

Taradale U3A Newsletter

February 2022



PRESIDENT PETER'S PONDERINGS:

Here we are in another year which looks as if it is going to be dominated by that virus topic which most are tired of hearing about, don't want to talk about but can't get away from. It has affected many of our group activities with reduced numbers attending, various venues placing attendance restrictions and many of our members being unwilling to expose themselves to the possibility of infection. On the positive side, our membership remains fairly high and we are getting many enquiries from potential new members. Along with several group convenors, I was fortunate to be invited by Elaine Buxton to a meeting of her women's group where we were asked to talk about U3A and the activities of the groups represented. My strongest impression of the presentations was that the groups all built on the various strengths of the members. Long may that continue!!



Rescheduled Annual General Meeting.

Wednesday 2 March, Taradale Town Hall, 10am.

You all know by now that the meeting which was held on the 2nd of February was not attended by enough members to form a quorum and therefore had to be rescheduled. It will now be held on the 2nd of March at 10am. Come along and hear some of our group convenors talking about why their groups are worth joining!
We are still on the lookout for nominations for committee, particularly for the position of President which becomes vacant this year. A nomination form is attached to this newsletter.

News about Groups:

A - Z. (Alphabet Talks)

A - Z has finally closed the dictionary after 11 years as a popular U3A group.

We have worked our way through the alphabet 9 times, but, with a declining membership, we decided that the time has come to bring it to an end.

It is very interesting to look back at the variety of topics that people chose to talk about.

Here are a few random examples:

Arctic Circle

Cleopatra

History of Chewing Gum

Lapis Lazuli

Seahorses

Zoroastrianism

**Joan Fitzmaurice
Convenor**

Words Words Words

We are underway for 2022 and have now met twice, once to plan the year and the second to begin exercising our brain. Our activities are varied, ranging from discovering new words from many different sources to uncovering old ones, agreeing on their heritage and discussing, as politely as possible, their correct spelling. Then, of course, we have to use quite a few of them, in verse, short stories, quizzes (should that have two 'z's?'), puns etc. One of the great discussion points is our collective frustration at the decline of the language among younger generations. Do you remember your parents doing the same? If you do, come along and show us how you would write that.....(get it?)

We meet **at 2pm on the first and third Wednesdays** (and occasionally a fifth) of the month at **Senior Citizens Club, Symonds Lane, Taradale.**

Contact Janice Hambly ph:021 408 092

Te Reo Maori

When I retired, my daughter suggested I learn a language that had no relation to English to keep my brain active. Te Reo Maori was the ideal choice for me as a New Zealander. Joining this group has not only started me on learning the language, but has also enhanced my appreciation of this country and my place in it. I enjoy practising my learning on the Te Reo phrases on radio and TV. Te Reo Maori is a friendly, enthusiastic group slowly making progress, despite the frequent disruptions due to Covid, with the help of our very patient teachers.

Our meetings are held **every Friday, 9.15-10.45, at Knightsbridge Masonic Village, Balmoral Street.**

If you are interested, please contact me, Claire Donkin, Phone 02102987728.

The Mahjong Group

We meet every Tuesday morning at the **Omaranui Bowling Club rooms off Lee Road in Taradale**. We have one table set aside for new players or those needing some assistance with the game. This has proved to be very successful.

In keeping with Covid requirements all our members are at least double vaccinated or have received their booster shot.

We welcome new members into our group and as mentioned help will be given if needed.

Joy Lawrence Ph: 027 2844235

Rummikub

This is a happy Group of Players who enjoy this game and will help anyone who would like to have a go at the game. Come along for a fun time with afternoon tea, you will be made most welcome.

1st and 3rd Monday of each month, from 1.30 to 4pm at Mission View Village, 190 Avondale Road. Please Park around the Green Space outside the fence.

Ph Russell 8440303 (Convenor) or Jeanette 8444537

Community Affairs

Covid, Omicron, Traffic lights, Social distancing, mask wearing, limitations on gathering sizes. The list of restrictions and limitations goes on. Is it any wonder that people are either reluctant to go out unless absolutely necessary, let alone come to a Community Affairs Meeting? What is the Convenor supposed to do?

I have Speakers organised though till the middle of the year, including the CEO of the Forestry Group, The Manager of the Sanctuary at Cape Kidnappers, and a Representative from St Johns to name but some. But whether or not I should confirm with these good people I am unsure. I do not want to confirm their coming unless I can be sure that there will be a reasonable number of people at the meeting for them to address.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday March 7 when Keith Dolman from the Forestry group is scheduled to visit us. In fairness I need to confirm with him one way or the other by the end of February. If members of the Community Affairs Group could give me an indication by then if they **DO NOT WANT TO COME**, and I will make a decision on March 1 based on the numbers and advise accordingly in the usual way. Text or e mail would be fine **PH: 021496795 or email :**

Richard.diane@xtra.co.nz

Based on the outcome of the above, we will then have to make decisions about subsequent meetings, dependant on Omicron etc etc of course! Keep safe and keep in touch

Richard Gregory Convenor

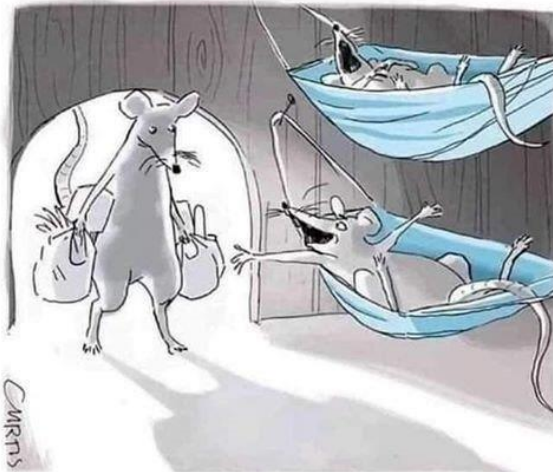
...and a little humour from???



**My wife took up gardening...
I wonder what she's going to plant**



Thinking we can all use a laugh



"FREE HAMMOCKS, all over town. It's like a miracle!"

You guessed it, it's Chris Geddis again.! Thanks Chris!

From the Community...

You may recall that we were approached last year by **Jenny Dee** from **House of Science**, asking for volunteers to transport resource kits to and from schools in Napier, Hastings and Havelock North. We know that some U3A members volunteered as a result. Jenny has contacted us again looking for more volunteers as the programme grows more popular. Her letter follows at the end of this newsletter and can be downloaded from our website [here](https://houseofscience.nz). Their website and Jenny's contact details are <https://houseofscience.nz>; Jenny can be contacted by email at jenny.dee@houseofscience.nz

From the Committee....

U3A TARADALE INC **Committee Nomination Form**

I nominate (please print):

For the position of (please circle): **President** **Vice President** **Treasurer**
Secretary or **Committee Member**

Proposer: (Name and signature):Date:.....

Seconder: (Name and signature): Date:.....

Candidate: (Signature): Date:

2022 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are now due for 2022 to cover the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 and an invoice for your subscription is attached to this newsletter.

The 2022 subscription will remain at \$15 per person for the year

We are no longer able to bank cheques at Westpac Bank. The preferred method of payment of subscriptions is by internet banking into the Westpac bank account of U3A Taradale Inc, Taradale. If this is not possible, payment may be made at any branch of Westpac Bank.

The U3A bank account number is: 03 0631 0175173 00

Please state your initials and surname in the reference field.

Your subscription covers the following services:

- Membership of one or more of the groups offered by U3A Taradale or U3A Hastings and U3A Havelock North. Please check our website taradaleu3a.org.nz for a list of groups offered.
- Newsletters. We currently distribute four each year. An increasing number of members now receive their letter by email, helping to keep postage costs down. If you are having difficulty reading the newsletter on phones or tablets, please let your group convenor know and we will post it out to you.
- Town Hall meetings. We plan to hold four of these each year.
- Workshops when available.
- Other events/guest speakers as available.
- Administration costs.

U3A Taradale Inc

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2022 ARE NOW DUE

2022 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code Phone

Email.....

Please confirm for newsletter delivery

The group/s I wish to join for 2022 are:.....

Annual subscription per member

For the financial year 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 \$15.00

This does not cover any fees charged for your group activities. Please check with the convenor of your group.

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**The U3A bank account number is: 03 0631 0175173 00
Please state your initials and surname in the reference field.**

Please return this form as soon as possible to

**Erin Mahoney
5/15 Devonshire Place
Taradale 4112**

etmahony@gmail.com

844 3833

Membership lapses after 28 February 2022 and prompt payment would be appreciated.

Office use only

Receipt No:..... Date / /

Volunteers needed to help House of Science Hawke's Bay support more schools

House of Science is a charitable trust which provides primary and intermediate schools with fun, hands-on, science resource kits. The goal is to empower teachers, because well-resourced, confident teachers deliver great science lessons, which results in engaged students.

The Hawke's Bay branch started in May 2021 with 7 member schools and 8 resource kits. Teachers love the resources, word is spreading, and we've had enquiries from many schools. We start 2022 with 17 member schools (several of whom are borrowing 2 kits a fortnight) and 28 kits. And with sponsorship of more kits confirmed, we can offer membership to more schools. We need volunteers to help us support them. To go into schools, you'll need to be double vaccinated.

A resource kit is a large 79L "fish bin", containing all the resources a teacher needs to do a range of activities. To see what a kit looks like, refer: <https://houseofscience.nz/resources/> .

We're looking for volunteers who are available for a couple of hours, to help with three jobs:

- On a Monday morning, collect kits from our base at Tamatea High, and deliver them to 4 or 5 schools in the Napier, Hastings or Havelock North areas. Kits need to be collected between 9.30am and 10.30am, and delivered to schools before 12pm. This happens every second Monday during the school term, starting on 31 January. We'll reimburse your mileage for the delivery run.
- On a Wednesday afternoon, collect kits from 4 or 5 schools in the Napier, Hastings or Havelock North areas, and return them to Tamatea High. Kits need to be collected between 1pm and 2.30pm and delivered to Tamatea High between 2.45pm and 4pm. This happens every second Wednesday during the school term, starting on 9 February. We'll reimburse your mileage for the collection run.
- On a Thursday morning, come along to Tamatea High for a couple of hours between 9.15am and 1pm, to help clean and replenish the kits. This happens every second Thursday during the school term, starting on 10 February.

Whether you're available to help once a week, once a fortnight, once every 4 weeks or on an intermittent basis, we're keen to hear from you.

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Branch Manager Jenny Dee,

jenny.dee@houseofscience.nz .

