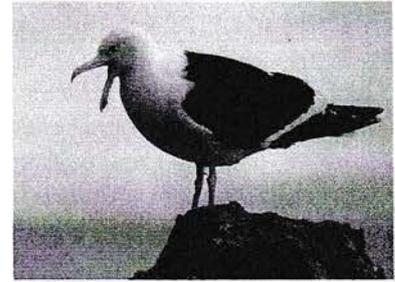




TAURANGA NEWSLETTER
January 2010



FROM THE PRESIDENT.

I hope all of you had a wonderful festive season and are enjoying the daily pleasures of a great New Zealand summer.

The U3A year has gone so fast that I can hardly believe my tenure as your President is coming to an end. 2009 was more a year of consolidation after an eventful 2008, with many new members joining, the finalisation of our guiding principles and the statement of organisation and purpose for Tauranga U3A.

It has been an honour to serve this highly inspiring organisation and I am sure the incoming committee will be as organised and motivated as the present one.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their hard work. Also, I would like to mention all the conveners for keeping U3A's spirit alive and all the members who so enthusiastically support the idea of learning.

I will be active on the new committee as immediate past president and I will be there to support the new president.

Uli Hoppe.

FROM THE EDITOR.

2010.....a new year stretching before us like a blank canvas. A canvas waiting to be coloured by our life experiences, our beliefs and our involvement and participation in all our daily encounters.

U3A is a vital setting for these endeavours, offering informative and stimulating groups in a friendly and relaxed setting. It's never been so enjoyable to learn so many new and varied things among so many congenial people as it is right now. And, remember, we have no guarantee on time except right now. The new handbook (available now) lists all the current groups with relevant information on them and on how to join.

So make 2010 your most adventurous year yet. Sign up for new activities and create colour in your life canvas. And, don't forget, what we do today provides us with our memories for tomorrow. Make them great ones!

I have enjoyed serving you as Editor and I wish the new committee well.

Ann Rynex.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

19 February 2010 10.00am.

Wesley Church Centre
100 13th Avenue. Tauranga.

The first part of the meeting will be voting in the new committee.
Come along and make your vote count.

The second part of the meeting is
Rodney Walshe,
Consul General of Ireland
speaking on

The political and economic development of Ireland since 1916.

HORTICULTURE and GARDENING GROUP.

The horticulture group has changed its name to include gardening. The members believe this gives a more accurate emphasis as the group focuses on gardening rather than the more technical horticulture. They discuss the joys and worries of their gardens and study a little of botany, soil and plant health, etc.

Other topics have included plant hunters, the story of chocolate, Kew gardens and lots more. The optional assignment for 2010 is to research the lesser known uses for plant succulents such as cacti for lipstick or woad for blue dye. They have a field trip each year and the group has vacancies.

Convener: Margaret Richardson Ph. 576.5292

Tutor: Mary Hanson Ph. 571.2509

Venue: Member's homes

Meetings: 4th Thursday each month

Time: 1.30 to 3.00pm.

FEES DUE 31 March 2010

Subscriptions for U3A are due by the 31 March 2010 and are payable now.

\$20.00 per person.

These may be paid by cheque made out to U3A Tauranga and posted to P.O.Box 14453, Tauranga 3143 or paid via Internet Banking to 02-0466-0014834-00 with full first name and surname on the deposit.

A subscription form has been included with this newsletter.

Silence is golden but the real benefit is it's seldom misquoted.

U3A: The Successful Aging Organisation.

With an aging population and increased societal changes individuals are experiencing ever more complicated lives, according to Dr. Rick Swindell of Griffiths University in Brisbane. A full copy of his report can be downloaded from www.u3aonline.org.au 'Older people continue to learn new things to cope with technological and social changes affecting their daily lives. Research has underscored the importance of older people continuing to learn new things for the positive effects can have on the brain.' The summary includes volunteer activities in U3A, course leader and committee members hours spent on tasks, the estimated monetary value of these hours, size of U3A's (from 24 to 5500 in Sydney, NZ has a low of 30 members to 824 in Wellington City), the female/male ratio (3:1) and age of members. In ACT (not all U3A's record ages), 14% of members are 80 years or older. The report touches on government or agency assistance for accommodation issues (not relevant in NZ as we utilise members' homes more often than in Australia), the aims of the organisation and the popularity of subjects. In NZ history, art appreciation and music are popular. In Australia it is computing, history and languages. It has been found that the success of a U3A group is strongly related to the skills and energy of its leadership.

Did you know?.....

If you have thalassophobia you are scared of the ocean.

Oman is the only country in the world beginning with "O"?

If 'Mountain Chicken' is on the menu and you order it you'll be eating frog?

You can't sneeze underwater?

Monaco is the most densely populated country in the world?

New Zealand is named after Zealand in the Netherlands, the birthplace of Abel Tasman?

Mozambique is the only country in the world to use every vowel in the alphabet in its name once and only once?



Enjoy the summer and our great beaches. All the very best to you all and may 2010 be all you would want it to be. Ann

The secret of success is hard work... which is why it has stayed a secret for so long.

Worry is interest paid on problems before they fall due.