on a See-Saw" (*Jill Darling*, 1935). It could hardly be bettered as a potted history of early 20th Century musicals. The Geraldo orchestra and the three vocalists named on the sleeve were the featured artists.

John Best, Memory Lane Music Group.

The World's Greatest Geological Wonders

This is an 18 month course and we have just 2 more sessions remaining. Our lecturer is Michael Wyssession, Ph.D, of Washington University St Louis.

We have had the most amazing and fascinating journey around the world, encompassing oceans, tides, rivers, mountains, volcanoes, rocks, deserts, snow and ice, to mention but a few of the topics included in the course.

Professor Wyssession has given us interesting and absorbing lectures with superb photographs, sometimes demonstrating simple experiments to clarify the points he is discussing. We have been able to easily understand his lectures and we all have enjoyed the course very much, perhaps to the extent that we would like to start all over again!

It would be difficult to identify highlights of the course - our world is such a complex and fascinating place. New Zealand's Fiordland National Park has a lecture devoted to its uniqueness.

We will all complete the course with a greater knowledge of the world's greatest geological wonders.

Trish Johnson - Convenor

Interest Groups and Contacts

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

- **Ambles and Afters:** 2nd Fri at 9.30am. **Contact:** Mary Wightwick, 578 8747 / 027 440 2047.
- **The Decisive Battles of World History, & History's Great Military Blunders and the Lessons They Teach:** 4th Thurs at 10.0am. **Contact:** Angus Welsh, 577 9114. *Postponed until 2004*
- **Barbarians of the Steppes:** TBA – 3 or 4th Fri. **Contact:** Charles Riley 5780109 (Co Host)
- **Books and Authors Group 1:** 2nd Thurs at 2pm. **Contact:** Jackie Hall, 579 3355.
- **Book and Authors Group 2:** 3rd Tues at 10am. **Contact:** Wendy Cass, 578 9144.
- **Card Making:** 1st Thurs at 10am. **Contact:** Gloria Mitchell, 577 7833.
- **Celtic World:** 2nd Wed at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Ann Turnbull 578 4200. *Finishes in August*
- **Classic Films Group 1:** 4th Thurs at 1 30pm. **Contact:** Bruce Dale, 578 9672.
- **Classic Films Group 2:** 3rd Thurs at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.
- **Classical Music:** 1st Mon, at 10am. **Contact:** Ann Moore, 927 3754.
- **Current Issues:** 1st Tues at 9.45am. **Contact:** Lindsay Moir, 578 5262.
- **Documentary Films:** 3rd Wed at 10am. **Contact:** Lindsay Moir, 578 5262.
- **Essential Italy:** 3rd Wednesday at 2pm. **Contact:** Ann Moore 927 3754
- **Foundations of Eastern Civilisation:** 3rd Thurs at 2pm. **Contact:** Lyn Coates, 578 5273.

- **Garden Group:** 1st Fri at 10am. **Contact:** Jan Richardson, 578 0989.
- **Geological Wonders:** 3rd Thurs at 10.30am. **Contact:** Trish Johnson, 027 241 7021.
- **Heroes and Legends:** 1st Tuesday at 2 pm **Contact:** Peter Yeoman 5785643
- **History:** 3rd Tues at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Margaret Fairhall, 578 2507.
- **How Winston Churchill Changed the World:** 2nd Tues 2pm. **Contact:** Mike Mitchell, 577 7833
- **Life Writing:** 1st and 3rd Tues at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Lis Davys, 579 3167.
- **London: Group 1** 1st Friday morning from 10am. **Contact:** Jackie Hall, 579 3355
- **London: Group 2** 2nd Friday afternoon at 2pm. **Contact:** Murray McDonald 579 4844
- **Luncheon Plus:** 2nd Thurs at 11.30am. **Contact:** Lyn Coates, 578 5273.
- **Mah-jong:** 1st and 3rd Weds at 2pm. **Contact:** Evan Wood, 578 2093, evin42@hotmail.com
- **Memory Lane Music:** Last Thurs at 10am. **Contact:** John Best, 027 246 1006.
- **Monet to van Gogh:** 3rd Tues at 10am. **Contact:** Helen Hannay, 578 1574. *Finishes July*
- **My Favourite Universe:** 3rd Mon at 2pm. **Contact:** Mike Mitchell, 577 7833
- **Play Reading Group 1:** 4th Mon at 9.30am. **Contact:** Margaret Jarman, 578 8805. (Vacancies)
- **Play Reading Group 2:** 4th Tues at 9.30am. **Contact:** Juliet Kirke, 578 0692. (Vacancies)
- **Poetry Appreciation:** 2nd Fri at 2pm. **Contact:** Jan Poswillo, 578 9834 or 021 142 6931.
- **Photography:** 1st Mon at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Charles Riley, 578 0109.
- **Physics in Your Life:** 1st Tuesday at 2pm **Contact** Paul Stanley 579 2521
- **Science of Extreme Weather:** 1st Thursday 10am **Contact** Paul Stanley 579 2521
- **Scrabble One:** 1st Mon at 2pm. **Contact:** Jackie Hall, 579 3355.
- **Scrabble Two:** 3rd Thurs at 1 30pm. **Contact:** Lynne Blaker, 9723739.
- **Secrets of Great Mystery and Suspense:** 3rd Wed at 10am. **Contact:** Ann Moore 9273754
- **Secrets of English Words:** 4th Thursday 2 – 4pm in the Alzheimer's' rooms.
Contact: Margaret Conway 579 1956
- **The Great Tours - France Through the Ages:** 3rd Thurs at 2pm.
- **Contact:** Helen Hannay 5781574
- **Ukulele:** 2nd and 4th Wed at 10am. **Contact:** Neville Lawson, 021 480 073.
- **Vincent van Gogh:** 3rd Tuesday 2 -4pm **Contact:** Gloria Mitchell 577 7833
- **Water Colour Painting:** 1st & 3rd Mons at 9.30am. **Contact:** Gavin Kerr, 572 7238.
- **Wine Appreciation 1:** 3rd Fri of the month, at 11am. **Contact:** Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.
- **Wine Appreciation 2:** Last Fri at 11.30am. **Contact:** Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.
- **Writing for Grandchildren:** 1st and 3rd Mons at 9.45am. **Contact:** Gladys Sloss, 578 3191.

Please remember you must be a current financial member of U3A Marlborough to enrol in these groups.

The following are the Course DVDs and written information in our Library. As you can see we have a wonderful range of subjects to study.

If there are any you are interested in, which are not currently being run, please talk to Ann Moore, Courses Coordinator about the possibility of starting up a new group.

1. American Civil war and Abraham Lincoln
2. Art History
3. Astronomy and the Night Sky
4. Calligraphy
5. China in Transition
6. Comparative Religions
7. Continents on the Move
8. Early 20th Century Literature
9. Everyday Engineering
10. Foundations of Eastern Civilisation
11. From Athens to Istanbul
12. From Monet to Van Gogh – a History of Impressionism
13. Genetics
14. Geological Wonders
15. Geology
16. Great Ideas of Philosophy
17. Heroes and Legends – the Most Influential Characters in History
18. History's Great Military Blunders and the Lessons They Teach
19. How Winston Churchill Changed the World
20. Impressionism
21. In the Footsteps of Van Gogh
22. Leonardo da Vinci and the Italian High Renaissance
23. Literary Masterpieces of the Imaginative Mind
24. London – a Short History of the Greatest City in the Western World
25. Meso America – Maya to Aztec
26. Meteorology – and Introduction to the Wonders of the Weather
27. Museum Masterpieces: The National Gallery London
28. My Favourite Universe
29. Odyssey of Homer and the Iliad
30. Physics in Your Life
31. Secrets of Murder and Suspense in Literature
32. Shakespeare
33. The Science of Extreme Weather
34. The Barbarian Empires of the Steppes
35. The Celtic World
36. The Decisive Battles of World History
37. The Great Tours - France
38. The Great Tours of England Scotland and Wales
39. The Guide to Essential Italy
40. The Secret Life of English Words and Their Origins
41. The Voyage of the Beagle and Charles Darwin
42. Thermodynamics - Four Laws that Move the Universe.