



U3A Tauranga Inc.

# NEWSLETTER

## September 2015



PO Box 14453, Tauranga 3143

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

**President**

Vivienne Mills: 574-3133

**Vice President**

Position vacant.

**Immediate Past President**

Chris Hector: 548-2704

**Treasurer**

Peter Benson: 570-0570

[treasurer@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:treasurer@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

**Secretary and general enquiries**

Lati Moodie: 574 9028

[u3atauranga@gmail.com](mailto:u3atauranga@gmail.com)

**Handbook / Group Co-ordinators**

**Groups A to F**

Marlene McLaren: 570 6055

[a2f.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:a2f.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

**Groups G to Z**

Julia Weiersmuller 09 817 6038

[publications@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:publications@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

**Membership**

Winn Tipping: 570-2370

**Newsletter Editor**

Beryl Crowther: 544-4113

**Speakers Organiser**

Joan Gooch: 021 022 32817

**Photographer**

Alan Freer: 576-5243

**Committee Support**

Raewyn McAlonan 543 2974

Julia Weiersmuller 09 817 6038

[publications@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:publications@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

Rob Heath 574 6468

**Webmaster**

Brian Wood 574 6323

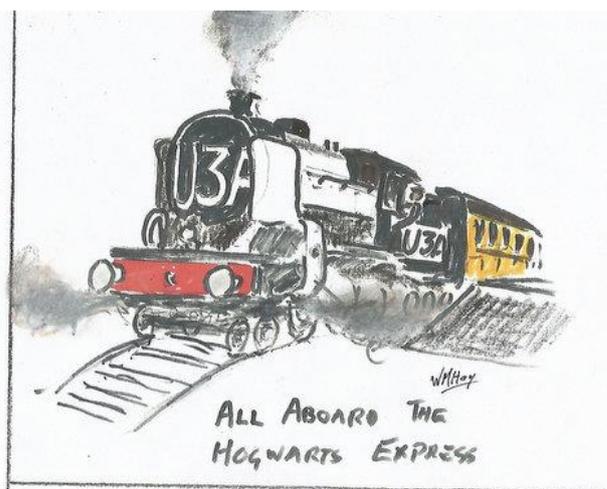
**Database**

Gael Smart 543 0209

It's the time of the year to start thinking about nominations for 2016 Committee members – please consider yourself or a friend for one of these positions, and complete and hand in the form in this newsletter, at our next meeting on Friday 18 September.

Our speaker for this meeting will be Professor Chris Battershill from the Environmental Research Institute, The University of Waikato.

William (Bill) Hay, from the Art Practical group, shows that we're all in this together!



## **U3A Tauranga Inc**

### **Notice of Election General Meeting - Friday 20 November 2015**

You will recall that amendments to our Constitution were passed at a meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013, such that a Special General Meeting (Election General Meeting) shall be held in November of each calendar year.

This is held to elect our Officers for the following year and also to set the annual subscription payable by members by 31 March of the following year.

Several current committee members will be resigning this year, so please consider offering your services for these positions and/or persuade a friend to accept nomination.

Note that the Officers elected at this Election General Meeting will take office at the Annual General Meeting in February 2016 after the adoption of the 2015 accounts.

#### **Notice is hereby given as follows:**

**An Election General Meeting of U3A Tauranga Inc. is to be held for the purposes of electing officers and setting the annual subscription for 2016.**

**Date and Time: Friday 20 November 2015 at 10.00 am Venue: Wesley Methodist Church, 100 13th Avenue, Tauranga**

**The following Executive Committee Positions are open for nomination:**

**President**

**Vice President**

**Treasurer**

**Secretary**

**3 Group Co-ordinators**

**Publications Secretary**

**Membership Secretary**

**Meetings & Speakers Organiser**

**Committee Support (non-portfolio positions)**

Attached for your use is a copy of the nomination form. This form must be received by the Secretary or Acting Secretary by the starting time of the Election General Meeting. In addition all positions will be open for nomination from the floor at the Election General Meeting.



## COMMITTEE NEWS

Winter is fast disappearing and it is lovely to see the spring flowers coming out in the garden.

Nigel Wilson gave an interesting talk about his family history associated with the Elms, at the August General Meeting, with over 100 U3A members in attendance.

Pam Foster, Tutor nurse at The BOP Polytech, requested some input from U3A members to meet with first year degree trainee nurses.

Thanks to Elaine Hollins for liaising on this. Two successful meetings were held during August with one more in September to discuss aging, physically, mentally and socially, in the later years.

Our Election General Meeting, when we elect our Executive Committee for 2016, will take place in November, and we have a number of important positions to fill. Official notice of this and a nomination form are included in this newsletter and are also available on the website.

We have welcomed a number of U3A members as guests at committee meetings and had interest shown in some vacant positions. Peter our treasurer is resigning, and Jean is standing down from her position as coordinator and is seeking nomination as Vice President. Lati is resigning from the secretarial position and that leaves us with big shoes to fill. With the number of groups now exceeding 80 the committee have decided that we need more coordinators to manage the groups.

At this point it is important to note that we are a voluntary organisation with no paid committee meetings. Therefore we do not have an expectation of professional outcomes, and appreciate any time members have to give, either on the committee, or in a supportive role.

The November Election Meeting is the last U3A General Meeting for the year and while the first half covers the serious stuff, a fun morning with displays from the groups and items will follow, plus the Christmas morning tea.

I look forward to seeing you at the September General Meeting when Professor Chris Battershill will discuss marine ecosystems and research being undertaken by his team.

Vivienne Mills  
President

## **GROUP NEWS**

A very successful new members meeting was held in July with over 30 members attending. A warm welcome is extended to you all.

### **Groups Closed:**

**Metaphysics** has closed. Many thanks to Mike Trow for convening this group. Your input was much appreciated.

### **Changes**

**Calligraphy** is no longer a U3A group. It is being privately tutored outside U3A.

**Digital Photography for Beginners:** Don Sewell is no longer able to tutor the basic 3 week course to learn how to use your digital camera. Brian Woods has agreed to tutor future courses, thank you Brian. Contact Marlene or Vivienne to put your name down. When there are enough members the group will be started.

Marlene Ph.570 6055, Vivienne 574 3133

### **New Venue needed.**

**Jazz and Blues Appreciation.** A keen and knowledgeable group of music lovers are in need of a meeting place. For the past 10 years they have been hosted in the home of George and Dorothy Stewart, who would like to take a break. Finding another meeting place that has a quality sound system and can seat 12 people is a problem. Any music lovers out there who can step in and keep this group going? Email Julia if you think you could help. [publications@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:publications@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

## **New Groups in popular categories, 2015**

U3A is about teaching and learning. Members share their skills and life experiences: the learners teach, the teachers learn and there is no distinction between them.

U3A Tauranga has 700+ members and more than 80 groups. Some groups have become very popular, and have a full complement of members and a waiting list.

So the committee has decided to look at the possibility of starting new groups in these popular categories.

How will it work?

All the groups listed below are full. We are asking for expressions of interest from people keen to join a new group with similar goals. If we get a minimum of 6 people expressing interest, someone from the committee will convene an initial meeting and the potential new members can discuss their goals, their existing knowledge (if any) and

meeting times. At that time a convener will emerge – a convener’s role is more being a facilitator for group members to teach each other and doesn’t require any in-depth knowledge. It could be you!

If you’d like more information about the role of a convener, get in touch:  
 Vivienne Mills : Ph 574 3133 [a2f.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:a2f.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

Julia Weiersmuller : Ph 09 8176038 [publications@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz](mailto:publications@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz)

Art Practical 2	Explore various media and share ideas of how to use them.	Vivienne
Antiques & Collectibles 2	Members bring something along - possibly found in the garage - and discuss it over a cup of tea	Vivienne
Book Lovers 4	Members who enjoy reading and sharing books, both fiction and non-fiction	Vivienne
Buildings & Cities 2	Members examine local and overseas buildings and cities -architectural styles, design and place in history	Vivienne
Current Events G	Members bring items of current interest to discuss, resulting in varying opinions, which makes for very lively meetings	Vivienne
Digital Photo Enhancing 2	A fun group, that meets to learn how to manipulate and enhance photographs. A computer or laptop is essential	Vivienne
Electronic Technology 2	Members have an interest in common gadgets and systems that are driven by electronics. Also discuss iPads, other tablets, smart TVs and cell phones	Vivienne
Ethnic Dining 5	Share dining with like-minded people. Members take turns to arrange the group experience	Vivienne
Foreign Films	Members meet in homes to share foreign film	Vivienne

Classics 3	classics	
Genealogy for Beginners	A help and support group for members getting started tracing their ancestry	Julia
Geography 2	Members take turns to research and present a topic pertaining to a country	Julia
Hikers 3	Members take day trips to Regional Parks, forest and areas of interest. Hikes can be up to 4 hours in length	Julia
Mah Jong 2	A new group could be for beginners, or experienced players, or both	Julia
Memoirs 2	“Snapshots” of your personal life story through stories and poetry	Julia
Philosophy 4	Members discuss topics of the day as decided by the members	Julia

### **New Groups:**

The following are ideas for completely new groups suggested by members.

Rialto Film Group	Join a group to see films in the Rialto Cinema	Vivienne
Conversational Italian	Stimulate those brain cells by learning a new language	Julia
Bolivia Cards	A variation of Canasta using 3 decks	Vivienne

### **Extra position: Groups Co-ordinator:**

This is a great job for a people-person, a networker, who likes the idea of keeping in touch with what's going on with members. U3A has more than 80 groups, so we need more co-ordinators to ensure that our two existing coordinators haven't got too much to do. The job involves:

- Maintaining phone contact with group convenors to make sure that groups are functioning well
- Helping new members into groups
- Keeping track of vacancies and waiting lists
- Presenting coordinators' reports at monthly Committee meetings
- Occasional visits to the groups in your portfolio

Basic computer skills are required, for data entry and email contact. If you already use a computer, these skills can be learned.

#### **Please think about it.**

We are very lucky in Tauranga. Very few U3A organisations can offer 80+ groups to members. Our success relies on the generosity of volunteers. The more volunteers we have, the smaller the work load for each one. Could you volunteer some of your time every week – maybe you could share the role with a friend. We need you!

Contact Vivienne, ph 574 3133.

### **Please note: U3A Tauranga, new photo and video policy.**

Uploading of photographs/videos onto website or other platforms:  
From time to time U3A members take photographs of other members at U3A events for the newsletter and the website. Photographers should take reasonable steps to ensure members know when they are being photographed and give them opportunity to exclude themselves. In addition photographs or videos should not be published on any social media platforms without first obtaining from all the members concerned their express permission to do so. Members should advise the official photographer, their group convenor, or a committee member if they have any concerns about the publication of such material.

## PowerPoint Presentations

Speakers at several groups and most general meetings illustrate their talks with PowerPoint presentations, using a data projector and screen or flat screen TV.

If you would like to learn how to connect and operate this equipment so you can assist at groups or general meetings, phone Peter Simmons at 576 0952. Individual help will be given.

## Jazz & Blues Group.

Convenors George and Dorothy Stewart have come to the end of an era, for them and for the many U3A members who have enjoyed jazz music in a group since 2003.

During George's first Friday U3A meeting, he was approached by Ken Rose and asked if he'd be interested in joining a 2 hour Jazz & Blues Appreciation group. For about 7 years Ken burned the discs, providing some wonderful programmes, and bringing over a carload of members from the Mount for meetings twice a month in the evening. Finally the group became too large for one house and split into two groups.

George's background in broadcasting, and more recently his access to records at Village Radio, plus his own appreciation of this music, assisted him in continuing to run the programmes. For 12 years Dorothy would organise the supper and rooms (one large room with a cathedral ceiling was a bonus), and George would man the stereo, as well as keeping a record of items previously played. And many times one of the members provided the programme, either CDs or DVDs. The Tauranga group attracted 11 – 14 members each night. Apart from the Ethnic Dining groups, **Jazz & Blues** are the only groups to meet in the evening.

## Science Group

At a recent Science Group meeting Jim Barrowclough gave an interesting talk about the aeroplane he built.

Jim was a pilot with the RAF during the Second World War, flying Harvards, and has always had a strong interest in aviation.

At his dairy farm in Tahuna, north of Morrinsville, Jim built a hangar about 3 metres from the back door of his house. He purchased a set of plans before building his plane over the next four years.

The wood and fabric plane, two seater, low wing Jodel D11, had a 100 power Rolls Royce engine (horse power) which turned a wooden fixed pitch propeller. The wood used was Canadian spruce because it has no knots in it, and a straight grain. Plywood was placed over the fuselage frame and the wing was covered in fabric meticulously tightened with the heat from a hair dryer.

The close proximity of the hangar to the house meant he could adjust his work time between milking cows, and building the plane. Once complete he made a short runway from the hangar down the paddock. He chose the design with the two seats next to each other rather than one behind the other as it was more sociable while flying.

Jim kept the plane for 32 years and flew all over New Zealand.

Jim, now 91 years old joined U3A in 1998, and has been an active and valued member since then. He was co- convener of the Astronomy Group with Kate Deacon for many years and is a member of the Science Group.

Jim proudly flying his home made Jodel D11.



## General Meetings

Held on the 3rd Friday of the month at 10.00 am  
in the Wesley Church Hall,  
13<sup>th</sup> 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 August 2015: 730

Groups:

A – F 42

G – Z 47

Courses 4

Total 93

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

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