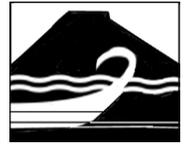




U3A Tauranga Inc.

NEWSLETTER

May 2015



PO Box 14453
TAURANGA 3143

www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

President

Vivienne Mills: 574-3133
mills_viv@clear.net.nz

Vice President

Position vacant.

Past President

Chris Hector: 548-2704
chector@waikato.ac.nz

Treasurer

Peter Benson: 570-0570
peterjgbenson@yahoo.com.au

Secretary

Lati Moodie: 574 9028
latimoodie@gmail.com

Handbook / Group Co-ordinators

Groups A to F

Marlene McLaren: 570 6055
marls.mclaren@gmail.com

Groups G to Z

Jean Garmonsway: 579 1918
pommyj123@xtra.co.nz

Membership

Winn Tipping: 570-2370
tipping11@slingshot.co.nz

Newsletter Editor

Beryl Crowther: 544-4113
gbcrowther@gmail.com

Speakers Organiser

Joan Gooch: 021 022 32817
joanjimgooch@gmail.com

Photographer

Alan Freer: 576-5243
al.freer@ihug.co.nz

Committee Support

Raewyn McAlonan 543 2974
raewynmcalonan@xtra.co.nz

Rob Heath 574 6468

robrosemary8@gmail.com

Webmaster

Brian Wood 574 6323
ywoodb@yahoo.com

Database

Gael Smart 543 0209
finnecy@kinect.co.nz

KEEPING WARM IN THE MAY WINDS?



GET THAT INNER GLOW BY LOOKING OVER THE GROUP ACTIVITIES AT THE MEETING ON FRIDAY MAY 15!

U3A Tauranga 20th Anniversary

On 27 March 2015, U3A Tauranga Inc celebrated its 20th Anniversary at the Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club, Sulphur Point. Over 200 people, mostly members, attended.

No one had time to get bored. We had a lively debate between Tauranga Boys' College and Tauranga Girls' College arguing we can learn new tricks, or why we can't; a few anecdotal tales of our early days from members, including a short talk about the very successful 2002 conference by Thelma Cane on behalf of Ken Rose, who was unable to present it due to sudden illness; a wonderful harmonious barbershop quartet called 'Rendezvous'; a selection of toe-tapping music from Doug Harvey and finally, our keynote speaker, Sir Ray Avery, an Englishman turned Kiwi, reminding us that we should be proud to be New Zealanders because we don't ever say we can't do something; we simply say 'let's try'!

It was a busy, but most enjoyable day with three of the original 1995 steering committee, Juliet Rice, Betty Clethero, Marie Frendrup, cutting the anniversary cake which we enjoyed with a final, refreshing cup of tea.

On behalf of the U3A 20th Anniversary sub-committee, I would like to mention a few people who helped make the occasion a very special one.

A huge thank you to our Webmaster, Brian Wood, who spent hours choosing old photos from our archives and making them into a 'down memory lane' power point display; our photographer, Alan Freer, who wandered around the venue all day snapping us when we least expected it; Ken Leonard who kept the debating teams in order; Tess Scully and Gareth Cass, teachers from Tauranga Boys' and Girls' Colleges; Doug Harvey, who played the music and agreed to be our MC; Peter Benson, our very able treasurer and finally, the wonderful team of Jean Garmonsway, Viv Mills, Joan Gooch, Thelma Cane & Marlene McLaren who has spent six months planning the event.

The U3A 20th Anniversary sub-committee has had nothing but encouragement from everybody involved in the planning and running of the occasion, and we would like to say thank you to every one of you, especially our sponsors TECT and Pub Charities.

Angela Dold
Convenor – U3A 20th Anniversary Sub-committee.

COMMITTEE NEWS

With the March anniversary day behind us we move on to the next celebration, the General Meeting in May, which will be the anniversary of the actual start date for U3A 20 years ago. There was an informative article about U3A in the ANZAC weekend Sun Live paper, with a lovely photo of one of the foundation members, Betty Clethero.

The celebration in May involves the groups, which is after all, what U3A is all about. Groups will be putting out displays, or presenting items. It will be a fun morning with active participation, an opportunity to see what other groups do, and to meet up with friends and acquaintances, over an extended morning tea.

At the committee meeting in April it was noted with some concern that at least five committee members will be travelling during the year. Remaining committee members will work hard to keep the show on the road and with vacancies on the committee, it is evident that we really need support.

Committee vacancies include a **Vice President** and people with **computer knowledge**. Also an **archivist** is needed to put some order to the many papers in boxes, held in the church hall cupboard, plus the file from the recent anniversary day. Jean Garmonsway has indicated she is willing to step into the Vice President role if there are at least two members to take over the group coordinator role.

Committee meetings are held on the second Friday of the month at Wesley Church, 13th Avenue, 9.30 to 11.30am. If you are able to join our friendly U3A committee team, give me a call, or see me at the general meeting in May.

Our almoner Doris Hamer likes to keep in touch with members who are unwell. If you know of a member in your group, who is in hospital, or unwell, please give Doris a call - phone 570 0257.

Vivienne Mills
President

GROUP NEWS – May 2015

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

Groups with vacancies:

Current Events A, C and F; Antiques & Collectables, Luncheon Group 1, Hikers 2, Opera 2, Yoga 1 & 2, Scrabble, Computer Support B and History B.

Genealogy 2 has two vacancies, Geology has one vacancy and Philosophy 2 has two vacancies.

Philosophy 3 has two vacancies due to members travelling overseas. Please contact the Convener: Judith Callow, phone: 552 6755

Memoirs

The next course for the Memoirs group starts in late July to early December. So far 5 names are on the list - so there are still 5 vacancies.

A further 10 sessions are being offered to any members who have already done the first course [either last year or this year]. If there is sufficient interest this will also run from July – .Dec.

If you are interested in either of these courses please contact the Convener: Chris Parkes, phone: 07 323 8948

Groups closed or in recess:

German and Philosophy 1 have closed.
Ancient History is in recess until August.

Groups Full & Waiting Lists:

Horticulture & Gardening is full. If you would like to join this group or a similar group please contact Jean Garmonsway, 579 1918, and she will add you to a waiting list.

Brain Games/Quiz



U3A Whakatane are interested in getting together for a Quiz/Brain games activity. This was suggested by U3A Whakatane last year but we had too much going on with the 20th Anniversary. However, we can now think about organising this quiz. The members from Whakatane will travel to Tauranga, so it's just a

small matter of organising a team or teams and finding a time, place and date that suits.

If you are interested in this, following on last year's suggestion, please contact Jean.

French Conversation Group

This group meets at members' homes on the first and third Thursday of the month. Ouida Rice is the convener - ph 579 1979. To join this group you need some knowledge of French.

A group photo is attached,



Pen Whisperers.

The Pen Whisperers group thought that other members of the U3A might be interested in some of the activities that take place during our meetings. Each week we read the stories we have written for homework and discuss them. One of our members gives a talk on an aspect of story writing, or sets a quiz to stretch our minds. Another member sets the homework, and yet another chooses a word that must be included in the story we write. This word must be special in some way - a new word, a favourite word, a beautiful word, an onomatopoeic word or just a fun word.

For our last homework we had written odes, and now Janet Ormsby is putting them into a booklet. We also produced a booklet of some of our stories at Christmas.

One of the activities that take place during the meeting is the 'quick write'. With the stimulation of an article, a word, a song title or some such we have ten minutes in which to write a story with a beginning, middle and an end. I have attached one of **George Montgomery's** "quick writes". The story was stimulated by the word, 'Teeth'. (George is known for his dramatic endings!)

I joined the group four years ago when I first came to New Zealand, and it has played a very important part in my life during those four years. Most of the members have been coming longer than me, and we are a well-knit, friendly group, applauding, criticizing, and encouraging each other's work and enjoying each other's company. I for one feel mentally fully stretched and stimulated after each meeting.

Mary Koukourakis, Convener, *Pen Whisperers.*

MY TEETH.

During our struggle he pushed me over the edge of the recently discovered sinkhole at the back of my farm. I screamed with fear and by luck grasped the dangling rope left by a previous exploration. The pain was intense, as my hands slid down the coarse fibre, but I had only fallen a foot or so. The fear of the jagged rocks below caused me to grip hard and haul myself upwards.

The angry face of the cattle rustler glared down at me, astounded at my attempt to rescue myself. He quickly withdrew. I was near the edge when he appeared again with a knife and, screaming incoherently, he sawed at the rope. In desperation,



using every fibre of my body, I lurched upwards and with all my might sank my teeth to the bone of his fleshy hand. Screams became louder. I was free falling. "No! No!" I shouted, cursing my false teeth still attached to the rustler's hand.

New Mac User group:

The existing Mac User group convened by Betty Clethero is full, so if there is enough member interest, we could start another group. This group would meet in Bethlehem, possibly on the 3rd Monday of the month, to share the challenges and possibilities involved in using Apple Mac laptops. The group would include newbies who are just getting started with a Mac, and experienced users. If you think you could be interested, email Julia Weiersmuller (juliaw@orcon.net.nz) to be in the loop for information.

Mac tip for travellers : The digital cameras included with iPhone, Android, and many others, have an option to geotag pictures, effectively pinpointing the exact location a photo was taken and bundling that geographic location data into the metadata of a picture. So on your laptop you can see a map precisely locating that image. Useful for those images where you can't quite remember

Conveners' Meeting

The Conveners' Meeting took place on Thursday, 30th April at 10.00am at the Wesley Church. Thirty-nine Conveners attended, with 17 apologies. Items on the Agenda included the following:

Insurance: Insurance of U3A equipment at members' homes. It was suggested that the items should be included in their domestic contents policy.

Meet and Greet: Conveners were asked if their group could participate with this over the next three months. One group responded, The Hikers group 2. Other groups are needed for the following months.

Distribution of minutes: Jean explained that the committee minutes are unable to be sent out until they have been ratified at the next month's meeting. She said that the group reports are put on to the Web the same day as the meeting.

Ideas:

- Print off the minutes and put them up on a board at the following general meeting.
- Send minutes to every member.
- Advise group members that the minutes are on the website.
- Send minutes to every convener to send to their group members.

Newsletters: Conveners have been asked to send articles and photos to Beryl Crowther to print in the newsletter.

Booklet: Elizabeth Reeves has agreed to update the next U3A booklet. No personal addresses will be printed in the booklet under groups.

New database: In the new database being set up there will be a list of every member in each group. A template will be sent to each convener to record the name, phone number, mobile number, and email of their group members. Send this to Jean, who will need to know who comes into a group and who leaves, to keep the data up to date.

The purpose of this is to monitor group numbers, and to know who has not paid their subscription. It also enables the coordinators to contact members if there are changes to conveners and venues etc.

Web news: Brian explained that the website is important for the Treasurer to make funding applications for U3A, and to inform the general public about U3A. He said he had to change the information every day to keep the website at the top of the list. He suggested that younger members in groups could send group content to the website. If articles and photos are sent to Brian he can send it to the convener with a link. The convener can then send it on to group members.

Alan Freer asked for a group to feature as group of the month.

Jean discussed the plan for the May General Meeting when group items and displays will be held. She had easels and boards to hand out.

Finally, thanks were extended to all conveners for the management, organisation, and support they gave to their groups.

May General Meeting:

There has been a good response to the Groups Involvement for the May General Meeting. To date there are 10 groups who will present items and 9 groups who will present displays.

An interesting item from Gisborne U3A:

NZ Music Month is officially underway – New Zealand’s annual celebration of home-grown music and the people who make it! NZ Music Month is a promotion run by the NZ Music Commission that takes place each May, in association with other organisations including NZ On Air, Recorded Music New Zealand, APRA, The Music Managers Forum, and the Radio Broadcasters Association – see www.nzmusicmonth.co.nz

It’s 31 days of celebrating local music in our venues, libraries, schools, parks, and on our screens, with over 700 events around the country listed,

U3A Tauranga website

As a member you can submit articles of interest to members.

Each group category has a ‘Groups Noticeboard’ where group activities can be shown. Tell the world by having a group member write a short article about each meeting.

Here is a place where members, who put time into research for their own group, can share their results. The ‘Hiking Noticeboard’ has a following around the world where families can see where their parents have been. One follower is with a similar group in a Central London U3A.

Another section that should be better utilised is the ‘Dining Noticeboard’ where our groups can report where they have been. This will help other groups and people who are considering where to meet friends.

A picture says a thousand words - have you got some to share with everyone?

Articles of a general nature are in a ‘Forum’ page, but this has moved to the footer menu because it has not been supported. When you supply fresh content it will return to the header menu.

A thank you to our regular contributors; interesting to learn they have followers looking for their latest U3A activity to be posted!

Go to <http://www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz/> to view the web site, or any search of the internet for U3A Tauranga will give a link. Articles please by e-mail to webmaster@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

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

Public seminars – Commission for Financial Capability

Dear U3A Central and Southern North Island Regional Leaders,

I would be very grateful if you can disseminate this information to your respective regional members, and encourage their support and warm invitation to register for our upcoming seminars in their areas. The details of event locations and dates and times are on our website link further below.

We have one each in Hamilton, Tauranga and Wellington of note to your groups, amongst others. See the link below for the full venue list.

Free seminar for people thinking of living in a retirement village

The Commission for Financial Capability is running free seminars about living in retirement villages in your regions.

These seminars are for intending retirement village residents and their families. The seminars focus on things to consider before choosing to live in a retirement village and practical tips before you sign up to live in a retirement village.

Speakers from the Commission, Retirement Village Association and legal profession will discuss types of retirement village structure, costs and operations. The seminars will also explain some important resident's rights and where you can find out more information.

The seminars are 90 minutes long and include question and answer time throughout. Tea, coffee, and light refreshments provided.

EVENT REGISTRATION

Register online at www.cffc.org.nz/what-we-do/retirement-villages/ or call [0800 268 269](tel:0800268269). Places are limited and registering attendance is essential.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide more information. I look forward to seeing you at the seminars.

Troy Churton | Retirement Villages – Programme Strategy
Commission for Financial Capability: *Building Wealthy Lives*

direct [09 356 1443](tel:093561443)

mobile 021 042 1110

email troy.churton@cffc.org.nz

address Quay Building, Level 3, 108 Quay Street, Auckland Central
1010 | PO Box 106-056, Auckland City 1143, New Zealand

cffc.org.nz | sorted.org.nz | moneyweek.org.nz

General Meetings

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

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 Groups 39

G-Z Groups 48

87

Courses 4

The next newsletter is due in July 2015. All contributions must be in before 30 June 2015, 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