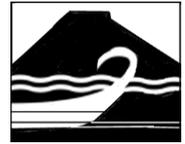




U3A Tauranga Inc.

NEWSLETTER

March 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

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A Message from the Past President.

A busy year behind us and a busy year ahead!

U3A's AGM on 20 February was attended by a great turnout of members, and gave us a chance to review the activities of the last twelve months. Membership has been increasing steadily to pass the 700 mark late last year, and groups and courses now number close to 90. It seems that U3A is serving a real purpose for retired people who are still largely on top of their game, and who want to get together for physical or intellectual activities of many sorts in a spirit of good fellowship.

The new Executive Committee has now taken office, though many of the faces remain the same. But one key change is that Vivienne Mills has now taken over as President. I thoroughly enjoyed the role of President in 2014, but I did find it surprisingly time consuming, and I encourage all members to do whatever they can to ease the load on the President and all U3A's office holders. They are all volunteers.

At the election meeting last November no member came forward for the position of Vice President. We can box on without for a little while, but Vivienne will need someone in this role. I personally found her help invaluable last year, not just deputizing when I was away, but also as a sounding board when dealing with awkward issues and as someone who could pick up some of the President's tasks. So please let us know if you would be interested in this position, or if you know of someone who might.

One issue resulting from our amazing growth is the need for more sophisticated systems to manage our membership details and administration. To address this a new Database Group has been formed, which will look at more comprehensive data management, hopefully leading to more detailed information about members and the groups they belong to, while also saving the time of our volunteer workers. If you are interested in this group and the problems it is tackling please don't hesitate to contact us.

And once again, a big thank you to all who helped to make 2014 such a vigorous and enjoyable year.

Chris Hector

Immediate Past President, and Convenor of the Database

GROUP NEWS – March 2015

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

Groups with urgent vacancies:

Luncheon Group 1

This group meets for lunch at various restaurants, cafes, garden centres etc., for members to enjoy social contact and friendship. If you would like to join this group please contact:

Convener: Robyn Parker Phone: 574 7529

Meetings: 4th Friday of the month at 11.30am

Geology

The group membership at present is 10 but the group can accommodate more members. During 2014 the group had 3 field trips:

- McLaren Falls and geology tour
- Waimangu Thermal Valley day trip
- Christmas trip to Whakatane and the Matahina Dam with geology on the way.

There was also a slide show on volcano experiences; a trip to Rotorua Museum to see “Dinosaur Footprints”; and a visit to the Gem and Mineral show.

Regular meetings are held in members’ home where mainly NZ geology is studied, with members assisting the convener.

If you are keen to learn something about Geology or extend your knowledge of the subject please contact:

Convener: Robert Turnbull, phone 544 2659







Singing For Joy.

PIANIST NEEDED for Singing for Joy group. We are not a choir, just a group who do our best to sing songs we enjoy, from “Roll out the barrel” / the show songs / “Holy City” / to fun songs. We have a book of 250 songs and need a person who can sight read or play by ear to keep us going. We do not need perfection, just a fun approach. We need you once or twice a month on a Tuesday 1-3 pm, and we can pay you a small fee.

Please contact Maggie 578 4297 – we are looking forward to sharing our fun with you.

New Group Suggestion:

Cycle group

Tyres pumped up? Would companions assist your frequency of cycling? What sort of cycling do you enjoy? Flat easy rides in calm conditions? There is interest by others who would like to join you. Would an informal group who contact by text or phone on nice days suit you?

Please express your interest to Marlene, phone: 570 6055

New Groups:

Ukulele group

The first meeting took place on Monday, 16th February 2015, and there was a very good turnout - 16 people, including a drummer, which was an unexpected surprise!

There is talk about the possibility of hiring a room as there is a concern about the amount of noise generated!

If you would like to join the Ukulele group, check out the website or contact Jean or the Conveners:

Conveners:	Eileen Ammann	Phone: 571 5335
	Michelle Haywood	Phone: 576 1447
Venue:	The Pavilion, Cliff Road by the Rose Garden	
Meetings:	Weekly, 2.00pm to 3.30pm	

‘Writers’ Inc.

This group is a continuation of the “Memoirs” group of 10 sessions, and are now writing their own memoirs. At this stage they are not looking for new members as 8 is a maximum for sharing and commenting at each session. They share their own writing and have feedback from the other members. Their inspiration for writing comes from an Image Jogger.

The group plans to meet for 10 sessions and then review where they are going. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Jean Garmonsway, 579 1918, to be added to a waiting list.

Changes of Convener:

The Astronomy group

Anton Ten Houten has taken over from Jim Barrowclough and Kate Deacon. Many thanks to Jim and Kate for convening this group for a number of years.

Cafe Book Lovers 2

Bev Pitkethley has taken over from Val Steedman, who has moved to Taranaki.

Luncheon Group 2

Sue Reynolds has also taken over from Val Steedman.

Many thanks to these new Conveners who have taken over the role which will enable these groups to keep functioning. We couldn't manage without you.

Changes of Venue:

Yoga 2

This group has moved to a dance studio in the Historic Village

History B has moved to the Wesley Church.

Check out the website or contact Jean Garmonsway, phone: 579 1918.

New Members' Meeting:

Tuesday, 31st March at 2.00pm, venue to be decided.

General:

Hikers 2

The first trip for 2015 for our small group was to the Maungatautari Ecological Reserve, which is not far from Arapuni.

We were following driving instructions from the Information Centre, which took us to State Highway 1 and then over the Horahora bridge. The scenery was very picturesque with views of the Waikato River and the rolling countryside. As we neared Maungatautari Mountain, we began to follow the road signs, rather than the written instructions. Unfortunately this took us to the northern side of the mountain, which has an access route to the summit. After some discussion we decided to backtrack and make our way to the southern side where the Visitor Centre is situated. Thank goodness for that decision! To walk from there across to the southern side and back would have taken several hours.

The Information Centre has good facilities and very helpful staff. There is a cost of \$17 for adults, and \$10 for seniors, to enter the Southern Enclosure, which has the longest (47km) pest-proof fence in the world.

The enclosure has 5km of walking tracks, where we were able to view several native birds which had been threatened with extinction. We were very fortunate to meet two volunteers at the feeding station, who were preparing food for the birds. They gave us peanuts in the shell to hand feed the kokakos, and an informative talk about their work. There is a viewing tower enabling one to view the forest canopy and surrounding landscape. The tracks are well formed and make for easy walking.

After eating our lunch in a clearing with seating provided, we continued our walk and returned to the Visitor Centre. As the centre provides only cold drinks and snacks, we made our way to the Rhubarb Cafe on Atiamuri Road for coffee. We returned to Tauranga via Putaruru which seems to be a shorter, more direct route.

Information about the Centre can be found on the internet -

www.sanctuarymountain.co.nz



A member's thoughts about belonging to U3A.

Thank you U3A for the past four years, and for providing such a variety of fun things to do.

Having never had the opportunity to act, I joined Jean's class of "Acting 4 Fun". For 3 years I enjoyed the freedom of expression and voice, the confidence, comradeship and of just being myself.

This class unfortunately ended in 2013, so what to do next?

I enjoyed writing, and there were three great choices:

Creative Writing, Memoirs, and Pen Whisperers.

I decided to try Creative Writing, so in 2014 I joined Angela's group of interesting ladies.

Each fortnight comes around so quickly, with lively conversations and discussions about our writing homework.

What an interesting group of people, having fun, laughter, and enjoying what we do - and hopefully writing interesting creative stories!

U3A has something for everyone.

[A grateful member]





**Reminder - U3A Tauranga 20th Anniversary party,
Friday 27 March 2015.**

The day's events will include:

Morning tea & Lunch

A light-hearted debate between teams from Boys & Girls Colleges. Details are still being arranged, but we are planning to have a fun and entertaining two-team debate.

The title is "Can you teach an old dog new tricks?"

Music

Our special guest speaker is Sir Ray Avery.

Please register, as space is limited.

\$40 (discounted price) for TECT or U3A members; \$50 for non members.

Please note the internet banking number to use for purchase of tickets:

U3A Tauranga (Heartland) 03 1783 0191505 001

Please ensure you put both your first and last name as payer.

Or contact Jean (579 1918) or Vivienne (574 3133) to buy tickets.

Does anyone have any material, photos, or recollections about the last 10 years of U3A that they would be able to provide? It would add interest for those attending to browse among the memories! If so, please contact the convenor, Angela Dold, ph.571 6767..

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.

□

Facts and Figures to Date

Membership as at November 2014: 706

Groups:

A-F Groups 39

G-Z Groups 48

87

Courses 4

The next newsletter is due in May 2015. All contributions must be in before 30 April 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