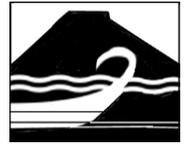




U3A Tauranga Inc.

NEWSLETTER

September 2014



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20th anniversary of Tauranga U3A

Get a party together
from your group, and
enjoy a great day out!
Wives, husbands and
partners
are encouraged to
come, too. We really
need your support.

**Date: 27 March,
2015**

**Place: Tauranga Yacht
& Power Boat Club.**

**(more details in the next
Newsletter).**

GROUP NEWS – September 2014

For more information, check the U3A website www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Group Coordinators

Marlene (A-F) Ph 570 6055

Jean (G-Z) Ph 579 1918

Groups closed/in recess:

Discover It

Many thanks to Jane Kemp who has convened this group and has worked hard to keep it going.

New group suggestions:

Photography 3

A photography group that would meet in the afternoons. This new group would learn together how to use the digital camera to produce good quality photographs. If you are interested in joining please contact Jean Garmonsway, 579 1918.

Yoga for Beginners, or Easy Yoga

Use it or you lose it! Most people make the decision to grow old whether they know it or not. It basically comes down to the comment 'Use it or lose it'! Old age and the associated illnesses that come with it are big business.

Prevention is the best medicine that one could invest in. That is why yoga is the greatest form of exercise there is. You use it so how could you lose it?

If you are keen to keep fit and well with gentle exercise, join the Yoga for Beginners group. Contact Jean Garmonsway, 579 1918, and be added to the list of other members who are keen to start Yoga.

Wait Lists: names are being taken for the following groups which are full:

Astronomy

Current Events (All groups)

Ethnic Dining (All groups)

Genealogy (Both groups)

Geography (1 vacancy)

History of NZ – last 1,000 years

Memoirs

Music Appreciation 1

Opera Appreciation1

Philosophy (All groups)

Science Today

The Hikers 1

General Items:

1. Geography Group.

We meet monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at various members' homes. At the beginning of the year we choose which countries we want to cover over the course of the year, and try to look at all aspects of the countries, from the history to environmental issues and tourism.

One country I found really fascinating was Brunei, which is on the northwest coast of the island of Borneo in the South China Sea, surrounded by Malaysia.

It's a small country of 5,770 sq km. (compared to New Zealand with a land mass of 268,021 km²). Being near the equator Brunei has consistently high temperatures and elevated humidity levels with significant rainfall.

There are rain forests, fertile hilly lowland with mountain ranges to the East, numerous rivers draining into the South China Sea, and wide swampy plains.

As early as the 6th century Brunei was trading with, and paying tribute to, China, before coming under the influence of Hinduism. Sultans have ruled through the ages, but internal strife caused the decline of their power, and in 1888 Brunei became a British protectorate.

During WW2 the Japanese occupied the country. Britain returned after the war, and the country slowly worked towards independence from 1959 – 1984. A form of ministerial government was introduced with the sultan and his family taking up all the positions. Today the politics of Brunei take place in a framework of an absolute monarchy, where the Sultan is both head of state and head of the government. No elections are held.

The estimated population is 416,000, made up of mainly Malays and Chinese; the official language is Malay and Islam is the official religion.

Brunei has a small but wealthy economy it can be summed up in two words OIL and GAS. It's the fourth largest oil producer in South East Asia. Petrol is

cheap. It imports about 80% of its food requirements and the government subsidises certain food staples plus housing, electricity, water and oil, as well as providing free medical services and education through to university level. There are pensions for the elderly, widows, orphans and invalids. Brunei citizens and residents do not pay any taxes to finance these benefits.

Alcohol is not sold, but private consumption by non-Muslims is allowed. There is a wide range of open-markets and restaurants in the main towns offering meals of rice and curries of vegetables, fish, shellfish and fruits. Pork is forbidden to Muslims

Brunei is home to many endangered wildlife species, among them the “primate king” of Borneo, the Orang Utang, plus snakes, lizards, frogs, and butterflies (the most beautiful butterfly in the world, the Rajah Brooke’s Birdwing can be found here). Insects are abundant, as are crocodiles.. Brunei also contains over 1800 plant species, such as flowering mangroves, bamboo, creepers and orchids.

The government’s policy is that everyone has the right to own a house. The Sultan himself lives in a palace with 1,788 rooms and 257 bathrooms. It’s considered to be the world’s second-largest palace after Beijing’s Forbidden City, and reportedly has a 110-car garage, an air-conditioned stable for the Sultan’s 200 polo ponies, and five swimming pools.

In 2012 he had five sons and seven daughters with his three wives. The royal family own property and businesses all around the world

How easy it is to travel from your armchair, and that is what our geography group members do each month!

Joan Malcouronne, Convener Geography Group

2. Norfolk Island “New tricks for Old Dogs”

On Behalf of U3A Norfolk Island we would like to pass on an invitation from Chairperson Barb Kelly to join them on beautiful Norfolk Island for some [special events planned in conjunction with U3A Norfolk Island](#).

Hello from the U3A network’s newest member! We have been incorporated for just on twelve months, have 63 members, and have just completed our first semester of classes and groups. It has been a very busy year and we owe our success partly to the support we have received from the rest of you,

including a very welcome seeding grant from the NSWU3A Network. Although we are a relatively small community of about 1500 people, there has been a huge interest shown in U3A, both to learn and to teach, plus lots of support from our local community - our local school, radio station, newspaper, supermarket, and others - to assist us in providing venues, advertising, interviews, articles, etc. We are working now to organise our second semester of classes, so it's onward and upward from here on!

We live on a unique island which we like to share with the rest of the world and we are very keen for you to visit us. A promotional flyer can be seen on our website, inviting you and your fellow U3A-ers to visit U3A Norfolk Island and to share in some of our very unusual cultural events throughout the year. We have worked hard to make sure that your visit will be stimulating, motivating, interesting and very definitely entertaining. We are most appreciative that the Norfolk Island Travel Centre is going to donate \$10 to U3A NI, for every booking – that is a very supportive and generous gesture and will bring in some additional income that will come in handy, especially if we want to participate in any mainland U3A activities in the future. We are particularly excited about sharing some of our local U3A activities with you and would be delighted if you offered to be a guest speaker while you were here – that would add some new “brain food” to our local mix. We would easily be able to move some things around to accommodate that.

Please get in touch with the Norfolk Island Travel Centre if you would like any more information about the trips.

We very much look forward to meeting you in the future.

Kind Regards,

Barbara Kelly, U3A NI Chairperson
president@norfolkisland.u3anet.org.au

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Please share this information with your U3A friends and family.

3. PIANIST WANTED ONCE A MONTH.

The U3A "Singing For Joy" Group is losing their wonderful pianist at the end of this year. Rona Murdoch has done a great job playing her keyboard at nearly every meeting for a number of years. Unfortunately she is having to relinquish this position and the group is looking for someone to take over next year.

They meet for two hours twice a month, and need a pianist who has their own keyboard, and is able to play a selection of tunes by ear.

If you are able to assist or know of anyone who can help, please contact the convener Maggie Windsor-Brown, ph 573 8164



General Meetings

Held on 3rd Friday of the month at 10.00am in the Wesley Church Hall,
13th Avenue, Tauranga.

Speaker for Friday 19 September 2014:

U3A Member Anna Andrews. The title of her subject is **One coup after another! - My Career in the Diplomatic Service.**

Facts and Figures to Date

Membership as at August 2014:	661	Groups:	81
		Courses	5

The next newsletter is due in November 2014. All contributions must be in before 31 October 2014, so please note we will not accept material after this date. They need to be short, up to 200 words, and may be edited.

Editor: *Beryl Crowther* phone 544-4113 gbcrowther@gmail.com