



U3A Tauranga Inc.

NEWSLETTER

March 2016



PO Box 14453, Tauranga 3143

www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

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General Meetings

The next general meeting of U3A Tauranga Inc. is to be held as follows:

Date: Friday 18 March 2016
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Wesley Methodist Church
100 13th Avenue
Tauranga

Guest Speaker: Paula Thompson, a Bay Of Plenty Regional Councillor since 2010, and previously, CEO for the Tauranga City Council.

Paula will talk to us about some of the issues facing Tauranga /Mount Maunganui, and what is being achieved by the Regional Council for this area.

The April meeting is set for Friday 15 April 2016.

Birthstones

March: Aquamarine

April: Diamond

President's Report for 2015

Membership: U3A Tauranga started 2015 with 705 members. During the year we gained 177 new members, so ended the year with a membership of 774. Subscription time is always busy at the start of the year and thanks are due to Winn Tipping and Gael Smart for their part in ensuring the flow of paperwork and data entry, booklets are sent out to members as they pay their subscriptions, and our Treasurer watches with delight as the U3A resources are built up for the New Year.

During the year a Data Management Group spent many hours working on a new relational database to replace Excel and provide us with a more streamlined and sophisticated system which could handle our ever increasing needs. The first step of this has been achieved with the setting up of a Data Subcommittee to process the information from the user perspective. Now the Excel Database has been archived, and the new Access Data base activated. Work with this will be ongoing.

Committee: It was a challenging year for committee members with many of them away at some time during the year and people having to step into unfamiliar roles to cover absences. Thanks are extended to Julia Weiersmuller and Elizabeth Reeves for coming onto the committee in support roles and to Diane Moulton for assisting with secretarial duties later in the year. Chris Hector has been supportive in his role as past president guiding me through committee matters.

We welcomed John Powell at several committee meetings as a liaison person between the Data Management Group and the committee. He has agreed to take on the new role of Data Manager during 2016, to oversee further changes to the database. This is a big relief to those of us on the committee who are technically challenged.

It is with regret that we announce that several committee members are leaving us. Peter Benson, our Treasurer for the past five years, is stepping down, as is Lati Moodie, our Secretary. We appreciate their input. Thanks also to Beryl Crowther, our capable Newsletter Editor; Gael Smart who has ably performed the role of database entry for several years, and Doris Hamer, Almoner.

Jean Garmonsway is relinquishing the Group Coordinator role to become Vice-President and Marlene McLaren will remain on the committee in a support role. With many new groups and our ever

increasing membership, the Group Coordinator role has grown to such an extent we will have 3 coordinators on the new committee. Sincere thanks are extended to all who have given valuable time and support to the committee over 2015.

Sponsorship: Our grateful thanks to TECT and Pub Charities for assisting with funding towards the March Anniversary Celebration. Thanks also to COGS for a donation of \$4000 towards the support and running of the 90 plus groups. This enables the ongoing support of appropriate venues, tutors and education material to be distributed throughout the membership.

Activities: The 20th Anniversary was celebrated with 250 U3A members at the Tauranga Yacht and Power Boat Club, on the 27th March 2015. It was a full day programme of history, anecdotes, a college debate, music and finally Sir Ray Avery as the main speaker, later in the afternoon. An anniversary cake was cut by foundation members and a lovely lunch was enjoyed by all present.

In May the general meeting followed up on anniversary celebrations with a morning of group displays and items.

In September, on behalf of U3A Tauranga, Lati and I attended a ceremony in the Council Chambers to receive the runner up Award in the “Innovative Provider” category at the 14th Adult Learners’ Week. This came with a cheque for \$100, a framed certificate and a voucher for a U3A member to attend an AKO workshop. Our thanks go to Shelley Dean, who tutored our French Group, for nominating us.

General Meetings: A new Meet and Greet protocol was instigated in January to encourage more groups to attend the monthly general meetings and assist with greeting visitors and new members when they arrive. Feedback has been very positive and thanks are extended to Raewyn McAlonan for organising this, with assistance from Rob Heath while she was away, and the groups who have willingly participated. Thanks also to Joan Gooch who has provided us with a number of excellent speakers over the year, covering many topics of interest to members. These functions would not flow so well without the assistance of Cynthia and Tom Fielding who arrange for members to put out chairs etc. and Peter Simmons and his team who assist with the overhead projector and sound system. Also thanks to Alan Freer our photographer who has ably covered the year’s activities with memorable photographs which will be kept in the archives for future members to enjoy. We may even have an archivist one day.

Groups: Group numbers have continued to grow, with over 90 groups advertised in the 2016 booklet which Elizabeth Reeves compiled. A number of conveners have retired, after many years in the position. Grateful thanks are extended to all of them, for the time and interest they have given to the role. Over the year Jean Garmonsway and Marlene McLaren arranged two conveners' meetings and three new members' meetings, all very well attended. The coordinator role is a busy and ongoing commitment so thanks to you both for giving it your best.

Web Group: We are grateful to Brian Wood our webmaster who changes the web site information daily to keep www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz at the top of the list. The website is a valuable resource to inform the general public and members about U3A Tauranga. Thanks also to Jane Benson for her support by printing and updating forms etc.

Technological issues have presented the committee with many challenges in the past year. We had previously concentrated much more on our groups, which is what U3A is all about. U3A has a growing membership of an age group which includes those who are very computer and electronically literate, and those who do not own computers or printers. It is important to recognise the limitations of this, and move cautiously as we implement further change. I look forward to the challenges of 2016 in the role of President.

Vivienne Mills
President

*To question everything is important, for knowledge is power and ignorance is enslavement. When we accept without questioning, we forfeit the power to control our lives.
From Bryce Courtenay's 'Mathew Flinders' cat'.*

New Group Co-ordinators.

Message from the co-ordinators

We, Kathleen, Anne and Marianne are the new group co-ordinators.
Kathleen looks after groups A-C
Marianne looks after groups D-L
Anne looks after groups M-Z

We look forward to supporting members in enjoying all the groups have to offer.

Firstly, we ask convenors to let us know whether there have been any changes lately, such as a change in venue, or a change of meeting date, or a change in convenors. We also need to know whether your group has vacancies. Once we have collated that material we can let everyone know in the next newsletter which groups can take on new members.

Camera Basics:

Sometime after mid-March this group will be running a Camera Basics tutorial in a 3 lesson block. If you are interested please contact Kathleen Fraser, phone: 576 2175.

Important dates for upcoming meetings:

New members

15 March 2016 at the Wesley Church on 13th Ave, Tauranga at 2 pm

Convenors meeting

30 March at Wesley Church on 13th Ave, Tauranga at 10 am

We are currently working on finding tutors and venues for Italian, Spanish, and Tai Chi groups.

Hope to meet many of you at those two meetings.

Kathleen, Marianne and Anne

Group News

Science:

The Science Group was fortunate to have a speaker at their first meeting for the year.

Helen Cadwallader from the University of Waikato Coastal Marine Field Station came to tell us about her research project.

A marine biologist in training, Helen is conducting a PhD research project studying rays in Tauranga Harbour, mainly the Short-tail stingray, as part of the Apex Predator project there. You can read about Helen and her research at

<http://www.helencadwallader.com>



Photo shows a Short-tail stingray caught in Tauranga Harbour.



Helen is holding a toy stingray to show where the tag is placed on the body.

Through the University of Waikato Apex Predator Project she is aiming to learn about the ray's habitat, food and movements around the coastal regions. The rays caught will also be tested for heavy metal accumulation in the tissue. She is beginning to tag stingrays found and if members of the public see sharks or stingrays that are tagged there is a website to visit to let the research team know. This is www.apexpredator.co.nz

The science group is looking forward to inviting her back next year to update us with how the research is going.

The science group meets once a month in members' homes.

The Sea:



A sea is a large body of salt water that is surrounded in whole or in part by land. More broadly, "the sea" is the interconnected system of Earth's salty, oceanic waters—considered as one global ocean or as several principal oceanic divisions. The sea moderates Earth's climate and has important roles in the water cycle, carbon cycle, and nitrogen cycle. Although the sea has been travelled and explored since prehistory, the modern scientific study of the sea—oceanography—dates broadly to the British Challenger expedition of the 1870s. The sea is conventionally divided into up to five large oceanic sections—including the IHO's four named oceans (the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, and Arctic) and the Southern Ocean; smaller, second-order sections, such as the Mediterranean, are known as seas.

- Oceans cover 70 percent of the Earth's surface. More than 90 percent of the planet's living biomass is found in the oceans.
- Tropical coral reefs border the shores of 109 countries, the majority of which are among the world's least developed. Significant reef degradation has occurred in 93 countries. Although coral reefs comprise less than 0.5 percent of the ocean floor, it is estimated that more than 90 percent of marine species are directly or indirectly dependent on them.
- Scientists believe that 80 percent of the volcanic eruptions on Earth take place in the ocean. Most of these volcanoes are thousands of feet deep, and difficult to find. But in May of 2009, scientists captured the deepest ocean eruption ever found. Nearly 4000 feet below the surface of the Pacific Ocean – in an area between Samoa, Fiji and Tonga - the West Mata volcano was discovered.

This is an endless subject, covering the make-up of the sea, tsunamis, animals/fish species, fishing, surfing, life-saving, all boats - e.g. tug boats, yachts, WWII ships, submarines, cruise liners - famous wrecks, tides, ghost ships etc. – should be interesting and fun.

There are vacancies in this group and if you would like to join the group please contact the Convener: Patricia Chainey Phone: 562 3366

Bolivia:

We were hoping to start this group, but unfortunately a number of people have pulled out, resulting in an inadequate number for the group to start. If you are interested please phone Kathleen Fraser: 576 2175.

Notices

Volunteer Notice – Bethlehem Community Patrol:

U3A Member Ali Lawrence is involved with this organisation which is seeking volunteers.

It is seeking volunteers to become patrollers. They cover the northern suburbs of Tauranga including parts of the central city, Sulphur Point, Bureta, Pillans Point, Cherrywood, Matua, Otumoetai, Bellevue, Brookfield, Bethlehem and Judea.

Requirements are for mature female and/or male persons who are of excellent character with a sound and common-sense approach and who have a desire to keep our local communities safer, by being extra 'eyes and ears' for the police.

It currently operates two person patrols in its patrol vehicle on Friday and Saturday nights. Training in aspects of the role is provided. Patrollers are observers only and take no direct part in police incidents.

If you are interested in volunteering contact:

Colin Leech: 579 2104 or 021 1269235.

Or

Bryan McKenzie (coordinator): 570 2483 or 027 8135426.

Email: bryanmckenzie@xtra.co.nz

Accommodation Required:

Many of you will know fellow member Paddy Knight who has been house-sitting for several years. She now seeks her own unit or house to rent. If you have such a property, or know of one, please contact Paddy direct on 07 571 6251, 021 128 5282 or peveknight@gmail.com

VISIT TO U3A WHAKATANE

This year's AGM was a very significant one for U3A Whakatane. It was the 10th year since U3A in Whakatane was established and an invitation was issued to two U3A members to attend the AGM, followed by a celebration dinner and entertainment. It was even more special as U3A Tauranga members were instrumental in assisting the club to get going in 2006.

Four U3A Tauranga members, Ken and Kathleen Rose, Betty Clethero and Les Bond, attended a public meeting 10 years ago in Whakatane. Ken spoke about U3A, how it had started and the development of U3A Tauranga. Initially they established which interest groups and topics were required and from there the local group developed a committee. Anne Wicks, Keith Dobbie and Nan Penberth were the first officers to hold positions on the committee.



U3A Whakatane Celebration dinner 16th February 2016.

L to R: Betty Clethero, Lois Baxter President U3A Whakatane, Jean Garmonsway, Vivienne Mills

Like Tauranga, Whakatane U3A is growing each year. They now have 150 members and 28 groups. Meeting places have changed to meet the needs of the growing organisation and they now meet at the War Memorial Hall.

It was a lovely evening and really nice to involve Betty as one of the U3A Tauranga members who was there at the beginning.

Viv Mills

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscription notices were emailed or posted to members some months ago in 2015. Thank you to those who have paid.

Would members who have not paid please arrange for payment as soon as possible.

Reminder: Members will only receive the new group booklet after payment of subscriptions. You must also be a paid financial member of U3A to attend or join any groups.

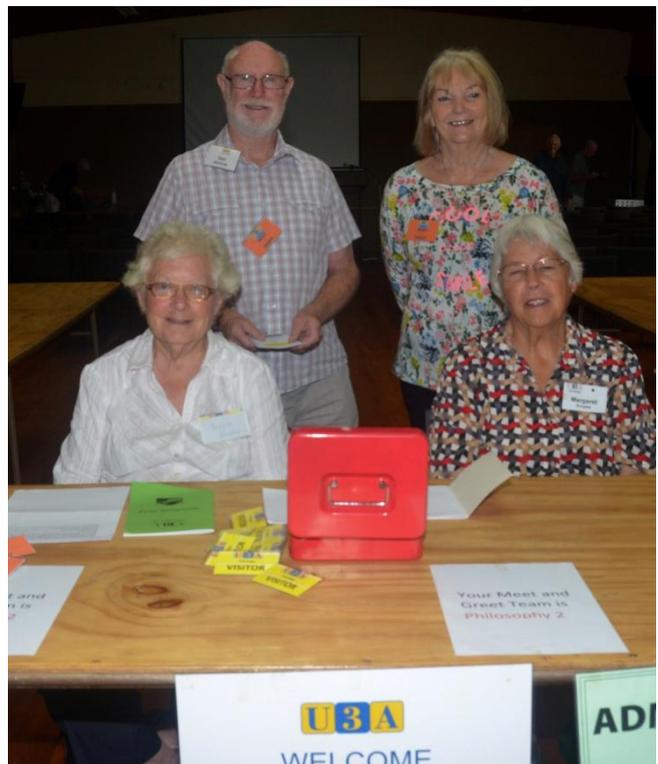
Important – For change of address/contact numbers/email, enquiries and if notices not received please contact our membership secretary Winn Tipping ph. 570 2370

SNAPS FROM THE AGM IN FEBRUARY



Left:

Doug Hendry: Our February guest speaker who spoke about his business providing puzzles, and crosswords, to many newspapers throughout New Zealand.



Right: The U3A meet and greet team at our February meeting.



Above:

Doug Hendry – Our February guest speaker addressing the meeting.



Left: Our new newsletter editor, Kit Divehall.

Below: Jean Garmonsway and Diane Moulton assist with taking subscriptions at our February meeting.



General Meetings

Note: *General meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month
at 10.00 am
in the Wesley Church Hall,
13th Avenue, Tauranga.*

Members' Forum

The editors would like to reach more members. If you have something you would like to share with U3A members, 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 February 2016: 804

Groups: 91

The next newsletter is due in May 2016. All contributions must be in before 30 April 2016. They should be short, about 200 words, and may be edited.

Editor: ***Kit Divehall*** phone 576 8100
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