



**MANA U3A Inc**

**August 2023 Newsletter**

## **LEARN LAUGH LIVE**

**Mana U3A Queries:** [u3amana@gmail.com](mailto:u3amana@gmail.com)

**Hello to all Mana U3A Members**

**From Your President**


This email is a little later than usual. Many of you know I have just moved to Palmerston North and life has been a little frenetic. I will be standing down at our November AGM as your President as I have been President for three years now. I hope this reminder gives you plenty of time to think about who would make a great president. It would make our AGM easier if we have people who are prepared to take office as without a committee Mana U3A cannot function properly. Pat Wilson, our Treasurer, is also standing down (again: Pat has done more than her share of committee roles over the years so it is time for someone else to step up please). Ask Pat for a rundown of tasks if you may be interested.

Last Quarter our meeting was a little smaller than usual but as the speaker was very interesting, I put most of that down to the large numbers of members who had Covid then and the inclement weather. It would be helpful to have a good turnout at our August meeting as our speaker is a very special person who has worked at her fascinating job for many years. Do come along. Wear a mask if that helps you feel safer. Covid and 'flu' are still about unfortunately.

Mana U3A becomes Porirua U3A in October after the overwhelming vote to make this change at the Special General Meeting prior to our AGM last November. You may have noticed we have been easing the change by including both names on some of our publications. For new members, this change is intended to better reflect the area served by our branch of U3A. The wonderful Mana Island remains a great symbol of Porirua and will continue to be used.

I loved the graphic below which I saw in another branch newsletter. It reminds me that in joining Manawatu U3A I need to join some Learning Groups that will challenge me, as well as my old favourites.

*We are a great group of opsimaths!*

 **op·si·math**  
/'äpsə,maTH/

**noun** RARE


noun: **opsimath**; plural noun: **opsimaths**  
Opsimath: a person who begins or continues to study or learn late in life (*Wikipedia definition*)



**Origin**

GREEK  
opse  
late

GREEK  
math-  
learn

GREEK  
opsimathēs → opsimath  
late 19th century



*Exploring new skills  
and fields of  
knowledge...*

Remember: it may still be winter and we have rain and continuing cold weather to prove it, but let's embrace sun-orange, the colour for August and keep bright thoughts in our minds and actions as we race towards September and Spring.

**Kay Phillips**

**President**

**August Quarterly Meeting**

**Date and Time: Thursday 17 August at 12.15 pm**

**Lunch:** A light lunch will be served shortly after 12.15

**Speaker:** Our speaker is Mary O'Keeffe who is a professional archaeologist. She has run her consultancy, Heritage Solutions, since 1996. Prior to this she worked for Historic Places Trust and Department of Conservation. Mary's work has taken her all round New Zealand, to see some special places and hear some remarkable stories.

In her spare time Mary teaches childbirth education classes, she and her husband are insanely proud of their vet student daughter, and they garden with enormous enthusiasm and remarkably little skill.

## Interest Groups

The Making Memories Group will not begin as Kay who was attempting to co-ordinate this, has moved. If someone else would like to do the simple task of bringing interested people together, please contact Kay. Similarly with the proposed lunch group. Eight people had signalled interest in this so if someone wants to organise the group, talk to Kay please.

A quick reminder to Coordinators: if there is anyone in your Interest Group who has not paid, they are not entitled to attend.

## Day Trips and Other Events

Bill Gebbie continues to be busy looking for events and trips for our members. Here is a new invitation to join Bill on one of his delightful trips and his reports on recent visits to Government House and Otaki.

### Barbie



Barbie is not just the world's most popular doll. She's a cultural icon, hated by some, adored by others, and the story of Barbie is all about social history. The first Barbie appeared on the market in 1959 and since then the doll has evolved as times have changed, with new releases from the manufacturer Mattel sometimes stirring up fierce public controversy. Barbie has appeared in 20 skin tones, posing as an astronaut, in a wheelchair, as a vet, graduating from university, in Native American garb, and in the guise of famous human rights campaigner Rosie Parks. You can now buy Barbie in different body shapes. See all these and others on a trip to Wellington Museum on Thursday 24 August. While at the museum we will explore other exhibits, such as the museum's unique map-of-Wellington carpet and the many objects from Wellington's rich history. We should also have the opportunity to look at an exhibition of prints at the Academy of Arts next door, as well as a cuppa together before taking a train home. To register for the trip please contact Bill Gebbie on [billnmary@xtra.co.nz](mailto:billnmary@xtra.co.nz) or ring/text him on

0276770180. Bill will confirm travel arrangements with those who have registered closer to the time.

## **Bill's Reports:**

### **Government House Tour**

On 15 May a small group from Mana U3A and Tawa U3A took a tour of **Government House**. Some of us had been on this tour before, but there is so much of interest that it's a place worth visiting more than once.



The tour leader was delightful, describing the history of the building and its gardens, and embellishing her talk with snippets about the various Governors-General and their families who had lived there over the years. She makes every tour seem entirely fresh.

She gave us time to look around the rooms and corridors of the magnificent building, among which we found examples of stunning





workmanship as shown in the photo above. We all enjoyed the tour, and I'm sure we will be keen to go back before too long to see what gems we might have missed.

## Otaki Trip



Sunshine greeted Bill Gebbie and a group of 16 from Mana U3A and Tawa U3A when they arrived in **Otaki** just after 10 on Thursday 29 July after relaxing travel by train and bus. They were warmly welcomed at Otaki museum where they were introduced to the current exhibition and the history of the museum building, which housed the former BNZ building, built in 1918, and was the local service centre of the Kapiti District Council until 1998. They learned about the history of Maori in the region, the close relationship with the railway, the importance of the market gardens in the area, and other aspects of Otaki's history. The museum holds many memories of Otaki over the years and some of the group were clearly keen to make a further visit. After a cuppa and snack together the group visited Rangiatea Church, originally built under the direction of Te Rauparaha and English missionary Octavius Hadfield, and sensitively re-built after the church burned down in 1995. The group then had free time to explore the shops, with a couple even sampling beer at the RSA, before taking a bus back to Waikanae and then onto a Kapiti line train to stations in Mana and Tawa, bringing an enjoyable day outing to an end.

**Porirua City Library** has wonderful digital services such as online shopping, online banking, going on to government websites, how to use apps on your smartphone, how to setup an email account or browse the internet, buy/sell on TradeMe, use library apps such as Libby and Borrowbox; at a pace suitable for seniors. Just call in or phone Noha

Ibrahim, Library Digital Services Officer, Phone: 04 237 3835 / 021 764 096 or Email: [noha.ibrahim@porirua.govt.nz](mailto:noha.ibrahim@porirua.govt.nz)

## 2023 Quarterly Meeting Dates

Please diary these meeting dates if you haven't already done so.

Thursday 16 November (AGM)

## Executive Committee Contacts

Your 2022-23 Executive Committee comprises :

| Position                | Name           | Phone Number  | Email Address  |
|-------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| President               | Kay Phillips   | 0279758569  | <a href="mailto:46nanakay@gmail.com">46nanakay@gmail.com</a>     |
| Vice President          | Bill Gebbie    | 04 237 6514<br>027 677 0180                                       | <a href="mailto:billnmary@xtra.co.nz">billnmary@xtra.co.nz</a>   |
| Treasurer               | Pat Wilson     | 0274488254  | <a href="mailto:patgar.wils@gmail.com">patgar.wils@gmail.com</a> |
| Secretary               | Vacant         | Currently Committee members are rotating Minutes Secretary duties |  |
| Interest Groups Manager | Michael Lynch  | 022 606 8066  | <a href="mailto:m.lynch@xtra.co.nz">m.lynch@xtra.co.nz</a>       |
| Venue Manager           | Marcia Forsman | 021406570   | <a href="mailto:marcia@venture.co.nz">marcia@venture.co.nz</a>   |
| A-V / Website Manager   | Colin Brown    | 04 236 8789<br>028 413 2372                                       | <a href="mailto:baykiwi@gmail.com">baykiwi@gmail.com</a>         |
| Social Media Manager    | Lisa Webber    | 04 2347458  | <a href="mailto:lisawebber3@gmail.com">lisawebber3@gmail.com</a> |
| Committee               | Jo Thomson     | 04 233 9389   | <a href="mailto:eskdale148@xtra.co.nz">eskdale148@xtra.co.nz</a> |
| Committee               | Julie Kropp    | 04 233 1066   | <a href="mailto:sweet_lute@yahoo.com">sweet_lute@yahoo.com</a>   |

If you have items you want considered the Executive Committee meets again on Thursday 12 October at 1.30 pm.

Kay Phillips  
President  
Mana (Porirua) U3A Inc