

BOOK GROUP: We meet on the second Friday of each month at 2.00pm at Joan Cockburn's home. We read books that are fiction or non-fiction, and then comment on some (or all) of our month's reading. When two or more members have read the same book some interesting discussion can sometimes occur. Membership of our little group can fluctuate and currently we have a couple of vacancies. If you would like to join us please give me a call. **Convenor: Vic Chick Ph: 8433-474.**



Book Review - INTO THE ABYSS by Carol Shaben. 363.124

On 19 October 1984 a Piper Navajo commuter plane with 10 people on board, flying from Edmonton, Alberta, to High Prairie in Northern Alberta, crashed in forest some miles short of its destination. It was night-time, snowing and snow was thick on the ground. Six people were killed. The survivors were the pilot Erik Vogel; Larry Shaben, a member of the Provincial Parliament; Scott Deschamps, a Mountie; and Paul Archambault, the Mountie's prisoner. Paul was the least injured and Scott the worst.

Larry was mobile but lost his glasses and could not see enough to be useful, and Erik was too badly hurt to help. Paul managed to get out of the plane which was upside down, and having looked around, got out the other survivors and started a fire. He kept the fire going with help from Larry until they were rescued some fifteen hours later. These men kept a lasting friendship. A really remarkable story, and very readable. It is available in Taradale Library. **Book Convenor: Vic Chick Ph: 8433-474.**

STORIES OF THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE: This has slowed down a bit owing to the fact that those attending have written them all! We can fit three more in if any members wish to start writing for their grandchildren. Having seen the reaction of my own to my tales I am sure yours would appreciate your labours. We meet the second Thursday morning of the month at 10.30am. As each person only reads for ten minutes the start time is flexible by half an hour. **Convenor: Sonia MacKenzie Ph: 844 4834**



TE REO MAORI GROUP

Kia ora. We are a small friendly group who sit around a dining room table in Sally Woods' home every Friday morning. We start our meeting with a tea/coffee and chat at 10.15am and begin learning Te Reo around 10.30am. We are lucky to have Joe Barnett lead us. Joe has studied Te Reo up to Level 7. We were even more fortunate to have Eric Niania, a fluent Te Reo speaker, join us one morning. We are hoping Eric will join us again. Both Joe and Eric are very patient with us. We have purchased "Maori Made Easy" by Scotty Morrison and are enjoying working through it. Mā te wā **Convenor: Sally Woods Ph: 844 9551**



COMMUNITY AFFAIRS GROUP:

We have had some excellent and very informative speakers for the first three meetings of 2019.

- **Dr Mazin Bahho** from EIT came and addressed us on Sustainable Housing, explaining in some detail the project he is leading with a cohort of his Design Students building a house that is completely self-sustaining using recycled building materials.
- **Selwyn Hawthorne** came and spoke to us about the voluntary work he is doing for various fundraising trusts such as the Little Elms Village, an accommodation facility for parents with children in Hastings Hospital. He is also involved in fundraising for the Weka Point Scout camp in Rissington and indeed other worthwhile charities.
- **Kahori Nakagawa** came and spoke to us at our last meeting about the work she is doing through ECOED Trust for DOC and the preservation of Kiwi at Lake Opouahi in Tutira. The address was wide ranging with plenty of facts and figures regarding such things as Kiwi populations and indeed pest control.

Coming up we have **Clare Hague** from the NCC coming to speak to us at our May meeting covering a variety of local government issues. Specifically: her experiences and observations as a first term councillor about the connection between local government and its communities of interest - and how "democracy" is viewed differently depending on your particular community; polarization of issues eg locals vs. tourists; economic

development vs. the environment; infrastructure vs. vibrancy projects and how we can move beyond this to constructive debate and engagement.

The impact of the rise of social media communities on those involved in local government, and related and increasing concerns about its negative impacts on our young people. Continuing the youth community theme - the role of communities and local government in addressing the need to ensure the unemployed and unemployable can meaningfully participate in our community. Pulling all of these together to think about how we behave towards each other within and across our various communities of interest, and how this could be improved to ensure that constructive and well-reasoned debate leads to decisions that reflect the "greater good" in our region.

There is **no meeting in June**, but in July we have **Sean Bevin** a well-known HB Economist coming to speak to us about the HB Economy. And then in August we have **Ally Beale** coming to tell us all about the old Napier prison.

Convenor: Richard Gregory Ph: 844 0672



RUMMIKUB & RUMMY CARDS: Want to spend enjoyable afternoons with friends?? Want to learn to play Rummikub and/or Rummy Cards?? Then join us – we meet 1st & 3rd Monday afternoons at the Mission View Village Hall at 1:30pm. Great friendly afternoons with a cuppa and biscuit to boot!

Ring Russell on 844 0303



NAPIER SECONDARY SCHOOLS' SPEECH COMPETITION Franki James

For a number of reasons, a decision has been taken by the Committee of *Taradale U3A* to discontinue the annual *Napier Secondary Schools' Speech Competition* that was started in 2003 on the initiative of Eric Niania who also administered it for many years. The main reason for this decision is lack of support – not only from some of the local schools but also from most of our own members.

Over the past few years, only half of the eligible schools have actually competed and, for the past two years, we have had "no shows" on the day of the competition itself. In neither case did the school concerned present a back-up speaker, something that tends to wreak havoc with the organisation of such an event and is clearly unfair – not only to ourselves but also to the other contestants. At the same time, audience numbers have dropped dramatically – from over a hundred in the early years to around sixty more recently – and this out of a total membership of over four hundred – no longer warranting the amount of time, effort and financial commitment required in organising such an event, nor adequately recognising the contribution made by the students themselves, and those supporting them.

In an effort to encourage more participation and in response to demand over the years, both by the schools and from our own members, we have changed the date of the event, doubled the prize money and introduced a *People's Choice Award* (kindly sponsored by *Paper Plus* in Taradale) - but all to no avail. In a recent newsletter, we also asked for feedback from members as to their thoughts on the matter - but received none. Those who actually bothered coming along to listen to the speechmaking fully appreciated the benefits to the youngsters themselves, as did several of their teachers – notably those from *Taradale High School* and *William Colenso College*, the former having pipped the latter to the post in the Awards League. But, clearly, the writing is on the wall and the competition has outgrown its popularity.

Our grateful thanks are due to *Toastmasters* for having skilfully adjudicated the competition over the sixteen years of its existence and to Eric for having introduced it in the first place. We shall, however, endeavour to continue *Taradale U3A's* commitment to Youth and Age in other ways - **watch this space!**

LUNCH GROUP 2

We are a small number of members (16) who meet on the 3rd Wednesday from Feb – December to have a nice lunch. and some friendly chat. This year our venues have been Jarks, Eastbourne Café, Ahuriri Village Kitchen and this month No. 5 Larder. We usually meet at 12 noon. If you would like to join us, we would love to meet you. Just give me a ring. **Jeanie Jenkins, Convenor. 8788542**



U3A Taradale Committee 2019

President	Peter Green	845 1246		
Secretary	Sue Lambourn	845 1585	Treasurer	Jeanette Elgie 844 4537
Past President	Janice Cram	843 8329	Almoner	Jenny Pratt 836 7270
Committee	Ann Green	845 1246	Beverley Turnbull	8344 094
	Wynn Barnett	844 2329	Jenny Pyatt	836 7270
	Peter Turnbull	834 4094	Franki James	843 5926

Newsletter Editors: Peter & Beverley Turnbull 834 4094 newsletters@taradaleu3a.org.nz

DATE TO REMEMBER:

WEDNESDAY 5th June 2019: Guest Speaker: Ken Keys – Founder of the National Youth Drama School

Please Note: The format of our two-monthly Coffee Meetings has changed, as follows:

10:00am	U3A members seated for welcome and messages/update by President
10:15-10:45am	Guest Speaker
10:45-11:00am	Questions
11:00-11:30am	Morning Tea and time for a chat