



Taradale U3A Newsletter

August 2022

PRESIDENT KEITH'S PONDERINGS:

Just a few months into the task you asked me to undertake I'm becoming increasingly aware of what a significant organisation U3A is. It's a simple framework within which those of retirement age and beyond can form friendships, pursue new and old interests and keep on exploring the world and society we live in. With its variety of sports, discussion and craft groups it is part of a network of those who have travelled longest and who have much to offer each other and our wider society.



A few months ago I met with the presidents and secretaries of the Havelock North and Hastings U3A's. The same story is enacted in their groups. Each branch is distinctive and there is plenty we can learn from each other. I was particularly interested in how new groups develop from tentative proposal to gathering members and ongoing activity. The key moment is when someone puts their hand up and asks if there are others who would like to join with her/him in doing, pondering or discussing some area of life. Groups can be long or short term, based on a single issue or with a wider and more general brief. A group might be built around the reading and discussing of a single book. It seems to me there are a host of important issues currently being faced by our world and by Kiwi society that cry out for deepening exploration by people like us. I enjoy being with people of our age who have learned to name the question beyond the question, the assumption beyond the prejudice, the interest served beyond the political slogan and who have learned to listen well to those they might disagree with, to learn together. Only the imagination and interests of its members limit the range of groups offered by any U3A. Incidentally we are all able to join with groups offered by other Hawkes Bay U3A's. It's worth a look at the websites for Havelock North and Hastings to see if there's anything there that interests you.

I rationalised my acceptance of the role of President by telling myself it's like becoming a member of another U3A group of friends and shared discussion. I can report that the group that goes by the name of the Taradale U3A Committee is an excellent U3A group to belong to. The group is not large but each member brings the needed gifts to enable the task of steering our branch to be done well and to enjoy the journey together. Each member of the committee has a specific area of U3A life for which they are responsible.

Our Town hall meetings are an important part of our U3A programme and I commend the September gathering to you. The speaker will be addressing issues of interest to most of us and beyond that it's an opportunity to meet and chat with other members.

A special thanks is due to those who conceived of the idea of a subsidised trip to the Cape Kidnappers sanctuary and especially to Geoff Tilyard who has put it all together. It will be a good event.

The wintry time of the year is passing –let's hope summer heat is manageable.

Keith Rowe

September Meeting

Wednesday 7 September May, Taradale Town Hall, 10am.

The hall will be open at 9.30am for a 10am start.

The speaker is **Bruce Jenks** from the **Stewart Group** speaking on financial management in retirement. This will be followed by morning tea.

Below are some topics that might conceivably be covered:

- **Having enough to live on.** On-line tools. Living off capital. Budgeting. Talking to your bank. Meeting unexpected costs. Reverse mortgages.
- **Providing for your family.** Your Will. Avoiding family disputes - documenting family loans.
- **Death of a spouse/partner.** Access to bank accounts. Waiting for probate.
- **Housing decisions.** Selling the family home - stay put or retirement village?
- **Asking for help.** Elder financial abuse. Protection of passwords.
- **Changing times.** On-line banking. New types of investments. ETF.
- **Types of investments.**
- **Seeking advice.** Golden rules for investment. Using a financial advisor.

Cape Kidnappers Sanctuary Trips

We have two trips organised to the Cape Sanctuary, one the **8th November** and one on the **16th November 2022**.

The 8th November trip is fully booked but we may have some places available on the 16th November trip. Please call me if you wish to take a place on this outing. Any other members wishing to go will be placed on a reserve waiting list for any unforeseen cancellations or trips in the future. If we do not maintain full buses the trip on the 16th November will be deferred as U3a has to pay for any empty seats. Hopefully this will not happen.

Would members please ensure they have paid their \$35.00 pp contribution into U3a bank account **03-0631-0175173-00**. We do not want to have to chase up members for late payment and your cooperation in this is much appreciated.

Further details of meeting point etc will be advised nearer the time. Some of you may like to carpool to the departure point.

I am sure we will all have a most enjoyable and informative visit seeing the work being done at the Cape by DOC.

Geoff Tilyard, Trip Convener ph:280 9013

From our Groups:

Words Words Words

Our group has been pushing through the difficulties this year, with some avoiding *Covid* and some having recovered from it. There have been between 12 and 18 attending sessions, plus regular visitors coming to check us out. Our sessions are varied, with all sorts of "wordy" or short creative activities - always with a lot of laughs. We meet at 2pm at the **Taradale Senior Citizens Rooms** on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

Newcomers are always welcome! Contact **Janice Hambly 021408092**.

Cycling Group

The Taradale U3A Cycling Group is still moving along steadily with at present 18 participants forming the E-Bike group and 8 riders in the Pedal Bike group.

The E-Bikers ride every Thursday and the Pedal Bikers alternate Fridays. There is some overlapping with some riders participating in both groups which is good.

As all members don't ride on any one day there is always room for some new members. Grandparent duties, holidays and unforeseen events means that the usual size group riding each week is between 8 and 12.

Early in November there is a group of 15 cyclists coming over from the **Melbourne City U3A** to spend a week cycling here in the area. We have been helping them organise their accommodation and bike hire. We are also organising 4 rides and providing them with leaders on each ride. Their trip was planned about 18 months ago but *Covid* got in the way.

In May this year 9 of our group travelled to Paeroa to cycle the Hauraki Rail Trail which has 4 separate rides. This was a very successful trip and we are already planning a trip for a similar time next year, destination not yet decided but we have a number of options.

Vince Allcock, Convenor

Poetry & Stories of the Past

At 32 Trent Street we are boxing on with two groups at the moment. All of us are well-vaccinated and are keeping in good health.

Poetry on the first Wednesday of each month has a fluctuating number of enthusiasts but usually about seven. Each person brings a poem they have written themselves and also poems from a known author and a biography of that poet. We share a cup of tea and some interesting conversation to round off the afternoon.

Stories of the Past for the Future brings forth a different angle on the attendees' lives and the stories must stay within the confines of my sun porch! At these mornings we also have about seven and we begin with morning tea.

I find both of these events very rewarding and both have been going for over ten years now.

We could fit one or two more if there are any budding writers out there?

Sonia Mackenzie, Convenor 8444834

French Intermediate group - Truffle hunting

After reading about *Le Perigord* and *la truffe noir*, our group contacted *Sacremonte* at Puketapu and went hunting for truffles.

A cool damp morning saw us donning outdoor gear and meeting in a field near Puketapu. Traditionally French truffle growers keep their locations secret but, even when you know where to look, truffles are not easy to find! Luckily Kees van Munckhof and his dog Rua searched around the roots of oak and hazel nut trees to assist our mission. Truffles, a type of underground mushroom, have a very distinctive aroma and a rich flavour – which is why dogs rather than pigs are used to locate them nowadays.



In NZ there are now over 150 truffle-growing sites, the main varieties being *Perigord Black* and *Winter Black* – and a site can take up to 25 years before it yields truffles. *Perigord Black* truffles sell for \$3000 per kg and the less valuable *Winter Black* for \$1000 per kg. They are available in some local restaurants from July to November. **Bon appetit!**

The Contentious Issues Group meets on the first Thursday of each month and continues to provide a setting for lively exploration of issues that divide society and sometimes families and communities. We puzzled over the views of those identified as covid - deniers, anti-vaxers and those who fanned the flames of disruption and non-compliance during the time of pandemic anxiety. A session on Rocket Lab and its growing success raised concerns about aspects of space exploration. The development of facial recognition technology is a reminder of human ingenuity but can also be used to suppress, discriminate and damage minority groups. We puzzled over the long - standing misrepresentation of Moriori/Chatham Islands history and how a misreading of that story was used to rationalise British settlement.

One underlying issue that surfaces over and over is how our inherited greed - based economic system has created and/or perpetuated injustice, climate change and environmental degradation. Discussions about ecology, *Reimagining Capitalism* (the name of a book praised by Jim Bolger), sustainability, the gap between rich and poor (based on a book by Max Rashbrooke, *Too Much Money*), housing issues, all lead us to what we think are important questions about the way a modern western economy needs to be modified if it is to serve the needs of its citizens. The discussion continues.....

There is room for a couple of new members so if you would like to be part of these stimulating discussions, call **Keith, 0212585298**.

Possible New Groups

Gardening Group

As regards the possible Gardening Group mentioned in the last newsletter, we had six members interested. At a meeting with the presidents of the Havelock North and Hastings clubs, I got lots of ideas for a group interested in gardens and sustainability. I have contacted the members interested in such a group and we have decided to delay meeting until Spring.

Historic Ramblers Group

The Hastings club also has a Historic Ramblers group that they said is very popular. Would anyone be interested in setting up such a group for Taradale U3A?

If anyone would be interested in either of the above, contact **Christine Smith**. She is currently away but can be contacted by email at chrismsmith999@gmail.com

Obituaries

Jean Merrick

On reaching 97, sadly Jean Merrick died in July this year.

Once retired, she joined U3A in its early years. She was a member of History, Antiques and Controversial Issues - which became Community Affairs. Here she found a *niche* as a cheerful Ringer - in the days before computers and e-mail - and she was also a welcoming Morning Tea Lady.

Outside of *U3A*, she was the consummate recycler and collector of used stamps for charities. She was also a regular swimmer and walker. Both she and her husband enjoyed walks with *Forest & Bird* until Keith's death.

Dear Jean will be missed by so many friends from *U3A*. RIP.

Belinda Galbraith and Pat Ballard

Sue Lambourn

Taradale U3A recently lost one of its staunchest advocates when Sue Lambourn passed away on 3rd July in Palmerston North Hospital.

Sue was born in Rotorua where her father was a Public Servant and, by the time she was ten years old, the family had moved to Gisborne, Palmerston North and Wellington. When she left school, Sue started work at *Prudential Insurance*. After Peter and she married, she joined *Gordon & Gotch*, the independent magazine distributors. Once their son Jason was born, she worked part-time at the TAB, writing tickets by hand. She then joined *CML Insurance* and ran the word-processing centre before starting her own word-processing business in a building belonging to *Brandons*, lawyers specialising in property, commercial, employment and intellectual property, and she mainly did legal work for them. She then worked for the *Labour Department* as EA to the CEO for 18 months, before joining *Jarden & Co* as EA to the four senior partners, managing their families' private bank accounts and organising



the *Jarden Mile* tent on several occasions. From there she joined engineering firm *MWH* as Administration Manager, ending up with responsibility for the whole of the North Island. Apart from working full-time, she had played Bridge seriously since 1980.

Sue retired in late 2016 after a long and successful career and the couple moved to Napier where they joined *Taradale U3A*, becoming an enthusiastic promoter of its objectives and participating in several groups. Enjoying good food and wine and good company, she was the driving force in setting up the *Bon Vivant* group, the objectives of which are not only to enjoy fine food and beverages but to explore cuisine from all over the world and to challenge group members to prepare a variety of dishes representing the country or theme of choice for the monthly get-together.

Sue's organisational skills shone through in the years she spent as Secretary of *Taradale U3A*. Her input was instrumental in ensuring that amendments to the constitution were correctly lodged at the Companies Office and that the committee improved its communication with groups.

She was particularly proud of her two grandchildren, Rafa & Macey.

To Peter, her husband, and their family we extend our sympathy.

Together we raise our glass to toast you, Sue; you will be sadly missed.

From the Committee....

Age Concern help offered

We have been seeing a lot of media attention and Age Concern NZ have been thinking a lot about the cost of living and how many older New Zealanders are doing it tough. Just a reminder that Age Concern is working from 40 locations across Aotearoa and is available on 0800 652105 for anyone that needs our help or advice.

The Warehouse introduces free heater swap

The Warehouse has launched a 'Healthy Heater Swap' as part of its annual *Warmhouse* campaign. Thirty stores nationwide will accept all unflued LPG gas heaters, no matter their place of purchase, to swap for a free electric option.

Financial support for groups

We are considering how we can financially support our groups. One suggestion is to make a lump sum contribution to cover costs such as photocopying or venue hire. If this would be of assistance to your group, please contact the treasurer, Christine Smith, phone: 834 1300 or e-mail: chrismsmith999@gmail.com.

Update of Personal Details

Any change of address, phone number or email address should be given to **Janet Turvey**, our Registrar, at janet.turvey51@gmail.com or on **027 367 9120**

Almoner

Please contact our Almoner, **Erin Mahony**, at etmahony@gmail.com or on **027 244 3450** if you know of any member you would like a card sent to on behalf of the U3A in case of illness or bereavement.

Outstanding Subs

There are still many unpaid subscriptions for 2022. The preference is for members to pay their dues of \$15 into the U3A bank account number **03 0631 0175173 00**, either on-line by clicking [here](#) or at a Westpac bank branch. Please ensure that you include your name. If you are having any difficulty in paying your subs or if you have any queries concerning this, please talk to your Convenor or contact Christine on 834 1300 or email chrismsmith999@gmail.com . A copy of the renewal form is on the next page.

Newsletters

Our new editor is **Franki James** and her contact details are phone: **843 5926** or e-mail: frankijbj@gmail.com .Please let Franki know if you have any items to include in the newsletter.

U3a Committee 2022			
Keith Rowe	President	kkrowe@xtra.co.nz	021 2585298
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Geoff Tilyard	Event Coordinator	gbtilyard@gmail.com	280 9013
Yvonne Huckson	Event Coordinator	yhuckson@gmail.com	843 9911

...and some clever word stuff to finish....

A couple of anagrams from QI on TV

'Customers' morphs into ***'Store scum'*** and the little white lie ***'forty-five'*** becomes ***'over fifty'***.

And thanks again to Chris Geddis for circulating some clever word play

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool .

A will is a dead giveaway.

Police were summoned to a day-care centre where a three-year-old was resisting a rest

and finally

Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.

U3A TARADALE INC

2022 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Post Code Phone

Email.....

Please confirm for newsletter delivery

The group/s I wish to join for 2022 are:.....

.....

Annual subscription per member for the financial year 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022
\$15.00

We are no longer able to bank cheques at Westpac Bank. The preferred method of payment of subscriptions is by internet banking into the Westpac bank account of U3A Taradale Inc, Taradale. If this is not possible, payment may be made at any branch of Westpac Bank.

**The U3A bank account number is: 03 0631 0175173 00
Please state your initials and surname in the reference field.**

Please return this form to

**Janet Turvey
30a Osier Road
Greenmeadows 4112**

janet.turvey51@gmail.com 027 367 9120

Membership lapses after 28 February 2022 and prompt payment would be appreciated.

Office use only

Receipt No:..... Date / /