



= **Life Long Learning**

NEWSLETTER 117 8 October 2023

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Most of you will be aware that since our last newsletter, our Immediate past president Wendy lost her battle with cancer. An obituary covering more of her life and contribution to the community will be available at our AGM next March but for this newsletter, our secretary Margaret Cole, has contributed the following:

Wendy Woodhouse 1945 - 2023

I had the privilege of being secretary throughout Wendy's time as President of U3A Wairarapa. She was great to work with – so helpful and responsive. She always went out of her way to make things easier for me – and everyone else.

She worked very hard for U3A and visited every group during her time as President and that is as well as being an active member of many groups. She also spent a lot of time and energy trying to get U3A operational in Martinborough again. All this despite having deteriorating health. She ensured Mark was in the wings to take over if she could not keep going but, being Wendy, she did not give up!

Farewell Wendy - we all miss you. You will not be forgotten.

Message from Mark

We are now well into our second decade of local U3A activities. Since its inception, Wairarapa U3A has offered a framework for developing friendships and collegiality among people who have an interest in lifetime learning. Quite a good number of members have come from outside the region to live here. The more we can do to let newcomers know about our organisation, the better we can maintain, if not increase, membership numbers, which currently stand at 120+. Anytime you meet a prospective member, please remember to promote the benefits of joining U3A. It will be worthwhile, I think, to continue building on the initial efforts, spearheaded by Wendy, Paul and Richard, to establish a Martinborough current affairs group. At the committee meeting, it was reported that we have had 2 new members join which is encouraging.

Matters discussed at the Committee Meeting on 2nd October

- Carterton New Residents** - David reported that he had made a pitch on behalf of U3A at a recent evening welcoming new residents to Carterton. Attendance was

about 150 including 50 presenters who were each given 30 seconds to promote their club, society or group. There were 2 positive enquiries.

- Convenor for Lunch Group** – Sara Stewart has volunteered and was appointed
- Suggestion for a History Group** - No responses have been received.
- Science and Technology group** – David, with the support of Paul has agreed to convene irregular meetings as and when speakers are available. (021 811 984)
- Review of Health and Safety Policy** – a small number of amendments were proposed by Tim and approved.
- History Of U3A Wairarapa** – it is proposed that we have a brief history on our website. If anyone has memories of the early days of U3A, we would be pleased to hear if anyone has memories of the early days of U3A.
- French Conversation** – Robyn O’Neill has been appointed temporary Convenor until Brett is available again
- Gathering** – the committee reviewed a report by Catherine on the success of the last meeting and the quality of the lunch provided by the Old Bakery on Villa St.
- Christmas Luncheon** – Monday 4 December. See below. As we need at least 20 people at this event, please indicate your intention to attend to Catherine Grayden.

END-OF-YEAR LUNCHEON

Monday 4th December 12 noon
Wingate Lane Restaurant, Opaki

We are planning a luncheon rather than a Gathering for the end of the year. For entertainment and to get to know your tablemates there will be a light-hearted quiz.

The restaurant will open just for us provided we get at least 20 people interested. Partners and friends welcome. Here is the website for you to peruse the a la carte menu: <https://wingatelane.co.nz/lunch/> Note: We will each pay for our own meal at the venue – no prepayment

Please register with Catherine: cjgraydon@xtra.co.nz or phone/ text 027 255 4046

We do hope you (and others) can join us there. Christmas attire optional but there may be a prize for the best outfit!

Reports from Groups

U3A Opera Appreciation Group

We mourn the death of Wendy Woodhouse, who was a long-standing and very enthusiastic member of our group.

In August, we viewed Mozart’s “Il Re Pastore” (The Shepherd King) composed when Mozart was only 19yrs old. The production we viewed was part of the 2006 Festival in Salzburg commemorating 250 years since Mozart’s birth.

In September, we viewed Verdi’s “Rigoletto” with Pavarotti singing the role of the lecherous Duke of Mantua.

Barbara Lovatt, Convenor 06 379 8342

TED talks:

The TED Talks group is going very well with attendances usually round 12 each time. Our August talks centred round Freedom of Speech – some serious and some lighter (from Rowan Atkinson) then in September the theme was Design for Humanity. Our members come up with very interesting themes and we all learn from them – and from discussion during and after (over a cuppa - and afternoon tea supplied by the leader of that session).

Margaret Cole, Convenor 06 304 8499

South Wairarapa Current Affairs Group

My thanks go to Graeme Burnard for leading the group during my absence in Canada for the July and August meetings. I am pleased to hear that in August we had two more attendees by members already involved in U3A.

Graeme reports that there were 8 attendees for the August meeting with lively conversation.

We also had 8 attending in September. We had good discussion around the La Nina weather pattern changing into an El Nino one and how the month of August was the coldest in 7 years. This was in line with forecasts about what was in line for the winter and coming summer. Winter was forecast to turn cold and wet and showery and during the summer, westerlies with warm dry, even drought conditions are expected in the east, which is a huge contrast to the 3 summers. There was plenty of political talk too, especially about how the parties going into the election are not being fiscally responsible.

The next meeting will be on October 19th in the Roseneath Village Hall at 9:30am.

Paul Mallinson, Convenor 021 109 4652

Masterton Book Group.

Our membership has dropped to 11 with Wendy Woodhouse's death- a keen reader who contributed cheerfully to our group and who we all will miss.

The September topic "Biography, memoir, autobiography" produced a wide variety from Sam Neill, Enid Blyton, Noelle McCarthy, Eleanor Roosevelt, Laura Inglis Wilder and Jennifer Worth, and were varied and most interesting.

Our October topic is personal choice.

Most members continued book discussion over coffee at a café after the meeting.

Catherine Graydon, Convenor 027 255 4046

North-South Book Group

It always amazes me the variety of books that our members can find to fit in with a topic. Our August topic was "A book with a medical theme" and books reviewed covered topics ranging from the human effects of asbestos mining in Australia to the medicinal uses of New Zealand native plants. In September we read a book of our own choice so, once again, the opportunity for a wide range of themes. Although we have had an attendance of only 8 each month because members have been travelling, there is always lots of discussion based on the ideas in the books read.

This is a lovely group of women and our meetings are always enjoyable. We would welcome a new member or two.

Jean Travers, Convenor 027 332 4142

Philosophy

As usual we have had good turnouts, interesting topics, and lively discussion. Our last discussion involved "individualism vs collectivism. We wandered down quite a few rabbit holes.

Our next topic is "philosophy's limits" As we come closer to the end of the year, we will need to consider developing our 2024 programme.

Tim Bannatyne, Convenor 06 377 7966

Creative Writing

Good turnouts. We have continued our approach of having an idea/theme/whatever for our members to use as they wish as triggers for stories. Last month, we adopted a members idea of 'hotel'. with members writing a story that they volunteered to encompass a part of it. It worked really well. Unfortunately, the kitchen was closed due to health and safety.

Tim Bannatyne, Convenor

Carterton Book Group.

Our Group continues to meet every month covering a range of free-choice reading. We now have, thanks to Mike's encouragement, many more non-fiction books, but still enjoy almost anything in print, from popular novels, best-sellers and favourites from times past. Just two more meetings this year then we will probably finish up with a shared afternoon tea as has become our custom before retiring with our latest reads for the Christmas break.

Sue Burns, Convenor 06 379 6506

Lunch Discussion Group

In August I read of Pauline's resignation; as I didn't want the group to end, I organised a lunch meeting to discuss the future, hoping to find someone to co-ordinate the group. No-one else was prepared to do that so I agreed to continue. 10 members enjoyed the time at Dish Cafe then again 10 members, some different, met at Curry Twist in September. In future I hope to extend the venues further south and would be pleased if more members could join. We do share pleasant and interesting conversation.

Sara Stewart, Convenor 06 370 2245

Current Affairs Masterton

Richard Jackson, Convenor 027 811 0006

With Love .

We have enjoyed another 2 months writing and sharing our stories. In August only 5 attended due to holidays and illness. In September we were almost a full complement with 9 enthusiastic writers. Our topic "My Father" was very popular, so much so that it was suggested we have "My Mother" as the topic for October. I will be away for the October meeting and Rose will be leading the group.

Christine Paul, Convenor 021 109 4652

Ukulele Group

We had our last practice for the term on Friday 22/9 and will have 2 weeks off before starting again on October 6th. Highlight for this term was meeting up with Sth End

Strummers to make music together at the Wairarapa Services Club at the back of the Essex St carpark, followed by a delicious lunch. Always good to interact with other music makers. Next term we will select another 12 songs to practise, including few Xmas carols, and will focus on improving our strumming skills (thanks to the Sth End Strummers who have been playing together for decades!)

Then at the end of the year we will hopefully entertain residents at Carter Court, as we have done in previous years.

Chris Fisher, Convenor 022 540 9103

French Conversation

We continue meeting every Friday at 11am in the Education Centre for 2 hours of learning and have recently been joined by a new member.

Our usual approach is to spend the first hour learning through French tutorial programmes for intermediate level students, which we access through the internet.

From noon we are joined by a native French speaker, who explains grammar rules, phrases and French culture. It is great to hear French spoken so beautifully and we aspire to do the same, one day.

For this part of our class, some people prepare something written and others wing it.

Needless to say, there are many learning opportunities and we have heaps of fun and many laughs.

More informally, the group gets together between 1pm and 2pm for coffee and French conversation very Wednesday at Kainga in Carterton. When we first began meeting like this there were lots of long silent pauses, but now, we can more or less carry out conversations in French about everyday things.

We really would like some new members, so, if the Rugby World cup has inspired you to brush up your existing, or perhaps semi forgotten, French language skills, why not try our group. Our timetable is flexible and anyone can join all or part of our sessions.

Please contact me if you are interested and wish to know more,

Robyn robbyn20a@gmail.com or on 021 1699415

Film Group

Our film group meets monthly – currently 4th Thursday morning 10am upstairs in the Wild Oats Café, Carterton. There are usually between 8 and 10 of us. We had a new member – Ursula McFarlane - join us this week. We have very lively discussions about films we have seen which includes cinema, streaming and DVDs. This month much of the discussion centred around the films we saw at the recent NZ Film Festival and included a broad range of subjects – both fictional stories and non-fiction. The quality of the films was excellent, and we all enjoyed the individual selections we saw. Our next meeting will be 26th October.

Margaret Baylis, Convenor 022 650 1528

Italian Language In abeyance while tutor is away.

That's all Folks!

