



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update April 2024

From your Chairman

Catherine Chapman

Greetings everyone! It took me a while to beat off all the candidates clamouring to become our Chairman at the AGM on the 11th March – so you are stuck with me for the next year. My thanks to all last year's committee members who shared the President's tasks throughout the year.



In particular, I want to thank long time member and contributor to U3A Hutt Valley, Malcolm Law, who has moved to Palmerston North.

Malcolm served on the Committee, was a contributing member of the CATIG group, and did the quiz we all enjoyed before our main monthly meetings. We will miss him and wish him well.



Committee

Vice-President – Chris Jared
 Secretary – Kevin Willis
 Treasurer – Ellen Ansell
 Committee members – Don Rennie, Christine Williams, Lynne Birch, Mary Estcourt and Eric Wadsworth.



AGM News

Members voted to clear up the problem that our constitution only allowed any increase of subs to be approved at an AGM. Now the subs amount can also be changed at a Special General Meeting. Subscriptions are due from the start of the next financial year, not from the date of the next AGM as at present.

It was agreed to increase subs from \$20 to \$25 pa coming into force from February 2025. BUT - members were encouraged to give an additional \$5 with their \$20 subscription this year to keep us afloat. You can pay online to our Kiwibank Account number [38-9025-0265698-00](#). Copy our bank number and paste it into your online banking payment. Put "Sub" in the Code space and your name in the Reference Box.

April Speaker

Dr Sam Dean

Principal Scientist – Climate, NIWA

Dr Dean's research identified the contribution of human-induced warming to intensifying current New Zealand weather extremes, including droughts and floods. This contributes to our fundamental

understanding of how the atmosphere responds to climate change, as well as improving our understanding of Antarctic sea ice and its influence on Southern Hemisphere climate.



Dr Dean has a broad and comprehensive knowledge of climate change impacts on New Zealand. Over past 13 years he has been at the forefront of developing future climate change projections specifically for New Zealand.

These projections are actively used by numerous research institutes, government departments and local government councils to better understand, or plan for, the impacts of climate change. In recent years he has contributed to adaptation solutions to expected climate change impacts.

Speakers

Our champion "speaker finder" Don Rennie has ensured we have been privileged to have a range of interesting speakers on a variety of topics. Don is continuing this work but would like you to let him know of possible speakers to contact. If you have any ideas please contact Don on 04 566 2543.

Group News

Antiques & Collectibles

Members had an interesting March meeting with “pairs”. Examples ranged from knitting needles (which date back to the 11th century) and Moon Flasks first produced in Korea and which are



always made in pairs, to these elegantly leaning glass houses created by Emma Camden of Wanganui.

Armchair Travel Group

Ray Manning reports

This group is currently in abeyance while looking for a new home and a new convenor. Members have enjoyed what it offered over the past couple of years. We are optimistic that it will continue. If you have any suggestions contact me on 0274 587 565.

CATIG

A group for discussion and friendship, started by Don Rennie in 2016, with a normal attendance of 10 – 12 of the 20 members. This leads to good open discussion. All opinions are respected. The group operates under Charter House Rules: what is said in the room stays in the room, no minutes. Emphasis is on enjoying discussion and developing friendships.

We meet in Russell Keown house, room 3, on the fourth Monday of the month from Feb to Nov from 1pm till 2:30.

The Group is totally non-PC. We have been referred to as Lower Hutt’s “Ancient Anarchists” - all topics are open for discussion except personal politics and religion.

Meetings start with one topic and end up with a completely different one. In November our group of retired people discussed “retirement planning”. Easy with hindsight! In February the topic was “health insurance for 75+ year olds” which ended up discussing health insurance, NZ health system, and other topics related or not.

All members appear to enjoy our meetings. We have diverse backgrounds and learn from each other. I have enjoyed my 7 years at CATIG and recommend this Group to Hutt U3A members.

As Confucius said, “Every person you meet knows something you don’t.”

Contact Ken Baird on 564 2579.

Local History

This turn-of-the – century shop was one many delightful heritage buildings and sites the History Group enjoyed on a recent walking trip up Aro Valley in Wellington.



Theatre group . . .

is going to the Heretaunga Players on the 14th April to see two comedies – “The Friday Night Radio Play” and “Anger Management”.

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U3A groups & their contacts

Antique and Collectibles – 4th Tue 2pm.

Convenor – Catherine Chapman - 970 4932

Armchair Travel – this group is temporarily in abeyance. Contact Ray Manning - 0274 587 565

Current Affairs and Topics of Interest Group (CATIG) 4th Mon 1 pm. Russell Keown House, Queens Drive. Convenor - Ken Baird - 564 2579

Film – 1st Mon morning at Lighthouse, Petone. Convenors Judy & Gordon Heeley - 973 8816

Local History – last Friday of the month.

Convenor – Brenda Baker

brendabaker@xtra.co.nz

Theatre – Sun pm several times a year.

Convenor – Christine Williams – 021 025 63559

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For more information go to
u3ahuttvalley.weebly.com

See you at:

The Dowse Art Museum

1.30pm Monday 8th April 2024