



Taradale U3A Newsletter

July 2019

taradaleu3a.org.nz

President Peter's Ponderings:



Peter Green
President

One of the great things about U3A is that, being a world-wide movement, overseas visitors are able to visit and feel comfortable within our local environment, as described by the English visitor's contribution to our newsletter below. It's also great that our U3A groups and activities are attracting new members, and that so many contribute to those groups. Long may it continue! Stay warm, and I hope to catch up with you at our next meeting on 7 August.



Given that Bastille Day falls in July, it seems relevant to include reports from the three U3A French groups:

BEGINNER FRENCH:

This group is maintaining its numbers - although some people tend to be away at this time of the year, escaping the worst of winter. For example, one is currently spending seven weeks in France practising spoken French and doing lots of walking. Some of us join the monthly "soiree" organised by the Hawke's Bay French Association at which there are usually some French guests which is always a bonus. Anyone wanting to join our weekly group from 1030-1200 at the Hawke's Bay Tennis Club, Higgins Street, Marewa, or the monthly "soiree", can contact **Marion Sturm** on **8448872**.

LOWER INTERMEDIATE FRENCH

This is an informal French conversation group that meets in the lounge of St. Paul's Church, Tennyson Street, Napier on Monday mornings from 9.15 to 10.15am, followed by coffee in a nearby cafe. They chat in French prior to reading an article from "Bien Dire" (Well Said), translating and discussing it, thus keeping up to date with current affairs in France while, at the same time, learning new vocabulary. Occasionally they invite French visitors along. This is a very democratic, friendly group, led by Lionel Maxted. The contact person is **Lynn Lusby** (845 49 85)

UPPER INTERMEDIATE FRENCH

A small, friendly group of francophiles meets weekly in Taradale Library from 1030-1130am (apart from the first Friday in the month when we gather in a private home). We usually start with each of us recounting something of interest we have done in the previous week, then take it in turns to prepare and lead the group, reading a passage based on a variety of topics that we then translate and discuss. We not only have fun but use our French as well.

NB: At the most recent U3A Coffee Morning in Taradale Town Hall our group had **100%** attendance!



DIPPING INTO HISTORY



Until recently this group was known as **History 2**. We wanted a name that more reflected the nature of our group and chose Dipping into History. That is precisely what we do. Members of the group dip into aspects of history that catch their interest and share what they discover with the rest of us. We do not work to a theme so the programme is very varied. As a taster here are our last three topics: The Art of Lowry; Hadrian's Wall; and Archibald McIndoe and the Guinea Pig Club. Our group is small, friendly and informal

so presenting a topic is not daunting. Besides, we only take a turn to lead once a year. We enjoy afternoon tea half way through the meeting and then have a light hearted quiz that elicits enthusiastic if not always

accurate answers. We usually have a history related excursion mid-year. In July will have a guided tour of the Anglican Cathedral and Ormond Chapel. We meet at the Mission View Village Hall, Avondale Road on the second Monday of the month at 2.00pm. We would love to have a few more members so if you are interested please contact **Wynn Barnett** on **844 2329** or **joeandwynn@gmail.com**.



HISTORY 1 Our enthusiast group meets 2nd Wednesday 1.30pm to 3.45pm. Topics in April included: Kaimanawa Wall, Shipwrecked Racehorse Moifaa, History of Hereworth School, Ravens of the Tower of London, The Cottingley Fairies. May Included: Admiral Brown link with Napoleon, History of Napier Trams 1913-1931, Joan Wiffen (Dinosaur Lady), Nancy Wake (Resistance Fighter), Elizabeth McCombs ((1st N.Z. Female MP) Muslin Religion, NZ Women at War, Antiques & Collectables: Pietra Dura art. New Members always welcome. Now that Antiques & Collectables Group has closed, we have a section in our programme to incorporate this, come and try us out. Conveners: **Norma Sinton** Ph **8448388**, **Chris Geddis** Ph **8353009**



SCRABBLE: Scrabble is held every Thursday afternoon at the Masonic retirement home right in Taradale village starting from 1:30pm. Deadline 1:45pm. People play one or two games, paying a dollar a game. We try hard to ensure that everyone gets different opponents each session. Although the membership is over twenty, new people are very welcome.

For further information you can ring **Marion Sturm** on **8448872**.

U3A JUNE MORNING TEA MEETING

It was great to have 56 people at our June coffee morning. Guest speaker, Ken Keys, Director of Hawkes Bay Youth Theatre (and so much more...) inspired all about the humble beginnings of the National Youth Drama School, and how drama and acting is now a recognised qualification for students. Warm savouries for a June morning tea was also an inspired choice - thanks Wynn and Franki. Thanks also to those who helped to pack up the hall at the end of the meeting, this was much appreciated.



WONDERFUL, WELCOMING NEW ZEALAND

Hello, my name is **Anne Watkis** and I visited New Zealand with my darling, Tony, for ten weeks, from the middle of January 2019 to the 1st April 2019. Primarily we came to get away from the UK winter. We had a wonderful stay. We had already been to New Zealand in February 2018 for a month and had done the tourist trail; Rotorua, Lake Taupo, the Coromandel, Wellington and Auckland. The Art Deco weekend was an absolute delight.

Our plan for the ten weeks this year, was to try and experience what it would be like to "live" like Kiwis. With that in mind, we based ourselves in a rental house in

MacDonald Street, Napier and hired a car to get around. We also bought two bicycles at auction and purchased two cycling helmets. They only cost us NZ\$50.00 plus helmets, against paying around NZ\$65.00 per day to hire them. A real bargain!

I belong to the U3A in the UK and decided that I would see if the local U3A in Napier would allow me to join their activity groups. Sheila Raeburn was my initial contact and very kindly sought permission from the local committee for me to do that. They said yes! I joined the poetry reading group led by and the art appreciation group led by Kathleen. I learned about your Kiwi artists, including Rita Angus, and Tony and I saw an exhibition of some of her work at the Napier museum, which was really interesting.

The poetry group was also very welcoming, including xxxx new puppy, whose name I have forgotten! I like listening to poetry, somehow hearing it aloud brings it to life. Sadly I missed the second meeting, I got the date wrong! A variety of poems were shared, some of which I had heard before and some very new. One of the ladies in the group, apologies, I have forgotten her name, loaned me a poetry book so I could actively participate.

We also joined the cycling group led by Vince Allcock. The cycling group were a hoot and very kind to us re speed and distance. They have coffee half way round the cycle route and it was interesting to hear their stories about their individual background and about New Zealand. We learned the term `Pakeha`.

Outside of the U3A, we also joined a walking group, who meet on a Monday and Friday, where you can choose to do the longer or shorter walk, depending on how far you want to go. We all finished the walk at a café, for coffee and cake. One of the people on the group invited us to coffee at their house. His partner is a potter and allowed me to help her make the leg and ear of a very little elephant. After firing it, she gave it to me to take home. It has pride of place on my shelf.

We attended lectures organised by the Rotary Group and heard about the physical and psychological effect on the people of Christchurch after the earthquake in 2011. One of the lectures was about your eminent scientist Paul Callaghan and his work on electromagnetism. This year we came prepared to participate in the Art Deco weekend, dressing in clothes of the era, enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere of the Gatsby picnic and wishing we had brought our own.

We had a wonderful, enjoyable and interesting ten weeks with you. We found kiwis to be welcoming, interesting and interested in our stories too. So many of you have travelled extensively and had some wonderful experiences to share. We are coming back next year at the same time, to enjoy your summer and hopefully to meet again with all those that made our stay so very enjoyable.

Thank you.

Anne and Tony Watkis



Starting on Wednesday, 17th July, U3A Taradale will broadcast a monthly programme from 4.05pm to 5pm entitled “**Forever Young**” on **Radio Kidnappers**, our local community access radio station. You can find “The Voice of Hawke’s Bay” on **104.7FM** or **1431 AM**, the programme will be repeated each week in the same time slot until it renews the following month, and it will be uploaded both to the Radio Kidnappers website (www.radiokidnappers.org.nz) and to i-tunes for podcasting.

U3A Taradale Committee Member **Franki James** will host the programme in which she will describe our various activities, interview convenors and participants of the different groups, give information about upcoming events and intersperse it all with relevant musical items. In the introductory programme, she will interview **U3A Taradale President Peter Green**, and Ken Keys, founder of the National Youth Drama School, who was guest speaker at our recent coffee morning.

FROM THE ALMONER: If you know of anyone who is ill or bereaved please let me know and I can send a card on behalf of U3A so that we can keep in touch with our members.

Many thanks - **Jenny Pyatt** (Almoner) Ph: **06 836 7270** or email to mikeandjennypyatt@nowmail.co.nz



COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

We meet on the first Monday of each month at the Senior Citizens Hall in White Street, Taradale.

Please come along at or about 9.30 for a cup of tea or coffee, a biscuit and a chat!

Our guest speaker will address the meeting at 10.00 am and speak for approximately 45 minutes, and take questions. As a visitor, your first visit is free. For subsequent visits, as a member, a \$2 fee is payable at the door. U3A membership costs \$10 pa, and covers membership for all other local U3A activities. Application forms are available at the door. If you have a friend who may be interested in joining us, please invite them along and feel free to forward this e mail to them, by way of invitation.

We look forward to meeting you. **Richard Gregory (Convener)** Ph: **021 496795 (06) 8440672**

U3A Taradale Committee 2019

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Past President Janice Cram 843 8329

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DATE TO REMEMBER: Wednesday 7th August 10:00am

Sir Graeme Avery is our next Town Hall Coffee Morning Guest Speaker. Sir Graeme was recently inducted into the New Zealand Business Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Auckland, being recognised for his contribution to business, food, wine and sport. The award recognises outstanding contributions to the economic and social development of New Zealand, including community involvement. Sir Graeme will be talking about some of past accomplishments, some of his current endeavours and how to keep motivated going into the future.