

President's Report for AGM 2024

My first year as President seems to have flown past. I have had the good fortune to be President in a year which has been settled after the turbulent times we experienced with Covid and its aftermath.

Our lineup of speakers in 2023 educated us, informed us and entertained us. A big thankyou to our speakers sub committee of Amama, Shona and Wendy who made it all happen. Using their contacts, the U3A Canterbury Network and some lateral thinking, enabled us to listen to good advice, enjoy interesting individual perspectives on a variety of topics and learn about projects in our own back yard.

Our programme of speakers and our large number of study, interest and social groups has enabled us to thrive. These are an integral part of our U3A and ensures we provide a range of activities which appeals to our membership and attracts new ones. Our group co-ordinators do sterling work keeping their groups functioning and we are very appreciative of what you do. Well done all of you. We now have 207 members and as I write this, we have another nine people wanting to join us.

In October, for the first time in many years, we organised a bus trip. We went to the Kate Valley Waste management site in North Canterbury and learnt about the state-of-the-art waste disposal facility. Forty people signed up for the trip.

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This got slightly derailed when gale force winds whipped through Waipara the week before we were scheduled to go and took out the power. Fortunately we were able to re-organise for a couple of weeks later and the visit proved interesting and informative. Thank you Malcolm and Mureen for making it all happen.

Our mid winter lunch took place in July in the Ruskey retirement village. I was on a boat somewhere between Budapest and Amsterdam but understand it was a lovely meal and enjoyed by those who attended. Thank you Paula for organising it.

After our December meeting we celebrated the end of the year with more food at our Christmas morning tea. We have noted there were not enough savouries and will remember the serviettes for 2024!!

A big thank you must now go to your committee who have worked hard to ensure that everything runs smoothly and we have a successful and thriving U3A. Several of our committee will be stepping down after a number of years so I would like to say a special thank you to Amama, Bob, Paula and Ian for everything you have done. Your commitment and support are greatly appreciated.

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A final couple of thank yous. Firstly, to my husband Paul who has helped me enormously behind the scenes, especially with the work we have had to do revising our constitution.

Last but not least a big thank you to all our volunteers who make tea, move furniture, organise name labels and welcome members at the door and remind them to sign in. You help our meetings run smoothly and make them enjoyable events.

Joy Evans

President U3A Port Hills

7 February 2024