

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report for the Rutherford U3A for the past year. It has been an honour and a privilege to be your president. The committee you elected last year is a pleasure to work with and each person has contributed to the smooth running of this incorporated society.

Denise Duncan, as our treasurer, proficiently manages to keep track of our money coming in and out of our account. Thank you for doing work that most of us could not do. Barbara Leete, thank you for efficiently carrying out the task of secretary, keeping me in particular up with all I need to do. Barbara has also unasked, digitised our records and in so doing reduced the large amount of paper that a secretary inherits with the job. Thank you to Julian Jensen who fulfils a most important role of communicating with our members and keeping me in the loop of all that is going on. Her planning and preparation of these essential tasks is most appreciated. Joan Earl, thank you for keeping track of our membership records. Thank you to Ivor Watson, who as our Vice President, has provided me with unfailing support, being ready to step in at a moment's notice whenever I needed him.

The committee's main function is to provide lectures to enrich members' ongoing education and wellbeing. It is a continuing and pleasant surprise to us to find that we are able to engage competent and stimulating speakers for the courses selected for the year. I have chosen to list these courses, their organisers, topics and speakers because I think they form an important record. They were:

Course 1: Exploring Future Frontiers Organisers: Paul Marsh & Brian Earl

- February 24: Eric Dahlstrom, Co-founder and CTO, SpaceBase "New Zealand Space Activities"
- March 3: Dr Sarah Kessans, School of Product Design, University of Canterbury "Per Aspera ad Astra: Reaching for the Stars via Science"
- March 10: Michael Read, Founder of SkyBase -Vision, Support & Test Pilot "What will the skies look like in 2050?"
- March 17: Dr Clare Worley, Cambridge Institute of Astronomy, Senior Lecturer, Astro-Informatics, University of Canterbury "The Big Projects and Big Data at the Forefront of Astronomy"
- March 24: Mark Rocket, CEO, Kea Aerospace links with Virgin Galactic and Rocket Lab "Stratosphere"

Course 2: Architecture, Construction & Geotechnology Organiser: Peter Walker

- April 14: Clive Anderson, Geotechnical Engineer "A Tale of Three Earthquakes"
- April 21: David Sheppard, Architect Sheppard & Rout Architects "Town planning in Christchurch and beyond imperatives in the face of climate change."
- April 28: Christchurch City Council Mark Stevenson "Spatial Planning, Housing Intensification & Resource Management Reform" Paul Lowe "Resource Consents"
- May 5: Jasper van der Lingen, Architect "The use of engineered timber in commercial building, post the Christchurch Earthquakes"
- May 12: Nick Hoogervorst, Hoogervorst Builders "Building In Christchurch following the Earthquakes"

Course 3: Politics Organiser: Sally Mountfort

- June 2: Associate Professor James Ockey, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Canterbury "Global Challenges to Democracy"
- June 9: Professor Natalia Chaban, Department of Media and Communication, University of Canterbury "Media & Conflict – Russian Aggression and New Media Ecology"

- June 16: Professor Alex Tan, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Canterbury “Deciphering China Taiwan Tensions”
- June 23: Duncan Webb, Member of Parliament, Christchurch Central “ Decision making in a Challenging Environment”
- June 30: Pooja Thakker and Humaria Hakeemi, Red Cross “Settlement Journey of Former Refugees in Aotearoa”

Course 4: Finance, Money & Business Organisers: Paul Marsh & Carolyn Marks

- July 21: Paul Davis, Co-founder of MoneyTime and Global investor “Waves and Bubbles – the turbulent interaction of finance and technology”
- July 28: John Eyre-Walker & Hayden Gardner, Financial Advisers at Financial Strategies “Navigating Financial Markets in 2023 – war, scams, crypto, AI, and your questions answered”
- August 4: Willian Fotherby, Principal, Meredith Connell, International Lawyers “Why white-collar crime still pays pretty well”
- August 11: Annabel Turley, Chair, Christchurch Central Business Association “The highs and lows of retail business in Central Christchurch”
- August 18: Tait Dench, Advocacy & Communications Advisor, Canterbury Employers’ Chamber of Commerce “Long term vision and action needed”

Course 5: The Arts Organisers: Tony Whatman, Joan Earl, Michael Ellis

- September 1: Jeanne Cooper: Fine Arts Degree and Painter. “Robert Motherwell and Abstract Impressionism in the USA.”
- September 15: Steph Walker: WORD. “NZ Writers”
- September 22: Barbara Garrie: Professor and Head, Art History, University of Canterbury. “Conceptual Art: its origins. What is it and should we like it?”
- September 29: Tony Ryan: Conductor, Composer, Educator and Reviewer. “Planet Opera – A parallel universe.”
- October 6: Pam Tohill: Hundertwasser Ambassador, Hundertwasser Art Centre, Whangārei. “The story of Friedensreich Hundertwasser; his Art, his Architecture and his Philosophies.”

Course 6: Pot Pourri Organisers: Julian Jensen, Sally Mountfort

- October 27: Lea Stening, NZ Registered Dietitian “Sports Nutrition for Senior Athletes & Active Ageing”
- November 3: Michael Singleton, Chief Strategy & Stakeholder Officer, Christchurch International Airport Ltd “Infrastructure fit for our Future”
- November 10: Oliver Hunt, Founder and CEO of Medsalv “The Path to Sustainable Healthcare”
- November 24: Dr Matt Hobbs, Faculty of Health, University of Canterbury “Change in the food environment and measured adiposity in adulthood in the Christchurch Health and Development birth cohort”

Thank you to the course organisers. It can be arduous and stressful mahi finding speakers and then there is always the worry about whether they will turn up or not. Fortunately, they always have!

A secondary function of U3A is providing an environment in which members can catch up with friends and make new ones. One of the ways in which this is done is to provide morning teas and end of course lunches. Thank you to Joan and Julian for attending to these on behalf of the

committee and to June McFedries and Betty de Roo as morning tea convenors, making sure there are folk to serve and biscuits to eat. Another thing we offer is bus trips or outings. This year we are again very grateful to Graham Robertson for organising his wonderful farm visits which were so appreciated by those who were able to join him. Coming up there are also two guided visits to Te Pae, the new convention Centre. Thank you to Carolyn Marks for making sure this is going to happen.

Other opportunities to get together are provided by the interest groups. Two 'sort of' new groups have been formed this year. Thank you to Jaqueline Doig Smith and Cynthia Hampton who have reformed the Art Group to cover a wider interest, including not only visits to art galleries and artists, but to places of architectural interest and concerts; and to Tony Whatman who has added a Thursday Film Group. Thank you to the convenors of the other groups: Book Group, Erica Maginness; Choir, Alison Waghorn; Court theatre Group, Sue Milligan; Epicurean, Jenny Agnew and Ann Marsh; Tuesday Film Group, Barbara Bone; and the Walking Group, Sue Milligan and Denise Duncan.

Our Christmas lunch last year did not live up to our usual standard with a change of ownership at Rossendale, our venue for many years. This year we are looking forward to lunch at Clearwater Resort.

One unfortunate happening worth mentioning occurred when a scammer used the information on our publicly available website to try to scam those whose email addresses were printed in our newsletters. Fortunately no-one fell for it but it just emphasised the vigilance required in these matters and one of the more minor risks of serving our community to run a U3A.

Last but not least, I thank Ted and Erica Maginness whose cheerful faces greet us as we come to our meetings and keep track of us with our name tags. Their unfailing loyalty on our behalf is much appreciated.

Thank you everyone for contributing to a substantial offering to the Rutherford U3A membership in 2023.

Lesley M. Hunt

3 November 2023