



# NEWSLETTER

## May 2012



U3A Tauranga Inc.

PO Box 14453  
TAURANGA 3143

[www.u3atauranga.org.nz](http://www.u3atauranga.org.nz)

### President

Ken Gillan: 572-3467  
[kenandbronwen@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:kenandbronwen@vodafone.co.nz)

### Vice President

Angela Dold: 571-6767  
[anndold@xtra.co.nz](mailto:anndold@xtra.co.nz)

### Treasurer

Peter Benson: 570-0570  
[peterjgbenson@yahoo.com.au](mailto:peterjgbenson@yahoo.com.au)

### Secretary

Ann Sligo: 579-9902  
[a.sligo@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.sligo@xtra.co.nz)

### Groups A to F

Vivienne Mills: 579-1148  
[mills\\_viv@clear.net.nz](mailto:mills_viv@clear.net.nz)

### Groups G to Z

Jean Garmonsway: 579 1918  
[pommyj123@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pommyj123@xtra.co.nz)

### Membership Secretary

Winn Tipping: 570-2370  
[tipping11@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:tipping11@slingshot.co.nz)

### Membership & Skill Data

Don McMillan: 579-4916  
[don.mcm@actrix.gen.nz](mailto:don.mcm@actrix.gen.nz)

### Publication Editors

Jane Benson: 548-0876  
[benson.jb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:benson.jb@xtra.co.nz)

Monica Cox: 579-3616  
[celavonire@yahoo.com](mailto:celavonire@yahoo.com)

### Publicity

Name: vacant  
Email

### Speaker's Organiser

Chris Hector: 548-2704  
[hector@actrix.co.nz](mailto:hector@actrix.co.nz)

### Webmaster

Alan Freer: 576-5243  
[al.freer@ihug.co.nz](mailto:al.freer@ihug.co.nz)

### Committee Support

Thelma Cane: 574-6222  
[thelmacane@xtra.co.nz](mailto:thelmacane@xtra.co.nz)

## U3A Tauranga Mid-Year



Friday

29th June 2012

11.30 – 2.30

Citz Club, Corner 13th Ave

Tickets \$30.00 each

Available at

**GENERAL MEETINGS**

or from

**Tom Fielding**

Phone 578-1533

Please wear your **party hat** and  
bring a **gift** for the food bank  
or a **book** for the  
hospital children's library.



# THE NEW GROUP CO-ORDINATORS

## **Vivienne Mills – Groups A - F**

I first heard of U3A from my Australian Aunt who was involved in a number of groups in Melbourne. My interest increased after visiting a number of people in my work as a community occupational therapist in Orewa.

A move to Tauranga in 2005, the building of a new house, and then retirement, led me to seek out the local U3A and I joined a few years later.

Over the last two years I have joined a couple of groups and have met lots of lovely people. This year seemed a good time to become more involved so thanks for electing me onto the committee and I look forward to the role of group co-ordinator in the year ahead.



**Please note: Vivienne's email address is viv\_ mills etc**

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## **Jean Garmonsway – Groups G – Z**

I have been living in NZ for nearly 8 years. I was born and brought up in the industrial city of Manchester in the north of England but later moved to Ripponden, a village in West Yorkshire.

My youngest daughter and her husband invited me to come to NZ to see if I liked it. I took a couple of years to think about it and then decided to take the challenge and move out here.

My reason for moving here then were my grandchildren. I am now married to a kiwi. I have one daughter in the UK and the rest of my family here.

I joined U3A not long after I arrived here and am a member of the Opera Group, which I initiated and was Convener for three years, the Hiking Group and a French Group.

So from a working class industrial background to living in Tauranga has been one amazing journey.



## A Visit to one of New Zealand's Historic Landmarks

In February this year, the Buildings and Cities Group visited the old Rotorua Bath House, a recent project of the Rotorua City Council to renovate the building to celebrate the centenary of this symbol of NZ tourism. A talk by the Museum Director, followed by a guided tour highlighted the following points in its early history:

- Local Maori generosity gifted the Government 50 acres of land on which the building sits as thermal springs “for the people of the world”.
- The Government’s desire in completing the Bath House in 1908 to create an international tourist resort (referred to as the “Great South Seas Spa”), utilising natural thermal waters for medicinal purposes.
- The half-timbered Tutor style of the Bath House, chosen as an economical way of creating a dramatic and prestigious statement, with both its dark half-timbering enclosing light panels and its gable-end bargeboards reminiscent of Maori art and architecture.
- The innovative use of prefabricated pumice concrete in the building’s construction, to reduce the load on the subsoil weakened by thermal activity – including its use in the 1.8m high basement arches giving ventilation and easy access to hot water pipes and drains.
- The lack of knowledge of the problems of corrosion of concrete, metals and timbers caused by acidic waters and hydrogen sulphide gas, these problems being experienced from the beginning and making maintenance of the building a nightmare.

The Council recently completed a 6-year restoration of the building, including its partial rebuilding and extension to complete the original design, for its present use as the Rotorua Museum of Art & History

The \$23 million cost was funded \$4 million locally and the remainder from other parts of NZ, reflecting the building’s iconic status. It is well worth a visit.

*Peter Simmons - Convener Buildings and Cities*

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**Who are you really chatting with on the internet?**

## U3A - It's Establishment in Tauranga

As an acorn can grow to become a great oak tree Tauranga U3A has had a similar growth, and over 17 years it has become a well-established and very worthwhile organisation of about 640 members.

In 1995 a small advertisement placed in the local newspaper by Roy Haywood, our first President, explained an organisation he proposed setting up that would be of interest to the retired of Tauranga.



A meeting was arranged at the Bureta Motel on the 17 February and twenty people turned up. Here, Roy and his wife Pam planted the seed that took time to grow but eventually developed into the successful U3A we have today.

Sylvia Arcus, a member of the North Shore U3A, was at the meeting to explain the origin, principles and aims of U3A. She was very knowledgeable and gave a lot of useful advice.

Roy chose six committee members that day and after much planning, discussion, and regular meetings at the Secretary's house, the inaugural meeting was held at St Enoch's Church on 17 March 1995.



Many pamphlets were delivered to advertise this meeting; there were broadcasts on the radio and ads in the local newspaper and these all helped to spread the word that U3A was coming to town!

The sun shone, a special morning tea was provided and the retired headmistress of the Tauranga Girls College, Mrs Drayton, gave a relevant

and very enjoyable talk. About 40 people turned up and all went well except for the objection by two people to the yearly subscription of \$20.

By the end of 1995 the membership had grown to 63 and the groups proving very popular and increasing in number. Music, walking, yoga, history and creative writing were the first to make a start.

The first committee members gained great enjoyment and satisfaction establishing U3A in Tauranga. It was an experience never to be forgotten by those still living and remembering.

This great organisation is invaluable. It provides positive, satisfying activities, with long-lasting friendships gained. Long may it prosper.

*Written, with our thanks, by a founder member*

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## **Acting 4 Fun**

Thanks to our new advertising this group has been off to a good start this year with four new members. This friendly group puts people at their ease, and encourages their participation. There is not a lot of time for chatter, as Jean always gives us something new to think about and work on, and no time for inhibitions or shyness.

Working in pairs we may create a scene only speaking two sentences each, set around an improvisation of our choice. Sometimes we work in pairs to create a scene, sometimes groups of about six are given a topic e.g.; ritual or courtroom drama, camping, or river scene. Ten minute planning goes into some of these scenes, but it is amazing what else comes to mind as you act out the characters.

We also do mime, and the people watching then have to guess what is being done. The acting out can be very funny with lots of laughter as people get right into their characters.

It is two hours of happy, working together fun, leaving you feeling energized and happy. New members are still welcome, come and give it a go.

*Chris Johnston - Convener*

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*A well dressed, debonair man in his mid-nineties enters an upscale cocktail lounge and finds a seat next to a good looking, younger woman in her mid-eighties. Trying to remember his best pick-up line, he says, "So tell me, do I come here often?"*

## The Luncheon Group

This photo was taken at the first luncheon meeting in February, where we were served Old English Cuisine. At the March meeting we had German fare and enjoyed Japanese styled dishes for the April meeting. The restaurant RSVP gives us information sheets on each meal, plus we have the opportunity to read any of books about the menus they provide.



The first meal was held in the main restaurant, however, the meetings are now held in a quiet back room.

## U3A Music Appreciation Group

This group has been active for many years. Then you could expect twenty or more to turn up sometimes bearing food. Since then the group has become smaller and easier to manage. Sometimes we socialise between meetings and occasionally have a pre-meeting lunch.

We have tried to keep pace with all the technical changes, starting with amplifiers, followed by multiple disc players, DVDs, surround sound, and now Blu-ray: (sounds like a quirky ad for an elderly lady's hair rinse). We are also being persuaded to purchase and store our music on a digital 'Cloud'. Maybe it could be useful in a later life?

The group now has ten members. We meet every two weeks on a Monday afternoon at a member's house. The programme usually lasts about two and a half hours, including a 20-minute tea break.

Anyone keen on listening and learning about classical music would be very welcome.

Peter Boyes



# Group News

## Groups in recess:

Metaphysics 1  
Technology old & new  
Tramping

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**Bucket Group:** Next Course begins Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May.  
**Convener:** Janet Ormsby  
Phone: 576 5008 to see if there are any vacancies. There is a small wait list for another course later in the year.

**Café Book Lovers Group 2**  
There are a number of names on the list for this group, but more are required to start the group.

**Computer Support C**  
This course is full but names are being taken for the next course.

**Computer: Learning Power Point**  
The next three-week course begins on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. It is full, but names are being taken for another course.

**Ethnic Dining 4**  
This popular group is full but names are being taken for another group.

## French for Travellers

This beginners group will meet in early July, date and day to be advised.

Tutor: Sue Rawson  
Venue: to be advised  
Time: 4.30 - 6.30pm  
or 7.00 - 9.00pm

## Vacancies

**Bridge:** contact -  
Audrey Richardson: Ph 578 7617

**Current Events A:** contact -  
Monica Goulden: Ph 579 0131

**Geography:** contact -  
Judy Jones: Ph 576 9740

**Luncheon Group (1):** contact -  
Janet Ormsby Ph 576 5008

**Travel Group:** contact -  
Lesley Hollis: Ph 575 6527

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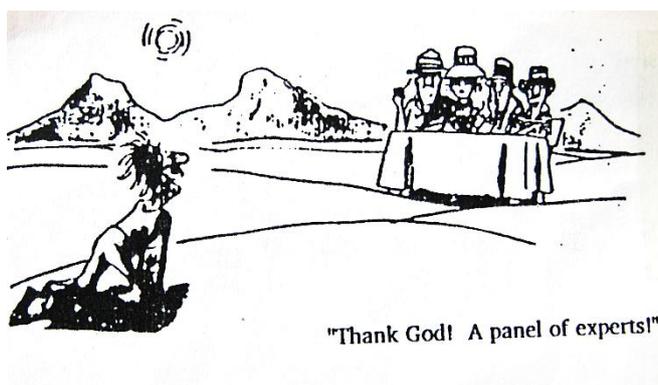
**Suggested New Groups** include the following:

Chess	Genealogy (2)
PhotoShop	Spanish
Public Speaking	Italian
Luncheon Group (2)	

## For more information contact:

**Groups: A - F**  
Vivienne Mills  
Phone - 579 1148

**Groups: G - Z**  
Jean Garmonsway  
Phone - 579 1918



# NEWS FLASH

**From June 2012**

**Admission  
to the General Meeting will be  
\$4.00**

## **General Meetings**

Held on 3rd Friday of the month at 9.00am in the Wesley Church Hall,  
13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tauranga

**Friday 18 May 2012**

**Speaker:** Dave Billington, Tauranga Response and Recovery Manager  
from Marine NZ

**Friday 15 June 2012**

**Speaker:** Max Mason, Chamber of Commerce, on Local Government and  
Rates.

## **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.

## **Facts and Figures to Date**

Membership: 648

Groups: 78

**The next newsletter is due in early July. All contributions must be in  
before 20 June 2012, so please note we will not accept material about  
groups after this date. They need to be short, up to 200 words.**

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

**NB: The editors advise that when necessary, all members' written contributions  
may be edited.**