



U3A Tauranga Inc.

NEWSLETTER
September 2011



PO Box 14453
TAURANGA 3143

www.u3atauranga.org.nz

U3A TAURANGA INC

End of Year Sportacular

Our Guest

Dame Susan Devoy

World Sports Personality

Luncheon Tickets \$20.00 pp

On sale now 2011

9th Dec. 2011

11.30am to 2.30pm

Tauranga Citizens Club, 13th Ave.

Get your tickets now !



Thelma Cane: Group Coordinator A-G.

I came to live in Mount Maunganui from Auckland in 2006. I had belonged to Meadowbank U3A for five years before my move and had been very involved, so on coming to Tauranga I thought I would just enjoy being a member. At the end of my first year I was asked to go on the committee and agreed to become Groups' Coordinator.

U3A Tauranga attended the Seniors Day held that year and we gained 100 new members in a few days!! This posed a managerial problem, so Jean Davis (the then President) and I decided to have two new members meetings. These were attended by 70 who signed up to groups which interested them. This meant starting new groups where necessary to accommodate them. In the last three years I have started 45 new groups, but there have been some closures as well. At present we have 80 groups although some of these are run as courses.

I love U3A but after four years in this busy position I would like to hand this job to someone else, so if there is anyone who would consider this please contact me. I will continue on the committee for another year to guide a member into the job. The best part of my job is meeting new members and trying to pass my love of U3A on to them.

Janet Ormsby - retired editor of the U3A Newsletter

If there's such a thing as a 'work horse' Janet Ormsby is one of those. When asked to do something, little or big, for U3A, she has always just got on with it, cheerfully and enthusiastically, the end result usually being far better than was originally envisaged. The recent putting-together of the Condolence Book for Christchurch being an example, as is the regular Newsletter and also the yearly Handbook.

Recently, due to personal reasons, Janet resigned from the U3A committee where she was our 'Publications' person. What a gap she has left. Her knowledge of, and commitment to U3A is going to be missed. Her bubbly personality certainly will be. I hope she will return to us soon.

Thank you Janet for all the work you have done for us over the last few years. You're a hard act to follow

Angela Dold – Vice President

On Friday 29 July the committee hosted a welcome meeting for new members. This was informative and fun with lots of conversation. Hopefully the 17 new members have discovered some interesting groups to join and people to contact.

As a result of Janet's resignation we now have two joint editors to share in the production of the newsletter:

Jane Benson

I had been invited to help Janet at the beginning of the year with the idea I take over from her next year but with Janet's resignation I now find myself along with Lyn Gage as joint editor.

My background has been very varied. For about 17 years my family and I were based overseas. Near the end of my the time I worked for a firm of consultants putting together coordinated bids for large international engineering projects. My job was very small but we had to produce documents and other material sourced from other companies from around the world which had to fit a prescribed formula. This meant a lot of re-writing, re-formulating and proof reading. I learnt a lot.

Since my return to New Zealand some years ago my life has changed and I now find myself a widow. I am enjoying U3A as a source of new friends and interests.

Lyn Gage

Recently arriving in Tauranga after 'flying the coop' from Napier, I was keen to join U3A again. I had been a member of U3A Taradale (Hawkes Bay) and enjoyed immensely the friendships and new interests that resulted.

My interest is publicity and publications, and this began as a young mum involved in Playcentre and continued when I returned to the workforce. As a Citizens Advice volunteer, and later in business as co-owner of a charter boat business fishing in the Hauraki Gulf, I learnt a great deal, often by good luck rather than by efficient management.

Now, recently seconded as joint-editor of U3A, who is not quite sure how she got the position, it will be a pleasure working with and learning from Jane Benson. I am certain that between us and with valuable input from members, we will be able to produce an informative and enjoyable newsletter.

A plea for help

Tauranga U3A is a very active and vibrant group with a membership of well over 600. Its committee works hard to organise interesting and entertaining meetings, speakers and groups. Next year there will be some vacancies.

***Please** could some of you think about helping. We now have two people producing the newsletter. Some other positions on the committee could also be shared. This helps cover the unexpected and provides continuity.*

Please give some thought to what you could do next year to help.

Jazz and Blues - Tauranga Group

One of the highlights this year has been the discovery of some high quality tapes of Tauranga Jazz musicians, that were recorded by George Stewart at 1ZD studios back in the 80's. Thanks to the use of an ex Broadcasting tape recorder, we heard early recordings of Jazz-A-Plenty, including vocalist/trumpet player Brian Geoghan, the Errol Christiansen Trio, and vocalist Andrea Sutherland of the group "Friends". Some of this material was broadcast on Radio NZ's National Programme.

George Stewart - Convener

Drama Group

Our group do not see themselves as actors but look forward to our fortnightly meetings for a good laugh. We start our sessions with some warm up exercises and then we move on to expressing our feelings using a word or a sentence. Having focussed our minds we proceed with a dialogue of up to 6 words and construct a short scene in groups of 2 to 4 people which we present to the others. At other times we read poems or talk for 3 minutes on a subject of our choice. Finally our tutor, Jean Davis, gives us an idea which we discuss in groups and then enact this for the rest. This can be great fun and results in plenty of laughter. All this lifts our spirits and sends us on our way feeling renewed.

Joni Kersley - Convenor

History NZ : The Last 1000 Years

During the first 6 months of this year members have researched 13 notable people who have left a huge mark in our country's history, including Te Rauparaha, John Plimmer, Isobel Ramsay and former Prime Minister Peter Fraser. We also learnt about some of the old steamers that plied the stormy waters of Lake Wakatipu, the once grand Mansion House on Kawau Island and Dr Frank Bateson, who established the Mount John Observatory above Tekapo.

George Stewart - Convenor

Would you like to learn or improve your writing? Then consider **Creative Writing**. We learn different techniques and have interesting discussions within a non-threatening, friendly, supportive group.
We meet 1st & 3rd Monday of the month 1.00pm to 4.00 pm

Angela Dold (Convenor) ph 571 6767 or anndold@xtra.co.nz

A2Z Group



As well as our twice monthly meetings, we meet for two special social events—one at Christmas and one at mid winter. We usually have more light hearted topics and good food, wine and laughter are the order of the day. We have just enjoyed the mid- winter event.

We also research diverse topics as our name suggests. Some of our recent subjects were:-

- The founder of Contiki

(John Anderson) and the perils he described when driving in Paris for the first time.

- The decontamination of the soil in Japan using the growing of sunflowers.
- Big Ben the bell in Westminster Abbey not the tower (St Stephens Tower) and its history.
- The activities, rituals and meanings of the winter solstice celebrations.
- Restoration and the history of the last whaling station in NZ
- The Dust Bowl of the 1930s in America and the misery and deprivation it caused.

Our subjects range from Science, History, special events and people and much more and the resulting discussions add extra interest to our meetings.

Alison Ward - Convenor

How to Handle Stress

When someone says "Have a nice day" tell them you have other plans.

Make a list of things you have already done.

Dance naked in front of your pets.

Charge your doctor for the time you spent in his waiting room.

Pop some popcorn without putting the lid on.

Use your Mastercard to pay your Visa bill.

Jam tiny marshmallows up your nose and try to sneeze them out.

Geology Group

We are a group of 13 members who meet twice monthly at members' homes. We discuss the location and composition rocks and fossils that we have found. Articles in the newspapers are another source for discussion. Recently Christchurch, the Chatham Islands and rare earth metals in China have all provided subjects for further investigation.

Members are also given subjects to research and give a talk on. This is a great learning curve for the person concerned. We use a text book called "Geology - A Self Teaching Guide." This is a book particularly suitable for people with a general interest in the subject. Members have their own books and also use the Tauranga Library. We also use dvds and members' power-point presentations of their trips. During the year we take field trips to look at features of interest. Our last trip was along the foot of the west side of the Kaimais where we saw the Putaruru stone quarry, the Hinuera stone quarry, Arapuni power station to view the gorge and much more.

Jim Dearlove - Convenor

Buildings and Cities Group

Since commencing 9 years ago, the group has dealt notably with the architecture of buildings and history of architectural styles such as shown in this picture of Tauranga's historic post office.



Presently the group is looking more broadly at cities. Arising from a talk on the history of Paris' development, it is considering whether planning decisions lead development or simply react to needs and conditions. We are doing this through practical examples of planning projects, both present day and historical, in NZ and overseas. Other talks are examining particular aspects of cities such as their character and traditions, urban spaces and major infrastructure projects – the scope for topics is wide.

Most talks are illustrated by power-point slides utilising images from books and the internet, now including Google Earth's aerial photos and street elevations. Occasionally we invite a guest speaker – a town planner has explained Tauranga's urban growth strategy; an urban designer talked on the application of good design principles in Tauranga; an engineer described the stabilising work on York Minster and an architect talked about what makes good architecture. We have also visited several cities and other venues, talking to a range of local experts.

Peter Simmons - Convenor

The August General Meeting



This meeting was organised by Group Convenors, Thelma Cane and Monica Cox. It shows the diverse groups available. They range from singing to dancing with much more in between.

The large attendance enjoyed many items aided by Ken Rose's power-point presentation, photographed by Alan Freer.

The committee wishes to thank all those who helped make it such a success.



The editor acknowledges the assistance of her friend, Sarah Gully, for the photo enhancement.

Facts & Figures to date

Membership: 620

Groups: 80

The next newsletter is due in the second week of November. If you would like to contribute article or advert in the November newsletter please have it in by **28 October** to:

Editors: **Jane Benson** phone 548-0876 email benson.jb@xtra.co.nz
or **Lyn Gage** phone 544 8914 email supagran@xtra.co.nz

New Groups started:

Ethnic Dining 2

Convener: Lorraine Robertson phone 574-0960

Venue: Restaurants as arranged

Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month

Time: 6.30pm.

This group is full. Please contact Thelma Cane to go on the waiting list if you are interested and another group could be formed.

Computer Apple Mac Support Group

This group meets to help and discuss problems members are having with their Apple Mac computers.

Convener: To be advised

Venue: Members' homes as arranged

Meetings: 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month

Time: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Group Change

Cryptic Crosswords

Due to very low numbers the Convener Shirley Bonthron will no longer have regular monthly meetings.

She will take members by arrangement on a day and at a time to suit her and the member interested.

Contact Shirley phone 579-5511 if you are interested.

New Group Suggestion

Web Site Development

Phone Monica 579-3616 if interested.

U3A Tga Inc. Executive Committee for 2011

President	Ken Gillan	572-3467	kenandbronwen@vodafone.co.nz
Vice-President	Angela Dold	571-6767	anndold@xtra.co.nz
Past President	Martin Dumbill	570-0463	mp.dumbill@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer	Peter Benson	570-0570	peterjgbenson@yahoo.com.au
Secretary	Sheila Forrest	544-4043	siforrest@xtra.co.nz
Groups A to F	Thelma Cane	574-6222	thelmacane@xtra.co.nz
Groups G to Z	Monica Cox	579-3616	celavonire@yahoo.com
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Skills Register	Don McMillan	579-4916	don.mcm@actrix.gen.nz
Archives	Can you offer to fill this position?		Just a little bit of time and space.

NB Because of space constraints contributions may need to be shortened and or edited to fit.