

U3A STILBAAI

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT : 2017 – 2018

INTRODUCTION

U3A Stilbaai was established in May 2015; it serves an important function providing stimulating talks and participation in a variety of activities to a large number of retired or semi-retired people.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of U3A Stilbaai has grown beyond our wildest expectations. We started with just over 20 in 2015, at the inaugural meeting in July 2016 we had 122 members, this has grown to the current 278 members. At nearly every monthly meeting we see new members joining. This proves that U3A Stilbaai is providing a valuable service to the older people in Stilbaai.

FINANCES

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

Total U3A Stilbaai funds: Total assets on 30 June were R8 617.09, this includes the amounts in the various Funds listed below. The balance for U3A Stilbaai excluding the Funds was R6 225.07.

Jagersbosch Fund: After spending a considerable amount on providing equipment and installing the sound system in Die Waenhuis, the balance in this fund is now R1 944.58. Over the last two years the fund has collected R23 027.60; and we have spent a total amount of R21 083.02 on equipment and installations.

Bird Group Fund: The Bird Group meetings' funds are placed in their own Fund – during the year R403.00 was contributed, the group spent R291.56 on work on the Bird Hide at the sewage works, leaving a balance of R111.44.

Photography Group Fund: The Photography Group meetings also contribute to their fund, the fund has not spent any monies yet and stands at R336.00.

Thanks to Max Döckel for doing an internal audit of our financials.

MONTHLY TALKS

There were 11 monthly talks during the year, they were all well attended by members and visitors – the attendance figures were between 57 and 101, with an average attendance of 76. The total attendance over the year was 840. Our sincere thanks to all the speakers for their effort and dedication.

A list of the talks is available on our website.

COURSES

Bird Identification for Beginners: The courses offered 3 times a year by Johan van Rooyen to groups of 4-5 people are extremely popular and were fully booked for this year; there is already substantial interest in another series in 2019..

Getting to Know Stilbaai: The Historic Houses of Stilbaai tours which were so popular last year, were revived recently as "Getting to know Stilbaai" outings; we have had a trial run, and the outings will be on offer soon.

TED Talks: The TED Talks were quite popular during 2017, but lately attendance has been decreasing. We have suspended them for the time being, but they could easily be offered again if there is enough interest.

GROUPS

Hiking Group: The group hikes in and around Stilbaai on Friday mornings. The chosen routes varies between 6 and 12 km (sometimes longer), with an average of about 8 km. There are more than 50 members in the group, with on average 20 to 30 members at a time on a hike. It is an enjoyable way to stay fit, make new friends and discover and appreciate Stilbaai and surrounding areas.

Strolling Group: The “Stilbaai Strollers” walk between 3 and 5 km on Friday mornings, averaging about 5 at a time. Although the group is small, the group is important in providing a chance for socialising while exercising with a leisurely walk.

Bird Group: The group meet every quarter where between 20 and 40 people attend – photos are shown, the bird atlas project is discussed, and other interesting presentations about birds are delivered. There are also monthly excursions on a Saturday morning attended by 5-10 members. The main activity of the Bird Group remains the surveys for the SA Bird Atlas Project in the 75 pentads in the Hessequa municipal area – the surveys are now in an advanced stage with a minimum of 2 surveys per pentad spread over the four seasons. The group has also improved the Bird Hide at the municipal sewage works, providing an improved closing mechanism for the door and installing flaps that can close. The municipality cleaned up the hide which is now again in a good condition.

Photography Group: The group has 25 members and meet every second Monday, with usually about 12 attending the meetings. Every month a photo project is chosen with the photos presented at the monthly meetings – the merits of each photo is discussed and recommendations for improvements are provided. The standard of photos has improved remarkably over the last year. The equipment used by members range from SLR to cell phone cameras. The group has fun while striving to improve.

Share Group: The group currently has 16 members and meet once a quarter, but exchange information on a regular basis. Their discussions cover trends and expectations on the JSE, economic factors which have an influence on the stock exchange, charts of different indices and shares, and investment opportunities.

Neuro-Science Group: Between 6 and 8 people participate in this group who meet regularly to discuss topics of interest in the neuro-science field.

Thanks to all the group leaders for the effort and time you put in to ensure the success of your group activities.

OUTINGS

Hessequa Historic Mountain Passes: From June 2017 till mid-October 2017 there were six historic mountain passes outings, with a total of 92 members participating. The one-day outing consisted of a trip to the historic Plattekloof Farm, then over the Langeberg Mountains via the Gysmanshoek Pass, showing the participants the nearby route of the original historic Plattekloof Pass. After a picnic lunch at the crest of the Gysmanshoek Pass, the group return to Riversdale and Stilbaai via Garcia’s Pass.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks to Jagersbosch for the use of Die Waenhuis for our meetings. It is also encouraging to note that an increasing number of our members are supporting Jagersbosch by becoming members.

Thanks to the Committee for their support and the hard work they put into ensuring the success of U3A Stilbaai.

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 2018