



Mana U3A (Inc)

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

Newsletter Number 68

February 2012

PLEASE NOTE THESE IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR 2012

First Quarterly Meeting

New Day: Wednesday 22nd February 2012

New Location: St Mary's Church
Cnr Discovery Drive - Whitby Shopping Centre
(Drive to the Whitby shopping Centre. As you go up the drive to it, turn left away from the shops. St Mary's Hall is on the left nearest to the road).

New Time: 12.45 pm for 1.00 pm

Refreshments: Tea and coffee and biscuits will be provided at the conclusion of meeting. There will be an opportunity to mingle and chat. Plates are not required.

Guest Speaker: Lynne Jackett
Lynne was the Children's literature research librarian at the National Library, before retirement. She will describe the National Library's research collections of children's books and talk about a free online children's library.

A Message from Your President

Greetings everyone, and welcome to a new year of U3A activities

Thank you for welcoming me to my new role. We are very fortunate to have an excellent, strong committee. Our details are listed in this newsletter so please contact us at any time, especially if you have an idea for a new interest group.

2012 sees us holding our quarterly meetings at St. Mary's Church Hall in Whitby with our first being on Wednesday February 22nd. There is plenty of parking in the vicinity. Details are here in the newsletter.

We are no longer having luncheon meetings so doors will open at 12:45 p.m. A cup of tea or coffee will be provided at the end of the meeting at about 2:15 pm. There will be opportunity then to mingle and chat with the Speaker and friends.

The guest speaker for our February meeting is Lynne Jackett, who was the Children's literature research librarian at the National Library, before retirement. She will describe the National Library's research collections of children's books and talk about a free online children's library.

Also in this newsletter you will find the details for interest group meetings. For some time we have been aware that some groups have not been able to accept new members because their numbers are full. This means people joining our U3A are disappointed and existing members can't spread their wings.

Coordinators of full groups are asked to start a waiting list and to contact me when they have the nucleus of a second group. We will then see if a second group can be formed. So as you consider your participation for this year do contact the coordinator of any group that interests you even if you've heard in the past that they didn't have room. If you belong to a group and have decided to move on from it please let the coordinator know.

Through the year you can get relevant information about our activities from our web site, www.u3amana.org.nz. It is easy to access and use. So, we look forward to seeing you on February 22nd. Oh ... and don't forget that subs for 2012 are now due.

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Patsy Williamson
President

Mana U3A Committee Members 2012

President	Patsy Williamson	233-1118
Vice President	Brian Mosen	233-0709
General Secretary	Sherwood Young	237-7335
Membership Secretary	Ross Williamson	233-1118
Treasurer & Publicity Officer	Lisa Webber	234-7458
Website & Newsletter Secretary	Geoff Cassels	233-9155
Hostess	Glenda Kropp	238-2118
	Jennifer Finlay	233-0795

Notices

New Courses:

Creative Writing Group 2

A new Creative Writing group is being planned under the tutelage of Gene Brown. The course focus is still evolving but an emphasis possibly on writing one's family history, childhood memories, family anecdotes etc is likely. Gene has been a tutor in creative writing for Kapiti U3A, has belonged to a writing group in Paremata and is a short story writer and sometime poet. The inaugural meeting of this group will be held at 1.30pm on the 14th March at 73 Discovery Drive, Whitby. If you are interested in joining this group please contact the coordinator: Lisa Webber Telephone. 234-7458.

History of Music

Following on from a successful course on "The History of Jazz" last year, a new course entitled "The History of Music" is being developed and will start in May 2012. The tutor for this course, Carolyn Rait, is well into the planning and research for material that is to be presented. It will be an afternoon course from 1.15 to 2.30pm, with time for a cup of tea and discussion afterwards. To help us finalise arrangements and a suitable venue please register your interest in attending with coordinator Brian Mosen on 233 0709 as soon as possible.

Book Group 2

Consideration is being given to starting a second book group to accommodate the potential new members. If interested please contact the coordinator - Lisa Webber Telephone. 234-7458.

Membership Subscriptions for 2012:

Just a gentle reminder that 2012 membership subscriptions for 2012 are due for payment. Subscriptions remain at \$10 per member or \$15 per couple. Payment can be made to the Treasurer at the door of our February Meeting or mailed to the Treasurer c/- Mana U3A (Inc) P O Box 57 042 Mana. A Membership renewal form is attached and can also be printed from our website. www.U3Amana.org.nz

Course Coordinators:

The course coordinators make our courses possible and we want you to see what they are doing for you. From time to time we need new coordinators for new courses. You can see its not too demanding as it all happens low key really. The Course Coordinator's role is to:

- Manage tutor's needs
- Arrange the time and place of meetings
- Promote course and reports back about its activities (the committee does this but asks you for your info)
- Receive application for membership of course
- Keep a waiting list if necessary
- Liaise with group members
- Monitor attendance
- Ensure group members are financial members of a U3A (can be any U3A such as Tawa or Wellington or Kapiti etc)
- May levy participants for an approved purpose
- Organise refreshments if needed.

Information on Courses in Our 2012 Curriculum

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

Book Group

The Book Group has had an interesting year looking at topics as varied as the Middle East and Nordic Crime Writers; Lionel Shriver to Simon Mawer. We also enjoy discussing books and authors with other keen readers over a cup of coffee before we get down to business at 10 am. We have to limit our numbers to around twelve in order to give each member time to participate and also because meetings are held in members' homes. However it may well be that there is sufficient interest for a second Book Group to be started. Please ring Anne at 236 8998 for more information. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday February 14th at Susan's, 114/65 Guildford Drive, Paraparaumu to plan topics and venues for 2012.

A Possible Second Group. We would like to start a second book group if there are enough people wanting to join it. If you would be interested please contact the present book group coordinator and ask to be put on the waiting list.

Coordinator: Lesley 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.

Coordinator: Ian Fowler - Telephone 233-0045

Circa Theatre

This is an informal group who attend random productions on the first Sunday of plays at 4 p.m at the reduced price of \$25 (normal cost for seniors is \$38). Apart from a repeat production of 'The Motor Camp', the first show is 'Essencia del Flamenco' to which a small group are attending on 5th February, but this is at the normal price. There are some interesting productions in the 2012 programme, including plays by Geraldine Brophy (a musical play) in April and Arthur Miller's 'All My Sons' in June.

Coordinator: Denise Watts - Telephone 233-1920 e-mail dtwatts@xtra.co.nz

Creative Writing Group 1

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.

Coordinator - Judi Doornbos Ph 2339693

Creative Writing Group 2

This newly formed writers group meets at 73 Discovery Drive Whitby on the second Wednesday of each month commencing at 1.30pm with effect from March 14. The tutor is Gene Brown Tel. 233 0216

Coordinator: Lisa Webber Ph. 234 7458 lisawebber@hotmail.com.

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 2012 is February 20th at the Bowling Club. An interesting programme is planned for this year and will include:

“The Founder of Geology” 20 February – Penry Putnam

Paleontological Evidence of the Origins of Life - 5 March – Ned Pattle

Coordinator - Ned Pattle - Telephone 233-8329

Films

The Film Group again enjoyed a variety of films during 2011. Our first film for the year was "The King's Speech" with great acting performances from Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush for which Colin Firth won an Oscar. "My Afternoons With Marguerite" was a charming French film which was a popular choice with our group. In complete contrast was the April choice "Sarah's Key" set in Paris in 1942 when thousands of Jewish/French civilians were rounded up and imprisoned in a concentration camp. A very moving film. Our venue is the Penthouse cinema in Brooklyn where we are well known! We discuss the film in their very nice cafe, always an enjoyable afternoon. Our visits are on the third Saturday of the month and we go late mornings or afternoons. We have a car pool and contribute to petrol costs. We resume our film going on Saturday 18th of February 2012.

Coordinator - Eileen Turner- Telephone 232-8616

Garden Group

The group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 10 am and the first meeting was held on 25th January in Paraparaumu where our AGM was held in a lovely garden in beautiful weather. Last year was considered a great success with plenty of variety. We visited Kath Irvine's vegetable garden at Ohau, olive-grower Trish Noble-Beazley in Waikanae, had a superb talk by well-known landscaper Ben Hoyle, enjoyed slides by botanical artist Sue Wickerson, a visit to Dr. Peter Gilbert's Woodbridge Planters in Johnsonville, Ohario Valley gardens, and culminating the year with a visit to Palmerston North's wonderful Rose Gardens.

Coordinator - Denise Watts Ph 233 1920 email dtwatts@xtra.co.nz

Have Your Say

This group meets during winter months, for discussions and ‘having our say’ on various subjects of national and international significance. Meetings are held fortnightly for two hours and usually commence in April at the home of a Group member. Discussion subjects and meeting planning are agreed at the first meeting of the group each year. There is usually much lively discussion/debate as Members contribute from their wide diversity of life and career experiences in New Zealand and abroad. Interested new members should contact - Jennifer

Cassels in the first instance. 'Have Your Say' will hold its first meeting for 2012 at 3/42 Mana Esplanade on 27th April at 10 am.

Coordinator - Jennifer Cassels Ph 233 9155 jennifer.cassels@xtra.co.nz

History of Western Music

Carolyn Rait will be the Tutor for a series of talks giving a broad overview of the changes and development in western music over the centuries. The presentation will include history, art and development of musical instruments and music, through use of slides and music recordings. Eight or nine talks and discussion held fortnightly on Mondays, commencing 21 May at Plimmerton Croquet Clubrooms, Ulric Street off Plimmerton Drive; 1.15 pm - 2.30 pm. Cost per session to cover use of rooms and afternoon tea \$3.

Coordinator: Brian Mosen Ph. 233 0709 brianmosen@xtra.co.nz

Needlecraft

The group meets fortnightly. The first meeting for 2012 will be held on Friday 3 Feb at 1.30 pm at 26 Milford Street, Aotea. Members work on individual projects which range from Fine Embroidery to knitting on large needles. We are a cooperative learning group and use our collective knowledge plus instruction manuals to learn new techniques. If you are interested in joining this group please contact:

Coordinator: 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.** Previous 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.

Coordinator: Lisa Webber - Telephone 234-7458

Play Reading Group

This group with Pat Knight as Tutor, will meet on the first Friday morning of each month at 10a.m. The first session will be at Pat Knight's, 6 Whitianga View, The Ridges, Paremata. at 10a.m. May 4. A maximum number of twelve applies. After that there will be a waiting list formed.

Coordinator: Dorothy Mitchell, Ph. 233 1346 r.d.mitchell@xtra.co.nz.

Traveller's Tales

If you enjoy listening to and watching experiences of traveling, then Travellers Tales is for you. During 2011 we listened to and saw experiences relating to; Argentine and Chile, Yangtze River, Bhutan, British Waterways, Turkey – East to West, experiences of a traveling policeman, USA from a train, Gourmet Europe and Mexico and beyond. Meetings this year will again be held on the fourth Thursday of the month – February to November inclusive.

Our new venue is St Marys Anglican Church, Whitby (opposite Whitby Mall Complex and over the road from the Whitby Library). The first meeting for this year is Thursday 24th February at 9.45am for 10.15am start – till 11.45am.

Subscription for the year is \$10 per member for room hire and expenses plus a gold coin per meeting “koha” to cover expenses of invited speakers. For an enjoyable morning to hear about interesting places, please join Travellers Tales.

Coordinator: David Knight Ph 04 299 1539 dvknight@xtra.co.nz

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:

Coordinators: Ruth McLean -Telephone – 233-8287 or Rae Collins - Telephone 233-1367.

New Interest Groups

We welcome any ideas from members for suitable new interest groups.

Please contact - Patsy Williamson Telephone - 233-1118.

