



Taradale U3A Newsletter

July 2020

PRESIDENT PETER'S PONDERINGS:

Mid-winter in Hawkes Bay and the weather would normally be conducive to spending the time inside a warm lounge, feet up, a book in one hand and a mug of coffee in the other. Since the recent relaxation of our lockdown rules, however, even I am almost tempted to venture out into the cold and rain to enjoy the company of others simply because I am now permitted to do so! Many of our groups are now back into the routine of regular meetings and our membership numbers appear to be on the rise as people come out of enforced hibernation. Welcome back, everyone, enjoy what U3A has to offer, and take care!



President Peter Green

DATE TO REMEMBER: Wednesday 2nd September at 10am, Taradale Town Hall (doors open from 9.45am). U3A Taradale's first Town Hall gathering since the AGM! Come along for an enjoyable morning: meet people from across all of our groups, find out what is happening within our U3A, enjoy morning tea, and have some after-winter fun. We look forward to seeing you there.

COVID-19: Level One:

We are following the Ministry of Health (M.O.H.) COVID - 19: Gatherings: guidance - restrictions on gatherings. The guidance includes using basic hygiene and we are providing an alcohol-based hand sanitiser for use. We must continue to be vigilant.

We ask you to follow the M.O.H guidance to stay home & avoid attending a gathering of any size if you're

- unwell
- a confirmed or probable case of Covid-19
- waiting for a COVID-19 test result
- self-isolating



<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific>

Take care and we look forward to our September Coffee Meeting.

GEOGRAPHY GROUP:

Yes, we restarted in June and had morning tea in July. Our group has the same members, meeting in the same place (Mission view masonic village) and at the same time (10.00 am on the first Friday of the month). During lock down we distributed a monthly quiz on our topic this year (waterways of the world).

Yes, we always welcome new members. With missing two months we have pushed out our roster of speakers so we have ample speakers for the rest of the year. Our format is two half hour speakers with morning tea and discussion in between.

Some of our speakers have used the data show projector and found it very useful.

Convenors: Christine and Tony Smith Ph: 834 1300



U3A COMMITTEE: We are sad to say that **Franki James** has resigned from the Committee. She brought a wealth of experience, great ideas, and a lot of enthusiasm to the Committee and will be much missed. Thank you, Franki for your time on the Committee. We look forward to continuing to see you at the various group meetings.

BOOK GROUP:



Our Book Group resumed activities on 12 June, with a very good turnout. The lockdown gave us all an excellent opportunity to catch up on lots of reading, in some cases bookshelves being combed for some of our old favourites. In our meeting there was plenty to report on, and, as always, it reflected the wide range in interests and tastes held by group members. We meet on the second Friday at 2:00pm at Joan Cockburn's home in Taradale. and we have room for one more member. If interested please ring
Convenor: Vic Chick Ph: 843 3474

LEARNERS FRENCH GROUP

Learner's French group has resumed meetings upstairs in the boardroom of the Napier RSA. We meet each Monday 10.30am till noon. If you are wanting to join please contact me.

Convenor: Marion Sturm Ph: 844 8872

LOWER INTERMEDIATE FRENCH: Our Lower Intermediate French group has been up and running again since Level 1 and the reopening of the meeting room at the Taradale Library. Our members are all back with us and keen to get into more French conversation. We begin each session with a short activity run by one of the members. We meet at 9.30 every Monday morning.

Convenor: Lynn Lusby Ph: 845 4985



UPPER INTERMEDIATE FRENCH: The Upper Intermediate French group has resumed its Friday morning classes in Taradale Library but at the later time of 1100-1200, having been meeting in private home since the end of the lock-down. During lock-down, most members of the group kept in touch by e-mail, sharing accounts of their doings written in French.

A - Z : ALPHABET TALKS

Our A - Z group began almost 10 years ago. The first of the alphabet talks sessions featured " The History of the Alphabet ", "Admiral Blake", "Aborigines", and the "Adele Penguin". At our most recent meeting, on our 8th journey through the alphabet, the designated letter was " I " with the topics " Ihimaera (Witi) ", and " I Have a Dream (Martin Luther King) ".

In all that time we have clashed only twice with people choosing the same thing. Each time the speakers approached the topic from completely different angles so that it added rather than detracted from their talks. We would welcome more members, so keep A - Z in mind when choosing your groups for next year. I am sure you would find the talks interesting and the people very congenial.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings, and three of our members take turns to host our get-togethers. If you would like to visit to find what we are all about, please contact me.

Convenor: Joan Fitzmaurice Mobile: 022 393 3134 or Landline: Ph 835 5510.

SCRABBLE:

Scrabble has resumed at the Masonic Village Hall in Taradale every Thursday from 1.30 p m. Please call me if you want to give it a go. We play 2 games at 1 dollar each and the sometimes surplus rent money is used up in the odd free afternoon: **Convenor: Marion Sturm Ph: 844 8872**



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

LUNCH GROUP 3:

I am the new Convenor of our Lunch Group 3. It has been ably run for many years by Peter Newby aided by Eileen Martin. I will miss Peter's expertise but luckily Eileen has offered to help me contact the members. We have visited many restaurants in Napier, Hastings, Taradale and Havelock North and this year we have been to The Boardwalk, Thirsty Whale, the Puketapu Hotel and next month we will be going to the Duke of Gloucester in Taradale. Our numbers are good but they have been declining recently so we would welcome any new members. We meet on the first Friday of every month. If you are interested please contact me.

Convenor: Pam Medcalf Ph: 835 8231.



HISTORY 1



Our enthusiast group will meet for the first time since Covid-19 Lock-down on Wednesday 12th August 2020 and then meets 2nd Wednesday Monthly 1.30pm to 3.45pm. Taradale Senior Citizen's Lounge Symons Street Taradale. New Members always welcome. We also have an Antiques & Collectables segment in our programme. Come and try us out.

Conveners: Norma Sinton Ph:844 8388, Chris Geddis Ph: 835 3009

DIPPING INTO HISTORY - GREAT SEA STORY

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought



Captain John D.S. Phillips, the result. The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0° 31' N and LONG 179 30' W. The date was 31 December 1899. "Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line". Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check & double check the ship's position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather & clear night worked in his favour. At mid-night

the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line! The consequences of this bizarre position were many: The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere & in the middle of summer. The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere & in the middle of winter. The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899. In the bow (forward) part it was 1 January 1900. This ship was therefore not only in: Two different days - Two different months - Two different years - Two different seasons - and in two different centuries - **all at the same time!**

Story shared by Michael Mountcastle **Convenor: Wynn Barnett Ph: 844 2329**

ASTRONOMY GROUP:



Our group were able to start meeting again at Napier Boys HS Planetarium on Thursday 9th July. We combine with Hastings U3A and there is always a good turnout to be entertained by their Astronomer Gary Sparks who has a wealth of knowledge that he shares with us about what is happening in the heavens. We meet the 1st Thursday after the 2nd Wed each month.

Convenor: Peter Turnbull Ph: 83 44 094

U3A MAH JONG GROUP

The Tuesday morning Mah Jong Group has made a good start to the year after lockdown. Our first day back on June 30 was a very cold wet day but we were all pleased to be back together again.

A small number of members will not be returning to our group this year so there is room for more new people. You are welcome to come and sit in on a club day and see if it is for you or join us if you already play Mah Jong. Club day is every Tuesday morning at the Omarunui Bowling Club



on Lee Road. There is plenty of parking inside the Bowling Club grounds. We pay an associate membership fee to the Bowling Club to cover our use of their facilities. Please be seated by 9am and play will begin at 9.15am. This later start is to help members avoid the heavy morning traffic, close of play is 11.45am. For more information please ring **Bev Doohan 845 3834 or Joy Lawrence 844 2350**

U 3 A LEISURE CYCLING:

We were fortunate with Covid 19 that we were able to start again at level 2 as cycling was no problem regards Social Distancing. The E-bikes have been able to get out most weeks since then, but the Pedal –bikers have not been favoured by the weather and we just have to remind ourselves that it is still winter. Myself with the help of Glenys enjoy providing a different or at least a variation with our rides that are a circuit rather than just there and back. This is challenging but part of the fun and satisfaction of keeping our rides interesting. This goes for both groups Pedal and E-bikes. The riders themselves have their own routes and destinations which we can incorporate into the rides. For the E-bikes we are cycling between 25 - 40km and Pedal bikes 15 - 25kms over around a 3 hour period, this includes a very social coffee break of about 45 minutes. Since Covid 19 we have gained another 4 new riders - 2 in each group which is very good and still have room for a few more as we don't all ride on the same day each time because of Travel, Health, Grandchildren etc. A big thank you to the group for your support.



Convenor: Vince Allcock Ph: 8453643

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



We had our first meeting post lock down in July, and fair to say everybody was pleased to be back. An intriguing address by the GM of Hohepa, Santiago De Marco. Wonderful and dedicated people who do so much caring for the less fortunate. We have been invited to visit Hohepa as a group, which we will be doing as soon as a space in our programme comes available. Yes, we are fully booked to the end of the year. That said Stuart Nash may have other commitments and may be unable to make

it, but at this stage our programme is as follows:

August: Jill Miller from Radio Kidnappers. **September:** TBC, **October:** Janine Howard from Howard & Gannon. **November:** The Blind Foundation; **December:** Our Mayor Kirsten Wise.

We would welcome anyone interested in joining us.

We meet the first Monday of each Month at the Senior Citizens Hall in Taradale. 9.45am for coffee and a biscuit with our guest speaking at 10.00am if you are interested then please ring me.

Convenor Richard Gregory Ph: 021 496795

U3A Taradale Committee 2020

President	Peter Green	845 1246		
Secretary	Sue Lambourn	845 1585		
Treasurer	Jeanette	8444 4537		
IPP	Janice Cram			
Almoner	Jenny Pyatt	836 7270		
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	Peter Turnbull	834 4094	Vince Allcock	845 3643
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