



# *U3A Taradale Newsletter*

*August 2024*

## **PRESIDENT KEITH PONDER:**

I recently attended three of four lectures and discussions held in Napier and Hastings on the Treaty of Waitangi. They provided thoughtful assistance to those trying to make sense of current discussion and sometimes dispute around the meaning and relevance of New Zealand's founding document. I was particularly impressed by young, highly educated Maori women and men, emerging leaders, who spoke with informed passion. They brought a happy



combination of university gained knowledge and Marae based wisdom, together pointing toward a society shaped by togetherness, listening, fairness and cultural sensitivity. Speaker at the opening session was **Andrew Judd, former Mayor of New Plymouth**. He sought to introduce Maori Wards to his city and subsequently lost an election because of his views. What he said provided plenty for me to ponder as I drove home. His story embraced a journey that many of us may share.

Andrew described himself as a 'recovering racist'. As he endeavoured to get his mind and heart around the original and lasting meaning of the Treaty, he found himself rethinking many misunderstandings he had taken for granted. Over the years he'd swallowed a lot of patently untrue and misleading attitudes toward the Treaty and about Maori. Unlearning what he had swallowed so uncritically was not always easy. He stumbled across an important learning: Instead of asking why Maori did or didn't do this or that, believe this or believe that, seek this or seek that, he learned to turn his questions upside down and ask the same questions of himself. He asked who he was and how he might relate creatively to the descendants of Maori signatories to the Treaty. He began to ask, "what does it mean for me to live as a person whose ancestors were permitted to live in this land because the Treaty, signed by Maori chiefs and by the British Crown, gave settlers and their customs a place in this land alongside existing Maori customs and social structures?" He began to ask how he could contribute, as Mayor and as citizen, in ways large and (mostly) small, to the fulfillment of the dream implicit in the Treaty. He embarked on an, as yet, unfinished journey.

Of course, he had to read the Treaty and learn how it was shaped. He learned how the Maori version (signed by most chiefs) and the English version (signed by the crown and a few chiefs) differ. He learned to pronounce Maori place names, to listen to the heartbeat of the land and to unlock the wisdom and memory of Maori who lived in his area. He talked, he listened, he learned, he pondered. It was an exciting but not always easy journey. He had to face some unpleasant facts about the effects of settler greed in Taranaki and beyond and how Maori have never forgotten the promises made between Maori and Settlers in 1840. What Pakeha have forgotten or never knew about is treasured in Marae story telling.

cont.....

He sought more than information about “them”. He found himself asking: “What is my culture, what do I stand for, what sort of New Zealand do I seek in the light of New Zealand’s founding and nation shaping document?” He began to read New Zealand history with a new sensitivity to Maori experience and he looks forward to NZ history being taught with a similar awareness of Maori experience. He was stunned by the threats and abusive messages he received by those who could not, or would not, understand the journey he was on. He was defeated in an election but the journey he is on, he told us, is more important than counting votes.

Throughout his address Andrew made a distinction that is often used, between “**Tangata Whenua**” (People of the Land) whose ancestors owned this land and invited others to share it, and “**Tangata Tiriti**” (people of the Treaty) who were and are (whether they arrived long ago or last week) privileged to live in this land because of the Treaty. It’s a helpful distinction. Each group has a distinctive contribution to the other and a contribution to make to who and what we are becoming as a nation. We are bound together by Treaty possibilities yet to be developed.

Two parties signed the treaty: British Crown and Maori Chiefs, colonisers from afar and indigenous people to whom the land belonged. Ongoing and respectful consultation between the two parties to the Treaty is the New Zealand way of building a democratic society. Unlike other parts of the nineteenth century British Empire it was hoped that New Zealand would be a place and a people where indigenous and migrant traditions would take each other seriously, respecting each other’s wisdom and caring for each other. In 21<sup>st</sup> century the settler tradition now includes many more cultures, each one invited to live in conversation with those whose wisdom first gave shape to this land.

As I drove home, I reflected that it must be difficult for those who come from other places to appreciate this unique dimension of New Zealand life. The Treaty assumes it’s possible for people shaped by different cultural perspectives and values to respect each other’s wisdom and to cooperate together in building an inclusive and fair society. The shift from “us and them in competition” to “us and them respecting each other, sharing with each other, and learning from each other” is difficult for some to grasp but it’s at the heart of the New Zealand adventure. Some describe it as a “partnership”.

Thank you, Andrew Judd. One of the benefits of senior years is that we have time to ponder, to read, to rethink big issues, to listen, to share what life has taught us.

Keith



## SEARCHING FOR A NEW PRESIDENT!

As I write this, the USA are engaging in their four yearly scramble to find and capture a President. It's strange they have such difficulty finding someone who will lead them for a few years. They have a population of 333 million to choose from, less the young, the imprisoned and those not yet granted citizenship. It's estimated 244 million will be eligible to vote and about two thirds will accept this task and privilege. They have about three months to go before election day. Good luck to them –the long-suffering voters I mean. Though sadly the rest of the world will be affected by the backwash of whoever they choose.



Here in Taradale U3A we are also looking for a President. At our AGM next February Keith Rowe will stand down in accordance with the three-year limit dictated by our constitution. We have about 300 possible voters and the same number eligible for this office. So, is there someone you would like to nominate for this task and privilege? Chat it over with other members. If you think it may be a task you could undertake for a couple of years, give Keith or Peter Green a call and learn more about the nature of the task. Incidentally our committee are all available for re-election in February. That's good for continuity. The rest of the world is unlikely to be affected by who we select. Keith

OUR NEXT **U3A COFFEE MORNING** IS ON MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER AT SENIOR CITIZENS' HALL, 10 WHITE STREET, TARADALE. ARRIVE ABOUT 10.00am FOR COFFEE OR TEA AND CONVERSATION AT TABLES. WE'LL BEGIN OUR PROGRAMME AT 10.30am. WE'RE IN FOR A TREAT, SHARING IN THE ACTIVITY OF TWO OF OUR POPULAR GROUPS.

THE **WORDS GROUP** WILL INTRODUCE US TO THE VERBAL GYMNASTICS THAT TAKE PLACE IN THEIR POPULAR GROUP AND THE **CYCLING GROUP** WILL SHARE A BIT OF THE EXCITEMENT AND DISCOVERIES OF OUR MOST PHYSICALLY ACTIVE GROUP.

WE'LL CONCLUDE ABOUT 11.30. WE'VE CHANGED THE TIMES A BIT TO FIT IN WITH THE NEW PATTERN FOLLOWED BY THE MONTHLY **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS** GROUP.

## NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE:

We've had some problems with our **Taradale U3A website** and some have been unable to access it. Sorry about that. We were attacked by scammers and had to virtually close down while the site is reconstructed. Thanks to Peter Green who is overseeing this work.

We're exploring the purchase of two handheld microphones for use in the Senior Citizens' Hall. We were impressed by those provided by Taradale College at our last coffee morning and have known for a while that we needed to improve the sound facility in the hall.

The committee has been working on publicity and our display board will be in Taradale Library soon. Thanks to Vince Alcock for his work on a display board and to Peter Green for the information leaflet giving further information about U3A.

The committee has been discussing how we should share some of the healthy balance we have in our account and are exploring how we might assist some needy group in the community. We'll keep members informed – hopefully we'll have a proposal to bring to a future coffee morning.

The Hastings-based *Hawke's Bay Knowledge Bank\** is willing to digitally preserve archival material – minute books, newsletters, etc., - of Hawke's Bay community organisations. The committee is pursuing this possibility. The Knowledge Bank is gathering an amazing collection of materials, including the story of groups like us, to preserve a grass roots telling of the Hawke's Bay experience.

*\* see paragraph about the Dipping into History group*

There is provision in the constitution for the appointment of honorary membership of U3A. This is in addition to the appointment of three life members.

**Catherine Downs** and **Bob Denby** have been nominated as honorary members. In this way we both honour their contribution to U3A and to their attaining 100 years. It was our privilege to congratulate them on their significant birthday at a recent coffee morning.

## SHORT COURSES

Three sessions is probably the ideal length for 'a short course' and focussed on a single well defined question, topic or book. The committee will assist any member wanting to initiate or promote a short course. Winter months seem to a good time of the year for this sort of intensive study of a topic of interest to you and others. Six people is enough to form a course. A short course may focus on ideas or on skills, books or knitting needles, history or cooking or a combination of all of these!



## SHORT COURSES (cont.)

### **SHORT COURSE ON TREATY OF WAITANGI.**

The committee received a suggestion from a member who, having attended a couple of the recent Treaty of Waitangi lectures and discussions, asked if Taradale U3A could offer a short course or day long workshop for members who missed out on deliberate study of early New Zealand history, including the Treaty, and who would like to explore the events, documents and intentions surrounding the signing of the Treaty in 1840. The committee welcomed this initiative and agreed to set up a course. Keith Rowe was asked to plan and share in the leadership of a short course to be held this year. It is likely it could involve three sessions and would provide a sort of "Treaty 101" for those who would like to update their knowledge sufficiently to make sense of current discussions around the Treaty and its place in New Zealand society. We'll keep members informed once details are finalised. There has been a vast amount of study of nineteenth century history by scholars in recent decades which, when held in conversation with Marae based memory, adds enormously to our understanding of the beginning and envisaged possibilities of our nation. We'll plan for both to be part of our Treaty short course.

If you would be interested in a "Treaty 101" short course, contact Keith, [kkrowe@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kkrowe@xtra.co.nz)

### **Te Reo short course**

*Tena koutou katoa*

We highly recommend these sessions to anyone interested in learning some basic pronunciation and understanding of often used Māori words and greetings. The course was short term (4-6 weeks), relaxed and non-intimidating. Marie was very professional yet friendly and inclusive and is passionate about the language and culture. She was always happy to answer questions no matter how simple and encouraged us to listen to the language so we could understand a little more.

Nga mihi Marie

Lynn Lusby and Sheri Pradel

Please note: Marie Howard's phone number so that anyone interested can contact her is 027 508 6688

### **Religion in our times**

The 6-session course on **Religion in our times** has concluded and was greatly enjoyed by the 12 participants. Plans are being developed to arrange visits, discussions, with Sikh, Buddhist, Muslim and Hindu groups in Hawke's Bay. On an organisation level, the group confirmed the role that short term courses can play in our U3A offering.

## GROUPS

### Community Affairs group

As there is a combined meeting of *U3A Taradale* members in September, there will be no meeting of *Community Affairs* that month.

In recent months, we have had several excellent speakers, including former Napier Mayor Barbara Arnott QSM and the Cranford Hospice Manager for Marketing & Development but, unfortunately, there were relatively few people in the audience on both occasions. Given that there are 133 people listed as members of this group, it was extremely disappointing - not only for the speakers themselves but also for me as Convenor. To cover costs (hall hire, *koha* and morning tea) and in order to keep attracting interesting speakers, we really do need a better turnout!

If you have any suggestions for future speakers, please do let me know.

It would also be appreciated if some of our more able-bodied members could help with setting out and putting away seats before and after meetings.



*Carol-Ann Stubbs from Cranford Hospice*

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October, **Age Concern** is sending along a Social Worker to speak to the *Community Affairs* group on the subject of "Elder Abuse". As many as one in ten older people in New Zealand will experience some kind of elder abuse, most of which isn't recognised or is otherwise ignored. While most of us in *U3A Taradale* are fortunate enough not to experience this type of mistreatment or neglect, there are many others out in the community who are not so fortunate – perhaps friends, colleagues, neighbours, extended family....

At the same time, **Age Concern** provides a very worthwhile visiting service for older people who may be lonely or socially isolated and they are always looking for more volunteers!

Franki James, Convenor (06 843 59 26)

### Writers' Group

There is now space for an aspiring writer in this group which meets at 10am on the second Thursday of each month in a private home for a couple of hours. We share stories, mainly family histories, and encourage each other in our efforts.

Convenor: Sonia MacKenzie (06 844 48 34)



Some of Sonia's Writers' Group

### **Bon Vivant group**

Members of this small group aim to learn more about various foods and beverages - at least that's their excuse! They usually meet in wineries, breweries, cideries, restaurants and cafes or, sometimes, in each other's homes. There is a theme to each session and tasting is obligatory! In June, for example, mid-winter Christmas was observed, with participants contributing seasonal dishes such as one made entirely from vegetables pictured below. Italian cuisine is on the menu in August. "Buon appetito!"

Convenor: Sally Woods (06 844 95 51)



Edible Christmas Wreath

### **Dipping into History group**

We enjoy meeting monthly, where we take turns to present a subject of our choice followed by discussion and a friendly general quiz. Balloons through the ages; Plagues to Pandemics; Convict culture NZ style, an unopened chapter of our history; the Hakka People: Aspects, Migration and Culture; the One Day War at Omarunui and Petane, are subjects we have covered this year. In July, on our yearly outing, we visited the *Hawke's Bay Knowledge Bank* on Omahu Road. Our group had a very interesting tour of the Knowledge Centre which included a tour of the house, giving us its history and an overview of the work they are doing. This was followed by afternoon tea at the Mosaics, Omahu Road. If you would like to experience a meeting of this group, please do get in touch. We meet at 2pm on the second Monday of each month at the Community Centre of the Missionview Retirement Village, 190 Avondale Road, Napier.

**Wynn Barnett, Convenor (844 23 29)**

In honour of the recent Olympics held in France, the following was submitted by a U3A member:



A Scotsman, an Englishman and an Irishman wanted to get into the recent Olympics but they didn't have tickets.  
 The Scotsman picked up a manhole-cover, tucked it under his arm and walked up to the gate. "McTavish, Scotland" he said, "Discus," and in he walked.  
 The Englishman picked up a length of scaffolding and slung it over his shoulder. "Waddington-Smythe, England," he said, "Pole vault," and in he walked.  
 The Irishman looked around, picked up a roll of barbed wire and tucked it under his arm. "O'Malley, Ireland," he said, "Fencing."

**UPDATED COURSES AND CONVENORS LIST**

You will find a copy attached to this newsletter.

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

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

<b>U3A Committee 2024</b>			
Keith Rowe	President	<a href="mailto:kkrowe@xtra.co.nz">kkrowe@xtra.co.nz</a>	021 258 5298
John Warren	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@taradaleu3a.org.nz">treasurer@taradaleu3a.org.nz</a>	845 4623
Yvonne Huckson	Secretary	<a href="mailto:yhuckson@gmail.com">yhuckson@gmail.com</a>	021 149 5415
Janet Turvey	Registrar	<a href="mailto:janet.turvey51@gmail.com">janet.turvey51@gmail.com</a>	027 367 9120
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Ian McEwan		<a href="mailto:ian.macewan7@gmail.com">ian.macewan7@gmail.com</a>	021 224 9922
Peter Green	Past President	<a href="mailto:pandagreen@xtra.co.nz">pandagreen@xtra.co.nz</a>	0274 795 403



**U3A TARADALE INC  
2024 COURSES AND CONVENORS**

NAME	CONVENOR	PHONE	DATE AND TIME	VENUE
Art Appreciation	Kathleen Cocking	845 1553	2nd Tuesday 1.30 - 3.30pm	Taradale Library
Astronomy	Les De Frere	8703634 ;0275270067	1st Thursday after 2nd Wednesday of the month (1:30pm)	NBHS Planetarium
Bon Vivant Group	Jenny Garrett	027 2932669	4th Wednesday - various times	Various
Book Group	Vic Chick	843 3474	2nd Friday 2.00pm	Private Home
Classical Music	Lester Calder	027 234 7050	4th Monday 1:30 pm	Private Home
Community Affairs	Franki James	8435926	1st Monday 9.30 - 11.00am	Taradale Senior Citizens Hall
Contentious Issues	Keith Rowe	021 258 5298	1st Thursday 1.45 - 4.00pm	Mission View Village Hall
Dipping into History	Wynn Barnett	844 2329	2nd Monday 2.00 - 4.00pm	Mission View Village Hall
French Conversation Beginners	Marion Sturm	844 8872	Mondays 10.30 - 12.00pm	36 Churchill Drive Taradale
French Conversation Middle	Lynn Lusby	021 250 6638	Mondays 9.30 - 10:30am	Taradale Library
French Conversation Friday	Franki James	8435926	Fridays 10:00 - 11:00 am	Private Home
Gardening	Christine Smith	027 632 6973		
Geography	David Brock	027 4740097	1st Friday 10.00 - 11.30am	Mission View Village Hall
History	Chris Geddis <b>OR</b> Norma Sinton	835 3009 844 8388	2nd Wednesday 1.45 - 4.00pm	Taradale Senior Citizens Hall
Leisure Cycling	Vince Allcock	274771654	E-bike. Group.( Pedal Power are welcome to come along)	Every Thursday
Lunch 3	Pam Medcalf	835 8231	1st Friday 12.00pm	Various
Mahjong	Bev Doohan <b>OR</b> Joy Lawrence	845 3834 027 2844235	Tuesday 9:15 for 9.30 am start	Bridge Club, Clyde Jeffery Dr, Park Island
Photography	Rob Jackson	021 033 8088	4th Tuesday 1.30 - 3.30pm	Mission View Village Hall
Poetry Reading	Sonia Mackenzie	844 4834	1st Wednesday 2.00pm	Private Home
Religion:Multifaceted and Diverse	Keith Rowe	021 258 5298		6 week Winter Course Only
Rummikub	Russell Drieberg	844 0303	1st & 3rd Monday 1:30-4:00 pm	Mission View Village Hall
Scrabble	Marion Sturm	844 8872	Thursdays 2.00pm	Taradale Library. (ask at desk)
Stories of the past for the future	Sonia Mackenzie	844 4834	2nd Thursday 10.15 am	Private Home
Te Reo Maori	Claire Donkin	021 0298 7728	Tuesday 1.30pm -3.00pm (No Beginners)	Private Home
Words! Words! Words!	Janet Turvey	273679120	1st and 3rd Wednesdays 2:00 - 4:00 pm	Taradale Senior Citizens Hall