

General Meetings



Next Meeting:

Date: 17 March 2017

Time: 10:00 AM - Noon

Guest Speaker: Chris Duggan, founder, and National CEO of House of Science.



House of Science was established in 2013 by Chris Duggan with a vision to raise Scientific Literacy throughout the Western Bay of Plenty and to give children a place to explore, experiment and investigate science in all its forms.

Their Science Resource Library for primary schools is extremely popular.

www.houseofscience.nz



April Meeting:

Date: 21 April 2017

Time: 10:00 AM - Noon

Guest Speaker: Russell Blackler.

Russell was selected for training in the NZ Police Disaster Response Unit and then shortly afterwards, when the Mt Erebus Disaster occurred, he was called upon to visit the site as part of the



team. Many of you will remember this terrible disaster in our New Zealand history.



“On the 28th of November 1979, Air New Zealand flight 901, a DC-10 registered ZK-NZP, crashed into Mt Erebus on Ross Island, Antarctica, instantly killing all 257 people on board. Whilst that brutal event sparked worldwide interest in the Erebus story, it represented neither the beginning nor the end of a complicated and compelling tale.”



General Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month

(except December and January)

10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Wesley Methodist Church Hall

100 13th Avenue, Tauranga

Main items on the meeting agenda are a “mini” presentation and then morning tea followed by a guest speaker. **There is a \$4.00 charge to cover morning tea**

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Presidents' Reports



Message from John Powell President 2017

Well! That was a 'huge' AGM. It has been said that there were approximately 170 members and visitors present. Were such large numbers present because people wanted to uplift the rather impressive new name badges (86 were taken and that saved considerable postage costs), or was it Professor Shaun Holt's much anticipated talk? Many have expressed the opinion that he needs to return this year.

Anyway, in spite of the weather, a very long AGM and the challenges of catering for so many at morning tea we managed to enjoy ourselves and catch up with many acquaintances that we have shared over the years prior.

We hope those that picked up a printed copy of the newsletter have found it useful. Please let us know if we should continue printing off a few extra for the general meetings.

Thank you for approving the financial report as it saves both time and effort if we do not need to perform a financial audit.

I was pleased that David Gordon reminded us of their 'continuing education' programme for the year. There will be a link to that programme on the website. It is interesting that in many other cities U3A organises this kind of lecture series as part of their core responsibility.

We would like to know how you feel about the parking challenges in attending our meetings, simply email u3atauranga@gmail.com with your comments.

Thanks again to the many members who have helped us make our activities work efficiently. For those who are retiring from those tasks, the executive will be having a luncheon, in appreciation, as has been the practice for many years.

Given that I thought we did not really have time to thank Vivienne properly, and despite her wish not to make a big deal of the occasion because she was just happy for the opportunity to serve, I, however want to say that Vivienne was extremely people focused

and wanted the best results for groups and individuals alike. She has a great knowledge of U3A Tauranga and I/we will miss the humour, the frankness and clear vision that makes our experiences in U3A enjoyable and satisfying.

Her presidency, as has been the case for many presidents, has not been without challenges and yet she managed them professionally and with sensitivity, and I thought we had all retired, enjoyed volunteering and shared bonhomie but there you go.

So, thankyou Vivienne on behalf of us all and may you and Ron enjoy a well-deserved change of direction.

Some of the behind the scenes work that we have to complete this year includes a review of the constitution, preparation of a strategic plan (we have grown so much, so quickly, that we think the time is right to do this).

Then there is the first grant application for the year so that Groups can enjoy continued financial support. We have been extremely lucky in this regard but there are no guarantees in an environment of limited funds and huge demands by various organisations.

There are numerous other matters that I will discuss in the next newsletter.

Regards

John Powell

President



Message from Vivienne Mills

President 2016

Membership: U3A Tauranga started 2016 with 774 members. During the year, we gained 205 new members, and ended the year with a membership of 859.

The Access data base was successfully implemented from 1st January 2016 and is now in the capable hands of Sheila Freer who took on the membership secretary role after Winn Tipping resigned from the position after six years. Chris Hector and Jean Garmonsway assisted over the year to work with John Powell, Data Manager, and John Hollenberg who made all the necessary programme changes to refine the data base to make it as user friendly as possible. It is interesting to note that there were a number of people in groups that had never joined U3A and these were successfully followed up.

Every member has been given an ID number and this has been very helpful updating and changing information on the data base. It has also been appreciated to have members put their ID number on the bank payment forms when subscriptions are paid. Security, storage, and access to information continue to be discussed by the relevant committee personnel.

The option to purchase magnetic name tags is being started in 2017. This initiative being implemented by Treasurer Elizabeth Reeves and Membership Secretary Sheila Freer.

Committee: It is with regret that we announce that several committee members are leaving us. Chris Hector, Past President, Joan Gooch, Speaker Organiser, Raewyn McAlonan, and Marlene McLaren, Committee Support members, are moving on. Diane Moults is moving from the secretarial position to Committee Support. Their input and expertise has been most appreciated over the years they have been committee members.

Kit Divehall with the assistance of Jan Holden and Heather Landon has produced informative, colourful newsletters every two months, and will continue over the coming year.

The four group coordinators Kathleen Fraser, Marianne Lammers, Anne Withy and later in the year Christine Denne, have done a great job looking after the organisation and support of 100 groups.

Thanks also to Angela Dold who was appointed Almoner and Margaret Douglas, Archivist. The cupboard has never looked so empty, now everything is sorted.

Sincere thanks are extended to all who have given valuable time and support to the committee and sub committees over 2016.

Sponsorship: Our grateful thanks to The Lottery Commission for giving us \$4000 towards the support and running of the many groups. This enables the ongoing support of appropriate venues, tutors and education material to be distributed throughout the membership.

Activities: In February Betty Clethero, Jean Garmonsway and Viv Mills attended the Whakatane U3A 10th Anniversary AGM. Tauranga members Ken and Kathleen Rose, Betty Clethero and Les Bond had been instrumental in assisting with the setup of the new organisation and it was nice that Betty, one of the original people involved, was able to attend the AGM and dinner.

In June, Pam Foster, nurse tutor at the BOP Polytech, requested the assistance of U3A members to meet with first year nursing students. The programme was so successful in 2015 that there were more than enough U3A members willing to meet with students this year to discuss the subjects around ageing positively.

John Powell has represented U3A at District Health Board Tauranga Health Liaison Group meetings. U3A members have been encouraged to provide feedback for booking and scheduling Improvements for the BOPDHB, and be made aware and informed of their rights if they need any type of medical attention.

General Meetings: Diane has worked alongside Raewyn to ensure the “Meet and Greet” group participation has been successful at the general meetings. Group members have been willing to have a turn and it has enabled a number of members to attend a general meeting for the first time.

Joan has organised a number of interesting speakers over the year including Doug Hendry from the puzzle company, Sandra Simpson, Jocelyn Mist from Tauranga Library, Kim Westerskov, photographer, Professor Battershill from the Marine laboratory, Max Mason, Stuart Caldwell and Mark Whitworth, who talked about the Ports of Tauranga.

Rob Heath has involved a number of U3A members to give short talks relating to their groups. It is always interesting to hear about group activities as we cover such a wide variety of topics.

Our general meetings would not flow so well without the assistance of Cynthia and Tom Fielding who arranged for members to put the chairs out before the meeting and away at the end. After many years doing this task they are standing down after the AGM this year.

Thanks also to Peter Simmons and his team who assist with the overhead projector and sound system, Alan Freer the photographer and Brian Wood who sets up photographic displays for all to enjoy.

Groups: Group numbers have continued to grow, with over 100 groups advertised in the 2017 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, the Co-ordinators organised three new member meetings and two conveners meetings, all well attended.

Web Site: We are grateful to Brian Wood, Webmaster, who changes the web site information often to keep www.u3atauranga.kiwi.nz, hosted by Open Host, at the top of the list. The website is a valuable resource to inform the general public and members about U3A Tauranga group information. Due to a problem with scam in September 2016 the committee moved that the ratified minutes and other formal public documents will no longer be placed on the website. Mobile phones and other devices are catered for with the latest web site designs.

As Jean Garmonsway decided not to stand for the role of President and I was standing down, there was some concern about who would become president. There were two nominees for the role of President. John Powell was elected and I am sure with the support of the membership and our able committee he will initiate further positive changes for the good of U3A Tauranga during 2017.

Thank you.

Vivienne Mills
Immediate Past President

Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worth nothing, but because they are priceless - Origin unknown.

Group Co-ordinators' Report

The Co-ordinators have now redistributed the groups between the four co-ordinators as set out in the 2017 Handbook. From mid-January, there has been a steady stream of enquiries from members, and most have been able to have their needs met.

Vacancies

The following groups have vacancies and are looking for new members:

If you are interested in joining any of these groups, please contact the appropriate coordinator or convener. Contact details are in the Handbook.

Book Lovers 3	Luncheon 1
Buildings and Cities	Mah Jong
Café Book Lovers 2	Nature Study
Classical Music Lovers	Opera Appreciation 1 & 2
Computer Support A	Philosophy 1
Current Events C	Photography 2
500 cards	Scrabble
Genealogy 2	Singing for Joy
Geography	Spanish Conversation
Geology	Tai Chi
History of New Zealand	Travel
Horticulture & Gardening	Ukulele 2
Italian	War Films & Documentaries
Latin	

Italian Conversation needs more members before this year's tuition can get under way Lyn van der Meys- 281 1372

Memoir Writing needs 3-4 more people to make up group numbers for the course to begin - Jean Akers – 562 3688

All Groups with Vacancies can be viewed on the U3A Website.

Proposed New Groups

Mini Hikers 2. A meeting to form this group was held on 15 February but would welcome more numbers. Contact Anne Withy (Co-ordinator) 579 0430

Photo Enhancing 2. Contact Anne Withy 579 0430 if you are interested in belonging to this group (information on the website).

Rummikub. We need another 2 members to look at forming this group. Contact Christine Denne (Co-ordinator) 543 9483.

Science Today 2. As Science 1 is full it is hoped to form a new Science Today 2 group. If you are interested, contact Christine Denne 543 9483. We need around 4 more people to look at forming the group.

Lone Rangers. If we get a few more people interested in joining, we could actually set up a second group. Contact Anne Withy 579 0430.

U3A NEW MEMBERS' MEETING

You are invited to attend a meeting to welcome you to U3A Tauranga. We aim to help you understand the Organisation and to establish how we can assist you in making this a rewarding experience.

DATE: 14 MARCH 2017
TIME: 2:00 PM
VENUE: THE LOUNGE, WESLEY CHURCH, 13TH AVENUE.
PROGRAMME: Welcome and Introductions.
 Brief History of U3A.
 Newsletters & Monthly Meetings. Website.
 Groups.
 Afternoon Tea.

Please wear your name badges if you have them. We know that many of you are already settled in a group or groups, but for those of you who have not yet done this, it may be helpful to bring your handbooks as a reference to groups you may wish to join.

We would also appreciate a phone call or an email advising whether you can attend or not, so that we can arrange seating and afternoon tea.

As Group Co-ordinators we are looking forward to meeting you.

	Kathleen Fraser A to C Groups 576 2175		Marianne Lammers D to H Groups 021 804 403		Anne Withy I to P Groups 579 0430		Christine Denne R to Z Groups 543 9483
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Note:

Acoustic Music Group. Reg Clothier has pointed out that the Handbook was not totally correct and would like the group to be called **Acoustic Music/Performers Group**. Times should read 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Cost \$3.

Ancient History has a change of convener. It will be Chris Hector. Phone 548 2704,

Current Events A needs a new convener.

Currents Events E has 2 joint conveners to replace Robin Tervit. Patricia Roper, and Jean Holmes.

Electronic Technology is now in recess having no convener and only one member.

Luncheon 1 currently has no convener. As there are no indications of interest in the position, it may need to go into recess.

Microsoft Solutions. Please note that this group is now being convened by Brian Wood – 574 6323 – and is looking for a few more members.

Messages from our Treasurer

Subscriptions for 2017

If someone hasn't paid their subscription this year and has not received a reminder, it may be because their email or postal address is out of date.



I recommend anyone who hasn't received a reminder letter, to contact me so I can send them a fresh one, and update their contact details at the same time. (The original email letters went out on 2 January this year so a quick check of your inbox may be useful).

Subs were due on 31 January. Unless a U3A member is financial, they are not permitted to join or attend groups.

Anyone who no longer wishes to be a member please let me know. You may re-join at any time.

Elizabeth Reeves (U3A Tauranga Treasurer). Email Treasurer@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Name Badges

These will continue to be available at the monthly meetings (third Friday of each month).

We are not able to post magnetic badges, but if you have ordered a pinned badge and wish it to be mailed to you, or if you wish to pick up your badge from me (Bethlehem area) please contact me on Ph: 562 2767.

Found

A sum of cash was found at the AGM on Friday 17th Feb.

If you think this may belong to you, please contact me on

Ph: 562 2767.

Elizabeth Reeves (U3A Tauranga Treasurer).



Member Profile



Don McMillan

At the February General Meeting, Don was presented the U3A Lifetime Membership Award. A fitting recognition of his service to U3A since first joining U3A when he first moved to Tauranga in 2008. This move came a few years after retiring from a career, mainly with the government sector including MAF, the Defence Force and as the N.Z. Vice Consul in Tokyo. Many of his roles were

in computing, including leadership in establishing pioneering systems in the government sector in the early days of these developments.

Don and his wife Tricia have 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

He first learnt about U3A Tauranga at a Seniors Expo in September 2008, where he met notables like U3A Life Member Thelma Cane and enrolled on the spot. At first Don joined the Philosophy, Technology, Metaphysics, and Science Today Groups. The idea of sharing learning and teaching ourselves impressed him greatly. With U3A his cup was full!

Don has had many U3A roles and group membership during his 8 years of membership which has included 5 years on the Executive Committee in numerous roles. He has also been involved with many innovations and improvements, including with the newsletter, website and establishing Microsoft Solutions, Web and Electronic Technology groups.

His health has suffered recently with surgery, TIAs (mini-strokes) and then a heart attack.

Don says “U3A Tauranga has been a large part of my life for the past eight years and I have enjoyed every minute. There are countless people of course; I enjoy their company immensely and have seen many improvements in the way U3A works.

For instance, Peter Benson made a professional accounting system work better, John Hollenberg developed an integrated member management system, and the Group Conveners are a great team.

As I see it, the organisation can only continue to go from strength to strength.”



Don receiving his Lifetime Membership Award

Group News

Cycle Group:

On Friday 10th February, I joined the U3A Cycle group for their first ride for 2017. This was to be a run round the Waikareao Estuary, along the bike trail by the harbour to Fergusson Park and then back to Bureta for a coffee. This was my first ride with group and I was a little apprehensive as I don't consider myself experienced and seeing all 14 of them in their cycle gear didn't help. I'm preparing to do the Otago Rail Trail so this was to be part of my preparation.



It was a perfect day, low humidity, bright sunshine, and sparkling water. Everyone was nice and understanding and I wasn't the only newbie. The track was good and cycling alongside the water with the tide in made for perfect riding. By the time we had our coffee break I felt I knew most of the group and many had done the Otago Rail Trail so advice was plentiful.

I thoroughly enjoyed the outing, so much so, that I am joining them for their next trip to Karapiro. This is going to be an all-day trip and I will need my padded under shorts and my 50 SPF shirt.

February was NZ bike month so, if you have a bike, get out there and join us and if you don't have a bike, think seriously about the fun you could be missing.

Jane Benson



Left:
Robert Lucas – convener.

Right:
Jane Benson – leading the group.



Mini Hikers 1:

Mini-Hikers is a new group formed by a group of ex-hikers who still want to hike but to do shorter and easier hikes and enjoy the beauty of the places they walk.

For the second hike this year, ten members went to Wairongomai Valley on the Eastern slopes of Mount Te Aroha.

We walked the Low Level Loop Track which takes in several significant sites of gold mines. The track winds up the valley through regenerating bush, across a few small streams and past a tunnel (some of the group walked through!).



The track goes past the base of Butlers Incline with the rail still in place, which gave a sense of how the tramway worked. We then descended along the tramway and had a magnificent view South across the countryside from the top of Fern Spur incline.

A little bit of the history.

The tramway was built in 1882-83. It was built to support the historic gold mining site.

The discovery of gold attracted many prospectors to the valley. A town developed rapidly and boasted 3 hotels, nearly a dozen stores and a school.

The goldfields proved to be uneconomic to work and within 5 years the population dwindled from a peak of over 2,000 to only a few hundred by 1900.

After the hike, we drove on to Te Aroha and went to the Café in the Domain for coffee.

We then returned home to Tauranga having enjoyed a wonderful day, hiking in the beautiful bush and enjoying the company of a great group of people.



Thelma Cane –
Convener.

Left: Chivalry
is not dead!

Mini Hikers 2:

With convener Steve Hayles, we had our very pleasant first walk of the year along the Waihou springs track by Tirau on Thursday. The weather was beautiful, the scene amazing, and the company very pleasant. We walked up to the source of the spring at a comfortable pace, and the



water was an amazing blue. We

meandered back to the car park by 1 PM. This group is still open to some new members. Contact Stephen Hayles if interested. Ph: 021 133 2911.



We Need your Group News!

The Newsletter is a unique publication sent directly to every U3A Tauranga member six times each year.

Please send us your announcements, news, activities and photographs so we can publish the information to share with other U3A members.

Kit Divehall – Newsletter Editor

Phone: 576 8100

Email: newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

The Almoner



Angela Dold is the U3A Almoner and offers understanding and support to all members when needed. Angela needs your advice when such incidents occur to keep her informed and, enable her to carry out this role.

Please let Angela know if you become aware of a member, their spouse, partner, or family members who are ill or, if there has been a recent bereavement.

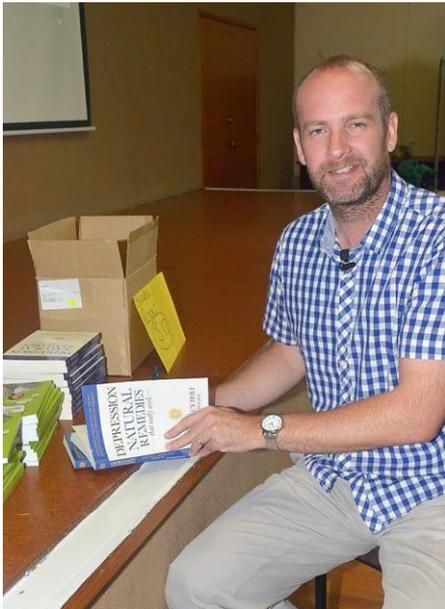


Phone: 571 6767.

Email: anndold2811@gmail.com

February AGM Shots

Guest Speaker: Professor Shaun Holt



Left & Right:

Professor Holt gave a most interesting talk on "Natural Remedies That Really Work". If you missed the General Meeting, you can view online at www.flavors.me/shaunholt



Right:

Meet and Greet Team:

Art History 2 Group

Joan Gooch & Margaret Liddell



Below:

Standing room only for latecomers!



Dictators ride to and fro upon tigers which they dare not dismount. And the tigers are getting hungry. Winston Churchill.



Handing out Name Badges



Presentation to Retiring President, Viv Mills

The U3A Tauranga Archives

A Peep into the Past!!



2003: Yoga Group



2011: Ken Gillan (Past President and now Life Member) and Dame Susan Devoy



Left:
Henri Limacher
U3A's Best Kreator of Kaskets

Facts and Figures to Date

Financial members as at 26 February 2017	731
Non-financial	131
Life members	8
TOTAL	870
Number of Groups:	100

Do we have your correct contact details?

If you have moved house or changed your phone or mobile numbers or changed your email address, could you please update these by contacting the Membership Secretary, Sheila Freer - 576 5243

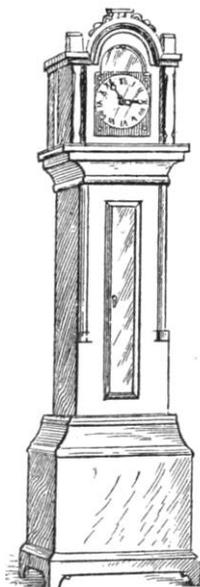
My Wish for You

*May the best ye've ever seen, be the worst ye'll ever see.
May the moose ne'er lea' your pantry wi' a teardrop in its e'e.
May yer lum keep blithely reekin' till yer auld enough tae dee;
May ye aye be just as happy as I wish ye aye tae be.*

- Old Scottish Poem



Life's Clock



*The clock of Life is wound but once
And no man has the power
To tell just where the hand will stop,
At late or early hour.*

*To lose one's wealth is sad indeed,
To lose one's health is more;
To lose one's soul is such a loss
As no man can restore.*

*The present only is our own;
Live, love, toil with a will –
Place no faith in "tomorrow" for
The clock may then be still.*

2017 Committee

President:

John Powell - 575 4540

Vice President:

Jean Garmonsway - 579 1918

Immediate Past President:

Vivienne Mills - 574 3133

Treasurer:

Elizabeth Reeves - 562 2767

treasurer@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

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u3atauranga@gmail.com

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a2c.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

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m.lammers@actrix.co.nz

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i2p.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

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r2z.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

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Jan Holden - 543 3747

Diane Moulton - 027 268 4244

Bev Taylor – 542 2533

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Brian Wood - 574 6323

webmaster@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Almoner:

Angela Dold – 571 6767

Archivist:

Margaret Douglas – 579 4429

Next Newsletter

May 2017

All contributions must be in before Monday 24 April 2017.

Committee, Convener and Group Reports should reach the editor before the deadline. If you have something to share with U3A members, we ask for short contributions (which may be edited). Inclusion will depend on available space in each newsletter.

Editor: Kit Divehall - Ph 576 8100 newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz