



Mana U3A (INC)

www.u3amana.org.nz

P O Box 57 042, Mana 5026

Newsletter Number 76a

16 February 2014

First Quarterly Meeting 2014

When: Thursday 20th February 2014

Where: 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).

Time: Doors Open 12.15 pm for finger food lunch 12.30 pm

Please contribute \$2:00 Koha for hall hire, tea and coffee

Lunch: Please bring a plate of finger food to share with others over a cup of tea or coffee before the meeting.

Meeting Format:

Lunch: 12.30 pm to 1.20pm

Presentations: 1.20 - 2 pm Course Coordinators course introductions

Guest Speaker: 2 pm Richard Long

"Let's Save our Papers"



President's Newsletter

Greetings and welcome to the 23rd year of Mana U3A's activities. That's another busy year ahead!

Our first Quarterly meeting details are here. To open our year we are having a finger food luncheon. Take note of the start time as it differs from the usual.

Richard Long will be speaking about, 'The Future of Newspapers'. He was formerly editor of The Dominion for 10 years, after a 20-year stint in the Parliamentary Press Gallery and was the first editor of the Dominion Post after the two Wellington papers merged. He is currently on the board of Television New Zealand.

You'll find information about our interest groups and seminars in this newsletter and can also hear about them at the Quarterly meeting.

Are you going to try something new this year? I am - I'm going to see if I can parlez Francaise and am looking forward to the old movie sessions too.

As you consider your participation, contact the coordinator of any group that interests you. If a group is already full you can join their waiting list.

If you belong to a group and have decided to move on from it, please let that coordinator know as it may make a space for someone else.

We really appreciate the work our tutors and coordinators do. Your committee also works well. They are ready to listen to any ideas you have. You'll see their names and contact details below.

Our treasurer will be waiting to receive subs from those who have yet to pay. The details are in this newsletter - internet banking is a good option.

At any time you can find information on our web page www.u3amana.org.nz so have a look there from time to time.

We look forward to seeing you on February 20 and please bring a finger food plate.

Patsy Williamson
President

Mana U3A Committee Members 2014

President:	Patsy Williamson	☎ 233-1118
Vice President:	Brian Mosen	☎ 233-0709
General Secretary	Sherwood Young	☎ 237-7335
Membership Secretary	Robyn Hickey	☎ 233-0664
Treasurer	Adriaan van der Walt	☎ 234-7610
Website	Geoff Cassels	☎ 233-9155
Newsletter	Carolyn Rait	☎ 234-7422
Committee member	Trevor Cudby	☎ 976-2128
Hostess	Jocelyn Choong	☎ 577-1876

Notices

There are three new courses planned for the first quarter of 2014 and one seminar activity. If you have an idea for any new seminar or U3A activity please contact Patsy Williamson on ☎ 233 1118.

New Courses

French Refresher Course (page 5)
Home Movies (page 5)

Expression of interest

Proposed New Interest Group – Gaining Useful Benefits from Internet Technology.

Expressions of interest are sought from U3A members who would like to know how they can get real benefits from internet technologies without being bogged down with gobbledygook or investing significant dollars. Free video conferencing with distant loved-ones possibly simultaneously in different parts of the world, finding and watching favourite films or music from days long since passed, or down-loading books (many free) are just some of the possibilities. Learning how to use cell-phones for not only phoning, but being reminded of appointments, making notes when there is no pen or paper handy, and having an emergency number as well as many other useful bits and pieces are there for the learning.

The intention would be to meet over coffee in Plimmerton on a regular basis, teaching each other where possible and getting in others with specialized knowledge where desirable. Monday or Tuesday afternoons would be the most likely time and the frequency would be fortnightly or monthly.

If this sounds like you and/or you would like to know more, contact Mike Gould on 233-0133, or (preferably) email mjgould@tauatapu.net.nz.

Short Seminars

Porirua History Bus Tour

Just on 40 members attended three sessions on the History of Porirua and the feedback was all positive. As a result of the interest shown it is intended to run an afternoon bus tour of historic sites in Porirua. On Monday 3rd March 2014, 1-3pm leaving from Pataka, a bus tour has been arranged of historic sites around Porirua. Linda Fordyce will be the tour Leader. For those who attended any of the historic series last year the cost will be \$2 and \$5 for any other U3A member who wants to join this tour. Preference will be given to those who attended the course.

Coordinator: Brian Mosen at brianmosen@xtra.co.nz or ☎ 233 0709

Membership Subscriptions for 2014:

Please note your membership subscriptions for 2014 are now due for payment. Subscriptions remain at \$10 per member or \$15 per couple. Whilst all members receive a hard copy of the February Newsletter, **those wishing to receive other Newsletters as hard copy are required to pay an additional \$5 to cover costs.**

Payment can be made:

- In cash, directly to the Treasurer of our February Meeting
- Or mailed to the Treasurer c/- Mana U3A (Inc) P O Box 57 042
- Or direct credited to the Mana U3A bank account. Details are on the attached Membership Renewal Form which 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. You can see it is not too demanding. The Course Coordinator's role is to:

- Manage tutors' needs
- Arrange the time and place of meetings
- Report back about its activities
- 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 (this can be any U3A such as Tawa, Wellington or Kapiti etc)
- May levy participants for an approved purpose
- Organise refreshments if needed.

Detailed Information on Courses in Our 2014 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 again covered a wide range of topics during 2013 including Explorers, Favourite Poets and Canadian authors. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 am in our own homes with different members leading the discussion. Our first meeting will be on 11th February at 8 Astronomer Place Whitby to share holiday reading and plan our programme for 2014.

Coordinator: Lesley Harrison at lesleymargaret@hotmail.co.nz or ☎ 234 1677 (Full. Waiting list)

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 at idfowler@hotmail.com or ☎ 233 0045

Collectables

The programme is decided collectively. Each month there is a theme i.e. postcards, plates, linen, glass, inherited items etc. and interesting group collections resulted. Members bring along any collectable item that they have for that theme and show and tell its story. Meetings in 2013 unearthed some intriguing items and interesting collections resulted. Occasionally we may have a speaker or an outing i.e. to an antique shop or auction or private collector. We will not be valuing items. The course will meet in members' homes on the first Friday each month at 1:30 p.m. Starting 7 March.

Coordinator: Patsy Williamson at patsywilliamson@xtra.co.nz or ☎ 233 1118

Creative Writing Group 1

Another group with more than fourteen 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 at judid@paradise.net.nz or ☎ 233 9693 (Full. Join Group 2)

Creative Writing Group 2

A second Creative Writing Group meets at the home of Irene Swadling on Tuesday afternoons at 1.30pm. On an average we meet every three weeks but this is variable depending on member availability. During the one and a half hours we attempt some serious writing, look at different aspects of the craft of writing and share and critique each other's work as time permits. One homework exercise is set by Irene at each meeting. This new group established in 2013 has proved to be stimulating and friendly for me, a newcomer to U3A. There is room in the group for another two or three participants but eight would seem to be the optimum number. Starting date 4 March 2014

Contact Irene Swadling ☎ 233 9988 or harene.swadling@clear.net.nz

Films

The Film Group meets on the third Saturday of each month. Our venue is The Penthouse Cinema in Brooklyn where we have become very well-known and we receive very good attention at the café. We have a car pool and passengers contribute to petrol costs. The outing is always a very pleasant afternoon and the first film of the year will be on Saturday, 15th February.

Coordinator: Eileen Turner at dlt-et@xtra.co.nz or ☎ 232 8616

French Refresher course

Have you ever wanted to learn French and not have to always say, "Parlez-vous anglais s'il vous plait?" when travelling or do you just want to have some fun learning another language?

If you can recall any French from your school days - this is for you.

A website is used and the course is set out in a very simple way, with simple entertaining stories.

The French is spoken both slowly and at normal speed, so that you can capture the excellent French accent. The English translation follows.

The course will start on Monday February 24 at the home of the tutor, Wendy Betteridge, in Cambourne and will meet fortnightly on Mondays at 1 to 3 p.m.

Anyone interested please contact the **Coordinator:** Pat Wilson at patgar.wilson@xtra.co.nz or ☎ 234 8779

Garden Group

The Garden Group has an enthusiastic and eclectic membership of around 40 members, and meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 10.00am.

We visit a wide range of regional private and public gardens throughout the year, along with the sharing of ideas, organising speakers and swapping plants. Levy of \$2 to cover hall hire/speakers etc plus specified contribution to shared transport. First meeting was held on January 29 at Aotea Lagoon Rose Garden as an informal gathering and a lunch to start the year off.

Coordinator: Robyn Hickey at sweetpea6@paradise.net.nz or ☎ 233 0664

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 2014 at 3/42 Mana Esplanade on 4th April 2014 at 10 am.

Coordinator - Jennifer Cassels at jennifer.cassels@xtra.co.nz or ☎ 233 9155 (Full. Waiting list)

Home Movies

Brian Mosen is the Coordinator and Alan Brown is the Leader for a series of interesting, award winning and classic+not very often seen movies that will be shown in Brian's Flat for 7 fortnights during April, May and June 2014. They will be screened on the U3A big screen using the projector and sound system on a Tuesday from 1-3pm. At the end of this series it will be continued on a monthly basis, depending on interest and with input from those attending.

For those who want to join this group and have not already registered an interest, call.

Coordinator: Brian Mosen at brianmosen@xtra.co.nz or ☎ 233 0709 (Full. Waiting list)

Needlecraft

The group meets fortnightly. The first meeting for 2014 will be held on Friday 7 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 at i.levy@xtra.co.nz or ☎ 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 organize an activity for group participation and email notice is posted. We do this on a monthly basis, no set day and no set time. Gold Card travel is encouraged. RSVP is imperative. A sample of learning-curve activities experienced includes fabric painting, visiting craft workshops, special film viewing, specific gallery visits, and a laughing yoga session. A ceiling of \$15.00 cost applies, ruling out, inter alia, (phew!) Sky Diving and Bungy Jumping.

Coordinator: Lisa Webber at lisa.webber@hotmail.com or ☎ 234 7458 (Full. Waiting list)

Play Reading

The Play reading Group met through the winter months of 2013 at the home of our tutor Pat Knight. We read an Oscar Wilde classic, some short after dinner entertainment pieces and then *Calendar Girls*, which Pat was to be directing for Porirua Little Theatre in October. The group's year ended with an evening at *Calendar Girls* which everyone really enjoyed.

The play reading group meets through the winter, on the first Friday in each month at 10a.m. It will begin on May 2.. Pat Knight is the tutor. The course is limited to about 10 members. Interested people please contact

Coordinator: Derely Jaye ☎ 233 . 6187

Science Group

What was the geology group - and now covering sciences more generally, but still with a good deal of geology, will continue to meet every second Monday morning, 10.00 am at the Combined Church, Mana Avenue, Titahi Bay. The same format of alternate speakers and DVDs will continue with the occasional field trip. The first six months programme is:

10 February. Summer Science Report. DVD Development and functioning of the Hubble telescope.

24 February. Bill McLea. Some science from his summer adventure in South America.

10 March. DVD. B.B.C. Wonders collection. Gravity. Nuclear Fusion.

24 March. Alan Brown. Continental Drift and Plate Tectonics.

7 April. DVD. B.B.C. Wonders Collection. Time. Order out of Chaos.

21 April. Paul Hockey. Subject to be notified.

5 May. DVD. B.B.C. Wonders Collection. Thin Blue Line. The atmosphere.

19 May. Peter Evans. Development of science. DVD the antikithera machine (apparatus for predicting the heavens)

9 June. DVD. Force of Nature. Address by Canadian scientist on how we have exhausted our biosphere and need to rethink our relationship with the natural world.

23 June. Ned Pattle. Subject to be announced.

7 July. Stonehenge and other early British archaeological sites.

Anyone who is interested should contact .

Coordinator: Peter Evans lizpeter@actrix.co.nz or ☎ 233 9690

Travellers' Tales

During 2013 we listened to and have seen a variety of subjects which have included, Budapest to Amsterdam, South Africa, Shanghai and Two World Expo, Egypt and Jordan, Uganda Tanzania, Iceland, Canal boating in France, Australia by train, and San Francisco Yosemite National Park Philadelphia New York. And for 2014 subjects already confirmed are Wales, China, and Greenland.

We are blessed by having very good speakers/presenters within our group. So come and enjoy all presentations.

Our meeting place is St. Mary's Anglican Church by the entrance to the Shopping Centre Whitby, on the 4th Thursday of each month February to November inclusive, at 9.45am for morning tea.

10.15am the meeting commences, concluding at 11.45am.

Our first meeting for 2014 will be on Thursday 27th February.

There is a Travellers' Tales sub of \$10 per person to cover costs of room hire and a meeting %oha+to cover morning tea and outside speakers. Interested!!! Then please join TravellersqTales

Coordinators: David & Velma Knight at dvknight@xtra.co.nz ☎ Kapiti 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:

Coordinator: Ruth Maclean at dmacLean@Globe.co.nz or ☎ 233 8287

President's Report to Annual General Meeting

21 November 2013

It is my pleasure to present the 22nd annual report of the Mana U3A.

We have had another successful year. Fifteen interest groups have provided intellectual stimulus and social opportunities for our 190 members. These groups function thanks to our coordinators and hosts.

With so many groups operating it is not easy to find time slots for new groups, however we were able to introduce a second writersqgroup and a new group, %the Collectables+, in 2013.

As a means of giving variety we have held seminars and short courses. Many members have attended and enjoyed these. The seminars have been about: Global warming, CPR, and Road Safety. Short courses about Music Composers and Local History were well presented and received.

At our Quarterly Meetings we listened to: The Mayor, Nick Leggett; Andrew Jack, the Chief Censor; Jenny Visser, a travel doctor - and at this AGM we will be addressed by Sue Kedgley. The speaker at the last AGM was Kim Workman.

Thank you to all the committee members for their work this year. It has been a pleasure to be in a team of, reliable, willing and switched on people. Several have accepted nomination for the coming year and we also have some new nominees offering their skills.

Lisa Webber, Ross Williamson and Glenda Kropp are stepping down.

Lisa has been a trojan worker for us. She has served on the U3A committee for eight years, three of those as President. She is a willing and excellent organiser and will be sorely missed from the committee.

Ross has been membership secretary for three years keeping our membership list up-to-date, dealing with enquiries and welcoming new members into the fold.

When Glenda originally accepted nomination she said, %as long as lqm not the tea lady!+Then she offered to be just that and has efficiently catered our gatherings.

All three have contributed to the variety of committee activities. Thank you. Thank you everyone for your positive support and participation.

Patsy Williamson President

New Zealand Festival coming to the Kapiti Coast, Porirua & U3A

The Festival is able to offer U3A members a special discount of \$5 off full-price adult tickets purchased to the following two Regional events.

- [Spanish Music of the 17th Century](http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=HOPKINSA14) (Hopkinson Smith) - Sun 23 Feb, 6pm, Pataka Art + Museum
Ticketek: <http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=HOPKINSA14>
- [Unmythable](http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=UNMYTHA14) . Tues 25 Feb, 7pm, Pataka Art + Museum
Ticketek: <http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=UNMYTHA14>

This is not a group booking discount. It works via the use of a code when making a booking. Either online, over the phone or counter, members need to enter / quote the code **U3A** to get this discount. If booking online with Ticketek, enter the code **U3A** just below the word Password, where it asks for the Friend of the Festival number.

I hope this will make it a little bit easier for U3A members to afford a ticket to these great shows. Please note that this offer is only for U3A members and is not to be passed on to people outside the organisation.

Want a new game to keep those brain cells active?

Then try **Squabbles, the Game of very cross words**. Squabbles is a fun and fast-moving word building game where players work independently to create inter-locking words in a crossword fashion and can re-arrange the positions of their letter tiles as often and as much as they need to complete their words to win the game. The game is suitable for anyone over the age of 8. Adult groups have been formed in Auckland to play this addictive game. Perhaps a U3A winter activity?

What do U3A members do with their spare time?



Seen recently at a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace - hats a must, of course!

SCHEDULE FOR MANA U3A INTERST GROUPS - 2014

Course	Coordinator	Telephone	Day	Start Time	Cycle	Starts
Books	Lesley Harrison	234 1677	2 nd Tuesday	10.00am	Monthly	11 February
Bridge	Ian Fowler	233 0045	Monday	9.30am	Weekly	
Collectables	Patsy Williamson	233 1118	1 st Friday	1.30pm	Monthly	7 March
Creative Writing GP 1	Judi Doornbos	233 9693	3 rd Wednesday	10 am	Monthly	19 February
Creative Writing GP 2	Irene Swadling	233 9988	Tuesday	1.30 pm	Approx every 3 weeks	4 March
Films	Eileen Turner	232 8616	3 rd Saturday	Varies	Monthly	15 February
French Refresher	Pat Wilson	234 8779	Mondays	1 pm . 3 pm	Fortnightly	24 February
Garden Group	Robyn Hickey	233 0664	4 th Wednesday	10.00 am	Monthly	22 January
Have Your Say	Jennifer Cassels	233 9155	Friday	10 am	Fortnightly April - Oct	4 April
Home Movies	Brian Mosen	233 0709	Tuesdays	1pm . 3 pm	Fortnightly April - June	
Needlecraft	Pat Levy	238 2808	Friday	1.30 pm	Fortnightly	7 February
Outside the Square	Lisa Webber	234 7458	Varies	Varies	Monthly	
Play Reading	Derely Jaye	233 6187	1 st Friday	10.00 am	Monthly May - September	2 May
Science Group	Peter Evans	233 9690	2 nd Monday	10.am	Monthly	10 February
TravellersqTales	David and Velma Knight	04 299 1539	4 th Thursday	9.45 am	Monthly	27 February
Places of Interest	Ruth Maclean	233 8287	1 st Tuesday	am tba	Generally Monthly May to October	6 May

SCHEDULE FOR MANA U3A QUARTERLY MEETINGS – 2014

Date	Start Time	Venue	Event	Speaker	Subject
Thursday 20th February	12.15 for 12.30 pm	St Mary's Church Whitby	1 st Quarterly Meeting With shared lunch	Richard Long	Let's Save our Papers
Thursday 15 th May	1.15 for 1.30 pm		2 nd Quarterly Meeting	Christiane Mortelier	Vaux-le-vicomte chateau and the development of the French classical style. Built before Versailles.
Thursday 19 th August			3 rd Quarterly Meeting		
Thursday 20 th November			Annual General Meeting		

Annual Subscriptions and Membership Renewal