



CANTERBURY WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
ROOPU KAIMAHI MATAURANGA O WAITAHA

Annual Report 2023





Canterbury Workers' Educational Association
Roopu Kaimahi Matauranga O Waitaha

Why we exist:

To ensure education as a tool for just, social and environmental change is accessible to all

What we value:

Justice and Peace in a Te Tiriti Based Society
Ecological Harmony
Informed, Respectful and Caring Relationships
Critical Thinking

What we do:

Provide a welcoming space
Provide a programme of affordable courses
Support and encourage a community of lifelong learners
Enable education as a tool for social change
Build relationships with like-minded organisations
Build on a long legacy of accessible, participatory education with the people of Canterbury

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WENDY BUTCHER

This year we are celebrating and reflecting on 12 months of thought and action. The thought has been focused on confirming our values and working on ways to remain a long-term sustainable organization providing the space and resources we consider valuable. Last year at the AGM we were enthused to have some wonderful input from the many members attending. It was that thinking that helped us develop and refine the list of CWEA values which will be presented to this year's AGM. That is not the end

though. We need to ensure we act on and live those values. Why we exist, what we value and what we do! I note in our rules we are a Treaty-based organization. What does that mean? We have a Maori name which was given to us. Can we say it, what does it mean? What is the story behind that name? Are we really walking our talk in all the areas the values document notes?

We have always been a discussion-based learning Association, and this should not change. We learn by talking with others -- not just hearing and listening but reacting and being involved. We like to be challenged and challenging and the changes which have been occurring since the election in 2023 are very concerning for many. Some may be valid and needed but others not. We need a place to learn and then make our views heard. Views from an organization which is respected and has a long history of being rationally outspoken.

We need to be able to continue to provide the space for all of this to happen. We are a privileged and grateful organization in that we have over our history gathered financial and physical resources which now support what we do. It allows us to subsidize our Programmes, BUT -- that financial resource needs careful management and custodianship. The CWEA Council has a role in "minding" the long-term financial sustainability of the association.

We are grateful for the advice and guardianship provided by our Treasurer Stacey and the Investment Committee of Simon, John, Dave and Stacey and the team at JB Were. But --- we need your thoughts on ways we can make sure our long-term income is sufficient to ensure we can continue to be here for another 50 years.

We have ideas for making better use of our building, while still being what we are, but we need your thoughts. The Council and the staff are not the CWEA – the members are a huge part of who we are, and we need your input.

People

At this stage I need to say thank you to four teams of people who support this Association. We have our wonderful staff, those in the office, and those who work with them. Lottie, Janie, Margaret, Kazuko and Sue. Thank you.



Our wide collection of tutors and volunteers in all areas. The gardeners, the cooks, the speakers, the leaders. Thank you.

Our Council – a collection of thoughtful people who have an understanding of what CWEA is and work very carefully to ensure we are not just resting but developing and learning.

Our members who challenge us to do what we need to do and who reward us by coming and being involved. This year I am honoring two very important people who are standing down from Council.

Ivan Hibberd has been involved with the CWEA in many many ways for many many years. He has been a workhorse of the best kind, a debater and challenger, an avid course attendee, a CWEA story and history collector, a committed friend of the CWEA and what it is and can be. We are so very grateful for his commitment and work for this Association. Dave Evans is also hanging up his Council hat. Dave is the quiet force behind our technological support but also a wise and careful analyst of many of the decisions we are required to discuss. This year Dave was a very worthy recipient of a City Council Civic Award. He was described there as “a quiet, reliable man who is committed to building a better and more sustainable Christchurch and New Zealand.” We have been very privileged to have had him with us.

As many of our support teams get older, we need to involve others and I am really pleased to have had some new and younger people around the Council table. New eyes and ears and opinions are always welcome. Thank you to all the Team.

Programmes and Projects

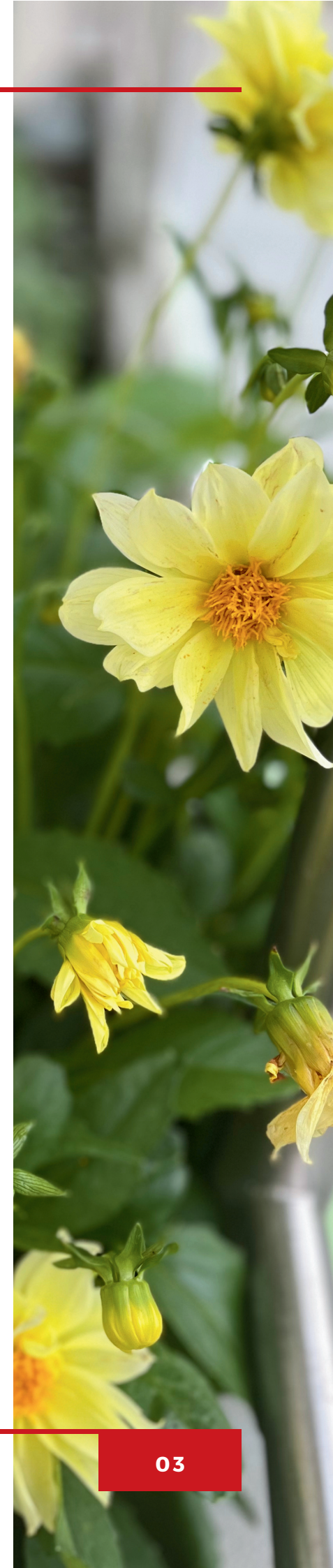
The refreshed Programme Advisory group led by Jennifer has been a positive support to Lottie and to Council and supports new connections with ACE and other related organizations.

As noted earlier our honoring of the Treaty needs to be reinforced and we continue to feel privileged to have Katherine on Council to challenge, question and guide us in this area. Another area where the CWEA is privileged to have good people on board.

I know Lottie works really hard developing ideas and connecting with people to ensure the program we all enjoy is as good and diverse as possible and this is hugely appreciated.

We now have to think of what next –

Last year I set a challenge that “we do not rest on our laurels in our wonderful place but that we take even bigger steps to support loud educated voices in confident discussion and action around real issues.” I think we have achieved that goal ---- but it is not a one-off goal. It is a long term one which we need to continue to work on. This year I add to it.



We need to acknowledge our funds will not last forever and develop appropriate and relevant ways to supplement what we have. We need to always keep in mind our values and ensure what we do aligns with them, but we do need to take steps now when we have time rather than taking steps when we are in a much more vulnerable position. We have the benefit of time and should make good use of that.

What ideas do you have? – please share them. You are why we are here and are our biggest team.





DIRECTOR'S REPORT

LOTTIE VINSON

2023 was an impactful and busy year! We ran four terms of successful programmes with 1027 individual participants engaging in 192 courses. Talks and events were far ranging, reflecting the diversity of interests within our WEA Community. We have included the one-page vision and values statement created from discussions at last year's AGM in this report. It is a useful tool to help us reflect on what we achieved last year as well as a

valuable guide to help us plan for a 2024 that is on track and meaningful. With it in mind I note that within our 2023 courses and events the following themes can be seen:

- 8 talks/discussions held about aspects of the climate crisis.
- We facilitated 4 discussions with elected representatives and held a debate with central city parliamentary candidates before the general election.
- 35 courses held that in different ways encouraged people to think about and live a sustainable/more ecologically harmonious lifestyle.
- 38 courses held that encouraged us to think about different cultural perspectives and broadened horizons by sharing the experiences, history or practices of other cultures.

As a country we enjoyed our first annual public holiday in celebration of Matariki and at the WEA we marked it with the opening night of our Art Exhibition. With incredible work from 32 artists (both students and tutors), it was a wonderful week which brought many people into the WEA for the first time. 12 Artists sold work and more than 50 people attended the opening night event. We hope going forward that this will become a bi-annual feature of the WEA calendar.

It was also a year of hosting people in our newly renovated building. In April we welcomed members of New Zealand's other WEAs for a conference of the Federation of WEAs. It was a fantastic 2 days of sharing, inspiring, learning about the power of story and even dumpling making! We reviewed our room rental rates and introduced new rates for commercial hire. This review importantly saw us committing to keeping affordable rates for other fellow not-for-profit/third sector organisations. Our focus is to support other like minded organisations and people doing great work for our communities. If you know of groups or people needing meeting space please tell them about our facilities. Later in the year we also hosted other educational organisations and their learners for the ACE Festival of Adult Learning Celebration and Awards Ceremony. Then in November we were thrilled to welcome Jeremy Faumuina as our Lincoln Efford Memorial Speaker. Jeremy uses leadership models from the Pacific and the notion of Vā (sacred space) in his work with the police and young people. His address was inspiring and full of hope.

We finished the planting of our front garden and have started to enjoy some edibles from our back garden. Our Library continues to grow with beautiful donations of thought provoking books. We kept a whopping 81 kilos of metal out of landfill by collecting up your metal lids and sent several carloads of plastic ones to be reused by Poly Lab! We hosted 4 events for Seaweed in March and participated in the Christchurch Heritage Festival in October. With support from the Christchurch City Council Heritage Festival fund we were able to work with Plains FM to record your WEA memories and stories. These were then aired on Plains FM and turned into fantastic podcasts. Our tiny op shop has been a wonderful fundraiser for us this year, boosted in May by our participation in a takeover of the Life in Vacant Spaces container on Cashel Street which we turned into a pop-up op-shop for two days raising more than \$450! Kazuko Iwai, Deen Coulsen and members of the Singing for Pleasure, Ukulele and Italian Singing groups also lead a sing-a-long on the street which was a fantastic way to raise our profile and brought many smiles.

For me it has also been a time for personal growth and reflection. I was extremely fortunate to attend the ASPBAE Leadership Forum on “Transformational Feminist Leadership in Adult Education”. This took place over 6 days in Kuala Lumpur with representatives from 15 different countries from the Asian/South Pacific region in attendance. It has certainly influenced my thinking and helped me shape my strategic focus for the WEA going forward.

So much of what took place last year was made possible by the contribution of so many members of our wonderful community who gave up their time for us. Volunteers baked and made dinners, gardened and designed our planting plan, entered data and mailed out our programme, organised events, gifted their time teaching and speaking, gifted us produce from home, crafted items for sale, participated in planning, hung artwork, staffed the exhibition, painted fence banners and more! The WEA truly is community owned, run and loved by its people. It is a treasure and it's a privilege to work for and with you all.



FINANCIAL REPORT

STACEY DAVIS

The annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 are presented as draft subject to audit confirmation. These accounts will form part of the annual return for the Charities Commission. We have enjoyed the use of our amazing facility even more this year, where there has been an uptake in activity across all income streams during the year. Our course offerings are designed to be at affordable prices, funded through our investment income. Managing operational needs, however, is becoming more challenging in an environment with a cost of living crisis, interest rate uncertainty, employment & inflationary pressures.

Our investment balance with JBWere is approx. \$1.45 million. Overall our investments had an annual return of 3.73%. The value of the portfolio decreased over the year with \$220K of funds drawn to meet our operational needs. The NZ market had a stronger December quarter to finish off the year, being one of the best monthly returns since Covid, with investors coming back into the market. The general election had minimal impact. Our investment strategy is to preserve & protect our capital in the long-term, while meeting the operational needs of the CWEA. Our advisors continue to monitor & assess risks along the way, while investing to meet the ethical standards of the CWEA.

We are now exploring from an organisational point of view how we can continue our longevity into the future. With a lovely building to preserve, bequests & legacies to put to good use & our commitment to our team & providing education services to the community, additional resources are needed.

We wish to thank Sue Spindler & her team for her book-keeping services throughout the year & to our members & the wider community for their continued generosity & support.



WEA FIELD CLUB

ROSE SMITH

The WEA Field club remains a very encouraging and enjoyable club with interesting trips to a variety of venues by a very supportive coach line. This year's trips have included: Orton Bradley waterfall walk, Ashley Gorge walk, Leeston walkways, AGM Amberley and River Walk, New Brighton beach walk, Waipara Wine Trail, Birlings Flat and Little River village visits, Governors Bay Heritage Trail Walk, Lake Coleridge walks. The Christmas Luncheon was held at a lovely country spot in Okuti Valley just outside Little River. We gathered in the old school hall with a walk to the reserve. Christmas cake and raffles and goodies enjoyed by all.

We look forward to enjoying the future trips and walks.

NORTHWEST BRANCH

BARBARA MILLER

The Norwest WEA has had another busy year. We have moved from rooms in Chapel St to our new rooms in St Margaret's Church, 74 Farrington Ave, Bishopdale. We previously met at St Margaret's Church until an arsonist destroyed the Church approx. 7 years ago.

Our numbers have remained constant during the year but unfortunately, they are lower than we would like. We are working on encouraging new people to attend the meetings. Excellent speakers covered many varied topics including:

- Harry Ell and the Summit Road,
- Stoddart Cottage
- Bees in my Garden
- Sunshine Enterprises
- Rationing in NZ amongst many others.

As well as learning from knowledgeable speakers everyone who attends enjoys the social get together. I would like to thank our committee members for all their hard work during the year. Many thanks to all of you for attending our meetings and making them enjoyable for all. Also please invite your friends and acquaintances to our meetings.





OUTDOOR PAINTING AND SKETCH CLUB

MICHAEL ABRAHAMSON

Membership has steadily increased over the year. The group is a means for people to safely get outside and paint and it gets them out painting instead of gardening etc. on Saturday mornings. Some can finish the paintings at home from photos. The morning runs from 10 to 12. Last summer and autumn it was warmer and the outdoor season was extended. The outdoor program usually stops at the 3rd Saturday in May and restarts again the third week in September. During winter each second Saturday, DVD's, books etc are shared and an indoor painting day held at WEA rooms.



The group had a good showing at the South Library during December and January, when most of the available hanging hooks were used. The group was given books and materials from the late Trish Shaheen's family and some books were retained for the WEA library. Trish was a group member who died suddenly of cancer. In July 2023 four members showed paintings in the exhibition held at the WEA rooms. During the winter we went on a bus trip to Barhill, in the Canterbury foothills and useful photos were taken. In February 2024 we were invited to show paintings at the Edmonds Garden Party, as we did before Covid, and a lot of members took part. Showing was simplified, by hanging unframed paintings in plastic A3 folders, suspended by pegs on a string. Plants were also taken to be sold in the Edmonds plant stall.



Recently some more computer-savvy members updated our program with Google instructions for venues and now older members are getting used to the new system. Some photos were taken recently of some members on a fresh morning at the Risingholme centre, Opawa.

WEA PEOPLE & ROLES

OFFICERS:

President: Wendy Butcher
Vice Presidents: Dave Evans and John Sullivan
Treasurer: Stacey Davis
Secretary: Unfilled

Member Representatives on Council:

Dave Evans, John Sullivan, Ivan Hibberd, Wendy Butcher, Colin Meurk, Geoff Holland, Sophia White, Katherine Peet, Daniela Bagozzi, Gertrude Cocks, Stacey Davis, Jennifer Leahy, Simon Courtney, David Ivory, Steve Peseta

NW Branch Rep: John Sullivan

Member Representatives to Executive:

Ivan Hibberd, John Sullivan, Dave Evans, Wendy Butcher, Stacey Davis,

Staff:

WEA Director: Lottie Vinson
Reception/Admin: Janie McCulloch & Margaret Taylor
Cleaner/Caretaker: Kazuko Iwai
Accounts: Sue Spindler, Kelvin Smyth (Eicor Resources)





2023 STATISTICS

LET THE NUMBERS TALK...

MEMBERS

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS: 5
LIFE MEMBERS: 62
ANNUAL MEMBERS: 373



COURSE NUMBERS

2578 COURSE REGISTRATIONS
192 COURSES RUN
1027 INDIVIDUAL LEARNERS

FUNDS RAISED

\$2080.50 RAISED THROUGH OUR MINI OP SHOP
\$1887.90 RAISED FOR OUR CRAFT GROUPS FROM CRAFT SALES



PODCASTS

26 PODCASTS RECORDED AND AIRED
615 INDIVIDUAL, FULL LISTENS TO PODCASTS

GIVING BACK

255 ITEMS OF BABY CLOTHING KNITTED AND DONATED BY OUR POD CAST ON GROUP
MORE THAN 200 ITEMS MADE WITH LOVE BY OUR CRAFT FOR A CAUSE GROUP
81 KILOS OF METAL DIVERTED FROM LAND FILL





2023 in Pictures

A few snapshots of classes, trips, tutors, volunteers, staff and fun!



