

Taradale U3A Newsletter

January 2021



PRESIDENT PETER'S PONDERINGS: Welcome to another year in which we hope to see a great improvement over the recent unpredictable, frequently unpleasant and, for the most part, unwanted social circumstances which we have been subjected to.

The positive side of the past 12 months for me, however, has been a far greater appreciation of the opportunities we now have to get together as groups with very few limitations. Long may that situation continue!

On that note I wish all U3A members a Happy New Year and I look forward to catching up with you at our AGM at the beginning of February. Until then, all the best!



INCREASE IN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION AND MORNING TEA FEES:

To ensure that U3A Taradale remains financially sustainable in the future your Committee has had a close look at our income and expenses. For example, in 2019 our Income only exceeded our Expenses by \$308 – insufficient to cover future rising running costs. The annual subscription has remained the same at **\$10pp** for over ten years. Your Committee has done all it can to keep costs in check, but has made the decision to increase the annual U3A Subscriptions to **\$15 per person**.

ALSO – the cost for tea/coffee at our Town Hall Meetings (**excluding** our AGM and Xmas Function) has been increased from \$2 to **\$3**. Thank you for your understanding.

These decisions were not made lightly by your Committee.

Cheques. . . are going . . . going . . . gone by mid 2021

The major trading banks have confirmed that the issuing of chequebooks and acceptance of cheques will come to a stop in 2021.

Kiwibank stopped in 2020. **ANZ** will not accept cheques from May 2021. **BNZ** will stop accepting cheques in July 2021. **Westpac** will be discontinuing cheque usage from 25th June 2021.

Taradale U3A is ready for this change and has used **online banking** and **online accounting** for some years now. The small number of members who still use cheques will need to adjust to this change. If you have any ideas as to how we can help those members who are not comfortable with online banking please don't hesitate to share your idea with us.

U3A encourages all payments to be made online.

➤ **U3A will no longer accept cheques for Subscriptions from 1st April 2021**

TARADALE U3A INC

2021 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held in the Taradale Town Hall
Wednesday, 3 February 2021 at 10:00 am.

Tea/Coffee at Conclusion. No charge.

Nominations for office will be accepted from the AGM floor.



INTERMEDIATE FRENCH: The Intermediate French group has had a good year which included zooming during lockdown then meeting in the Taradale rose gardens. We have an enthusiastic group of members but our numbers are full for this coming year. **Group Convenor: Lynn Lusby Ph: 845 4985**

FRIDAY FRENCH: (formally known as the Upper French Group) We are a small group of 8 and we had been meeting in our homes during Covid so this number was maximum for us. We have been joined this year by Dianne, a French Canadian, and it is great to hear her fluent French and have her help with unknown words. We try to have a mix of conversation, reading and translation. We take turns at producing the material for the class.

TE REO: Held its last 2020 session in the meeting room at the Taradale Library on Friday 4th December, and we will recommence **Friday 5th February 2021**. However the Taradale Library venue has been closed for 2 to 6 months for renovations. So, for the next six months we will be meeting at the **Kensington Masonic Village Community Hall, 70 Kensington Drive, Knightsbridge from 11:00am to 12:30pm**. Parking is directly in front of the hall. Cost is a donation.

Group Convenor: Peter Lambourn Ph: 027 4488 252



COMMUNITY AFFAIRS will resume on **Monday 1st February 2021**, and the first Monday of each month thereafter except June (Queen's Birthday weekend).

We gather in the **Taradale Senior Citizens Hall** from 9.40am for tea/coffee with the Guest Speaker at 10 am. All finished by 11 am. \$2 at the door!

The Guest Speaker for our first meeting is **Ian Wilmont, GM. HB Helicopter Trust**

Group Convenor: Richard Gregory. Ph: 021 496 705



CLASSICAL MUSIC: Our situation unchanged for 2021. We resume in January and meet at 1.30 to approx 4pm on the 4th Monday of each month on Napier Hill. New members welcome. Serious classical music, not musak in lifts. Contact is the same: **Lester Calder 027 234 7050**.

LEISURE CYCLING: Hello and Welcome to A Happy New Year

Last year the "Cycle Team" made up of 14 E-bikes and 6 Pedal bikes had a successful year despite Covid, social distancing not being a problem. This year we are starting with increased numbers in both groups and are always happy to welcome more to the Team. The **E-bike group** ride each week on a Thursday and the Pedal group every second week on a Friday. There is no great commitment, people only ride when they are available. Special thanks to Glenys Offergeld for looking after the **E-bike group** while Margaret and I spent 8 weeks touring the South Island. Glenys and I met on a number of occasions to put together a selection of rides, in total 21 rides ranging in distance from around 30km up towards 50km - with all rides having a compulsory Coffee stop near the halfway point. This gives us a chance to socialise and put the world to rights.

We have one out of town ride from Waipawa to Waipukurau and return, a round trip.

Also I must thank Joy Turner and Ian Elgie for holding the fort with the **Pedal group** while we were away.

We have managed to put together 10 rides of about 20—25km and again the necessary half way break.

Last year we had our Christmas Luncheon at the Filter Room with close to all the Team being able to attend, most of us arriving on our bicycles of course. We look forward to another successful year with perhaps hosting a visit from the Melbourne City U3A cycling group.

Group Convenor: Vince Allcock. Ph: 845 3643 or 0274 771 654



DIPPING INTO HISTORY:

Welcome to 2021 we hope this year will bring special enjoyment to all of our groups. 2020 was a strange and a difficult year with its Covid-19 restrictions. Our group kept in touch during lockdown and it was good when we were able to meet and enjoy each other's company again.

Our programme has been interesting with discussions ranging from the Trams of Napier 1913-31 to Harry S Truman and Petra. Our mid-year outing was a tour of the MTG Museum Tenei Tonu and Rongonui Exhibitions which was led by Te Hira Henderson MTG curator. We were provided with new insights into our local history and taonga. We welcome new members. If you would like to hear more, or come along to one of our meetings please contact **Wynn Barnett Convenor 8442 329**

MAHJONG GROUP: U3A Mah Jong Group are re-convening on January 12th 2021 at **Omarunui Bowling Club**, Lee Road. Start time is 9am. New members are always very welcome. The management team of Joy, Maureen, Marina, Bev and Diane are continuing in their role. Thank you to the members for their support and help. We had a very happy Christmas morning tea on the last day, great food, beautiful decorations and fellowship. Thankyou Lynn, Diane and Gaewyn. We hope for a better year free from lockdowns.

Group Convenor: Bev Doohan Ph: 845 3834



CONTENTIOUS ISSUES:

One of our members leads a topic of their choice and this is followed by discussion - in an orderly and seemly fashion. We respect each other's viewpoints and there is no consensus of opinion at the end of the discussion. This last year has of course been somewhat disjointed with 2 meetings cancelled due to Covid19 and one cancelled, unexpectedly, due to "cockroach eradication"! However we managed 8 meetings. Topics were Cannabis reform, Freedom of speech, Electric Vehicles, Welfare state, Ecological Civilisation, NZ Constitution, Retirement Villages and Election review. We recommence meeting on February 4th. We are a small group with a mix of ladies and gentlemen and would welcome just a few more members. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 2 pm at the **Mission View Masonic Village in Avondale Road**. If you think this might be your "cup of tea" please contact **Eric Lamb 8442712**



Dear Sue,

Perhaps you'd like to publish my grateful thanks in your next newsletter.

My U3A membership has greatly contributed to maintaining my mental health during the past weeks. The interesting activities, the very warm welcome members have extended towards me, their smiles and conversation when we meet in the neighbourhood, the lifts I am offered, your gardens.....All these things have meant that I have had neither time or inclination to mull over the fact that I have been away from my family for eleven months already, and can't envisage transiting safely home via the USA in the foreseeable future. Instead I am appreciating your company very much. Thank you for making my prolonged stay in Taradale so enjoyable. Diane Norman

WORDS-WORDS-WORDS:

"For last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice". TS Eliot. Calling all those who are interested in words, from current journalism styles or the cryptic and often humorous comments in our newspapers, to writing short passages of prose or poetry of varying types, with a range of activities in between. We are a varied bunch and take turns throughout the year to organise our get-togethers, making for a rich mixture of styles and interests pertaining to words and language. We have a lot of fun and invite all those interested to join us on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays** of the month at the **Taradale Senior Citizens Lounge** 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

Group Convenor: Janice Hambly Ph: 8448857

EVER WANTED TO LEARN BRIDGE - Taradale Bridge Club is holding lessons for beginners.

Details are: Venue: Lodge Omarunui, 8 Elbourne Street,

Commencement: Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Contact: Ruth Spittle 027 249 4336

MYTHOLOGY GROUP: Our Mythology Group will be beginning on the 4th Tuesday in February 23rd at Catherine Downes home in King Street Taradale at 2pm. We meet each month. We concentrate on Greek and Roman mythology but we have and can discuss many mythologies from a variety of countries. We would love new members. If interested my telephone number is 8358231 and my email is medcalf6@xtra.co.nz **Pam Medcalf- Group Convenor**

ALPHABET TALKS (A – Z): The A-Z group has just passed its 10 year milestone. Many people have come and gone during that time, but the enthusiasm and enjoyment of members remains undimmed. For 2021 we have moved our meeting times from Wednesdays to the **2nd and 4th Friday mornings**, from 9:30 – 11:30am. Our first meeting is Friday 12 Feb, and the key letter is R, as we work our way through the alphabet for the 8th time. New members always welcome. If interested please contact me.
Group Convenor: Joan Fitzmaurice Ph: 835 5510 or o22 393 3134 Email: joanfitz19@gmail.com

U3A GEOGRAPHY

We are a smallish group of around a dozen enthusiastic members, so there is plenty of room for more. We are very participatory, with most members taking a turn at leading a session once a year. There is no pressure on those who prefer not to lead a session, but most of us find that we learn far more, and really enjoy it when we do. The presentations often include some interaction and discussion, and we also encourage ongoing debate of our topics over a cup of tea and biscuit or two at the end of the session. This year our agreed theme is “Our Changing World”. That is a very wide brief, and we anticipate a wide range of topics and approaches. In the course of the year we expect to focus at times on each of the main different aspects of geography: physical; social; political; and economic.

We meet on the first Friday of each month in the hall at the Mission View Village. We meet at 10am, and have either one presentation of about 40 minutes, or two shorter presentations of 20 minutes each. Morning tea then follows. We each pay \$10 a year to cover the hall hire and the morning tea.

Conveners: Christine and Tony Smith 834 1300 tontine.smith@gmail.com 0276326973 0210359314

➤ LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

(i) The award of Life Membership may be made to any member who, in the opinion of the Committee, has rendered significant service to the Society over the period of several years.

(ii) Any member may nominate another member for the award of Life Membership. The nomination must include full details of the service rendered and shall be seconded by another member.

(iii) There shall not be more than three Life Members at any one time.

Our two Life Members are **Vic Chick** and **Peter Newby**. With the sad passing of Merle Killington nominations are now open for a third Life Member. All documentation should be addressed to the U3A Secretary.

U3A Taradale Committee 2020/2021 to 3 Feb 2021

President	Peter Green	845 1246		
Secretary	Sue Lambourn	845 1585		
Treasurer	Jeanette Elgie	844 4537		
IPP	Janice Cram			
Almoner	Jenny Pyatt	836 7270		
Committee	Ann Green	845 1246	Wynn Barnett	844 2329
	Peter Turnbull	834 4094	Vince Allcock	845 3643
	Beverley Turnbull	834 4094		