

U3A CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2014.

It is with pleasure that I present my report of activities during the past year. At the outset the Committee was very lean after the departure of three long-serving members especially founder-member Arthur Croft who had made a contribution in many roles during his tenure. We were fortunate in co-opting Gill Collins to the role of Treasurer and Mike Oettle.

Your committee has endeavoured to present speakers on varied, informative and thought-provoking topics as well as arranging interesting outings. Topics covered by speakers were: **tracing the Swartkops River from source to sea; Wind turbines; Security; Science of Ageing; Advertising; Horticulture; Tourism and Auriculotherapy.** Prof Ian Wiseman who had spoken at the inaugural meeting 10 years ago was unable to appear in May due to health issues, but was able to deliver the first talk of 2015. Outings were to **VW plant in Uitenhage; Southend, Uitenhage and SAAF Museums; Oshrey Farm; BKB Wool Store; SAPS Dog Unit and walks through historical areas of Port Elizabeth conducted by Margaret Harridine.** The calendar year ended on a high note with a performance by Howard & Gill Nock followed by a sumptuous lunch at the PE Women's Club attended by 61 members. We wish to thank you for your regular support of the efforts of the committee, in the aforementioned arrangements. Regrettably we are not fulfilling our mandate in establishing interest groups and we appeal for persons to step forward to lead these.

Member numbers have fallen and you are encouraged to invite your friends to join our ranks. Income is generated by subscriptions and visitors at the door. The greatest expense is hire of venue and speaker gratuities with a nominal cost for printing newsletters. Each meeting costs roughly R700. The committee decided to dispense with the magazine exchange due to logistics compared to funds generated. We encourage members to use the website u3ape.co.za maintenance of which costs R1000+ annually.

Whilst we were not faced with disruptive industrial action by municipal staff as experienced the previous year, the ever-present threat of load-shedding was cause for concern. In conclusion I wish to thank members of the committee for their dedication to the aims and objectives of U3A and especially our secretary, Merlene Robinson for keeping a tight rein on activities. Thanks also to Janeen Karp who is not available for re-election for the many years of valuable input. Finally, several committee members have served loyally for many years and may need a break so it will be necessary for new persons to step forward and provide relief.

Chris Rhodes

18 March 2015.