

Taradale U3A Newsletter

Sept 2019

taradaleu3a.org.nz



President Peter's Ponderings:

On cold spring mornings it can be tempting to turn the heater up and stay inside. I have just returned from visiting the Mahjong group meeting in the Taradale Club and it was great to see the numbers who resisted the temptation to stay at home, all engrossed in their chosen pastime.

It's also good to know that we continue to attract new members, with Secretary Sue receiving a steady stream of enquiries from people interested in what U3A has to offer. It's getting close to our next coffee morning and I look forward to meeting some of our new members there. Until then, keep warm! **President Peter**

OBITUARY – Merle Killington - U3A Life Member

We record with regret the sad passing on 24th August of Merle - one of our Life Members.

Whilst not a Founder Member, Merle was certainly one of the earliest members of Taradale U3A.

For many years she held a Music Group in her home, strictly serious music mind you, no talking while the music was playing. She also was a co-ordinator for Lunch Group 1, only giving up when age and health problems beset her. Merle was awarded well merited Life Membership in 2014. She was a lady of firm opinions, forthright, and with a quiet sense of humour. Rest in peace Merle.



UNIVERSITY of the Third Age -

What is a university? In New Zealand that is defined by law and relates particularly to the level and quality of teaching and research undertaken by the institution. The law says you can apply to become a university if you meet the requirements, which are clearly set out in the education legislation.

In 1993 and 1994, some University of the Third Age (U3A) groups sought clarity from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) on the use of the name. It was clear that U3A could not (and was never intended to) meet the **eight requirements** within New Zealand, for using the name **University**.

As a result, it was agreed that within New Zealand the organisation would be known by the acronym **U3A** and would avoid 'university' in any formal statement or publication.

Most groups within New Zealand have abided by this decision for the past twenty-plus years although, of course, there are still some who continue to refer to us as **University of the Third Age**.

Did this decision change what U3A groups do and how they operate? Did it change our relationship with University of the Third Age groups in other parts of the world? **NO!** So let's continue to be proud and busy members of **Taradale U3A**, part of the international network of University of the Third Age....

'Contentious' Issues: and not so contentious . . . Do you like discussing local and national



topics like: The End-of-Life bill; Child Poverty; NCC New Swimming Pool; Olympic Athletes Gender; Hate vs Freedom of Speech; Crowd-Funding; the Te Mata Track, Elderly Bullying???? We are a small group who meet once a month to share our thoughts on a variety of subjects – some serious and many not quite so serious. It is a chance to stimulate the mind and share your thoughts. Topics range from "local stuff" to worldwide issues and the leader of each session is expected to research and present their topic before it is open to general discussion. Everybody is encouraged to participate!

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Mission View Retirement Village Hall in Avondale Rd. If you would like to come to a meeting to "try it out", please phone me.

Convenor: Eric Lamb Ph: 844 2712



Te Reo - Change of Convenor and Venue.

Our thanks go to Sally Woods for inaugurating the Te Reo group and for her wonderful contribution over the past few years to make this a very successful group. The group now meets at **Taradale Library** every Friday from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. New members always welcome. The new Convenor is **Peter Lambourn**. Ph: **845 1585**

A - Z : ALPHABET TALKS

Our staunch band of members are showing no signs of alphabet fatigue as we wind down to the end of our seventh journey through the alphabet. At our last meeting three of us had to meet the challenge posed by “X”. This is the most difficult letter on which to base a talk, especially when there have already been about twenty of them in the past. This time we heard about (a) Xuxu, a Latin-American women who has built a billion dollar empire on producing and starring in TV programmes for children, (b) the significance of the symbol X as it is used in many aspects of our lives and finally (c) , by way of the word “xoanon “ meaning to carve or scrape an idol or deity from wood or stone, the history of the tiki in Polynesia, and of course New Zealand, was another of the interesting topics featured.

We would happily welcome new members, so, whether now or perhaps next year, any of you are intrigued by the idea of the alphabet talks, please phone me on 8355510 or 0223933134 for more information.

Joan Fitzmaurice Convenor.

I am a **Seenager** (Senior Teenager)
I have everything that I wanted as a teenager . . . only 60 years later
I don't have to go to school or work
I get an allowance every fortnight
I have my own pad
I don't have a curfew
I have a driver's licence and my own car
I have ID that gets me into bars
The people I hang round with are not scared of becoming pregnant
And I don't have acne
Life is great – and I have more friends that I should send this to
. but right now I cannot remember their names.



August Coffee Morning

The August Coffee Morning drew a larger than usual audience. Sir Graeme Avery was originally due to come along to talk to us but, following hip replacement surgery, his recovery has been slower than anticipated and he was un-able to make it. He will, however, be coming along sometime in the New Year instead.

Mike Williams of the **Howard League** very kindly stepped into the breach and, despite us having hired a projector for his use it apparently wasn't compatible with his laptop which was state of the art. He did, however, talk very knowledgably about penal reform and managed to ad lib superbly with very little recourse to his *PowerPoint* presentation. He, in turn, very much enjoyed the meeting and according to him “got some valuable new insights” – something to which he alluded in his regular column in *Hawke's Bay Today* the following Saturday, saying: “An invitation to address the Taradale Branch of the U3A on Wednesday gave me a welcome reason for a flying visit to Hawke's Bay. Wednesday was the kind of glorious winter's day that features strongly in my memories of an idyllic Hawke's Bay childhood and for some inexplicable reason returning to Hawke's Bay seems to put the world into perspective for me and matters which usually escape my attention get noticed. The large audience that assembled in the Taradale Town Hall asked some of the most thoughtful and penetrating questions I've ever encountered at the kind of meeting at which I speak.”

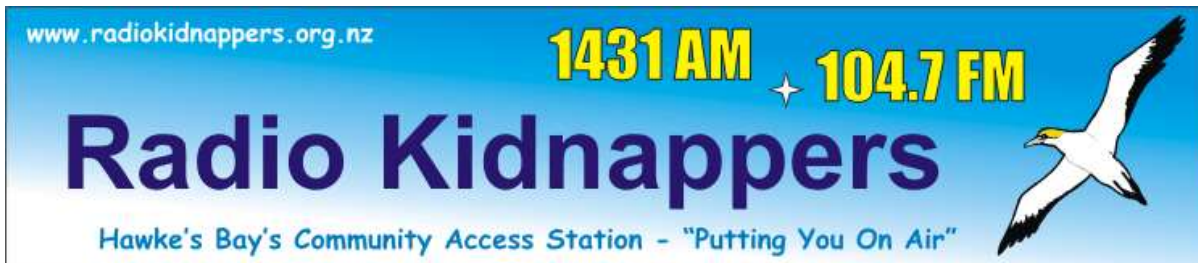
So *kudos* to our discerning members! *Kudos* also to Committee Member Wynn Barnett who, despite the Zip water heater being out of order, managed to produce morning tea as usual – together with tasty banana cake.

Note: U3A Members who would like to volunteer to assist with the prison Literacy Programme should contact Anne Brown at anne.brown49@gmail.com

FOREVER YOUNG PROGRAMME

The second programme in the series of monthly **U3A Taradale** broadcasts "Forever Young" aired on *Radio Kidnappers* on Wednesday, 14th August at 4.05 and was repeated on the same day at the same time for consecutive weeks until it is renewed in mid-September. The programme can also be down-loaded by going into the *Radio Kidnappers* website www.radiokidnappers.org.nz then clicking on *Programmes*, scrolling down to *Forever Young* and clicking again.

In this programme, **Committee Member Franki James** will interview **Richard Gregory**, the Convenor of the **Community Affairs** group and **Joan Fitzmaurice**, Convenor of the **A-Z group**.



When one grows older things start to happen

- Going out is good . . . but coming home is better!
 - You forget names.... but it's OK because some people forgot they even knew you!!!
 - You realise you're never going to be really good at anything. . . like golf, and 10 pin bowling.
 - The things you used to care to do, you aren't as interested in anymore, but you really don't care that you aren't as interested.
 - You sleep better on your lounge chair with the TV 'ON' than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".
 - You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.
 - You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what?"..."when?"... ???
 - You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!!
 - What used to be freckles are now liver spots and bruises!
 - Have you noticed that everybody whispers!!!
 - You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.
 - But Old is good in some things. . . Old Songs. . . Old movies and best of all. . . **OLD FRIENDS!!**
- (With thanks to Andy Duncan)



The **Classical Music group** meets on the fourth Monday of each month and new members are always welcome. Together we listen to a broad range of serious classical music for some 2.5 hours each time, with an interval for afternoon tea. There is a \$3 charge to cover ad-free YouTube, purchasing operas online, printing and afternoon tea. Come join us and share some great music. Inquiries to **Lester Calder 027 234 7050**.

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



U3A Taradale Committee 2019

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DATE TO REMEMBER: Wednesday, 2nd October

The speaker at our next **Coffee Morning** will be the Hon. Stuart Nash who was elected Labour MP for Napier in 2014. Sworn in as Minister of Police, Revenue, Fisheries and for Small Business in October 2017 following the general election, Stuart first entered politics in 2008 as a list MP and has been the Labour spokesperson for Police, Energy, Revenue, Forestry, Economic Development and Land Information.

Please be seated by 10:00am

