

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT U3A 2018

Welcome to our June meeting, and the Annual General Meeting for Cape Town U3A.

A big change this year has been in the chairmanship of Cape Town U3A. **Eve Dunnell**, who has done outstanding service for the past 10 years, has all our admiration and gratitude for her hard work and commitment. We should also honour **Alan**, her husband, who has been a constant support and assistant in her term of office. Their partnership has been of immense value to U3A in Cape Town, and Eve's very high standards have set a benchmark that has enriched us all. Eve, on behalf of the committee we thank you most gratefully and have pleasure in offering a token of our esteem, wishing you good health and happiness in your new home, and with the hope that your valued advisory role, and place on the committee, will continue to encourage and bless us.

It is a joy and a privilege to serve as your new chairman – I had thought I was going to just make the tea, and scribble the minutes! You have welcomed me so warmly.

Nationally, and also internationally, U3A is growing. We hosted the **Western Cape U3A Forum** on 23rd May, with good representation from local branches, sharing of information, and motivation- all vitally important, as the growth of U3A requires a lot of hard work.

The Summer Socials were well organised by **Peter Lawson** and **Kath Green** to whom we owe a big debt of gratitude for such an efficient undertaking, and for its success. There was a wide variety of interesting things to do in the break at the end of the year, and into 2018. Thank you.

As usual, due to Sylvia Schrire, we have had a varied series of topics and speakers. Looking at the second half of last year, we had **Prof Tim Noakes** bringing us up to date with "*The Banting Diet*". **Dennis Davey** spoke on "*Alzheimer's Disease and Cerebral Vascular Disease*" which he called reassuringly a potentially preventable and modifiable syndrome. Current Affairs topics included **John Mattison** talking about "*S.A.'s rapidly changing politics*", **Laurine Platsky** spoke on "*Spatial Integration in a post-apartheid city*", and of course 2018 kicked off with a bang, when **Clem Sunter** came to enthral us on *S.African and global scenarios*, to a huge crowd and record attendance at the Baxter. **Peter Johnston** addressed the subject of "*Cape Town's changing climate and water shortage*", and following this, two talks on plant life were very different: **Mary van Blommestein** discussed "*Flowers that our country has given the world*" illustrated with paintings from local art collections, and **Prof Eric Harley** told us about "*Vertical gardening and succulents*", also well illustrated. **David Klatzow**, Forensic Scientist and author, has spoken this year on "*Defence against the dark odds*" and last month **Anna Stoddard** gave a professional presentation on the music of Schubert's "*Erlkonig*", which was absolutely fascinating and informative.

Thank you for all that goes on behind the scenes with the committee and also all those who lead groups, find speakers, and make U3A an organisation of which to be very proud. **Sylvia and Arthur Schrire** began U3A in South Africa 18 years ago, and her dedication continues tirelessly. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Sylvia for this entire initiative, and for her energy and enthusiasm. The Course list for Cape Town is extensive and varied, with something for everyone.

The **administration assistants** at Baxter monthly meetings are to be warmly praised for their dedication, taking subscriptions, writing name badges and smiling at everyone in what can be queues and chaos- as at our February meeting...Please take a bow, Christine Assam, Mary Debrick, Ernie Wynne, Kath Green, Gnessa Glazer, Di James, Fran Pocock. **Your Committee Members** serve wonderfully in various capacities, and we remember Betty Davenport; Rosalie Bloch and Aubrey Jackson, a truly tragic loss.



Tribute to Eve Dunnell taken at Thursday's Baxter meeting (AGM)