



U3A WHANGAREI NEWSLETTER



February/March – 2019

U3A Whangarei is registered with the Charities Commission

**Meetings: Fourth Tuesday each month, February to November at
10 am, St John's Church, Kamo Road, Kensington.**

Secretary: Ann Daly 437 5075 annandneil84@gmail.com
Membership Secretary: Mary Berrill 437 2168 mary.berrill@gmail.com

February meeting – Tuesday 26th

First Speaker: Lauren Roche.

Lauren is a GP, author and athlete. She lives with her partner, Graham, an artisan coffee roaster, two sons and a poodle on 3 acres in Tutukaka with a view out to the Poor Knights. After a spinal cord injury during back surgery six years ago she can no longer compete as an Ironman and has had to scale back her medical practice but this has given her more time to read and write. She is author of two books *Bent not Broken* and *Life on the Line* which have been published in NZ and the UK and translated into German, Swedish and Chinese.

Second speaker: Mina Crisp - "Life as a refugee from Uganda"

Mina was born and brought up in Uganda. She fled to the UK in 1972 when Idi Amin expelled all Asians from Uganda. She rebuilt her life in the UK and came to New Zealand in 2015.

March Meeting – Tuesday 26th

First Speaker: Colin Edwards. Yachting today and 50 years ago.

Colin is a member of U3A and in 1968 sailed with Marjorie from England to Whangarei on a 30 foot yacht. He will outline the advances (or not, depending on how you see it!) which have occurred in that time.

Second Speaker: Andrea Hawkless, founder of NZ Epilepsy Assist Dogs

Andrea was born in the UK but has lived in NZ for more years than she can remember. Many of you may remember her from her days in Whangarei working in Northland Pathology Lab and running a modelling and etiquette course. Her son had epilepsy and this inspired her to start the NZ branch of Epilepsy Assist dogs, the third country to introduce this.

She will explain why the Trust was formed, why it is needed and the criteria for acceptance. She will share stories of success, the difference the dogs make to people's lives and the breeds of dogs used.

President's Report

Greetings and Best wishes for a happy, healthy 2019.

While we have been enjoying a glorious hot summer (maybe only farmers and gardeners are complaining), it has been a “Winter of Discontent” for UK – no deal Brexit, for the USA – especially all the Government employees and Europe with storms and snow - how lucky we are!

This, my first report as President, is an opportunity to say “thank you” to my amazing committee and to welcome the new members – Christine Bertram, Neil Mitchell, Liz Clemow and Wendy Jones. The committee are very busy with the many jobs to ensure the smooth running of our club and they would appreciate help with serving morning tea, moving seats for the monthly meetings, thanking speakers and planning events and workshops. Please ring or email me if you can help. This year is very special – our 25th anniversary. We are planning a special event for the July meeting so please let us know if you know anyone who is or was a founding member. We welcome any ideas to make this a very special meeting. Kay, our Interest Group leader will contact group leaders to prepare a play, reading or poem which could be performed at that meeting.

Gay Bonetti, Christine Bertram and I have found some great speakers to start this year which we hope will be interesting and stimulating. We welcome ideas for speakers so please contact Gay with your contacts.

We are sorry to be saying farewell to Laurie and Gaynor Young who are moving to Tauranga – we wish them well but hope to see them back in Whangarei at intervals as Laurie has offered to “review/audit” our financial accounts.

I look forward to seeing you all at our meeting on Tuesday February 26th.

Rosemary Sanderson

INTEREST GROUPS

Our current Interest Groups include the following topics:

Adventures in Food, Art and Society, Book Clubs, Deaf Poets Society, Drawing for Pleasure, Earth Sciences, Local Interest, Mah Jong, News, NZ History, Literature, Pen Pushers, Performance, Petanque, Philosophy, Photography, Playreading, Travel

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2019

Subscriptions for 2019 are now due and should be paid by the end of March.

A reminder that the subscription is now \$25 dollars per person

May the sun

bring you new energy by day

May the moon

softly restore you by night

May the rain

wash away your worries

May the breeze

blow new strength into your being

May you walk gently

through the world

and know its beauty

all the days of your life

Apache blessing

