



PORIRUA U3A Inc

February 2024 Meeting Report and Notices

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Porirua U3A Queries: u3amana@gmail.com

Hello to all Porirua U3A Members

From our President

(In each Newsletter, our President Bill will write a note to all members as Kay did over the last year.)

I'm delighted to be your President again. I wouldn't have accepted the position had I not known that I have a dedicated and forward-thinking committee to work with. My vision is for Porirua U3A to build on its reputation for the range and high quality of services we offer to our members. Please do take advantage of what we offer – regular meetings, interest groups, outings – and let us know of any ideas you have. The committee's job is to make those ideas happen, if at all possible.

Do connect with those organisations with which we have common interests, such as SeniorNet and Age Concern. We'll keep you informed of events which may interest you, such as workshops or services.

I'm very grateful to those who attended our Special General Meeting to ratify our draft Constitution. This was a major accomplishment. Thank you.

I'm proud to live in Porirua and I'm keen for us to give a Porirua flavour to our activities. I would welcome any suggestions you have to strengthen our relationship with our city, broaden our membership, and extend our services.

The committee has plenty of plans for the year ahead. We analysed in depth the feedback from our survey of members and we will be trialling initiatives to further improve our services to members.

I wish you good health and look forward to meeting you in the coming months.

Bill Gebbie

Speaker

Our speaker from Consumer, **Rebecca Styles**, Investigative Team Leader, NZ Consumer was accompanied by **Abby Damen**, Communications & Campaigns Advisor. This interesting and informative presentation has been added to our website for your information at <https://www.porirua3a.nz/Meetings.html>

Subscriptions

To continue to be a member of U3A and therefore eligible to attend any of our many Interest Groups the tardy folk who have forgotten to pay their 2023-24 sub, must do so immediately please. Coordinators do not want to have to refuse your attendance at meetings and events.

Our Kiwi Bank Account number is 38-9023-0226804-00.

If your **contact details have changed** since you last paid, or if you are a **new member**, would you please download our Membership Form from our website and email to our Treasurer, Gill Knox.

Quarterly Meetings

Dates for our Quarterly Meetings are listed below. Do try and come as not only do we have excellent speakers, but there is usually information about Interest Groups and events, as well as the chance to catch up with friends and meet new ones.

Thursday 16 May
Thursday 15 August
Thursday 21 November (AGM)

Please diary these meeting dates if you haven't already done so. The venue is always the North Baptist Church at 69f Discovery Drive, Whitby, Porirua 5024

Website

Colin Brown is making great progress with the new website and demonstrated how it is looking at the Quarterly meeting. One feature is the calendar which may make life easier. Dates for the next few weeks are given. However, we want to be sure the website is what members want so if you have suggestions PLEASE contact Colin and Bill. For the old "mana" website. <http://www.u3amana.org.nz/>
The trial site is <https://www.poriruau3a.nz/Home.html>

Interest Groups

Messages from our Interest Group Manager, Michael Lynch.

Most of our Interest Groups have commenced for the year. Coordinators were given the 2024 Interest Group pamphlets at the Quarterly Meeting for those who were unable to attend. The pamphlet is also on the website.

You can check out all our Interest Groups on our website.

Remember the following Interest Groups are looking for new members. If you are interested, please phone the contacts listed.

- Book Discussion 1 Lesley Harrison 234 1677
- Bridge Ian Fowler 233 0045 or Mobile 027 343 2443
- Films at the Lighthouse Jan Grainger 021 176 2304
- Tai Chi Michael Lynch on 022 606 8066
- Changing Times Michael Lynch on 022 606 8066
- Walking Group Kay Phillips on 0279758569
- Garden Group Lisa Webber on 04 2347458

Two other new groups have been suggested: Genealogy and Computers. If you are interested, please contact Michael as soon as possible.

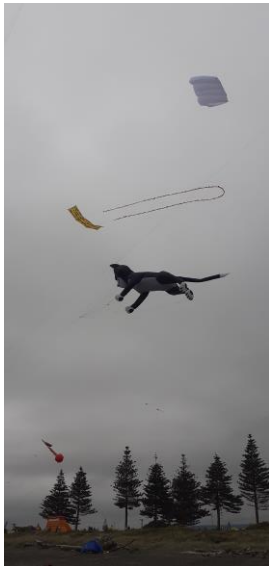
A reminder: A new Interest Group has started. This is the Astronomy/Cosmology Group. You do not need to know anything about the subject; just a desire to learn about it. It will include night sky observations of the various planets and notable star clusters and galaxies. These will be conducted by a member of the Wellington Astronomical Society, usually on a Friday evening on the Tawa College top grounds with telescopes provided. When not checking out the night sky there will be discussions at a venue yet to be confirmed. These will be fortnightly either mid-morning or afternoon. These discussions will be

amongst members with input from experts in the field. If you are interested contact Michael Lynch on 022 606 8066.

Mah Jong Notice: Lessons for those wishing to join this group in 2024 begin on Wednesday 6 March. If interested, please email Marcia Forsman at marcia.forsman@venture.co.nz

A **quick reminder** to Coordinators: if there is anyone in your Interest Group who has not paid their 2023-4 sub, they are not entitled to attend meetings and events after February 2024.

Day Trips and Other Events



Seven members took the train and bus up to Otaki on Saturday 17 February for the town's **annual Kite Festival**. Otaki's beach can sizzle under clear summer skies so the overcast weather was welcome, and a light breeze was enough to lift even the largest kites. The sky was filled with all manner of creative kites, such as the cat, and animals and fish in these photos. Stalls offered a variety of foods so we were well catered for, a band played old favourites, and an array of crafts provided opportunities to buy special gifts. Back home again on bus and train, after a successful day out which could well become an annual U3A event.

If you haven't already provided your **mobile number** to us, please forward to Bill Gebbie. All Committee contacts are below.

Op Shop Visit

Bill and Marcia have organised another one of the very popular Op Shop Visits. The Flyer is attached. It will be on 7 March.

Bill has sent out messages about upcoming events. As Bill is assuming the role of President, he needs help please, to organise these activities. Tasks are not onerous and you do not have to join our Executive Committee to be a helper. Contact Bill if you are able to help, please.

The Pearson Clinical Research Assessment Research and Development team are seeking participants in their new research. Please see the attachment if you are interested.

Executive Committee Contacts

Your 2022-23 Executive Committee comprises :

Position	Name	Phone Number	Email Address
President	Bill Gebbie	04 237 6514 027 677 0180	billnmary@xtra.co.nz
Secretary and Immediate Past President	Kay Phillips	0279758569	46nanakay@gmail.com
Treasurer	Gill Knox	04 233 8863	Keith.gillknox@xtra.co.nz
Interest Groups Manager	Michael Lynch	022 606 8066	m.lynch@xtra.co.nz
Venue /Catering Manager	Marcia Forsman	021406570	marcia@venture.co.nz
A-V / Website Manager	Colin Brown	028 413 2372	baykiwi@gmail.com
Speaker Programme	Jo Thomson	04 233 9389	eskdale148@xtra.co.nz
Bank Liaison	Pat Wilson	0274488254	patgar.wils@gmail.com
Name Labels	Colin Russell	0272473399	colinsue@xtra.co.nz
Committee	Julie Kropp	04 233 1066	sweet_lute@yahoo.com

Note one change – Colin no longer has a landline.

If you have items you want considered, the Executive Committee meets again on Tuesday 6 May at 1.30 pm.

If you have a small amount of time available over the next few months the committee would be very appreciative of offers of help for various

tasks. You do not need to join the Committee to help. Please contact any committee member. "Many hands make light work!"

Please join other U3A members on
Thursday 16 May to hear a great
speaker, matters of interest to all
Porirua U3A members.

Kay Phillips
Secretary
Porirua U3A Inc