

Marlborough U3A

Newsletter October – December 2021

Locally owned, modern premises & family focused...




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



Meeting Arrangements



Monthly Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the Month
at 2.00pm

at Cloudy Bay Funeral Services, Boyce Street, Blenheim
*Please enter through the main doors from the carpark, not
off Boyce Street.*

Monthly Meeting Dates and Speakers

- ◆ October 11
- ◆ November 8
- ◆ December 13

Please Note: Due to these uncertain “Covid times” speakers have not been confirmed. However, you may rest assured, if meetings are able to be held we will do our best to ensure you are informed and entertained by interesting speakers.

Afternoon Tea Roster

- ◆ October 11 Scrabble Group 1
- ◆ November 8 The Celtic World Group
- ◆ December 13 Winston Churchill Group

Committee

President	Gwyneth Lowe	578 8878
Vice President/Editor	Helen Hannay	578 1574
Secretary	Paul Stanley	579 2521
Treasurer	Angus Welsh	577 9114
Catering	Jackie Hall	579 3355
Historian	Jacqui Buttle	579 4821
New Members	Lyn Coates	578 5273
Speakers	John Craighead	578 7359
Groups Co-ordinator	Ann Moore	927 3754

Honours Board - Life Members

Doug Stafford, Jacqui Buttle, Charles Riley, Ann MacDonald,
Murray MacDonald, Lindsay Moir.

Notice of 2021 AGM

Notice is given that (**Covid permitting**) the
Annual General Meeting of Marlborough U3A
will be held at the Cloudy Bay Funeral Services premises,
Boyce Street, Blenheim
on
Monday October 11 at 2pm
All members are encouraged to attend

Agenda for 2021 Annual General Meeting

Welcome

Apologies

Approval of Minutes of 2020 AGM

Matters Arising

President's Report

Financial Report

Election of Officers

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee

Appointment of Financial Examiner

General Business

Subscriptions

Any other Business

AGM Reports – Annual Minutes 2020

President, Gwyneth Lowe, opened the 2020 Annual General Meeting and welcomed members and guests.

Present: 94 members

Apologies:

Lynette Mortlock, Kate McCallum, Marguerite Hood, Jenny Dovey, Walter Scott, Norma Robinson, Pam Woodward, Jenny Carruthers, Barbara Taylor, Sandra Bird, Christobel Downs, Julie Holmes.

Moved/Seconded the apologies be accepted. Patricia/Helen Hannay.

Approval of Minutes of 2019 AGM.

Moved/Seconded these be taken as read. Judith Costley/Jacqui Buttle.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

President's Report. Gwyneth read her annual report.

Moved/Seconded that the report be accepted. Gwyneth Lowe/Paula Bailey.

Financial Report: Angus Welsh read his report.

He advised that the Statement of Income and Expenditure and the Statement of Position had been examined and approved by Walter Scott.

Moved/Seconded: Angus Welsh / Helen Hannay.

Election of Officers:

President: Gwyneth Lowe

Moved/Seconded: Jacqui Buttle/ John Best

Vice President: Helen Hannay

Moved/Seconded: Rhondda Tannock/Ann Morgan

Secretary: Paul Stanley

Moved/Seconded: Helen Hannay/Ron Tannock

AGM Reports – Annual Minutes 2020

Treasurer: Angus Welsh

Moved/Seconded: Max Currie/Juliet Kirke

Committee:

Jacqui Buttle, Lyn Coates. Max Currie, Ann Moore, Sandra Bird

Moved, seconded: Stella Wadsworth/Ron Tannock

Financial Reviewer: Walter Scott

Moved, seconded: Angus Welsh/Ann McDonald

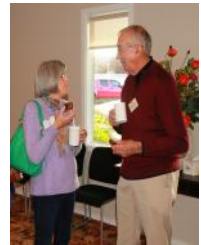
Subscriptions: These should remain at \$10.00

Moved/Seconded: Angus Welsh/Jacqui Buttle

Life Member: Jacqui Buttle, on behalf of the Committee. nominated Lindsay Moir for Life Membership. He was commended for his keen and active membership and presented with a framed certificate.

There being no further business, the AGM was closed at 2.20pm.

Photos from our recent 20th Birthday Celebrations 2021



AGM Reports – President's Report

Kia ora, Greetings to you all

Another year has slipped by and thankfully we have been able to function as per normal with all meetings held on our regular dates.....whoops...spoke too soon! Back into lockdown and another wait and see situation.

In my last annual report we were checking out potential new venues but it was a frustrating exercise, then, a mix up over our Salvation Army venue led to our meeting at Cloudy Bay Funeral Services and as they say "the rest is history". What a stroke of luck and what a hugely generous gesture on the part of CBFS. It has proved a wonderful venue and was especially appropriate on the occasion of our 20th birthday celebration with plenty of room for socialising. Modern, warm, easily accessible and with up to the minute sound and visuals equipment, it is a joy to share with members each month.

Committee members have continued to fulfil their duties without fuss and my grateful thanks go to all for their efforts. It is a pleasure to work with such a great team.

Our membership list is now right up to date and stands at 255. New courses have started and there seems to be something for everyone – if not please give consideration to starting a group of particular interest - check with Ann for details. Newsletters in colour have been trialled for two editions - further productions in this format may be adjusted.

We have enjoyed a range of topics presented by guest speakers and have made worthwhile donations to good causes; thank you for your generosity.

As we approach another AGM we would welcome any suggestions for additions, alterations or improvements to our format.

It has been a real pleasure to work closely with committee members and share our monthly meetings with so many of you. Stay safe and well during this latest upheaval.

*Ka kite ano
Gwyneth*

AGM Reports – Financial Report

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Financial Year Ending 31st August 2021

	2021
Income	
Subscriptions	2,680.00
Donations & Teas	1,209.00
Interest	109.80
Play Reading Deposits	200.00
Payments	-237.72
	<u>-37.72</u>
Total Income	3,961.08
 Expenditure	
Facility Room Hire	120.00
New Courses Purchased DVD's	718.38
Gift Vouchers - Presentations to speakers	120.00
Newsletters & printing	1,368.00
Teas & Donations (Mercy Ships \$541.00)	2,160.47
(Refugee Assn \$260.00)	
Administration	108.94
Total Expenditure	<u>4,595.79</u>
Excess Income over Expenditure	<u>-634.71</u>

Statement of Financial Position as at 31st August 2022

Current and Term Assets	
ANZ Bank	4,408.58
ANZ Term Investment @ 1.00% due 14 Feb 2022	<u>10,000.00</u>
Total Accounts	14,408.58
 Accumulated Funds	
Opening Balance	15,043.29
Receipts over Expenditure	-634.71
Total Accumulated Funds to date	14,408.58

Angus Welsh 31/8/21 B.Com, C.A. Dip Ed.

The Account Review Statement will be presented at the AGM.

AGM Reports – Courses Coordinator

Another year full of uncertainty due to that wretched Covid 19! However we U3A members, as a whole, and in our groups, have managed to meet, to learn new things, meet with friends and strangers who have become friends and generally, through U3A, have taken a full part in lifelong learning.

Some exciting new courses have been started this year. These have included:

- The Celtic World
- Secrets of Great Mystery and Suspense in Fiction
- From Monet to Van Gogh (Impressionism)
- Museum Masterpieces (National Gallery, London)
- How Winston Churchill Changed the World
- Decisive Battles of World History together with History's Great Military Blunders

Along with the above, repeat courses have also been organised. These include a second Scrabble group, Understanding Genetics, The Odyssey and The American Civil War.

We have also continued with our on-going groups and most members belong to at least one – many belong to several! New members have been welcomed and have been able to join courses of interest to them.

It is proposed that a Chess group be formed but at this stage more interested members are needed. Please get in touch if you would like to be part of a chess group.

It is to be hoped that we can meet together again shortly to continue our thirst for lifelong learning.

Meanwhile – He rā ki tua – Better times are coming!

Ann Moore, Courses Coordinator
anncm09@gmail.com)

u3a learn,
laugh,
live



AGM Reports – Catering Report

Thank you for your willing participation when it comes to the afternoon tea segment of your U3A meeting. It is very heartening to work with groups who are very supportive of each other and striving to get things right with the Cloudy Bay kitchen protocols. The last group were really on to things, and fun to work with.

We have had some travails with the dish washer there, and the staff have been most helpful in addressing the problems grappled with by the groups. It is good to meet new challenges and extend one's knowledge of new technology.

A friend was given an I-pad by her husband as a gift a few years ago and she promptly put it away in the drawer. Eighteen months later I was on the scene when she had a real need to get to grips with it because they were going overseas for an extended time. We worked on the basics daily and she set off, the device in her hand luggage and filled with confidence she would keep me updated with her adventures.

Little did she know how invaluable a tool it would become as she later struggled to cope with a very sick husband in a US hospital, it became an essential means of communication with the family back here, due to poor cell phone coverage. (Her husband's stay in hospital and his repatriation to NZ created for the health insurance firm their biggest claim ever!)

Regards
Jackie Hall
Catering Co Coordinator



Study Group Guidelines



Had a bright idea for a new Interest or Study Group? Keen to share your knowledge or passion? Sound it out with other U3A members and talk to our Groups Coordinator.

Groups are advertised at the main meeting and once there are 5 or 6 interested folk you are ready to go.

Convening a group should not be onerous - remember others in the group will be happy to assist when asked. The Groups Coordinator or Committee members are also available to assist if required.

The following guidelines are designed to assist members who kindly volunteer to convene our Study Groups:

- ♥ Contact members listed on the Study Group sheet and arrange a suitable venue for the initial meeting. Only financial U3A Marlborough members are eligible to join.
- ♥ With group members, arrange a day, time, frequency and location(s) suitable for the greatest number of people for subsequent meetings. Note most meetings are held in members' homes.
- ♥ If using course material belonging to U3A Marlborough (DVDs, Books, Notes etc) ensure you record your name, contact number and date uplifted from the file cabinet.
- ♥ In general, modest group expenses are the responsibility of the group. Significant expenses, including those for room hire, equipment hire or a tutor who is not a member of U3A should be calculated in advance, and approval of the committee sought before commencing.
- ♥ You may wish to keep a record of attendances on the forms

Study Group Guidelines

provided, along with member contact details (handy for meeting reminders).

- ♥ It can be useful to send out email reminders or have phone buddies for those who do not have email and ask for any apologies to assist your host/hostess.
- ♥ 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 wish to share your experiences and knowledge gained at monthly meetings. Please contact the President to arrange a date if you would like to do this.
- ♥ Please advise the Newsletter Editor if you have any vacancies.
- ♥ If your group is full with a waiting list please discuss the possibility / need for forming another and contact the Courses Coordinator.
- ♥ Regular turn-over of Conveners, eg every year, may result in more future volunteering if members see they will not be 'stuck with the job' for years.

From the U3A principles: “U3A shall consist of a body of persons who undertake to learn and help others to learn. Those who teach shall also learn and those who learn shall also teach.”



Club Notes

Your annual subscription will be due immediately after the 2021 AGM. Your committee is recommending that they remain at \$10 per annum. This is one of the lowest rates among U3A groups in NZ and we feel is very good value.

A reminder when paying by direct credit the bank deposit number is: ANZ 010 598 0033084 01

Please ensure you include your name when making payments by internet banking.

Don't forget participation in our Interest Groups is only open to Financial Members of Marlborough U3A.



Our deepest sympathy to members who have lost dear ones during the year. Please don't hesitate to reach out for support if you are feeling down. You are not alone.

Get well wishes to all our members who are not feeling well or are in hospital. We hope you will soon be feeling better and back with us again before very long.



If you are driving to the monthly meetings or to any of your groups, please check if anyone you know needs a ride. Some members are struggling to get to meetings because of health or transport difficulties and it would be so kind if you could help (and kinder to the environment of course).



Monthly Meeting Report

Our August meeting saw approximately 92 members and guests attending another interesting gathering.

Our first speaker, Steve Thornton recounted his teaching career from its high start at Millfield School in 1968 to its current level of teaching RSE workers how to build a composting toilet!

Having won a prestigious Swedish scholarship in 1967 to study design in Sweden and Denmark, including working at Høglund Glass (with the father of the owner of the Høglund Glass company in Nelson), he returned to University and just before graduation received a telegram inviting him to interview for a position at the school, which he had never heard of. His tutor had, and advised him to buy or borrow a smart suit and go to the interview, which was conducted in the garden of the school by the Principal, Jack (Boss) Meyer. The school never advertised openings, so all the interviews were by invitation only - the two other interviewees that day were Gareth Williams - Captain of the Welsh Rugby side, and the UK National Swimming Coach - who Steve knew from his own experience in coaching swimmers. He was offered the new post of 'Head of Technology' with an open-ended budget to set it up, and was provided with rooms in one of the college buildings.

The school was set up in 1947 to educate the sons of Indian Rajahs, with seven pupils initially (all princes) and had grown to 1290 by 1968, with 950 of them boarders and with 65 different nationalities.

The school is the most expensive in UK - far more so than Eton - but charges flexible fees: the really wealthy pay even more and so subsidise worthy students from impecunious backgrounds (on the Robin Hood principle). Not only were classes small (6!), but each student had an individual timetable. Facilities - particularly sports ones - were excellent, even including climate-controlled indoor facilities able to replicate the conditions under which the sports might be played in the students' own countries.

To control the potential spending habits of the super-rich, each pupil was issued with a cheque book and the Head of Maths was the banker. Shops on the campus were all run by staff members and

Monthly Meeting Report

Steve was allocated the Tuck-shop and was responsible for employing the outside staff who ran it. Anyone 'over-spending' had his cheque book confiscated for a suitable period.

Because of the wide catchment area, the school worked seven-day weeks with only short breaks but 10 weeks in the summer. Staff got occasional additional weeks off. The school ran its own special train from London at the start of each school year to cater for the 750 or so pupils travelling from there - complete with its own badged locomotive.

From there Steve moved into a variety of other positions at well known schools and into inspectorate roles with schools in East Asia. Now 'retired', he and his wife Jenny work as volunteers providing courses for RSE workers - that night's project for him being the composting toilet...

Our next Speakers were Charlotte Wood, the Marlborough Coordinator from 'English Language Partners New Zealand', Kim Palmer and Margaret Western from Red Cross who each gave a very interesting presentation on resettlement of refugee families in Marlborough.

English Language Partners uses volunteers to help immigrants to learn to speak and write English to enable them to integrate into New Zealand society and live fruitful and productive lives here. Charlotte drew interesting comparisons/contrasts between the situations of refugees and other immigrants. The former are displaced persons who fled their homes to escape persecution - leaving at little or no notice, with minimal possessions, and with no prospect of ever returning and even of maintaining contact with families and friends: They end up, if they are lucky, in a country not of their own choosing.

Normal immigrants, on the other hand, make a planned transition to their chosen country bringing their possessions with them, remaining in contact with all their friends and family and with the possibility of visiting/being visited and even of returning to their original country if things do not turn out as expected.

Monthly Meeting Report

Kim Palmer works for Red Cross as the 'Pathways to Settlement' Manager in Marlborough, coordinating the support services for the newly resettled refugees who come to Marlborough - currently they all originate from Colombia, and she has two staff members whose first language is Spanish.

She provided statistics on the lot of refugees worldwide - having had their refugee status confirmed by the UNHCR, they may wait up to 17 years before finally ending up with a permanent placement, but even so, only a small minority achieve that. Many never achieve recognised refugee status, but remain permanently displaced - possibly in their own country.

Refugees accepted by NZ currently number 1,000 PA, increasing to 1,500 - out of a worldwide total of 26 million. Initially they spend six months at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre, where they learn basic English and other skills before being resettled into the community. Blenheim will probably receive 1-2 families a month for the next year or more. Kim finished with a plea for good quality household goods to help set up homes for them in Blenheim.

Margaret Western also works for the Red Cross, as the 'Pathways to Employment' Manager in Marlborough - though her work is funded by MSD. The scheme is evidence-based to provide the skills needed for gainful employment, with English being a key ingredient. Margaret works one-on-one with the adults to advise on career planning, etc, and on dealing with Work and Income!

She also liaises with potential local employers to find suitable work opportunities and then to support both the worker and the employer subsequently.

A collection (amounting to \$260 - thank you all) in support of the work of these three agencies was taken at the tea break and will be passed over to the Red Cross to administer.

We encourage members to attend the monthly meetings wherever possible - there is plenty of room, good company, time for chatting and of course some fascinating speakers with great stories to share. Do come if you can!

Rules for a Perfect Day

“So we MAKE THE MOST OF IT - HAVE A HAPPY DAY!”

1. **Just for Today**, I will try to live through this day only - and not tackle my whole life problem at once. I can do some things for twelve hours that would appal me if I had to keep them up for a lifetime.
2. **Just for Today**, I will be happy. This assumes that what Abraham Lincoln said is true, that “Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.” Happiness is from within - it is not a matter of externals.
3. **Just for Today**, I will adjust myself to what is, and not try to adjust everything to my own desires. I will take my family, my business and my luck as they come and fit myself to them.
4. **Just for Today**, I will take care of my body. I will exercise it, care for it, and nourish it and not abuse it or neglect it, so that it will be perfect machine for my will.
5. **Just for Today**, I will exercise my soul in three ways, to wit:
 - * I will do somebody a good turn and not get found out. If anybody knows it, it will not count.
 - * I will do at least two things I don't want to do, just for exercise of willpower.
 - * I will not show anyone that my feelings are hurt. They may be hurt, but today I will not show it.
6. **Just for Today**, I will try to strengthen my mind. I will study, I will learn something useful. I will not be a mental loafer all day. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration.
7. **Just for Today**, I will be agreeable. I will look as well as I can, dress as becomingly as possible, talk low, act courteously, be liberal with praise.
8. **Just for Today**, I will have a programme. I will write down just what I expect to do. I may not follow it exactly, but I'll have it as a pattern to follow. It will save me from two pests - HURRY and INDECISION.
9. **Just for Today**, I will have a quiet half hour all by myself and relax so as to get a little more perspective to my life.
10. **Just for Today**, I will be unafraid, especially I will not be afraid to be happy, to enjoy what is beautiful, to love, and to believe that those I love, love me.

Interest Groups and Contacts

Please get in touch with the listed Group Contact Person if you are interested in joining any of the following groups - they will advise you of any vacancies.

Armchair Travel: 4th Friday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is Wendy Cannan, 027 348 3283.

The Decisive Battles of World History combined with History's Great Military Blunders and the Lessons They Teach.
4th Thursday of each month at 10am.
Contact : Angus Welsh, 577 9114

Books and Authors Group 1: 2nd Thursday of each month.
Contact is Jackie Hall, 579 3355.

Book and Authors Group 2: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is Wendy Cass, 578 9144.

Card Making: 1st Thursday of the month at 10.00am.
Contact is Gloria Mitchell, 577 7833.

Classic Films Group 1: 4th Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.
Contact is Bruce Dale, 578 9672.

Classic Films Group 2: 3rd Thursday of each month at 1.30pm.
Contact is Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.

Classical Music: 1st Monday of each month, at 10 a.m.
Contact is Ann Moore, 9273754.

Current Issues: 1st Tuesday of each month at 9.45am.
Contact is Lindsay Moir, 578 5262.

Documentary Films: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is Lindsay Moir, 578 5262.

From Monet to Van Gogh: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2 pm.
Contact is Marilyn Cowe, 022 648 8692.

Interest Groups and Contacts

Garden Group: 1st Friday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is Jan Richardson 578 0989.

Understanding Genetics: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10am.
Contact is Paul Stanley, 5792521

Great Tours - England, Scotland & Wales: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2pm.
Contact is Gill Buttle, 578 4821.

Great Ideas of Philosophy: 4th Thursday of each month at 2.p.m.
Contact is Paul Stanley, 579 2521.

History: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm.
Contact is Margaret Fairhall, 578 2507.

Life Writing: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm.
Contact is Lis Davys, 579 3167.

Luncheon Plus: 2nd Thursday of each month at 11.30am.
Contact is Rhonda Tannock, 021 113 6185.

Mah-jong Group: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 2.00pm.
Contact is Evan Wood, 578 2093, evin42@hotmail.com

Memory Lane Music: Last Thursday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is John Best, 578 0595.

Museum Masterpieces: 3rd Monday of each month at 2pm.
Contact is Wendy Cannan, 579 4946.

Play Reading Group 1: 4th Monday of each month at 9.30am.
Contact is Margaret Jarman, 578 8805.

Play Reading Group 2: 4th Tuesday of each month at 9.30am.
Contact is Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.

Interest Groups and Contacts

Poetry Appreciation: 2nd Friday of each month at 2.00pm.
Contact is Jan Poswillo, 578 9834 or 021 142 6931.

Photography: 1st Monday of each month at 1.30pm.
Contact is Charles Riley, 578 0109.

Scrabble One: 1st Monday of each month at 2.00pm.
Contact is Pam Taylor, 578 8816.

Scrabble Two: 3rd Thursday of each month at 1.30pm.
Contact is Lorraine Jensen, 027 365 862.

Secrets of Great Mystery and Suspense: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10 am.
Contact is Jenni Walker 021 133 0582.

The Celtic World: 1st Thursday of each month at 2pm.
Contact is Gloria Mitchell 577 7833.

The Odyssey: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is Helen Hannay, 578 1574.

Ukulele: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is Neville Lawson, 021 480 073.

Water Colour Painting: 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 9.30am.
Contact is Gavin Kerr, 572 7238.

Wine Appreciation 1: 3rd Friday of the month, usually at 11am.
Contact is Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.

Wine Appreciation 2: Last Friday of each month at 11.30am.
Contact is Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.

Winston Churchill: 3rd Friday of each month at 10am.
Contact is Ann Moore 927 3754.

Writing for Grandchildren: 1st and 3rd Mondays at 9.45am.
Contact is Gladys Sloss, 578 3191.

Return Address:

8a Purkiss Street
Springlands
Blenheim 7201

