U3A GOLDEN BAY MOHUA

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held in Senior Citizens Hall, Takaka

10.30 am Friday 22 February 2020

Welcome: 55 people, including members, new members and non-members were welcomed by the Chair, Paul Taylor.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Liz Thomas, Ann Blackie, Robin Manson, Gita Krenek, Fill Burgers, Richard English, John Barraclough, Ann Gentleman, David Morgan, Jocelyn Tracey, Robin Riley, Shiela Climpson. Moved Charles Naylor / Angela Pack: "That the apologies be accepted." Carried.

Minutes of previous AGM: Moved Mike Delceg / Kevin Durkan: "That the minutes of the previous AGM held on 22 February 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record." Carried.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Chairperson's Report: The Chairperson, Paul Taylor, presented his Annual Report:

Looking back over the past year, our U3A chapter has experienced considerable growth, now having over 120 members. Our new members are a welcome addition, as they revitalise the organisation with new ideas, interests and energy. But a growing membership also brings the challenge of ensuring that there is enough room in study groups to accommodate new members. Thirteen study groups were active in 2019, but due to space limitations of the living rooms in which most of these groups meet, most groups have been closed to new members, and so the Committee has been, and will continue, facilitating the development of new study groups. We'll be seeking additional ideas for study groups at the AGM.

We had five public speakers at general meetings in 2019, offering a broad range of topics. These included:
Charlie Haskell, on Life of a Freelance Director in the NZ Film Industry
Max Rashbrooke, on Deepening Democracy: How to Fix Government and Restore Trust
Dr. Alastair MacDonald, on the Ethics of Aged Care
Peter Stupples, on Malevich and New Zealand Art
Emeritus Professor Peter Herbison, on How to Evaluate Medical Treatments
Marian Vlaar also offered a members-only talk on Euthanasia.

Monthly TED Talk discussions continued to be well-attended, with lively discussion, and covering a wide range of topics. Thanks to Richard English for keeping these sessions going and for helping members navigate, download and show TED talks from the internet.

This past year saw a few new developments for U3A Golden Bay Mohua, including a website (www.u3agoldenbaymohua.org.nz/), the use of name-tags for general meetings, and the introduction of a new learning format, in the way of a taught course on gardening which was offered by Bill Brett of the Nelson U3A.

This past year, the Committee also reviewed the equipment we use regularly for general meetings. With advice from member Kevin Durkan, we decided to purchase our own, more modern sound system, which, in addition to supporting a couple of wireless microphones, enables our public speakers to show video clips with sound.

Our Committee has operated this past year with nine members, two of whom will be stepping down at this time: Geoff Aitken, who has been taking care of member communication; and Tim Harrington, who has been our secretary. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank both Geoff and Tim for the work that they performed for U3A. Finally, and on behalf of our entire U3A chapter, I would like to thank all our Committee members for their work this past year in facilitating a rich and enjoyable learning environment for us all.

Moved Paul Taylor / Piers Maclaren: "That the Chairperson's report be accepted." Carried

Financial Report: The financial report was prepared by Jocelyn Tracey, and presented by Marian Vlaar in Jocelyn's absence. The annual accounts had been circulated to members and copies were also available at the meeting. Marian explained that even though income had increased slightly due to an increase in membership, there was an increase in expenses largely due to greater visiting speaker costs. We also had the one-off costs this year of a new website ($123.02) and the purchase of a sound system ($673.50). Marian explained the Committees' decision to discontinue the approximately $100 postage it had previously contributed to book groups.

The opening balance at 1/1/19 was $3,167.20, and closing balance at 31/12/19 of $1766.47.

Moved Marian Vlaar / Jenny Maclaren: "That the Financial Report be accepted." Carried

Marian then outlined the Committee's view that there should be an increase in subscriptions for a number of reasons. Firstly, subscriptions have not been changed since 2005 despite an increase in costs in that time, and there has been a reduction in our reserves which had been built up over the years. Moved Marian Vlaar / Angela Pack: "That the Annual Subscription be $20.00" Carried.

Election of Officers: Geoff Aitken and Tim Harrington indicated their intention to retire from the committee. Their contribution was commended by Paul, supported by acclamation by members.

The following committee members indicated their willingness to stand again for the committee - Jenny Maclaren, Margaret Maloney, Jocelyn Tracey and Keith Ballard, Geoff Rennison, Marian Vlaar and Paul Taylor. In addition Piers Maclaren agreed to join and be responsible for newsletters. Moved Mike Delceg / Robbie Robilliard: "That those members be elected to the committee." Carried.

Helen Kingston proposed a vote of thanks to all the committee members who have worked so hard on behalf of the membership.

General Business:

1. **Current Study Group Reports:**

Margaret Maloney - Art History 1, Mediaeval era: Subjects ranged from techniques and materials, pigments, manuscript and illumination, architecture and mosaic, fresco, looking at Western and Islamic worlds. This year will be studying The Northern Renaissance and Architecture. Group is currently full but waitlist available.

Rosamund Arthur - Art History 2, Early Renaissance to High Renaissance, and this year will go from Michelangelo to Rococo. Room for one more member.

Paul Taylor - Astronomy. Matariki, Transit of Venus, and Cosmos. This year will take a trial course in MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) offered by universities for the public. Room for 1 or 2 new members.

Liz Lee - Book Group 1. A range of books decided by group members, which makes for a very wide range of topics.. Currently full with waitlist.

Margaret Holloway - Book Group 2. Similar to Liz' group, so presented with books that might not have been chosen. Room for one more member, preferably male.

Marian Vlaar - Classic literature. Homer's "The Iliad" was completed by the group last year, and is now moving on to "The Odyssey", also by Homer. Discussion revolved around the chapters read, watching YouTube clips, and online commentaries about the works. Room for at least 2 more.

John Pemberton - Film. 10 of the 12 films this last year have been English language films which is a departure from previous years. 22 people in email list, but room for 2 more if required.

Charles Naylor - Music Appreciation. Charles spoke on behalf of Sheila Climpson, convenor of Music Appreciation. The subject has been the development of the symphony, and will finish next meeting with Shostakovich. There is room for more members.

Pat Ballard - New Democracy. Each group member selects an area of interest to present. Group is full but there is a waitlist.

Pat Ballard - Saints and Sinners. Last year concentrated on Barbara Brookes book, “History of Women in New Zealand”. Group is full but there is a waitlist.

Piers Maclaren - Prehistoric Mysteries. Many mysteries were discussed during the year, and there is space for one more.

Piers Maclaren - TED Talks, monthly at St John rooms, all members welcome. The talks are selected by members on rotation, and discussion follows.

Kevin Durkan offered appreciation and thanks to Angela Pack who ran a series of talks by DVD on Prevention and Reversal of Dementia. Angela commented that the six sessions were well received.

2. **Possible New Study Groups**

Chris Bennett - Sustainable Development. In Chris’s absence, Keith Ballard spoke about the UN in 2015 adopting 17 sustainable goals, with the aim of achieving a sustainable future for all. They came into force in January 2016, and focussed on climate change, economic equality, democracy, poverty and history. These goals will be selected and discussed by the group each month. The group would start in September.

David Squires - Philosophy. What does philosophy mean to us today, what does it mean at our stage of life, and why have we certain beliefs and paradigms that we live by. What changes in thinking would benefit us, what are our in priorities insofar as our personal beliefs affect others, and the basic question of who do we think we are. The group would meet at the library.

Paul Taylor - Operas and Musicals. Available on DVD once a month, meeting at various homes where possible.

Diane Dacre - Art History with a difference - why is there a fetish of collecting objects in galleries and museums, who started the museums, why we go to look at them? The group would look at treasured objects in non-western cultures, relics in Christian societies, then look at individual museums and galleries in different places.

Adrian Maloney - The Life and Times of Shakespeare. Investigation of Shakespeare’s life, of which very little is actually known, also the era in which he lived - politics, religion, food, housing, entertainment plus anything else which may have some interest.

Christine Pullar - Early NZ Colonial History from around 1830 to 1880. What world did these people come to? The roading system started in the period, but for the first 18 years after the Treaty there was no legal system. How did immigrants cope, especially as many were illiterate? How did they interact with Maori?

Angela Pack - Type 2 Diabetes and Weight Control. This will consist of a series of DVD courses presented by Angela. The first meeting will be in August.

Jenny Maclaren presented results of research of the 84 other U3a chapters in New Zealand, and has resulted in many ideas for new study groups. Jenny had painstakingly listed these on posters around the walls of the meeting room, and asked that members peruse the lists of possible study groups and provide a written indication of those which may be of interest.

3. **Communication by Email**

Piers Maclaren expressed his frustration as the new communication officer, that there is significant extra work involved in printing, assembling, mailing information to those who do not use email. His suggestion is as a condition of U3a membership, those few people in that position to engage the help of a friend or neighbour (who has email) to keep them informed of U3a news and information.

4. **Group Priority for New Members**

Liz Lee asked if there was a way to ensure that newer members have priority in joining groups. The Chair addressed the meeting, and asked that those forming new groups, and those in existing groups who have space available, attempt to give priority to new members as a means of encouraging their participation in U3a.

5. **Visiting Speakers in Nelson**

Mike Delceg reminded the committee that we should make use of visiting speakers to Nelson. The Chair pointed out that this possibility is known, and that we have Jenny Pollock, who is in charge of the Science Society in Nelson, coming to speak to us soon, and she is aware to let us know if there is someone coming to Nelson that we could tag on to.

6 **Community Health**

Helen Kingston spoke of the Primary Health's project called "Community Connectiveness". Helen said she had often spoken at this forum of the problem of loneliness, not just in mental health terms, but also also physical. Reversing loneliness will help those situations. She sees that U3a can potentially help if members see a need in the community. The issue particularly affects people in our age group and at this stage Helen is just giving U3a a "heads-up" about the project which will become more known in the future.

The Chairperson thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at 11.46am

Signed …….. Date …….