



U3A TAKAPUNA INC

Email: u3atakapuna@gmail.com Website: www.u3atakapuna.org.nz

February 2019 Newsletter

Meeting on Wednesday 6 February at 9.45am

Citizens' Centre, College Road, Northcote

Guest Speaker: Thuten Kesang QSM

Topic: My Life

Thuten was born in Lhasa, Tibet in 1944. At age 12, his parents sent him to India to study. He was educated, and lived, at Dr Graham's Homes, a Christian boarding school in Kalimpong, near the Tibetan border. Following the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1959, the Chinese authorities arrested his father, who subsequently died in prison. This left Thuten with no funds to continue to pay his school fees. Fortunately, a kindly benefactor stepped in, and enabled him to complete his schooling, and an apprenticeship in printing, on traditional printing presses, in Calcutta.

With the support of the Tibetan Children Relief Society, Thuten migrated to New Zealand in 1967, the first Tibetan to settle here. He was employed as a printer, until establishing his own printing business in Beach Haven. In 1971 he married his Kiwi wife Gwen. They have two married daughters and four grandchildren.

Thuten became a good citizen of his new country, while working to create a greater awareness of the Tibetan people's struggle for freedom and dignity. Mindful of the kindness of his own benefactor, he sought ways to serve his community. Through the Tibetan Children Relief Society, and Friends of Tibet (NZ), Thuten has provided valuable humanitarian and educational assistance to the Tibetan refugee community. He has organised several visits of the Dalai Lama to NZ, and has welcomed other new settlers through the Auckland Multicultural Society. He received the Queen's Service Medal for public service, in 2002.



Mini Speaker: Stephen Warnes

Topic: Politics, Economics, and Witchcraft

From the President

Well 2018 is done and dusted and U3A had some great speakers. Your December newsletter listed our speakers if you want to refresh your memory. Already your committee is working on the lineup for 2019. We also have a couple of free slots free for mini speaker so if you would like to contribute to that please let your President know.

The U3A Network, which represents all U3A in Auckland area, had an exciting Networking Day last year where many U3A people presented short talks. The premises used up to now has been in Meadowbank and is limited to 250 people and we found many people could not attend, so this year we are bringing the Network Day to the North Shore Netball Court Stadium. This is a lot closer to us so when the day arrives this year I hope many more North Shore people will attend. It is always a great day. We hope to accommodate up to 450 people. Finally we are always looking for help on the U3A committee. If you would like to get involved please talk to me.

Regards

Ron Wilson

Hosts

Scientific Horizons

4 members at 9.15am please

Morning Tea

Historical Studies

2 members at 9.15am and a further 4 at 10.25am please

All to help clean up please

Deadline Date for March 2019 Newsletter

Sunday 17 February 2019

Editor: Murray Pearson Email: news@u3atakapunana.org.nz or 021 644442

Where February gets its name

The word February comes from the Roman festival of purification called Februa where people were ritually washed. There is a

Roman god called Februus, but he is named after the festival, not the other way around. Other months, like January, are named after Roman gods



Committee Members for 2018/2019

President	Ron Wilson	☎ 478 2490
Vice President	Vacant	
Treasurer	David Gibbs	☎ 482 3006
Secretary	Elizabeth Lind-Mitchell	☎ 426 3362
Speakers Convenor	Christine Ball	☎ 410 7789
Catering Convenor	Marcia Roberts	☎ 418 0397
Reception	Sue Pearson	☎ 021 622 783
Membership	Jan Judson	☎ 021 396 152
Hall Liaison	Rowena Scaletti	☎ 445 8842
Study Group Co-ordinator	Leonie Kho	☎ 027 877 8811
Committee	Jeannette Maddox	☎ 488 9928
U3A Network	Ron Wilson	☎ 478 2490

Other Responsibilities

Audio Visual	Garry , Barry and Chris	
Hall Setup	Boyd, Phil and Pauline	
Newsletter Distribution	John Hanna	☎ 489 4425
Newsletter Editor	Murray Pearson	☎ 021 644 442

Dr John White (J.C.B.W.)

It is with deep regret that we must report the death of one of our most prominent members, John White, J.C.B.W. as he was well known.

John made a big contribution to Takapuna U3A. He joined in 2010 and promptly enrolled in three Study and Interest Groups; Musical Troubadours (which he led), Scientific Horizons and Globalisation. He continued with the first two and in 2014 he started the Astronomy group. He continued convening that group until his death. The members of the Astronomy group all feel a profound sense of loss, and along with many others, our deepest sympathy goes out to Gwenda, their three daughters and families. Gwenda was always an excellent hostess to our Study Group.

Not only was John an excellent convenor, he was also a contributor to the successful conduct of our monthly General Meetings. Shortly after he joined he volunteered to operate the projector and other IT. He seldom missed a G.M. John gave a number of Mini Talks. A sample of his repertoire: “how the abacus works”, “matters of gravity”, and “history of computers”. He presented one of these talks to the U3A Network Convention in 2016. At our Christmas show three years ago he led the Troubadours in a stirring musical.

John was a highly intelligent, mathematically advanced, courteous and capable man. He had a fine career in the tertiary education sector and in retirement made a substantial contribution to the further enlightenment of the Third Agers.

J.C.B.W., you will be sorely missed.

This Month in New Zealand History

4 February 1975 - First woman swims Cook Strait

American Lynne Cox swam from the North Island to the South in 12 hours 7 minutes. The fourth person to do so, she battled heavy seas and strong winds

6 February 1871 - First public girls' secondary school

The first public girls' secondary school in the southern hemisphere was Otago Girls' High School. The School opened eight years after the local public boys' high school

8 February 1931 - First fatal accident on a scheduled air service in New Zealand

All three people on board a Dominion Airlines Desoutter died when it crashed near Wairoa in northern Hawke's Bay.

10 February 1967 – End of free school milk

New Zealand schoolchildren received free milk between 1937 and 1967. The first Labour government introduced the scheme – a world first – to improve the health of young New Zealanders (and make use of surplus milk)

12 February 1909 - SS Penguin wrecked in Cook Strait

The Picton-Wellington ferry SS *Penguin* struck rocks in Cook Strait and sank in heavy seas off a rugged, isolated coast. Only 30 of the 102 people on board survived

15 February 1882 – First shipment of Frozen Meat

New Zealand's first successful shipment of frozen meat to Britain in 1882 had a huge impact on the colony, paving the way for the trade in frozen meat and dairy products that became the cornerstone of New Zealand's 20th-century economy.

17 February 1873 - The Russians are coming

Aucklanders awoke to the alarming news that a Russian warship had entered Auckland Harbour undetected and landed troops

20 February 1954 - Yvette Williams sets world long jump record

Eighteen months after winning the long jump at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, Williams set a new world record of 20 feet 7 1/2 inches (6.29 m) at an athletics meeting in Gisborne

22 February 1902 - Kelburn cable car opens

Wellington's iconic cable car was built to provide residents of the developing hill suburb of Kelburn with quick access to and from downtown Lambton Quay

24 February 1902 - End of the battle of Langverwacht Hill

Twenty-four New Zealanders were killed in this battle during the South African (Boer) War. A total of 230 New Zealanders died while serving in New Zealand's first overseas war.

LOOKING for the ALLOCHTHON, - GEOLOGY GROUP FIELD TRIP – OCTOBER, 2018

During 2018 the group had been studying the Northland Region. The allochthon, a term describing a layer of old rocks appearing on top of younger rocks, is easily visible in some areas there particularly near Whangarei Heads. Eighteen geology group members and partners spent 4 days exploring the area, which most are familiar with, but often just drive through.

On Tuesday, 23rd Oct. our first visit was to the Puhoi to Warkworth Motorway Extension site office, where we learned of difficulties the allochthon is causing the project, because of the random nature of rocks encountered. Next stop was at Marsden Point to see a model of the oil refinery at the excellent information centre.

Wednesday morning, early, - we drove up Mt Parihaka and enjoyed the panoramic view across Whangarei Harbour, Mt. Manaia and to the Heads. Contact had been made with U3A Whangarei, Earth Sciences Study Group, two of whom generously entertained everyone to morning tea at their Onerahi home and expanded our knowledge of the local area. Three then accompanied us out to Whangarei Heads, via Parau (chert), McLeod and Urqharts Bays. Tides were right to view exposed allochthon areas, particularly the Taurikura natural jetty. No-one made the climb up Mt Manaia, but we all enjoyed Geology Groups' traditional trip barbecue that evening

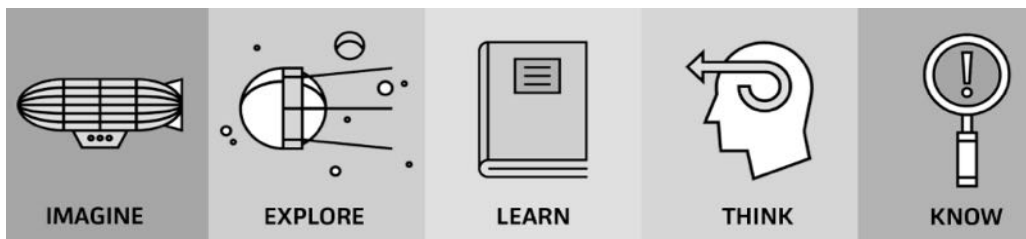
Two options were suggested for Thursday trips, some chose a circuit via the old Kamo brickworks (coal seam) the must-see Waru Rocks (Karst – limestone) at Hikurangi, then Matapouri, Tutukaka, Glenbervie and Whangarei Falls. The majority travelled via Maungatapere, Twin Bridges, Kaikohe, Ngawha Springs, Ohaewai and Kawakawa, also visiting Waru Rocks and Whangarei Falls.

On Friday 26th, most drove the long way back to North Shore. A good view of Portland Cement Works is easily accessed just south of Whangarei, then Waipu Cove, Langs Beach to Mangawhai Heads, - the large grey pile near the car-park is halloysite clay, and Kaiwaka.

Final excitement – a flat tyre is discovered during the Mangawhai Heads stop. Question: How many cars does it take to change a tyre??? Answer: Three! One has a jack (found under the seat!) + half a jack-handle, another can supply a wheel-nut wrench and half a jack handle, the third also has half a jack-handle. Between the three, the tyre was changed. We suggest a check of the tool-kit in your car, even if the car was bought new.

Dacite domes, strato-volcanoes, karst outcrops, and of course the signature scoria walls of Mangatapere and Glenbervie were part of this field trip, and we also enjoyed sunny weather. "Out of the Ocean, Into the Fire", Bruce Hayward's recent publication, was the main reference source for this trip.

Study and Special Interest Groups



Architecture and Design

Judy Hanna ☎ 489 4425 hannaj@xtra.co.nz

Meets: 3rd Wednesday - 20 February at 9.45am.

Venue: Sky Lounge, Mayfair Village, Oteha Valley Rd. Northcross

Topic: Ray and Charles Eames - House and Furniture,
also assign 2019 topics to group members

Astronomy

In recess at present

Auckland Heritage

Christine Ball ☎ 410 7789 cball@xtra.co.nz

Meets: 3rd Friday – 15 February at 10.00am

Members will be informed of activity by Christine via email
well before 15th February.

Board Games *

Leonne Kho ☎ 027-877-8811 leoniekho1@gmail.com

Ron Wilson ☎ 478 2490 ron.e.wilson@gmail.com

Meets: 1st Friday - 1 February at 9.45pm

Venue: Sherwood Room, Council Offices, 2 Glen Road, Browns Bay

Topic: Play brain games for: Better Memory - Stronger Immune
System – Enhance Mental Health - Stress Relief - Laughter & Fun

Cabbages and Kings

Anne Young ☎ 486 3317 annejim.y@xtra.co.nz

Liz Milne ☎ 963 2810 lizhmilne@gmail.com

Meets: 2nd Thursday - 14 February at 1.30pm

Venue: Di Burtenshaw's place

Topic: 5 to 10 minutes on anything

<p>Chinese Painting and Art Studies *</p> <p>Meets: 4th Friday – 22 February at 1.30pm <i>Note that this month it's the 4th Friday not 2nd Friday</i> Venue: The Orchards, Stanley Street, Glenfield Topic: Beijing Biennale</p>	<p>Doreen Brown ☎ 473 0871 doreen22@orcon.net.nz</p>
<p>Classical Opera</p> <p>Meets: 3rd Tuesday - 19 February: 1.30pm Venue: Chelsea Room, Knightsbridge Topic: Showing Otello with Jonas Kaufmann and looked forward to having another great year</p>	<p>Jenny Adams ☎ 489 5914 golfingjen@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Comparative Religion *</p> <p>This group is now in abeyance - after four years. Those who would be interested in having the group continue and repeat the journey, please contact the Convenor.</p>	<p>Stephen Warnes ☎ 027 646 3866 stephen.warnes@gmail.com</p>
<p>Famous and Infamous *</p> <p>Meets: 2nd Friday – 8 February at 10.00am Venue: Apt 7204, The Poynton, 142 Shakespeare Road, Takapuna Topic: TBA</p>	<p>Brucilla Wright ☎ 480 0150 brucilla.wright@xtra.co.nz</p>
<p>Finance and Investment</p> <p>Meets: 3rd Monday - 18 February at 9.45am – 11.45am Venue: Mayfair, Oteha Valley Road Topic: Financial and investment topics</p>	<p>Graham Alcock ☎ 473 5607 graham_ionaalcock@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Film Appreciation *</p> <p>Meets: 4th Monday - 25 February at 1.30pm Venue: Garden Lounge at Northbridge Village Topic: Members will be advised by email</p>	<p>Judy Ganley ☎ 489 5828 judyganley@xtra.co.nz</p>

Foundations of Western Civilisation

Graham Ritson ☎ 489 5366

graham@ritson.co.nz

Meets: 2nd and 4th Tuesday - 12 and 26 February at 9.45am

Venue: Meeting room, Activezone, 30 Downing St. Glenfield

Topic: A series of 48 lectures by a prominent Professor of history, all on DVD, all with course notes and reading lists for each lecture.

February 12th Adam Smith and Marx Historical Materialism

February 26th Norburg 30 minutes

French *

Ann Andreassend ☎ 410 3297 duellingoaks@xtra.co.nz

Meets: 2nd and 4th Wednesday – 13 and 27 February at 2.00pm

les vacances d'été arrivent à grands pas

Geology

Boyd Miller ☎ 488 7595 boydmnz@gmail.com

Meets: 3rd Tuesday. 19 February at 9.45am

Venue: 46 Sylvan Park Ave, Milford. Judy ph 09 489 4425

Topic: Current events, holiday geology, wandering North Pole

German * (Inter U3A Group)

Peter Robinson ☎ 489 4494

peterrobinsonnz@hotmail.com

Meets: 1st and 3rd Friday - 1 and 15 February at 10.00am

fast Zeit, um über Weihnachten nachzudenken

Globalisation *

Chris Ball ☎ 410 7789 cball@xtra.co.nz

Meets: 4th Thursday - 28 February at 2.00pm

Venue: Apt 8008, The Poynton Retirement Village,
Shakespeare Rd, Milford

Topic: Brexit - Developments, Progress, or ???

New members most welcome

Great Artists

Cherry Worger ☎ 486 0615 geoff.worger@xtra.co.nz

Meets: 1st and 3rd Thursday – 7 and 21 February at 10.00am

Venue: 7th February: 1315 Northbridge, 45 Akoranga Drive

Topic: 7th February: Introduction to Art Deco

Venue: 21st February: 6/46 King Edward Parade, Devonport

Topic: 21st February: Clarice Cliff

Historical Studies *

Andrew Pack ☎ 418 1925 andpack@gmail.com

Meets: 2nd Monday - 11th February at 9.45am

Venue: Hearts and Minds (By the Northcote Library)

Topic: Water

Latin

Geoff Sheehan ☎ 620 5169 theoshee@ihug.co.nz

Meets: Generally on 2nd and 4th Thursday

This month on 14th and 28th February at 10.00am

Venue: Forrest Hill Presbyterian Church, 151 Forrest Hill Road.

As this is an incremental course and builds very much on what has gone before, the group numbers are now closed

“amare et sapere vix deo cenceditur”

‘Even a god finds it hard to love and be wise at the same time.’

Mah Jong * (Inter U3A Group)

David Johnston ☎ 473 8942

u3atakapuna@slingshot.co.nz

Meets: 1st and 3rd Friday - 1 and 15 February at 1.30pm

Venue: Okura Hall Okura River Road

Now is the time to learn a new game to play with your grandchildren

Get them away from computer games

Newcomers and Learners always welcome

Making History * (Inter U3A Group)

Georgie Maurice ☎ 473 0404

u3atakapuna@slingshot.co.nz

Meets: 1st Thursday - 7 February at 10.00am

Venue: Knightsbridge Retirement Village

Topic: Do we continue??

Maori Studies ✱

Martyn Geary ☎ 027 4443219

mbgeary@xtra.co.nzMeets: 4th Wednesday – at 9.15am

No meeting in February. Starts again in March

Newcomers and Learners always welcome**Mind Body Philosophy**Graham Ritson ☎ 489 5366 graham@ritson.co.nzStephen Warnes ☎ 027 646 3866 stephen.warnes@gmail.comMeets: 2nd Thursday – 14 February at 9.45am to 12 mid-day

Venue: Activezone, 30 Dowling Street, Glenfield

Topic: Lecture 21: Of mind, material and zombies

Lecture 18: Thought experiments against materialism

Modern English LiteraturePearl Thomson ☎ 449 0450 ptho@xtra.co.nz

Carolyn Harvey ☎ 489 6334

Meets: 1st and 3rd Tuesday. 5 and 19 February at 9.45am*Note: This month just 19th February*

Venue: 3 Mandica Place, Sunnynook

Topic: My favourite novel post WW2

Modern History ✱

Martin Lee ☎ 294 7820

robinsonlee@xtra.co.nzMeets: 2nd Wednesday – 13 February at 9.45am

Venue: Rothesay Room, ECB Centre, 2 Glen Rd, Browns Bay

Topics: Holland : Steve 09 418 0392

Prominent Person 19thC: John 09 444 2156

Music Appreciation ✱

Jennifer Knutsen ☎ 475 6797

This group is operating as a social group at the moment meeting every couple of months for concerts and lunch. If interested please contact Jennifer.

Musical StudiesJan Judson ☎ 021 396 152 janqpies@gmail.comMeets: 2nd and 4th Monday, 11 and 25 February at 9.45am

Venue: Sky Lounge, Mayfair Village, 14 Oteha Valley Road

11th February: Preevyet! Hello to the Russians25th February: A distinctive Russian music**Musical Troubadours *** Jocelyn Spinley ☎ 445 3329, Betty Dance ☎ 478 7621

We will meet on Monday 25 February 2.00pm – 4.00pm at Norfolk Apartments, Mairangi Bay. Could everyone please choose 3 tunes to play. We have cello, harp, viola, violin, recorder. We need a pianist. Is there anybody out there who would like to join us. We play for enjoyment.

Other Peoples Lives * Patricia Lissette ☎ 489 9465 pat.lissette@gmail.comMeets: 4th Tuesday - 26 February at 2.00pm

Venue: Parklane Village, 59/106 Becroft Drive, Forrest Hill.

Phone: 410 9549 (Flo)

Topic: A study of Biographies and/or Autobiographies

PoetryVal Overington ☎ 486 5582 v.j.overington@gmail.comMeets: 2nd Monday 11 February at 1.30pm

Venue: Apt C462 Northbridge, Akoranga Drive

Topic: Two poems about place plus short biography of chosen poets

Scientific Horizons *

Geoffrey Bourke ☎ 021 737 973

geoffrey@bourke.gen.nzMeets: 1st Wednesday 6 February at 1.30pm

Venue: Diana's - 83 Park Lane Village

Topic: Pheromones.

*New Members Welcome***Scrabble ***Sue ☎ 021 622783 sue@suepearson.co.nzMeets: 1st Friday - 1 February at 9.45am to 12 noon

Venue: 6 Dewsbury Terrace, Castor Bay

Please call Margaret ☎ 410 0472 if you intend to come.

Topic: Play Scrabble to increase word knowledge

New members very welcome

Shakespeare * Meets: 3 rd Monday - 18 February at 1.30pm Venue: ActivZone, next to the Glenfield Pool and Leisure Centre Topic: Study of "Richard III"	Graham Alcock ☎ 473 5607 graham_ionaalcock@hotmail.com
Social Science * Meets: 1 st Friday - 1 February at 1.30pm Venue: St John's Church Hall, 327 Beach Road, Campbell's Bay Topics: Who owns the wind - and other natural resources	Stephen Warnes ☎ 027 646 3866 stephen.warnes@gmail.com
Spanish Culture Pam Robinson ☎ 489 4494 Meets: 2 nd Friday - 8 February at 10.00am Venue: Daphne's apartment at Northbridge Topic: Planning for 2019	peterrobinsonnz@hotmail.com <i>Donde hay humo, hay calor</i>
U3A Travel Meets: 3rd Monday - 18 February at 10.00am Venue: 38 Jubilee Ave Devonport. Jocelyn ☎ 445 3329 Topic: TBA	Jocelyn Spinley ☎ 445 3329 spinleys@gmail.com
World War II * Meets: 2 nd Tuesday - 12 February at 1.00pm Venue: 58 Balmain Road, Birkenhead Topics: Chronological: With the Marines at Tarawa Featured Military Leaders: General Holland " Howling Mad " Smith Featured Additional Subject: Nazi Collaborators: Vidkun Quisling <i>More members welcome</i>	Ian Morris ☎ 480 0919 ian.morris@actrix.co.nz <i>From pre war causes to post war recovery</i>