

U3A STILBAAI

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT : 2016 – 2017

INTRODUCTION

U3A Stilbaai was established in May 2015 with just over 20 members; after a year it was obvious that there was a lot of interest in U3A activities in Stilbaai, and we proceeded with an inaugural general meeting in July 2016 when a constitution was adopted and the first formal committee was elected.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of U3A Stilbaai has grown beyond our wildest expectations. We started with just over 20, at the inaugural meeting we had 122 members, this has grown to 190 members on 30 June 2017. At every monthly meeting we see new members joining. This is quite remarkable taking into account that Stilbaai is a relatively small community and that there are already a large number of other established activities taking place.

FINANCES

Our financial statements will be tabled separately, our financial position is quite healthy and it has not been necessary to increase membership fees.

At the end of the financial year our total assets stood at R7,333-32. Of this amount R3,329-67 are in our Jagersbosch Fund – since the Fund was established in August 2016, the total amount received is R12,907-50; the projection screen and data projector was purchased for a total of R9,577-83, leaving us with a balance of R3,329-67. The Jagersbosch Board of Directors are doing an audit of maintenance work and repairs that need to be done, our committee decided that we will wait for this audit to be completed and then contribute funds for necessary repairs to Die Waenhuis.

Thanks to Martin Worth for doing an internal audit of our financials.

MONTHLY TALKS

During the past year we had 11 monthly talks and 2 special talks in December and January. Most of our talks were well attended, attendance ranging from about 40 to nearly 100 people. Of course, these talks were only possible because so many speakers were willing to appear at no charge. Preparing a talk takes up a lot of time and effort, much longer than the 40-45 minutes spent standing here in front of with the presentation – everybody's contributions are sincerely appreciated.

A list of the talks is available on our website.

COURSES

The Stilbaai Bird Club decided at their AGM in March 2017 to disband and become a group of U3A Stilbaai. Most of their members are also members of U3A, and several others have joined U3A Stilbaai since then. The Birding Group offers courses to members, but will still continue with the important Bird Atlas Project also involving non-members of U3A.

Our Hiking Group is very active, doing an interesting hike most Friday mornings; the Historical Houses of Stilbaai tours are very popular; as is the Bird Watching for Beginners courses. The Cooking Courses have been quite a hit with many members participating.

The TED Talks introduced in January have proved to be quite popular with a variety of subjects being discussed. The list of subjects is on our website.

A Photography Group is being established, and we will be launching Arm Chair Travel and Economics Discussion Groups during the next few months.

Thanks to all the course leaders for the effort and time you put in to ensure the success of these courses.

OUTINGS

After the very successful outing to Favour Stud in February 2016, we have organised a few more outings for our members.

On 14 March 2017 a group of 18 members spent a most enjoyable and interesting couple of hours at Baleia Wine Cellar outside Riversdale. While enjoying a light lunch, the group tasted Baleia wines.

Following on from the talk about historic mountain passes in February, two tours of the three historic mountain passes in the Langeberg north of Riversdale were undertaken in June – this outing has proved very popular and will be repeated in July and again in August.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I must express our sincere thanks to Jagersbosch for providing the use of Die Waenhuis to us free of charge – apart from saving us a considerable expense each month, I think it also encourages our members to contribute liberally to the Jagersbosch Fund. We sincerely hope that the mutually beneficial relationship we have established with Jagersbosch will continue.

Thanks to the Committee for their support and the hard work they put into ensuring the success of U3A Stilbaai. A special word of appreciation must go to Stefan Pretorius who has gone back to Cape Town for personal reasons – he was the main force in getting U3A Stilbaai started and for ensuring its initial successes.

In conclusion I want to thank you, our loyal members, for your support and enthusiasm. U3A Stilbaai is yours, without you we will not be here. Thank you all.

Niel van Wyk

Chairperson: U3A Stilbaai

30 June 2017