



# Taradale U3A Newsletter

November 2024



**OUR CHRISTMAS GATHERING WILL BE HELD ON**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10.00am in**

**THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S HALL, 10 WHITE STREET, TARADALE.**



WE WILL MEET ON MONDAY DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S HALL FROM 10.00AM (FOR A 10.20ish START) FOR OUR CHRISTMAS GATHERING. THE BON VIVANT GROUP WILL BE OUR HOSTS AND THE GARDENING GROUP WILL ALSO SHARE A CHRISTMAS THEME. DAVID DAY WILL DRAW ON HIS LIFE-LONG LOVE OF MUSIC AND WITH THE HELP OF HIS GUITAR, AND ASSISTANCE FROM JANICE HAMBLY ON PIANO, LEAD US IN CHRISTMAS SINGING. MOST OF ALL IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO TOUCH BASE WITH EACH OTHER AS WE ENTER INTO WHAT IS A BUSY SEASON FOR MANY.

IN HOW MANY LANGUAGES CAN YOU SAY, 'HAPPY CHRISTMAS'?

To all our members: Have a fulfilling and happy Christmas time. If you are with family, may there be laughter and pleasure in each other's company. If Christmas time brings sad memories may sadness be washed away by the goodwill that permeates our community at this season. May those who spend the day with small children receive again the gift of childlike wonder.

'Happy Christmas' – or is it 'Merry Christmas' – or is 'Happy Family time' – or is it 'Rejoice for love dwells among us and in us'? Take your pick.

The Bon Vivant group has a surprise for us!

\*Don't forget David Day's invitation to write new words to old Christmas tunes like Good King Wenceslas, Jingle bells, We Three Kings, Silent Night, God bless ye merry gentlemen.... Email David with your humorous verses asap to: [stonesprop80@gmail.com](mailto:stonesprop80@gmail.com)

**KEITH PONDER'S ALOUD**, follows the thought:

If we ever needed to be reminded of how we live in a single world where we share each other's pain and possibilities the American election certainly reminds us that what happens in one part of the world affects the whole world family. Ongoing killing in Sudan, Ukraine

and Palestine/Israel affects us all and in one way or another reflects a sad human impulse to destroy those with whom we disagree or feel we are in competition with. We look at issues we face in our nation and soon discover other people in other places face the same issues. The same issues but clothed in different languages and shaped by different traditions. Economic stresses are commonplace as is the inability of those with power to share it with those for whom life is tough. We have yet to manage and appreciate differences of culture and religion that so cruelly divide the human family. We have not, as a species, learned how to be enlarged rather than diminished by difference. It seems that wherever we look dominant groups seek their own comfort while failing to recognise the needs and gifts of others. No one I know gets any pleasure from seeing the growing gap between rich and poor, here and in other places, but I know relatively few decision makers willing to have less so others may have more. Throughout the world people with power seem unwilling or unable to feel the pain of the needy and to join the search for more just ways of shaping society.

Sometimes I watch the evening news and feel despair as I hear a familiar litany of tales of cruelty, violence, deceit and search for power. There have been evenings when I have not felt up to watching the news. On other occasions I need a quiet spell to catch my breath after what I have seen and heard. Sometimes the news just washes over me – I lose the ability to feel the pain of what I am viewing. Announcers tell us of how many women and children were killed in the latest raids on Gaza or in Ukraine and I find the numbers lose meaning for me – 10, 40, 50, 100 – I can no longer comprehend the pain the figures represent – weeping mothers, broken bodies, parentless children. Perhaps it's one of the first casualties of world pain – we lose the capacity to feel and empathise with those whose suffering we see but cannot touch. Soon we lose the capacity to feel the pain of those we can see and touch.

The local news brings scant relief from the pain of the international news. Tales of young people who have taken the wrong path through life and are now hell-bent on making the lives of others miserable sit alongside stories of wealthy entrepreneurs whose search for a profit seems, in their eyes, to excuse them from any moral responsibility for the effects of their greed-shaped actions and products.

I'm just following a thought. It may be the sort of pondering you also indulge in. Some people claim they are not interested in the pain of the world beyond their own family circle and shut out the negativity that assaults those of us addicted to the world news. But you can't shut it out, it's here in New Zealand too, the same addiction to violence and to greed. We too, as a society, seem to have developed an inability to deeply feel and understand the views and the pain of those around us. We're never going to reshape our broken society unless we learn how to hear and feel the struggles of those who see things differently to us.

I've developed a few guidelines for living in the difficult world that is our home.

1. I cannot solve these great problems by worrying about them but I can care for those nearest to me. That doesn't stop the worrying but it does channel worry-energy into a more productive path.

2. I haven't got all the answers to the immense problems our world faces but I can listen, read, and seek to understand how life appears through the eyes of those who are marginalised, in despair, misunderstood.
3. I don't have the energy or insight to fully understand how or why humanity should act in such foolish and life-denying ways but I can do my best to understand and where possible to support one oppressed or misunderstood or needy person or group.
4. I no longer have the physical strength I once had but I can value the wisdom I have accumulated over the decades: how to listen, to understand the struggles of others, to speak for those without a voice, to keep asking how we can build just and compassionate communities.
5. I no longer have the strength to do the hard work needing to be done if we're to build a decent society where every person, every culture, every human group is respected and listened to. But I can be a volunteer in organisations serving life giving causes and at least contribute a little to the healing of the world.
6. I can claim my own quiet times when in the silence of aloneness I ponder these big questions and what it all means locally and universally. And if we are fortunate, we can meet with trusted friends where we reflect on the difficult times in which we live and gain support from those who also feel the pain of our broken world. Alone or with others these reflective moments tremble on the edge of prayer.

Probably every generation has thought they live in a particularly difficult time and have worried about what is and what might be. But this is *our* time, *our* worries, *our* attempt to live well in a time shaped by division, violence, misunderstanding, prejudice and life-denying bigotry. Time to finish – it's a few minutes to six and the evening news beckons....

Kia kaha.  
Keith

## **Our Groups**

### **THE GARDENING GROUP.**

*Our newest group has enjoyed a great first year: congratulations to each member.*

The U3A gardening group began in February this year We have enjoyed our monthly meetings with trips to such diverse places as garden nurseries, the Figgery, and Sustainable Hawke's Bay. We have also visited member's gardens and shared tips and plants. Some visits have been such a success, such as last month's visit to the Napier City Council's nursery and a demonstration on propagation by one of our members, that repeats have been requested.

Each visit we share morning tea, either at a near-by cafe or a member's home. This has enabled us to develop a social aspect to the group and enable us to discuss possible visits. Each month one of the members elects to organise the next month's outing. This involves checking out the venue and organising the visit, sending a reminder email to members with details and writing up our group's journal.

November's meeting will be a visit to the Kennedy Road Rose Garden with a talk by one of the Napier City gardeners. A pot luck lunch is planned for December at one of the member's home with an emphasis on Christmas decorations.

The group has proved to be very popular and has a full quota of 15 members. However, if you would like to go on a waiting list, please contact Christine Smith, email address: [chrismsmith999@gmail.com](mailto:chrismsmith999@gmail.com).

*Well done Christine and the Gardening Group.*

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## **TE REO MAORI “101”SHORT COURSE : Let’s start at the very beginning!**

A course of four weekly sessions (one hour) for those NOT wanting to learn to speak Te Reo. NO prior knowledge required. Flexible, non-threatening learning environment.

Attendees will be supported to:

- gain familiarity with commonly used words and phrases, e.g. as seen/heard on TV, radio, and in print
- increase confidence with pronunciation
- expand knowledge of aspects of Te Ao Māori (the Māori world), particularly pertaining to Ngati Kahungunu (local Iwi/tribe) and our local community.

Course will run with small numbers (only need 2 or 3) and once per term as long as interest is there. (Two courses completed in 2024.) Next course term 1 in 2025 if interest expressed by mid-January.

**Contact facilitator Marie Howard 0275086688 to express interest and learn more.**

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## **CONTENTIOUS ISSUES.**

The group continues to explore issues that divide the community. A recent session explored how public involvement in democratic decision making can be increased. A year after the last general election a member will lead a discussion on “A new government – 12 months later.” No meeting concludes without loose ends that provoke further thinking. The variety of issues discussed reflects the interests, questions and ‘maybes’ of the members. First Thursday of the month at Mission View Hall.

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## **MAHJONG GROUP.**

We hold our weekly meetings at the Taradale Bridge Club rooms at Park Island every Tuesday morning. New members are welcome either experienced players or those wishing to learn.

We are fortunate to have one member prepared to teach new members if required. This has been an important reason we have increased our membership.

When we moved to the Taradale Bridge club premises 2 years ago we had approximately 24 members. We now have 54 members with a possible further 3 in the next couple of weeks.

Taradale Bridge club has 2 separate rooms available to rent. Having large numbers, we rent the main room but the smaller room is available also. I have no knowledge of rental charges but can only comment that the premises are great.

**Joy Lawrence**

**Mahjong Group.**

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**‘TREATY OF WAITANGI 101, a short course for those who missed out during school years.’**

We had hoped for a group of 10 for this short course but finished up with 23. The group met on three occasions and explored key documents to do with the Treaty:

- He Whakaputanga or the Declaration of Independence (1835) which Northern chiefs signed and the British government recognised;
- The instructions given to William Hobson who led the Treaty signing on behalf of the British Crown;
- William Colenso’s interesting account of the discussion on February 5<sup>th</sup> 1840; The Treaty in both its Maori and English versions;
- Reports of the Waitangi Tribunal, a body set up to monitor the nation’s past and current adherence to the ongoing meaning of the Treaty.

We reflected on the clash of cultures that ensued when European adventurers and later settlers sought a home in a place that was already home to another people. The same thing was happening in other places as European nations sought to build their economic empires. We could not avoid recognising how British authorities finally went to war against Maori to gain land for settlement. There was no escaping the tough side of our nation’s history.

The group was led by Keith Rowe who represented ways the Treaty has been interpreted across the generations and Eric Niania who represented how the Treaty, in its Maori version, is remembered, valued and respected as a blueprint for a genuinely just and cooperative society. It became clear that important differences between the Maori version (the version chiefs signed) and the English version (the one Hobson held in his hand) is a key to understanding the unfolding history of New Zealand. Group members engaged in their own research between meetings. It is a course that could be repeated.

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**THANKS TO FRANKI JAMES FOR HER WORK AS EDITOR OF OUR NEWSLETTER.**

The committee has reluctantly accepted Franki’s resignation from the role of editor of our newsletter. It’s an important part of our U3A and Franki has served us well in the position and we will miss her sure touch. Her imaginative and informed touch will continue through her leadership of groups, **French** and **Community Affairs**.

If you enjoy putting a newsletter together, have an interest in writing and are willing to produce 4 or 5 newsletters a year please let secretary Yvonne know.

## **AN AGEING NAPIER.**

It is predicted that by 2038 one third of Napier's residents will be 65 or older. This compares with the envisaged national average of 23%. In 2020 Napier Council launched a positive ageing strategy led by a Positive Ageing Strategy Advisory Group (PASAG). In November our Taradale U3A committee decided to become a member of PASAG. We are, along with many other groups, among the organisations that provide opportunities for those in the post-retirement age group to meet, befriend, think, and do. We are part of a larger jigsaw that ensures that older years can still be lively years. It means we will have a representative at PASAG meetings where we can learn from others who, like U3A, are part of a larger and life enhancing network. We will also be able to contribute to planning for Napier's positive aging strategy.

Current members of the PASAG network include: Age Concern Napier, Bupa, Dementia HB, Grey Power Napier, HB District Health Board, HB Positive Ageing Trust, HB Regional Council, Kainga Ora, Maori Women's Welfare League, Ministry of Social Development, Napier Citizen's Advice Bureau, Napier City Council, Presbyterian Support East Coast-Enliven, Retirement Villages Association, Safer Napier, Sport HB, Te Kupenga Hauora - Ahuriri, Te Taiwhenua o Whanganui a Orotu.

Keith Rowe will represent Taradale U3A on PASAG.

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## **AGM**

**OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 2025 WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am (for a 10. 30 start) at the Senior Citizens Hall.**

After the usual annual reports and elections the major item of business will be the adoption of our new constitution. John Warren along with two other committee members has taken the lead in this task. John reports there is little to be done as the Ministry of Internal Affairs who oversee the registration of organisations like ours have provided a template to be followed that ensures we meet the requirements of The Incorporated Society's Act (2022). The objectives of U3A Taradale and other matters peculiar to us are woven into the template. Copies of the constitution will be available before the meeting. One new provision is that a quorum for an AGM is reduced from 10% of the membership to 20 members. Remember our collective disappointment when 3 years ago we failed to get 10% at our planned AGM?!

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## **NOMINATIONS PLEASE.**

We are pleased to announce that most of the present committee are willing to continue in office but there is room for at least another two people. Keith Rowe will conclude his three-year term as President, the limit allowed under our constitution, and we are looking forward to receiving nominations for a new President and ideally also a Vice President. The President chairs the elected committee, sometimes represents U3A at other events and often presides at our coffee mornings. There's room for whoever is President to make their own distinctive

contribution to the ongoing life of what is a lively and worthwhile organisation. The role of the committee is to encourage the good work done by convenors and members of our many groups and to encourage new groups including short groups that focus on a single issue or topic. Compared to other similar community groups U3A has an administratively simple structure – no head office fees, freedom to develop our own programme in response to the needs of our community and members.

**WILLIAM COLENZO COLLEGE.**

A highlight of our last year was the panel discussion at our mid- year coffee morning when we hosted a panel of senior students from Taradale High and William Colenso College. Since then the committee has extended our relationship with William Colenso.

At our latest committee meeting it was resolved to gift \$2000 from our accumulated funds to be awarded to a student whose education will benefit from this small gift. The Principal will determine the recipient and she assures us she will have no difficulty in identifying a continuing student or graduating student who will benefit.

**Annual Fees**

**Please note:**

**Members will receive an invoice for payment of fees for the 2025 year in December. The fee remains \$10 if paid before February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, or \$15 if paid beyond that date.**

**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
Vin Alcock	Almoner	<a href="mailto:errwood17@gmail.com">errwood17@gmail.com</a>	027 477 1654
Ian McEwan		<a href="mailto:ian.macewan7@gmail">ian.macewan7@gmail</a>	021 224 9922
Peter Green	Past President	<a href="mailto:pandagreen@xtra.co.nz">pandagreen@xtra.co.nz</a>	0274 795 403

# BE PREPARED!

## Emergency Preparedness for Napier Residents 60+

**When:** Wednesday 20 November 2024

**Time:** 2.30pm

**Where:** Henry Charles Hall, 109 Henry Charles Terrace, Napier

**Join us to learn how to stay safe and ready!**

- Preparedness presentation
- Afternoon Tea
- Prizes and Giveaways
- Meet Emergency Services

Take this opportunity to build your knowledge and confidence in emergency preparedness

To **RSVP**, contact us at 06 835 7579 or email [communityservices@napier.govt.nz](mailto:communityservices@napier.govt.nz)

Transport is available upon request



# Health New Zealand

## Te Whatu Ora



# **BE PREPARED!**

## **Emergency Preparedness for Napier Residents 60+**

**When:** Thursday 21 November 2024

**Time:** 2 pm

**Where:** Taradale Anglican Church, 23 Puketapu Road, Napier

**Join us to learn how to stay safe and ready!**

- Preparedness presentation
- Afternoon Tea
- Prizes and Giveaways
- Meet Emergency Services

Take this opportunity to build your knowledge and confidence in emergency preparedness

To **RSVP**, contact us at 06 835 7579 or email [communityservices@napier.govt.nz](mailto:communityservices@napier.govt.nz)

**Transport is available upon request**



**NAPIER**  
CITY COUNCIL  
*Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri*



**AGE  
CONCERN  
NAPIER**  
He Manaakitanga  
Kaumātua Aotearoa



**HAWKE'S BAY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**GROUP**

# **Health New Zealand**

## **Te Whatu Ora**