

Newsletter March 2017

President's Report U3A

Recently U3A held their AGM. We now have some new members and others who serve us well. Special thanks to Joan Fitzmaurice, our past secretary, Carol Dacey, our past treasurer, John Warren, our computer expert, and Doug Kerr, who has been a valuable committee member for many years. Also thanks to Richard Dacey for his regular assistance on coffee mornings. I am sure Susan Lambourn will be an excellent secretary and Jeanette Elgie a great treasurer. I am pleased to have Jimmy Dee and Russell Drieberg on the committee, two past presidents for advice. We are all sad to note the death of Margaret Hyde, convenor of the A-Z group and active member of U3A for many years. A big welcome to our other new members; Franki James, Neil Gunderson, and Ann and Peter Green. I wish you all a great year in U3A. Hamish Jamieson will speak about freighter travel at the next coffee morning.

Janice Cram.

Please Read this!

As you are all aware, U3A is run by volunteers-committee and convenors who willingly give their time for the benefit of the 400 members. In return they expect nothing more than consideration and appreciation that U3A is more than just interest groups, although that is probably the reason most people join. The bi-monthly General Meetings or "coffee mornings" entail a lot of organization and preparation and provide an opportunity for members to get together, meet socially and be informed and entertained in various ways. They are not well attended rarely over 70 members.

At the Senior Schools' Public Speaking Competition last June, which required much organization and was very worthwhile in hearing what the contestants had to say, only 65 of the general members attended. In the past we have had 120-150 attend the winter lunch, last year only 45 members in addition to the committee, who did all the preparations for the venue, came along. A lot of work goes into these events. Surely it is not unreasonable to expect more members to show their appreciation of this effort by attending occasionally.

You might even enjoy it !! *Jimmy Dee, Committee Member*

Please Note:

Sherril Jennings is taking over A - Z. Phone 8441226

Note to Members

If you have not yet renewed your subscription, please do so as soon as possible.

Send \$10 with name and address to:

Carol Dacey, 16 McKeefry Avenue, Greenmeadows, 4112.

A Small Quiz

1. What is the most common food allergy?
2. Name the only vehicle designed & built in New Zealand?
3. Which brand of cosmetic cream gets its name from the Latin word for Snow White?
4. What colour is the flag flown on a ship where disease has broken out?
5. The hit song was 'If I Only Had Time' sold more than one million copies. Who sang it?



Joan Fitzmaurice,
Retiring Secretary
enjoying her lunch.
Thank you Joan for your many
years of service.

Video Music and Opera Group

After seven years as convenor of this group I decided at the end of last year it was time to close down, there being no one else with available facilities for the group. The decision, though not unexpected, was greeted with consternation and dismay by members, so we have compromised by agreeing to meet only once-monthly this year. As an illustrative example of the group's activities, here is the program for the February meeting .

1. Time was spent with videos and discussion about one of the 20th century's greatest singers, Nicolai Gedda, who died a few weeks ago, aged 91
2. An hour long video, including complete recordings of pieces by Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Chopin, about the great Portuguese pianist Maria Joao Pires.
3. A riveting performance in high-definition video of Bachs' famous Chaconne - arranged for left-hand alone by Brahms - by the young Russian pianist Daniil Trifonov who is being hailed as not just the greatest pianist before the public today but even as 'the greatest pianist ever'. Not without justification, on the evidence of many performances.
4. A performance of Dvorak's melodious & stirring 'cello concerto by Rene Capucon & the Paris Orchestra.

The afternoon concluded with a couple of 'encores'

Next month's program will by way of contrast, be a complete opera.

Videos are played on a 60 inch screen with a high quality sound system. Membership is limited because of space, seven at present but room for one more. Meetings are in afternoons on the fourth Monday each month.

Bill Greaves Phone 844 2676.

Mah Jong

Every Tuesday at 9 a.m. At the Taradale R.S.A. a sociable group of players begin tossing the dice and another morning of friendly competition in the ancient game of Mah Jong is underway. We are given a challenge and if the tiles prove lucky, the winner is rewarded with a small gift. Mid morning we break for coffee or tea and a chat.

Because the R.S.A. offers a spacious area for tables and chairs we have no limit on membership numbers in the group. Usually 32-36 players of a roll of 44 attend. For further information contact:

Jui Powell: Phone 8446590

Sketching for Beginners

This new group meets at 2p.m. at 32 Trent Street on the third Thursday of each Month. There is room for one or two more. First day the study was drawing natural items—shells.

This month we are moving on to man made items. If you are interested in joining contact:

June Simister : Phone 8459828

Thank you Chris for the joke and the competition photo.

Four old retired guys are walking down a street in Yuma, Arizona . They turn a corner and see a sign that says, "Old Timers Bar - ALL drinks 10 cents." They look at each other, and then go in, thinking, This is too good to be true. The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the Room, "Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, gentlemen?"

There's a fully stocked bar, so each of the men orders a Martini. In no time the bartender serves up four iced Martinis - shaken, not stirred - and says, "That'll be 10 Cents each, please."

The four guys stare at the bartender for a moment, then at Each other. They can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their martinis, and order another round.

Again, four excellent martinis are produced, with the Bartender again saying, "That's 40 cents, please." They pay The 40 cents, but their curiosity gets the better of them. They've each had two martinis and haven't even spent a Dollar yet.

Finally one of them says, "How can you afford to serve Martinis as good as these for a dime apiece?"

"I'm a retired tailor from Phoenix ," the bartender says, "and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the Lottery jackpot for \$125 million and decided to open this Place. Every drink costs a dime. Wine, liquor, beer - it's All the same"

"Wow! That's some story!" one of the men says.

As the four of them sip at their martinis, they can't help Noticing seven other people at the end of the bar who don't Have any drinks in front of them and haven't ordered Anything the whole time they've been there.

Nodding at the seven at the end of the bar, one of the Men asks the bartender, "What's with them?"

The bartender says,

"They're retirees from New Zealand.

They're waiting for Happy Hour when drinks are half-price."

Play Reading

The group started last year with 8 or 9 members, not all of whom were able to stay with us all year. We have usually had five or six to each meeting and enjoyed a mix of One Act and full length Plays. This year numbers have temporarily dwindled to four, one being the only man, but as we are still keen we have carried on with plays of Shakespeare of which we all have a copy. In February we extracted several scenes from 'Henry VIII' which made a coherent story with each of us taking more than one part. In March we shall be reading a similar condensation of 'The Tempest'.

There are several more plays by Shakespeare that could be adapted in the same way and we would welcome more members to participate and share our enjoyment. We meet on the third Friday of each month at 1.30p.m. at the home of Catherine Downes, 29 King Street. Please ring if you are interested, looking forward to hearing from you.

Catherine Downes: Phone 8440008

U3A Photography

The Photography Group meets at 1.30pm on the third or fourth Tuesday of every month at various member's homes. We have planned a programme for this year. The topics cover a wide range from wheels to rain. It is interesting to study different elements of design – such as perspective. We are learning to use our cameras and take landscape, portrait and action photographs. We are also encouraged to use the computer programmes which help us produce black and white photographs for example. Field trips have been added to the programme in between meetings, and the first this year was an Art Deco stroll along Napier's Marine Parade.

During the month we take photographs, work on them and select our ten best. These are placed on a USB stick and we are able to view the photographs on the television screen in our host's lounge.

Our group has grown over the last two years and has probably reached its maximum - for the moment. If we are able to get TV screen into the Community Centre at Mission View, we will be able to have a larger group. Member Chris sends in the Competition photos, thank you Chris.

Maureen Duncan: Phone 8357966

Antiques and Collectables

February – Our 'show and tell' this month was *something tartan* and as usual our members brought a fine selection to tell us about which included garments and sewing accessories. Catherine Downes recited an old Scottish poem "Crosspatrick".

The Member's display was a collection of handmade lace.

Jeanie Jenkins: Phone 878 8542



George Spiers, Graeme Hare, Barbara Moore,
Chris Geddis & Laura Mathers.



Competition
"Name
Please"?
Answers to
Sonia
Phone
8444834 or
email
sjmac13@xtr
a.co.nz
(No answers
sent in last
time)

5. John Rowles
4. Yellow
3. Nivea
2. Treka
1. Nuts

OFFICERS , COMMITTEE and EDITORS 2017

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Newsletter contact Angela Rodway, 844 6937 or Sonia Mackenzie 844 4834, sjmac13@xtra.co.nz

Taradale U3A Inc.

Coffee Morning

Wednesday, 5th April 2017

Taradale Town Hall, 9.30a.m.

10 o'clock start of talk by Hamish Jamieson

'On Cargoship Voyaging'