



Marlborough U3A

Newsletter No 4: October 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	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	578 4200
Speakers	Ann Anderson	579 4955
Newsletter	Liz Griffiths	027 257 3397
Catering	Linda Batchelor	021 239 3175

email (Sec) u3a.marlborough@gmail.com

Life Members of U3A Marlborough

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

Locally owned, modern premises & family focused...

Cloudy Bay
FUNERAL SERVICES
Marlborough's Only Locally Owned Funeral Home
15 Boyce Street, Blenheim
email: office@cloudybayfunerals.co.nz
PH 578 2004-24Hrs
www.cloudybayfunerals.co.nz

Monthly Meetings and the associated Catering Groups:

Our monthly meetings are held on the **second Monday of each month**, at 2:30 pm, except January, at 2 pm. The Venue is **Cloudy Bay Funeral Services, 15 Boyce St, Blenheim.**
Please avoid parking in front of Morgan Plumbing's building between the signs.

13th November **Margaret and Ray Gauden-Ing:** Le Quesnoy
 Steve Thornton: Positive Ageing Forum report
Afternoon Tea: Heroes & Legends Group

11th December **Luke Elworthy:** Christchurch Boarding School,
 Centrepoint Commune, & Publishing his latest book
 Kathryn Nicholls - Adventures in South. Island with bike and caravan
Afternoon Tea: Life Writing Group

12th February **Aaron Senior,** Police Dog Handler: Work of Police Dogs
Afternoon Tea: London Group No 1

PLEASE NOTE: Payment of annual subscriptions - now due.

The fee is **still only \$10 p.a. per member.** Those who paid twice during the last financial year will receive an email saying no current payment from them is due.

U3A Bank Account 010 598 0033084 01

Please pay on-line - we realise it takes longer for you to do that but paying cash becomes too hard to manage before a meeting as each receipt takes too long to do 80 or so times

President's Report:

Greetings Fellow Members

Thank you for such a great turn-out for our AGM – it was lovely to see you all there. A warm welcome to our new committee members Liz, Linda and Peter – I look forward to working with you and our returning members for the upcoming year. Congratulations to you all on your election and thanks for making yourselves available.

I took myself off for a short break just after the AGM – going on a “Wild West Coast” tour for eight days of R & R after a rather busy few months. There were 20 of us on the bus including our guide/driver, so a nice small group of like-minded adventurers! We flew from Wellington to Queenstown where we stayed overnight before setting off for Haast where we enjoyed a jet boat ride up the Waiaototo River as far as we could navigate – stopped only by some rather steep rapids and very large boulders, then down to the mouth of the river – white-baiters were out in abundance! And those who were keen on these little fish got to enjoy quite a few!

After going to the end of the road (Jacksons Bay) we then headed north to Fox and Franz Joseph Glaciers, calling in to Lake Matheson and other scenic spots on the way. We visited the White Heron Sanctuary at Whataroa – the only breeding site in New Zealand, where we also spotted Spoonbills and Black Shags sharing the trees. Following that we walked among the trees on the Treetop walkway, 20 metres high and 450 metres long before arriving at our Hokitika accommodation. On our way to Westport the next day we stopped at Charleston for a ride on the Nile River Rainforest Train – a short but most enjoyable experience.

At Westport we were welcomed aboard a Unimog for a trip up to the Denniston Plateau with a most entertaining and informative local guide, an ex coal-miner himself. What an amazing place that was – and almost unbelievable how the early miners and their families survived – houses built in tiny spaces among the bush and rocks where you would think it was impossible, along with hotels, sports fields, swimming baths and even a school. Certainly a place I would not want to live – so bleak and inhospitable. The tour officially finished in Nelson although as the rest of the group lived in the North Island and the tour company was based in Whanganui they dropped me off at home on their way to catch the ferry. A great way to see some of our wonderfully scenic country - I feel so lucky I am able to do this – it's such a privilege. The “Coasters” we met were so friendly and helpful and had a wealth of information to share – and the meals were huge!! Just as well there was lots of walking during the week.

Back home and back to work! It's amazing how weeds take advantage of a few days away – so lots of catching up in the garden to do, but I'm not at all impressed with this weather we have been experiencing lately – beautiful spring days for a short time, then not so nice cold and windy weather to follow!

I do hope you are all enjoying our interest groups – Ann does such a wonderful job seeking out new courses for you so there is always something new to learn. Please don't hesitate to talk to her or any of the committee if you have any suggestions for other groups. I would like to see the Armchair Travel group start again for example. Of course, new groups always need someone to coordinate and host – please consider taking a turn to do this. Coordinating a group is not onerous and we should all be thinking about taking a turn if we are able, rather than leaving it to “someone else”.

In closing I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and happy festive season and good health for the coming year.

With my best wishes

Helen

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

Course Coordinator's Report :

It has been a fulfilling year with lots of new courses and the continuation of old favourites. Members have been enthusiastic about the new DVD courses and also repeats of some of the favourites. The **Celtic World** is on it's 4th rerun, and many other have been shown at least twice. This is a very good use of our resources as buying DVD courses is expensive.

I have ordered 3 new DVD Courses which will start next year. They sound very interesting. They are:

1. **Black Holes, Tides and Curved SpaceTime : Understanding Gravity** - 24 lectures.
The force of gravity rules the universe. It governs our everyday lives on Earth and controls the motions of the heavens above. Yet it is one of the least understood of all the forces of nature. To endeavour to understand this fundamental force is to experience a new something as simple as getting out of bed, throwing a ball or diving in to a pool.

2. **Curved Spacetime : Understand Gravity** - 24 lectures.
In a world without artificial lights, the night sky was ablaze with over a thousand stars, whose patterns illustrated stories people had heard since childhood. Thus, ancient people viewed the sky differently than we do. Skywatching was crucial to daily life, since the motions of the heavens served as timekeeper for everyday life.

3. **The Great Tours : Ireland and Northern Ireland - 24 lectures** -
Ireland is one of the most enchanting places in the world to visit. Split between the independent Republic of Ireland and the British Northern Ireland, the Emerald Isle is home to breathtaking natural scenery; world renowned artistic and cultural achievements, mysterious, passionate and sometimes turbulent history.

If you think you would like to be part of the first group to watch any of these new DVD courses, please let me know (anncm09@gmail.com). Or else you can sign up at the next meeting on November 13th.

Also, we mustn't forget the many groups that we run that do not require a DVD player and TV! These range over many different genres such as the **Garden Group; Scrabble; Life Writing; Play Reading; Photography; Luncheon Plus; Wine Appreciation; Card Making; Classic Films; Current Affairs; Documentaries, Books and Authors** – just to name a few. It's so heartwarming that we have people who are willing to run these groups over many years. My grateful thanks to you all for your dedication.

We continue to have problems finding venues for our courses. However, this year we were fortunate to be able to access Alzheimer's meeting room which has proven ideal for our purposes – and it costs very little to hire too! The other idea which is also proving satisfactory is to limit the numbers who are doing individual DVD Courses so that more homes are available for us to use.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who convenes and/or hosts courses. You are the reason we continue to run such an excellent U3A here in Blenheim. I think we can look forward to an interesting 2024

Ann Moore

PLEASE NOTE: Group Conveners - It is most important that you make sure you let Ann Moore and our Editor Liz Griffiths know if your group or course has finished so we can keep the newsletter up-to-date. Please also let them know if either the Convener and/or their phone number have changed.

We would appreciate you checking these details in the newsletter to make sure they are still current.

Interest Group Reports :

Cardmaking Group - we are just a small group who meet monthly and enjoy exploring different ideas for making greeting cards. It is a wonderful outlet for our creative juices and it never ceases to amaze me how many different ways there are of making a greeting card. There is something exciting about making something different but the warning is that it can become addictive. However I guess one can always go to counselling for a cure, but then who wants to be cured?

Gloria Mitchell

Classic Films 1 - the group has continued to meet on the 4th Thursday at 1:30 p.m. Room for 2 more members. Lately we have viewed 'Out of Africa', 'Rocket Post', 'Finians Rainbow', 'Bottleshock', and 'Pajama Game'.

Bruce Dale 578 9672

U3A Garden Group - another small group which meets on the first Friday of each month at 10a.m. Most months we arrange a garden visit but during Winter we may watch a garden related video in June and have a luncheon in July. Our aim each month is to enjoy a relaxing time wandering around a garden.

Our most recent gathering saw us exploring Pollard Park with the Council Gardeners who told us do much about their work and how many annuals they put in each year. They also told us about the tree replacement work happening and the unbelievable thefts that occur from time to time!

We appreciate the generosity of owners who open their gardens to us. It is a wonderful opportunity to gain knowledge, swap ideas and enjoy the beauty of nature. If anyone is interested in joining us we could accommodate maybe 2 more members.

Jan Richardson

TED Talks

Rosemary advises that the next TED talk will not be until February as she and Geoff will be away in November, and with a bit of sickness etc around, they have decided to reconvene in the New Year.

Groups Vacancies

The following groups all have room for more members:

- **The Decisive Battles of World History, & History's Great Military Blunders and the Lessons They Teach:**
- **Play Reading Groups No 1 and No 2**
- **Scrabble Group No 2**
- **Classic Films 2**

Contact details and times are on the following pages.

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 Friday 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 Thursday at 10am. **Contact:** Angus Welsh, 577 9114. **Commencing Feb 2024 Vacancies.**
- **Barbarians of the Steppes:** 3rd Friday **Contact:** Charles Riley 578 0109 (Co Host)
- **Books and Authors Group 1:** 2nd Thursday at 2pm. **Contact:** Jackie Hall, 579 3355.
- **Book and Authors Group 2:** 3rd Tuesday at 10am. **Contact:** Barbara Stanley 579 2521.
- **Card Making:** 1st Thursday at 10am. **Contact:** Gloria Mitchell, 577 7833.
- **Celtic World:** 2nd Wednesday at 1.30pm. **New course starting next year. 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, 027 694 941.
- **Documentary Films:** 3rd Wednesday at 10am. **Contact:** Lindsay Moir, 027 694 941.
- **Essential Italy:** 3rd Wednesday at 2pm. **Contact:** Ann Turnbull 020 414 40371
- **Foundations of Eastern Civilisation:** 3rd Thursday at 2pm. **Contact:** Lyn Coates, 578 5273.
- **Garden Group:** 1st Friday at 10am. **Contact:** Jan Richardson, 578 0989.
- **Geological Wonders:** 3rd Thursday at 10.30am. **Contact:** Trish Johnson, 027 241 7021.
- **Heroes and Legends:** 1st Tuesday at 2 pm **Contact:** Peter Yeoman 578 5643
- **History:** 3rd Tuesday at 1.30pm. **Contact:** Margaret Fairhall, 578 2507.
- **How Winston Churchill Changed the World:** 2nd Tuesday at 2pm. **Contact:** Mike Mitchell, 577 7833
- **Life Writing:** 1st and 3rd Tuesday 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 Thursday at 11.30am. **Contact:** Lyn Coates, 578 5273.
- **Mah-jong:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 2pm. **Contact:** Evan Wood, 578 2093, evin42@hotmail.com
- **Memory Lane Music:** Last Thursday at 10am. **Contact:** John Best, 027 246 1006.

- **Play Reading Group 1:** 4th Monday at 9.30am. **Contact:** Margaret Jarman, 578 8805. **Vacancies**
- **Play Reading Group 2:** 4th Tuesday at 9.30am. **Contact:** Juliet Kirke, 578 0692. **Vacancies**
- **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.
- **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 Monday at 2pm. **Contact:** Jackie Hall, 579 3355.
- **Scrabble Two:** 3rd Thursday at 1 30pm. **Contact:** Lynne Blaker, 972 3739. **Vacancies**
- **Origin of English Words:** 4th Thursday at 2pm. **Contact:** Margaret Conway 579 1956
- **Vincent van Gogh:** 3rd Tuesday at 2pm. **Contact:** Gloria Mitchell 577 7833
- **Water Colour Painting:** 1st & 3rd Mondays at 9.30am. **Contact:** Gavin Kerr, 572 7238.
- **Wine Appreciation 1:** 3rd Friday at 11am. **Contact:** Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.
- **Wine Appreciation 2:** Last Friday at 11.30am. **Contact:** Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.
- **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 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 Monet to Van Gogh – a History of Impressionism

12. Genetics
13. Geological Wonders
14. Geology
15. Great Ideas of Philosophy
16. Heroes and Legends – the Most Influential Characters in History
17. History's Great Military Blunders and the Lessons They Teach
18. How Winston Churchill Changed the World
19. Impressionism
20. In the Footsteps of Van Gogh
21. Leonardo da Vinci and the Italian High Renaissance
22. Literary Masterpieces of the Imaginative Mind
23. London – a Short History of the Greatest City in the Western World
24. Meso America – Maya to Aztec
25. Meteorology – and Introduction to the Wonders of the Weather
26. Museum Masterpieces: The National Gallery London
27. My Favourite Universe
28. Odyssey of Homer and the Iliad
29. Physics in Your Life
30. Secrets of Murder and Suspense in Literature
31. Shakespeare
32. The Science of Extreme Weather
33. The Barbarian Empires of the Steppes
34. The Celtic World
35. The Decisive Battles of World History
36. The Great Tours - France
37. The Great Tours of England Scotland and Wales
38. The Great Tours - From Athens to Istanbul
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.