

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2020



Titirangi

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Welcome to our first newsletter for 2020.

And a special welcome to all our new members. We trust you will enjoy the learning opportunities of U3A and make new friends from within our membership.

Our first meeting for the year is on Tuesday 28th January, 1.00 pm at West Lynn Gardens, 73 Parker Road, New Lynn. At this meeting our Study Group Co-ordinator, Dianne Deverell, will update us on the groups that will be available in 2020. We have attached a general list of groups and some notes from Dianne with this newsletter. There is also a brief outline of the group aims and activities. You will have plenty of time at the meeting to talk to Dianne and her helpers and to register for those groups that appeal. The Study Group Co-ordinators will then contact you with further details.

At the January meeting the committee members will each introduce themselves and explain their responsibilities within our branch. Our key-note speaker will be noted historian and author, Bruce Harvey, who also happens to be a member. Bruce will talk about his recent publication, "Te Haerenga - The Journey: the 100,000 year journey to Aotearoa" - a publication dedicated to his late wife, Trixie. It aims to acknowledge Te Kawerau a Maki for their efforts in trying to save the Kauri in the Waitakere Ranges from kauri dieback disease.

Afternoon tea will be served - \$2.

We remind members that the annual subscription for U3A Titirangi is \$30. Existing membership is automatically continued if the subscription is paid by the 29th February. After this date, a new application for membership is required. As we are almost at the maximum numbers for our branch, applications will be processed in the order in which they are received and a waiting list may be made. Payment can be made by cash or cheque at the main meetings, or paid by direct debit into our bank account: **12-3034-0162597-00**.

We thank those who have already paid.

The February main meeting will be held on the 25th. The monthly meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month. For your information, the dates for 2020 are: (January 28, February 25), March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27 and November 24.

We look forward to an interesting U3A year, and to seeing you on the 28th January.

Abridged Abstracts for U3A Titirangi Newsletter (Term 1 2020)

Art Appreciation

We will aim to widen our exposure to and knowledge and appreciation of different art genres by visiting a diverse range of galleries, studios and other art venues.

Book Groups 1 and 2

To give those who enjoy reading and discussing books the opportunity to share their reading experiences and insights and to be alerted to other texts and authors they may not be familiar with. The members will decide regularly on a focus for the meetings and books will be read on the theme or subject or genre.

Chess

A small group with people who enjoy playing chess or **want to learn** to play from Colin, who is an experienced teacher of chess and a past champion! Do not be afraid to join even if you have not played before. You will be most welcome.

Creative Writing

An opportunity to use your imagination and draw on your own experiences! You may want to write stories and/or write poetry. You may want to record your childhood memories to share with your children and grandchildren. This group will be constructive and supportive when voicing our opinions to each other. Lively discussion and fun will be an essential part of our meetings.

Current Affairs

A lively discussion group which focuses on current international and national issues. Topics are chosen by members, allowing for a wide range of issues to be considered.

Ethnic Cuisine/Dining

Members will have an interest in learning about the cuisines of different cultures. The way it develops and the restaurants we visit will depend on the wishes of the members. We meet each month at a restaurant for a lunchtime meal. Some research may need to be undertaken.

Film Fanciers

An opportunity to join with others in viewing a chosen film each month. However, we will take other opportunities to attend selected viewings at film festivals and at different venues such as the Rialto in Newmarket, the Bridgeway at Birkenhead. The group will meet together afterwards at a nearby cafe for coffee and a discussion of the film.

Genealogy

Currently most of the group members have been working on their research for a year or two. The convenor has many, or access to many, of the basic research materials. These would be introduced to members, as would many websites. A helpful group for budding genealogists.

History 1 (World)

Members will be encouraged to share their interests and explore new ones in different world topics. There will be a set topic to be explored each month as the main item. A range of topics have been covered over the past three years.

Mah Jong

A group established to help beginners on the way with learning about and playing Mah Jong. It is hoped that those members with some experience will join in supporting and teaching others how to play. This group plays fortnightly.

Music Appreciation

For people who enjoy listening to music, covering all genres - from classical through jazz through to cultural music and more. It is intended that we each share our interest and life's experiences through music, at the same time exploring and getting to understand music not previously part of our experience or repertoire.

Myths, Legends and Fairytales

A study of our heritage and our guide to understanding human beings and how they see their world. We'll look at wide-ranging tales on many themes. Members are encouraged to share research on set topics.

Opera Studies

Each month the group will view and study a set opera, which is usually studied over the course of two meetings. Members help choose the programme for the year; and may offer to support the convenor by researching and introducing an opera and leading some discussion afterwards. At the end of each session we carry on our friendly discussion at the Pinesong restaurant over a coffee or lunch.

Quiz

We have two quiz teams participating at the Qwizard competition at Bricklane. This provides lots of challenges, fun and friendship. The group provides us with plenty of intellectual stimulation in a relaxed and informal situation.

Scrabble

A friendly, mixed ability group who enjoy word games, but in particular playing Scrabble. Some players are accustomed to social games and others may play at Club and Tournament level. However, beginners are in the majority so do not be afraid to join up.

Travel Discussion

This will involve a different member telling us about their travels based on an agreed set of guidelines. The guidelines and focus of the meetings are decided by the group. Travel tips and advice are also shared. Different activities are undertaken.

Walks and Talks

Our aim is to increase our knowledge, fitness and brain power by taking part in an enjoyable physical activity with a friendly group of members. Group members will take turns to lead us on our adventures and share their knowledge of the area.

Groups to be confirmed

Auckland Regional Parks exploration and Camping

Camping in the parks will occur when there is availability of campsites and when members have times that work in with their individual programmes. We will aim to widen our exposure to our environment; develop our knowledge and appreciation of native flora and fauna; and enjoy relaxing, walking and talking together whilst

visiting and learning about a range of our Regional Parks. Once dates have been selected, each member is responsible for making their own booking and payment for the required dates.

Adventures by Bus (TBC)

A group of 11 members will take a Brent's bus trip around different areas to explore both familiar and unfamiliar places in the Auckland and possibly Waikato regions. There will be costs involved in this.

Aspects of NZ and Local History (TBC)

It is envisaged that an opportunity will be given at first to those on the History Waiting List to join this group. An initial meeting will help decide the programme that suits the group best. Visits to sites and museums would be part of this course.

U3A Titirangi Study and Special Interest Groups 2020 Term 1

- Art Appreciation 2nd Wednesday 10.30 am
- Book Discussion 1 (Full) 1st Thursday 1.30 pm
- Book Discussion 2 1st Friday 1.30 pm
- Chess 1st Wednesday 10 am
- Creative Writing (Full) 2nd Friday 11am
- Current Affairs(Full) 3rd Thursday 10am
- Ethnic Cuisine and Dining 3rd Thursday at noon
- Film Fanciers 2nd Friday time tbc
- Genealogy 2nd Wednesday 10 am
- History (Full) 4th Monday 10.30 am
- Mah Jong 1st and 3rd Mondays 1.30 pm
- Music Appreciation 1st or 2nd Tuesday (tbc)
- Myths, Legends & Fairy Tales (Full) 4th Friday 10.30am
- Opera Studies 4th Friday 10 am
- Quiz (Full) 1st Monday at 6.45 for 7 pm start
- Scrabble 2nd Thursday 1 pm
- Travel Discussion(Full) 3rd Tuesday 10 am

Walk and Talks 3rd Friday 10 am

Groups to be confirmed

Auckland Regional Park Exploration/Camping dates will be advised (3 possible per year)

Aspects of NZ and Local History 2nd Monday at 10.30 (tbc)

Bus Adventures dates will be advised (4 possible per year) (tbc)

U3A Titirangi Study and Special Interest Groups

All members of a group must be paid up members of our Branch.

All members of the Branch are expected to belong to at least one Study or Activity group.

Members need to sign up for a group with the Study Group Co-ordinator and this may be done at any Branch meeting. Otherwise, e-mail Dianne on:

dianne.u3atgn@gmail.com

The Convenor of your chosen group/s will invite you by e-mail to attend a group meeting when a vacancy becomes available.

Some groups have only one or two vacancies. Others may have more.

If the group fills up, your name may need to stay on the relevant Waiting List/s. I shall do my best to ensure that every member is able to attend at least one group after they join the branch.

If you are interested in finding out what the groups have been doing over the past year, visit our U3A Titirangi webpage and click on the different newsletters and read about each groups' monthly activities.

If you would like to know about the role of a convenor and would be interested in offering a group, please discuss this with Dianne Deverell (09) 2146485. We always need people to help lead groups. What skill or knowledge could you share?

Our Latin Studies, Music Live and Economics groups have currently closed.

Dianne Deverell, Study Group Co-ordinator dianne.u3atgn@gmail.com