



Mana U3A (Inc)

www.u3amana.org.nz
P O Box 57 042 Mana

Newsletter Number 64

January 2011

Greetings to you all and welcome to 2011 and another year, the 20th, of our Organisation's activities in Mana.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our new Committee to work for and with you during this busy year. Our U3A works on a self-help system so although we are here as a committee, we welcome new ideas, new course suggestions, new convenors and tutors. "Of course you can do it!" should be our motto for 2011! We encourage you to join new or different interest groups this year and to bring your friends along to meetings as prospective new members. New "blood" keeps any organisation healthy

2011 sees us celebrating 20 years of learning experiences within Mana U3A. We plan to mark this year with a special Celebratory Anniversary Luncheon on Tuesday August 23rd, our 3rd plenary meeting for the year, so do mark it on your calendar as a date absolutely not to be missed.

A significant change is occurring. We are becoming far more reliant on the Internet and email to spread our news. The committee over the last 2 years has worked hard to set up our own website **www.u3amana.org.nz** which will in future be our primary means of communicating with you. It is easy to access and use, will help to keep you informed, keep secretarial activities and costs to a minimum and help to keep your subscriptions low. Please use it. Please join us in the 21st Century! For those with no internet access there will still be a paper service via NZ Post.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Luncheon Meeting on Tuesday 22nd February at the Plimmerton Pavilion at 11.45am, when, inter alia, subscriptions are due!

Lisa Webber,
President.

President's Annual Report (Presented at Mana U3A AGM 23rd November 2010)

It gives me great pleasure to present this 19th Annual Report.

Another year has passed quickly and for Mana U3A members our courses continue to stimulate the mind and body. We must give great credit to the course tutors and coordinators for their unstinting work on our behalf. Our Mid-Year Tutors' and Convenors' luncheon goes some way towards recognizing their efforts.

Thirteen regular courses or learning groups have operated this year and a very successful one-off course of 6 sessions starting in September on the History of Jazz complemented this number.

Sadly our Yoga Group will disband in December after 15 very productive and enjoyable years under the excellent tutelage of Dorothy Mitchell. We owe a great deal to Dorothy who has given so much of her time, skills and energy to this very popular course, not to mention her contribution to Mana U3A in general. We thank you Dorothy

The past year's Guest Speakers have been informative and educational. Our AGM speaker was Dr Sparks who, you will remember, enlightened us on the Large Hadron Collider. In February Dr Geoffrey Chambers spoke of Charles Darwin and his voyage on the Beagle. Jenny Brash, our then Mayor of Porirua spoke in May about her recent trip to Patagonia and Antarctica. Chocoholics along with the rest of us thoroughly enjoyed Megan Howard's most informative talk about our local Whittakers' Chocolate Factory, the history of Chocolate and the journey within the factory from bean to bar.

Our membership stands at 189 and we are financially in good heart. The Committee has voted to keep subs at the present \$10 for individuals and \$15 for couples. We are able to maintain this generous subscription mainly because of the reduction in postage rates due to the establishment of our website, where now is posted newsletters, notices and course information. This represents a huge lessening of manpower and printing costs. I thank the Committee and especially Geoff Cassels for establishing this important means of communication. **Please refer to it and use it.**

Through the Internet we have access to U3AOnline, an Australian based network run by Griffith University enabling us to study online. Advance notice has been posted about the Sydney based NSW U3A Conference to be held in April next year. Please refer to their website WWW.Nsw.U3Anet.org.au for further details.

Thanks are due to all Committee members for their sterling efforts during the year. Four committee members, Tui Shove, Pat Hobden, Jennifer Cassels and Ron McKubre are not standing for re-election. Tui has served on the committee for nine years, as president, secretary and newsletter editor inter alia during this time. We are indebted to her for her service to this organisation. She has also been most generous with her baking skills, having supplied fabulous Christmas cakes for All of us to enjoy at many AGM since she came on the committee.

Pat Hobden has served 5 years in various capacities. He has contributed enormously to the re-organisation of membership lists, to keeping the technical equipment safe and working. We owe these two committee members in particular a huge amount.

Ron McKubre has served twice on the Committee. His last stint has been for 4 years.

It is vital that we have more volunteers for Committee to keep Mana U3A healthy. It is not an onerous job. Please consider this.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mana U3A Committee Members 2011

President	Lisa Webber	234-7458
Vice President	Patsy Williamson	233-1118
General Secretary	Sherwood Young	237-7335
Membership Secretary	Ross Williamson	233-1118
Treasurer & Publicity Officer	Brian Mosen	233-0709
Website & Newsletter Secretary	Geoff Cassels	233-9155
Hostess	Jan Lennon	236-8620

Quarterly Luncheon Meetings for 2011

Quarterly meetings are held in the Plimmerton Pavilion commencing at 12 noon with coverage of general business and discussion on items of interest. This is followed by lunch at 12.30 pm and a presentation from a guest speaker at 1 pm.

- 22 February – Speaker: Mr Sultan Eusoff – CEO of the NZ Islamic community
- 24 May – TBA
- 23 August – 20th Anniversary Luncheon Celebration
- 22 November – Annual General Meeting

Please note that:

- Doors will be opened at 11.30 am
- We rely on early arrivers to help with setting up the hall, supper room and kitchen.
- We ask that you bring with you:
 - Your name badge
 - a plate of finger food for our shared luncheon
 - A gold coin donation towards cost of hall hire, milk, tea and coffee.
 - Any friends who interested in U3A. We welcome visitors and potential new members.

Subscriptions for 2011

Please note that subscriptions for 2011 are now due and may be paid at our first quarterly meeting on 22 February if you have not already done so. Subscriptions for 2011 remain at \$10 per individual and \$15 per couple.

Interest Groups Operating in our 2011 Curriculum

If you are interested in participating in any of the interest groups described below, please contact the member whose name and telephone number is listed at the end of each course paragraph.

Astronomy

It is our intention to convene an Astronomy interest group this year. Details are still to be finalised. In the mean time anyone interested in joining this group should contact the convener.

Contact - Ned Pattle - Telephone 233.8329

Books

The Book Group is limited to about 12 members as meetings are held in group members' homes. The programme may cover any and every aspect of "Books" from poetry to comics, drama to diaries; publishing to bookbinding – whatever may be interesting. Each session generally includes sharing books and information we have found on a chosen topic or discussion questions on one selected book. Last year we were also lucky enough to host an excellent speaker and at the end of the year enjoyed part of a DVD of "Romeo and Juliet" from the Globe Theatre. Our first meeting will be on 8th February at 8 Astronomer Place to plan our topics for the coming year.

Contact Leslie Harrison - Telephone: 234.1677

Bridge

The Bridge Group meets from 9.30am - 12.00 noon every Monday at the Plimmerton Croquet Club. Previous experience is not a prerequisite to joining this group, nor is it necessary to have a partner. People can come to learn, or to be challenged, by players of varying degrees of skill. There is a small charge levied by the croquet club for the use of their facilities.

Contact Ian Fowler - Telephone 233.0045,

Circa Theatre

This is an informal group of folk interested in attending productions at Circa Theatre's 4 p.m. Sunday productions at the start of shows. The attraction is the \$25 ticket price! During 2010 the Group attended six shows which covered a good variety to suit all tastes. The 2011 season commences with Graham Greene's "Our Man in Havana" on Sunday 27th February. If interested in joining the group please....

Contact Denise Watts - Telephone 233.1920 e-mail - dtwatts@xtra.co.nz

Earth Sciences

This group (formerly named the Geology Group) meets every second week on Mondays, at 10.00 am, in the Titahi Bowling Club rooms, but also "goes walkabout" on field trips to areas relevant to the current studies being undertaken. Starting date for 2011 is February 14th at the Bowling Club. The programme planned for this year will make use of relevant DVDs from Victoria University, alternating with some field trips and a range of topics including:

- The magnetic field of the earth – 14 February 2011
- Dating including mitochondrial dating - tba;
- Deep time and caldistics – tba

Contact - Ned Pattle - Telephone 233.8329

Films

The Film Group enjoyed a variety of films during 2010 including "Farewell" an engrossing, political thriller based on a true story of treason and set in Moscow in 1981. Another very popular choice was "The Concert" with beautiful music and a lovely story. The background concerned the targeting of Jews under Brezhnev's regime. We always go to the Penthouse Cinema and discuss the film later in a very nice café where we are well known! Our visits are on the third Saturday in the month and we have a car pool and contribute to petrol costs. We resume our film-going on Saturday February 19th 2011.

Contact - Eileen Turner - Telephone 232- 8616

Garden Group

This group facilitates an interesting programme of garden visits including those of group members, demonstrations and guest speakers. Our meetings during the winter months are usually held indoors with speakers and slides. Our 2011 programme has commenced with a fascinating visit to Te Horo to a perma culture garden – edible backyards. Meetings for the rest of 2011 will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact.....

Contact: Denise Watts - Telephone 233.1920 , dtwatts@xtra.co.nz

Have Your Say

This group meets during the 'cooler months', for studies and discussions covering a range of subjects of national and international significance. Discussion subjects and leaders are nominated at the first meeting of the group, usually commencing in April at the home of a group member. The subsequent fortnightly discussions are resourced from within the groups, and there is usually much lively debate. An addition to the format of past years, has been the inclusion on some meeting days of biographical talks by group members. Members of this group come originally from many parts of the world as well as many parts of New Zealand, and of course, after careers of amazing diversity. In the interests of all participants "having a say" in the two hours available on the Friday meeting mornings numbers are capped at fifteen. New members are accepted on a 'first-come-first-served' basis. Have your say will hold its first meeting for 2011 at 3/42 Mana Esplanade on 29th April at 10 am.

Contact: Jennifer Cassels - Telephone 233.9155 jennifer.cassels@xtra.co.nz

Needlecraft

This is a small group of members with a common interest in, and a desire to expand, their personal skills and knowledge of the many facets of one of the oldest skills known to mankind. We consider ourselves to be a 'co-operative learning' group. New members are welcome, with or without prior knowledge of, or experience in, the completion of a needlecraft project. We gather in member's homes, fortnightly on Friday afternoons from 1.30pm to work on our projects, to enjoy the exchange of knowledge and techniques, and of course to encourage each other in our individual endeavours. Unfortunately we have no tutor at present but we are managing well using our collective knowledge and wisdom. our first meeting for 2011 will be on Friday 29 January at 26 Milford Street Aotea. you are interested in joining our group please contact Pat Levy, Telephone 238 2808.

Contact: Pat Levy - Telephone 238.2808

Outside the Square

For ONE-OFF educational experiences outside your comfort zone, this is the Group for You! Each member has the opportunity to organise an activity for group participation and e-mail notice is posted. We do this on a monthly basis, no set day, and no set time. Gold Card travel is encouraged. RSVP is necessary. A sample of our 2010 experiences include: Mardi Gras study; masks and pancakes; astronomy at the Carter Observatory; reflexology, and becoming involved in the Porirua Language/Literacy Project. We claim research, organizational skills and general learning opportunities to be at the heart of keeping us on our toes and in line with U3A's learning curve ideals. A \$15 ceiling of cost applies per activity.

Contact: Lisa Webber - Telephone 234.7458

Scrapbooking

Mana U3A does not presently have a scrapbooking interest group but Tawa U3A's tutor Marie Thomson has extended a warm welcome to any Mana U3A members interested in joining their group. The group currently meet fortnightly on a Friday at "Crafting Around" 322 Main Road Tawa although a change of venue is possible for 2011. The first class for 2011 is scheduled for February 18th from 9.30am - 12.30pm. For further information please...

Contact: Lorna Macgregor: Telephone 239 9119

Traveller's Tales

If you are a tourist or a traveller, if you are interested in touring or travelling, or if you enjoy listening to and watching experiences of travelling then:

Travellers' Tales is for you. We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month; February to November inclusive, at the Bradey Room, Whitby (next to the library). The first meeting for 2011 is Thursday 24th February. Time: 9.45am for 10.15am till 11.45am. The cost for the year is only \$10 per member which covers expenses/room hire plus a meeting "koha" for tea/coffee. For an enjoyable morning looking at and hearing about interesting place join "Travellers' Tales"

Contact: David and Velma Knight - Telephone 04.299.1539

Visits to Places of Interest

This group meets during the winter months, May to October, generally on the first Tuesday of each month. We have been to the Kapiti Coast, Upper Hutt and the city to museums, art galleries, heritage sites and talks. We are open to suggestions for interesting outings. We usually meet for lunch afterwards.

Contacts: Ruth McLean, Convenor; Telephone 233 8287 or
Rae Collins, Coordinator, Telephone 233 1367.

Writing

Another group with more than twelve years of activity to be proud of. The teaching of 'how to write' is not an aim for this dedicated group. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month in members' homes, for the very positive mutual encouragement and support we can give to each other. Several members of the group are published authors, with work as varied in content as in any group of this nature. Those not currently working on a project of their own enjoy the challenge of writing stories on a subject sentence or collection of words chosen at random from a dictionary each month - some of the results of these assignments have been of a high calibre.

Contact: Judi Doornbos -Telephone 233.9693

New Interest Groups

We welcome any ideas for suitable new interest groups from member who might be able to convene or lead such a group. Please contact

Contact; Lisa Webber 234-7458

‘There are only two tragedies in life: one is not getting what one wants and the other is getting it.’

Oscar Wilde