



U3A Tauranga Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

## July 2015



PO Box 14453, Tauranga 3143

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

### President

**Vivienne Mills:** 574-3133

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### Vice President

Position vacant.

### Past President

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### Treasurer

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### Secretary

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### Handbook / Group Co-ordinators

#### Groups A to F

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### Newsletter Editor

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### Committee Support

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July's an interesting month – added to the calendar by Julius Caesar; the beautiful colours of the larkspur flower attributed to it, as is the ruby as a birthstone; painters Rembrandt and Reynolds were born; it's an excuse for a country's celebration on the 4<sup>th</sup> after the signing of the Declaration of Independence – and so on...

Our speaker on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July will continue this interest – he is Simon Barker, who is Operations Manager for Tauranga Coastguard Services.

Brave the elements on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and add to your store of knowledge!

## **GROUP NEWS – July 2015**

For more information, check the U3A website  
[www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](http://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

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The numbers at some groups are low due to members going overseas. Most groups have vacancies, but none have closed.

### **Groups in recess, or changing times:**

**Opera 2** is in recess until August.

**Memoirs** group will complete the current course and then go into recess until February 2016. A waiting list is already in place.

### **Yoga 1 - Change of Venue & Time**

Yoga 1 has moved to the Wesley Church, 13th Avenue, Tauranga. There is a time change to a 10.00am start until 11.30am.

### **Brain Games/Quiz: On hold.**

U3A Whakatane “lost” the opportunity to come to Tauranga using some of the travel funds applied for last year. However, they would be very pleased to welcome the opportunity to play against us in the future.

### **New Members Meeting:**

The next New Members Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 29th July at 2.00pm, in the small hall at the Wesley Church, and new members will be contacted about this shortly. If you are unable to contact either of the group coordinators, Jean or Marlene, please contact Vivienne ph. 574 3133 and she will direct you to the appropriate member or group who can help you.

### **Please note:**

There is a correction to the phone number given in the previous newsletter for our Almoner, Doris Hamer; it should read 571 8184.

## Committee News.

It was lovely to see 140 members at the May General Meeting. A number of groups had gone to a lot of trouble to set up displays and photos of these were put on the U3A web site. An enthusiastic audience enjoyed the items by the Ukulele Group and Singing for Joy. The Spanish Language Group sang El Condor Pasa in Spanish, accompanied by the Ukulele players, with the tutor putting the actions to the words. It is great when groups can combine to present activities.



Now the cooler weather is here, member numbers in groups has dropped, as people head overseas to warmer climates, and illness hits harder in the winter months. The same has happened with committee members, with some coming back and more heading away, to Europe and England, during the next couple of months. Illness has plagued a few and we wish them a speedy recovery in weeks to come.

We welcome **Julia Weiersmuller** to the committee. Julia is helping the group coordinators with their many tasks and will send out email newsletters to members. This leaves Jean free to step into the Vice President's role later in the year.

The Website is continuously being updated so do take time to have a look at the up to date photos and group news.

The Data Management Group is meeting regularly and the new database has already been developed to a very advanced stage. We thank John Hollenberg for his input with this and the committee members who have offered suggestions with layout, along the way.

Thanks to John Powell and Graeme Wilson for their liaison role between this group and the committee, while Chris has been away.

In the meantime keep warm and stay well.

Vivienne Mills, President.



## **PLEASE KEEP YOUR PLASTIC MILK BOTTLE TOPS**

It was a pleasure to welcome Brenda from Maungatapu Kindergarten to give us a talk at the last general meeting. The kindergarten ladies have been providing our morning tea for the last 15 years and are grateful for our support. Brenda used a power point display to tell us about the programme they provide at the kindergarten, and how different aspects of play relate to learning and education.

Brenda explained that coloured milk bottle tops are valuable to enhance play activities especially when hammers and nails are at hand! She asked if we could keep the plastic tops in a container to leave at the general meetings, when the kindergarten ladies are present.



## Hikers 2

U3A is all about meeting people, making friends and having fun! Hikers 2 had a very enjoyable and amusing evening recently at a pot luck dinner at the home of one of its members, Dudley Wade-French, who organised the event.



Dudley had organised his dining room to resemble a restaurant! Fifteen people attended and everyone contributed towards the food and drink. The conversation flowed along with the wine! There were jokes a plenty, stories of hiking adventures, discussions, the sharing of experiences and music and Dudley presented some of the videos he had taken on our hikes. Who remembers Candid Camera??

## Ukulele Group.



In February this year a new interest group was formed for those interested in playing the ukulele. One of the co-convenors did not have a ukulele so went out to purchase one. The group started on the 16 February with 15 persons who met at a private home, but it was very soon decided that they would need

larger premises. The Petanque Hall on Cliff Road was to be the future hall for our activities.

We had a member who was able to lead, and supply endless music via email. We now have a second person so the duties are shared.

We have a drummer, Reg Adams, and a bass guitarist, Syd Jackson, who help with the rhythm, and we have many songs to choose from. We meet every Monday from 2 – 4pm.



### **New Zealand History.**

This group was established in 2014. We are small at present – 8 members – and thoroughly enjoy our first Tuesday of the month sessions, 9.30 – 11.30. We each take a turn, preparing a 10 -15 minute talk on one aspect of our topic. This makes for an interesting and informative morning as we present our findings in our own way – no chance of falling asleep in this group.

We meet in members' homes, with a mid-morning cuppa and a snack.

Topics covered so far:

Geological origin and formation of New Zealand

First peoples

Early missionaries

The New Zealand Company and the Wakefields

The Mission Station and Tauranga

We have also had two field trips – one to “The Elms” (one of our members is an Elms guide), the second to the Gate Pa site. We also had our Christmas lunch at the Historic Village which we preceded with a tour of the village.

Two of our members are of Scandinavian origin and have deviated to learn of the early Skandi settlements with a few personal stories thrown in. This year we have moved to the wider Bay of Plenty, each of us giving a short presentation on its early history, growth and development to the present day. This has been interesting as many of us have personal knowledge of our chosen town. Plans for the year include the Canterbury settlement and, when the weather warms up a bit, a trip to look at the history of Katikati as depicted in the murals there. Whoever said that history was boring? Geoff Bendall, Convenor.



### **U3A Web Development Group.**

This is one of the more visible groups in U3A Tauranga. Just 'Google' U3A Tauranga or ask 'Bing'. Here members critique ideas, seek feedback from users and report to the group who they have talked to about the web site. We want to know what is relevant to our users, and welcome any comments.

The group is grateful to the contributors who send in the group information; Ukulele, Cycling, Weekend Walkers, Hikers 1 and 2, Travel Group, and others are featured in the Group Noticeboards. The Photography Groups show their work on the Galleries page. It would be nice to have other groups send in articles.

Many members have travelled or are about to travel - do you have a snippet to share on the Forum page? Is there a local issue to report? An interesting picture to show? Your content is needed for your web site.

<http://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz/>

Please e-mail your articles to [webmaster@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:webmaster@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

**Keeping the web site dynamic and up to date has many benefits.  
Your articles are what will keep it fresh.**

## General Meetings

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

The speaker at our next General Meeting on Friday 17th July will be Simon Barker, who is Operations Manager for Tauranga Coastguard Services.

## 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.

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## **Facts and Figures to Date**

Membership as at May 2015: 699

Groups:

A – F 42

G – Z 47

Courses 4

Total 93

**The next newsletter is due in September 2015.** All contributions must be in before 31 August 2015. They should be short, about 200 words, and may be edited.

**Editor:** *Beryl Crowther* phone 544-4113  
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