



NEWSLETTER

March 2012



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The President's Report for 2011

Welcome to the 17th U3A Tauranga Inc AGM.

It has been a busy year but the event that took the most organisation was the Christchurch Earthquake Fund U3A Art Auction held in March at the suggestion of long-time member Mary Brooks. We auctioned over 100 pictures, all donated by members and friends and we raised \$3,500 for the Earthquake Fund. Many thanks must go to Mary and the many volunteers who made the day successful. The Committee donated \$500 and this was added to the total. A signed commemorative book was also forwarded to the Christchurch Mayor, Bob Parker. Many groups signed the book. It had poems, paintings, texts, etc in it expressing our sympathy and best wishes for the future.

Tauranga U3A now has 640 members and 78 groups. Each year three new members' meetings and three Convenors' meetings are held and thanks must go to Thelma Cane and Monica Cox for keeping everything running smoothly. They are both retiring from this position this year and they will be truly missed.

I would like to say thanks to Cynthia Fielding and Jillian Brown, our social team (with help from Tom Fielding) for organising our end-of-year function "Sportacular" which everyone seemed to enjoy. A mid-year function is being mooted for this year.

We say "goodbye" this year to a number of our Committee who have worked hard for us over the last 12 months:

Martin Dumbill, our Past President, whose advice I have often sought and, Paula, his wife for accepting those annoying phone calls from me.

Monica Cox, joint Group Co-ordinator, will leave this position this year and transfer to helping with the Newsletter.

Lyn Gage, who helped with the Newsletter.

Ruby Cusworth, who organised the speakers and had to resign mid-year due to ill health.

Val Green, Publicity, who has done a great job this year with our local media. We are now running stories in the Weekend Sun once a month on our Group happenings.

Janet Ormsby resigned mid-year and I would like to thank her for all her import over the last 4 years and in the last year her work on the commemorative book for Christchurch.

Sheila Forrest, Secretary. Thank you for doing such a sterling job. It's a difficult position to uphold. You have been a great help to me personally.

Thelma Cane, Groups' Co-ordinator, now becomes a Life Member. She has worked tirelessly over the past 4 years and helped extend U3A in Tauranga tremendously.

Also many thanks to all Committee Members for their support over the last year, and our Group Convenors and all others who have helped U3A in 2011.

We all know U3A is an advocate for the importance of keeping active in our retirement. The brain must keep active and the body must keep working in some way. You are never too old to learn.

Signed: **Ken Gillan, President**



U3A Life Member

Thelma Cane was presented with a Life membership in recognition of her service to promoting U3A in Tauranga.

The Hikers

Our first hike and exploration trip this year saw 19 members and friends travel to the Lakefront reserve at Mangakino and take the “Otuni” Paddleboat to enjoy Lake Maraetai and the Waikato river scenery. The paddleboat was built in 1907 to carry passengers and freight on the Whanganui River.

Lake Maraetai was formed 50 years ago with the commissioning of the Maraetai Dam, and today some native trees still stand in the river as ghostly reminders of a drowned landscape. We passed by native trees, pine forests and willows. The vertical ignimbrite cliffs have been carved and channeled by water, wind and time and are quite spectacular. We travelled to the base of the dam and turned around for the return trip.

Twelve members disembarked at 8 kms, and others at 6kms, and we walked back for 2 /12 hours along a section of the Waikato River Trail, crossing the new 70m swing bridge to return to the Lakefront Reserve.

Ice creams were enjoyed at the Bus Stop Café and we all agreed it had been a great start to our year.

Convener – Thelma Cane – phone 572-6222



Horticulture and Gardening

For our monthly meeting in October we visited the gardens of Sheryl and Paul Steen's garden high up in the hills above Welcome Bay, with a beautiful view across farmland to the sea.

We had a very relaxing stroll around their extensive gardens and then went back to the house for afternoon tea which Sheryl supplied for \$5 a head. While we had our tea Sheryl regaled us with a short history of how she and husband Paul had started up their honey business; how the garden had evolved as a diversion. Apparently the house site was virtually a clean slate so Sheryl started planting and it has been a work-in-progress ever since.

She also told us something about bees which we all found very interesting. They have 7,000 hives but the processing side became too big and that is now based in the Wairarapa.

All in all we had a very enjoyable day and went home full of new ideas for our own gardens.

Convener – Margaret Richardson – Phone – 576-5292



Love your enemy. It'll confuse the hell out of them.

Change of Convener for Current Events A

The new convener is: **Monica Goulden** - phone 579-0131

This group has several vacancies if you are interested in joining, phone Monica as above.

New Groups Formed

Ethnic Dining 3

This group will meet at various ethnic restaurants and will function the same way as the other two groups.

Convener: Jim Taylor phone 543-0234

Venue: Restaurants as arranged

Meetings: 4th Friday of each month

Time: 6.30pm.

Luncheon Group 1

This group meets for lunch at various restaurants for members to enjoy social contact and friendship.

Convener: Janet Ormsby phone 576-5008

Venue: Restaurants as arranged

Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month

Time: 12 midday - 2.00pm.

This group has vacancies.

If you are unable to join because this day does not suit you another group can be formed to meet on a Tuesday or Wednesday. Contact: Group Co-ordinator Jean Garmonsway, phone 579-1918

Suggested New Groups

Chess

We have members wanting to learn and play chess.

Are you an experienced player who could teach the game?

If you are interested or could help please Contact:

Vivienne Mills phone 5791148

Another Computer Support Group

If there are members who would like to form this group we have a member who is willing to take it. We have two members interested but need more to form a group.

Contact: Vivienne Mills - phone 579-1148

Computer Learning PowerPoint Course

We have two members on the waiting list for this short course. We need 2 more for a course to be held. If you would like to gain the skills to prepare PowerPoint presentations please contact:

Vivienne Mills, phone 579-1148 or email - mills_viv@clear.net.nz

Electronic Technology

We have six enquiries for help with ipads and itables.

We now need a member with expertise to help/mentor these members.

If you can help

Contact Vivienne Mills, phone 579-1148 or email - mills_viv@clear.net.nz

French for Travellers

We have a member who can tutor a group to help you to learn French for your travels. We have one member interested and need more to form the group. If interested

Contact Vivienne Mills, phone 579-1148 or email - mills_viv@clear.net.nz

Mathematics Skills

We now have a tutor able to take this group.

HELP!! Could the new member who suggested this group please make contact as we have mislaid his name and phone number.

More interested members needed to start this group.

Contact Jean Garmonsway, phone 579-1918

Spanish

A member has an interest in learning Spanish. Are there any other members interested? We would need a member who can speak Spanish to tutor such a group. Let us know if you are interested or could help.

Contact Jean Garmonsway, phone 579-1918 or email

Web Site Development Group

This group would share information and expertise about building web sites. It would be for anyone who would like to have their own website, or improve an existing one, whether for family or any other reason.

Members with their own laptops would be especially useful, but all would be welcome. A basic knowledge of how to surf the Internet is a good start.

If interested -

Contact Don McMillan, phone 579-4916 or email - don.mcm@actrix.gen.nz

The world is full of willing people. Half of them are willing to act and the other half are willing to let them.

Groups needing more members – please refer to handbook for details

Bridge Mount Papamoa

We are a friendly group of bridge enthusiasts who enjoy playing the game. Some experience of the game is necessary.

Convener - Richard Hammer - Phone 572-3612

Bridge Tauranga

This group needs four more players.

Convener - Audrey Richardson - Phone 578-7617

Geology

This group has vacancies for four members.

The group meets on 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month. If you are interested contact:

Convener - Jim Dearlove - Phone 542-2934.

Travel Group

New members are very welcome. We have some very interesting speakers lined up.

Convener - Lesley Hollis - Phone 575 527 - lesleyhollis@kinect.co.nz

Groups in Recess

Craft

The Craft group is officially in recess.

I am aware some people who have contacted me in the past have either changed their minds, are out of town or are doing other things. As only three people were able to meet today and no-one was willing to convene this group. If anyone is still interested in forming a craft group, please contact;

Vivienne Mills, phone 579-1148

Metaphysics 1 is in recess for a period of time due to lack of numbers. If you are interested in joining this group when it reconvenes, contact Jane Kemp phone 576-1374.

Group Closed

Local History Group

This group has closed.

Many thanks to Jack Ingram for his years of convening this group.

Members Forum

The editors would like to reach more members. If you have something to comment on U3A Tauranga we ask for contributions of about 50 to 100 words. Printing will depend on available space in each newsletter. We also reserve the right to edit where necessary.

The General Meeting on Friday 16 March 2012 see Handbook for details

Title - Providing Public Transport in Tauranga City.

Speakers - **Emlyn Hatch**, Senior Transportation Planning Manager of the Regional Council, and **Philip King**, Transport Planning Manager, and **Martin Parkes**, Transportation Operation Manager of the City Council.

This presentation is intended to give members an overview of the role of buses in the city's transportation system, their funding, the competitive tendering system, the reasons for bus-only lanes, the planning of bus routes, etc.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2012 are **\$20.00 per person.**

Subscriptions were due on the 1st January and **must be paid by 31st March** *if you wish to attend groups and general meetings.*

Subscription payments may be made by cheque or **Internet Banking** to:

U3A Tauranga (BNZ) 02-0466-0014834-00.

Please ensure you put ***both your first and last name*** as payer.

Facts and Figures to Date

Membership: 640

Groups: 78

The next newsletter is due in early May. **All contributions must be in before 20 April 2012. We will not accept material after this date.** They need to be short, up to 200 words.

Editors: **Jane Benson** phone 548-0876 email benson.jb@xtra.co.nz
Monica Cox phone 579-3616 email celavonire@yahoo.com

NB: The editors may edit contributions where necessary.