



# Taradale U3A Newsletter

April 2023

## **PRESIDENT KEITH'S PONDERINGS:**

Greetings to you all,

As I write I am feeling the onset of cool autumn winds. Hopefully the winter will be more manageable than the summer that brought such destruction. Like most of you, I've been thinking a lot about Cyclone Gabrielle and her unwelcome visit. I came upon the following recently: "God always forgives; Humans sometimes forgive; Nature never forgives." Gabrielle's embrace was certainly



unforgiving. And there's more to come. No part of the world, it seems, is spared from nature's unforgiving response to climate change.

Gabrielle made us more aware of the need to build and maintain good infrastructure- stop banks, roads, wastewater systems, electricity distribution systems, communication networks and fit for purpose housing. They represent the largely hidden or taken for granted physical infrastructure that enables us to live where we live and to have access to services we need. Without adequate physical infrastructure our way of life is in jeopardy.

There's another form of infrastructure that is also needed if we are to exist as a community. I refer to social infrastructure – the network of sports and craft groups, marae, churches, mosques and temples, ethnic groups, senior citizens and service clubs and many more formal and informal groupings that provide opportunities for people to meet, converse and pursue shared interests. U3A is among the builders of this important network, the social infrastructure of togetherness that holds us together as a community. Our focus is on those in retirement years but we're part of a larger network that covers all ages and stages. This social infrastructure, this network of neighbourliness and friendship, played an important part in our recovery from Gabrielle's unforgiving behaviour. Without adequate social infrastructure our way of life is in jeopardy.

I thought of this when I attended the opening of the new centre for the Taradale Bridge Club recently. They and we, along with a large and varied number of other organisations, are spokes in a web of life that keeps us connected, that help make us into a community that's good to live in. Incidentally, the new Bridge Club building is wonderful – a tribute to a vision and hard work. We have a link through the U3A Mah Jong group who meet in the new facility – and also a heap of members who belong to both groups.

Kia Kaha.

**Keith Rowe, President.**

**OUR AUTUMN U3A GATHERING WILL BE IN THE SENIOR CITIZENS' HALL, SYMONDS LANE ON MONDAY MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 9.45 AM AND WILL INCLUDE MORNING TEA.**

OUR SPEAKER WILL BE **DR RICHARD MEECH**, SPECIALIST IN IMMUNOLOGY. RICHARD WAS A CONSULTANT IN IMMUNOLOGY IN LONDON AND HAS NOW RETIRED. IMMUNOLOGY IS ONE OF THOSE AREAS OF SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE WE BECAME AWARE OF DURING PANDEMIC DAYS.

Please note the **change of venue and of day**. It is less costly and no less convenient to meet in the Senior Citizens Hall than in the Town Hall. As part of our ongoing discussion regarding the best format for our gatherings we are exploring combining with the Community Affairs normal monthly meeting for two of what we have called our Town Hall meetings. We look forward to a good attendance at this occasion when we can all meet with those who attend other groups.

***WE THANK TWO OF OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN HONOURED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY.***

Our congratulations to **Isabel Wood**, a member of the **History** group:

Isabel received a Napier Civic Award for 2022 for her services to Grey Power and the Taradale Senior Citizen's Association. In each of these groups Isabel has provided leadership and enthusiasm. She is convinced that as we grow older it is important we stay connected with others whether in person or by phone. Skills she developed during years of employment have been devoted to voluntary roles in these two important organisations. Surprised at being so honoured Isabel said, "I enjoy the social interaction with other likeminded people, making new friends. It's all about people really".

Congratulations also to **Ian McEwan**, a member of our '**Dipping into History**' group.

Ian was made an officer of the Order of New Zealand in this year's New Year Honours list. Ian, who moved to Hawkes Bay 6 years ago from Timaru, was honoured for 50 years service to addiction services. He founded the Addiction Practitioners Association, NZ and was its first chief executive. Hawkes Bay Today reported that Ian "had been significantly involved in the work of the Alcohol Advisory Council and was a member of the group that established the National Addiction Centre in Christchurch." Over the years he has contributed his administrative and counselling skills to a number of addiction related organisations including support for those in the rainbow community impacted by addictions. Thank you, Ian, for your ground-breaking contribution.

## ***From our Groups:***

### ***WHY NOT JOIN THE RUMMIKUB GROUP?***

RUMMIKUB is a game for all ages. It's an amazing game that helps keep one's brain active. It's really great fun. You can make so many different moves to create new groups and runs to change the direction the game is going. We all have a wonderful time together. It doesn't matter who wins or loses. The enjoyment is in playing the game. If you've not played before we can teach you how to play so come along and be with others who enjoy an afternoon of companionship with a cup of tea or coffee. The tiles go from 1 to 13 the same as playing cards; Ace to 10, Jack 11, Queen 12 and King 13. If you like to play with cards we can show you other rummy games. We meet first and third Mondays of the month, 1.30 – 4.00pm at Mission View retirement Village, 190 Avondale Road. To learn more, contact **Russell Drieberg, 06 8440303**.

**Russell Drieberg, Convenor**

### ***OR YOU COULD JOIN THE MAH JONG GROUP.***

We have just over 30 members and are now playing at the Taradale Bridge Club's beautiful new Club rooms at 48 Clyde Jeffrey Drive. We usually have 5 tables with one set aside for beginners with Vera Glover teaching any new or inexperienced players. Initially beginners are given a small selection of games as an introduction. The emphasis with our group is on enjoying a pleasant morning with competitive people.

We find it adds to the fun when there is something at stake – even though the prize is just the glory of winning a chocolate bar or a small gift.

A written description of the game can sound complicated but like most games you learn by playing. The game has similarities to other games like Five Crowns, Rummikub and Canasta in so far as there are suits and runs. The game is highly competitive and requires acquired skills. We play according to rules outlined in a readily available book, *The Mahjong Players Companion*.

We give a warm welcome to any new members whether they are experienced players or absolute beginners. We are not restricted by space as the new rooms can hold more tables than we presently need so if you are interested contact either **Joy Lawrence** at **0272844235** or **Bev Doohan** at **8453834**.

**Joy Lawrence, Convenor**

***OR THE HISTORY 1 GROUP MIGHT BE YOUR THING.***

Our September meeting of the Taradale History Group was a “Historical Tribute” to Queen Elizabeth II. Members brought along a truly amazing collection of items relating to the Queen and her reign, such as Books, Scrapbooks, Tour Books, Photos, Commemorative Medals, other memorabilia as well as stories relating to meeting the Queen, or about going to see her during one of her visits to New Zealand. The meeting started with a Powhiri and a minute silence in memory, led by Eric NiaNia. This was followed by the enthusiastic group singing ‘God save the Queen’ for the last time and then singing ‘God save the King’ for the first time. Members then spoke about their ‘Royal Treasures’ that they had brought along and their memories of Royal Visits and where they were at the time. An entertaining afternoon was had by all followed by a right ‘Royal afternoon tea’ with Queen Cakes and other baking from Norma Sinton. We had such a great response from 18 members, who brought along the most amazing display of memorabilia, including Wedgewood Coronation pottery, that I can only imagine what is out there collected in Hawke’s Bay.

The History 1 group meets on the second Wednesday of the month, 1.45- 4.00pm in the Senior Citizen’s Hall.

**Chris Geddis, Co-Convenor.**

***WE THANK TWO CONVENORS WHO HAVE RETIRED.***

**Pam Medcalf** has convened and led the Mythology group for 12 years. Having covered a lot of ground and cultures in that time the group has held its final meeting. Thank you, Pam, for your strong and valued contribution.

The Lunch Group 2 is also calling it quits due to a falling number and ill health. A special thank you to **Jeannie Jackson** for her work as convenor.

***DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION FOR A NEW GROUP?***

U3A thrives on a changing list of groups. The important thing is that groups provide an opportunity for people in retirement years to continue to pursue interests, to meet with others who share the same interest and to enjoy the company of like-minded friends.

Remember that Taradale members can attend groups in the Havelock North and Hastings U3A clubs. See their offerings on their websites.

If you have a proposal for a new group within the Taradale branch have a chat with a committee member and we will assist. Generally it’s good to kick off with, say, 8 -10 initial members depending on where you are meeting. You may meet in a home or if you need a hall the committee could assist you locate a suitable venue. Groups don’t need to last forever and the role of convenor need not become a life sentence. A group could last for a year or less and be focussed around a particular

issue or book or it could address wider and lasting issues. It may revolve around a particular activity or game or provide occasions to meet together for a meal and chat or be a group for discussion of topics of interest to members. If you have a particular interest or skill to share it could become the jumping off point for a new group.

The committee can assist with the purchase of essential equipment a group may need.

Before family needs intervened Christine Smith had been exploring the possibility of a gardening group. You may like to build on that idea. The Havelock North gardening group has been pioneering some interesting ways whereby a gardening group can develop an interesting programme and we could learn from their experience. Or those with a passion for gardening could join the HN group.

## ***From the Committee***

### **Membership Subscriptions for 2023**

Any member who has not paid by June 30th 2023 will be removed from the Membership List.

Annual Subscription per member for the Financial Year 1st January to 31st December 2023 is **\$15.00**

**The U3a Bank Account is: 03 0631 0175173 00**

Please state First Name and Surname in the Reference fields.

If Address, Email or Phone has changed please contact Janet Turvey on [janet.turvey51@gmail.com](mailto:janet.turvey51@gmail.com) or Phone **027 3679120**

### **Want to send an item for the next newsletter?**

The newsletter email address is [newsletters@taradaleu3a.org.nz](mailto:newsletters@taradaleu3a.org.nz)

<b><i>U3A Committee 2023</i></b>			
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