



# U3A TAKAPUNA INC

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## December 2018 Newsletter



**Meeting on Wednesday**

**5 December at 10.00am**

**Citizens' Centre, College Road, Northcote**

**Guest Speaker: Frank Olsson**

**Topic: The Best of Times is Now!!**

Frank Olsson will talk about why we are so lucky to live in the best of times

He has a very energetic and engaging style of presentation and will sprinkle his speech with song and laughter to ensure all present will have a good and fun experience. Frank's ambition is to ensure that everyone present is elevated to a new level of happiness.



Frank is currently President of NZEurope Business Council, Honorary Consul for Sweden, Chairman of Auckland Chamber Orchestra and has a long career in finance, spanning seven countries. He has been on many boards overseas and in New Zealand also including chairperson of two environmental organizations. His interests include tennis, travel, mentoring, reading and writing and giving presentations at Universities and other venues. He has written five books, the latest being a leadership/ management book called 'Learning to Dance – Corporate Style.' Frank has dual citizenship, Swedish and NZ and has called NZ home since 1990.

### From our President

At our November meeting we had two very good talks. First up was Murray Pearson with his Christmas in Antarctica. A great mini talk and afterwards people commented that it could easily have been a main talk.

This was followed by Celia Caughey on the subject of Happiness. This was also well received and Celia has the knack of telling a good story.

2019 will be bringing some changes to U3A especially with offering our Newsletter by email if members prefer it that way. Additionally we are looking at our Special Interest Groups and will try to encourage new Groups to be formed. If there is a specific group that you have always wanted in U3A Takapuna then have a chat with Leonie, our Committee Study Groups Co-ordinator.

On behalf of your committee, I would like to thank all who have contributed to the success of 2018 and also wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Travel safely over the holiday period and we will see you all in February 2019.

### A recap on our great speakers from 2018

|            |                       |  |
|------------|-----------------------|--|
| February:  | Celia Caughey         | Enlightening Experiences from Vietnam      |
| March:     | Dr John Hinchcliff    | Some Challenges with Technology            |
| April:     | Dr Jon Simcock        | Recent Innovative Treatment of Stroke      |
| May:       | Phil Sai-Louie        | Auckland's History Through its Place Names |
| June:      | Grant Searchfield     | State of the Art in Tinnitus               |
| July:      | Chris Farrelly        | Moving from the Past to the Future         |
| August:    | Prof Peter J. Lineham | Religious Trends in Auckland               |
| September: | Larry Robbins         | James Cook SNLR                            |
| October:   | Assoc Prof Gabi Dachs | Vitamin C from Bench to Bedside            |
| November   | Celia Caughey         | Happiness                                  |

**Wednesday 6 February 2019**

**Yes it's Waitangi Day holiday and we are still meeting as usual.**

**Guest Speaker**

**Mr Thuten Kesang QSM - NZ's First Tibetan Refugee**

## Christmas Meeting - Show and Luncheon

Wednesday, 5 December 2018  
(see programme on next page)

Fun, Fellowship and Luncheon. Please bring \$10 towards the cost of the lunch.  
Payable in cash on entry, and remember to wear your name label.

*You only pay the \$10 if you stay for lunch*

Please contact Marcia Roberts, our Catering Convenor, if you have any special dietary requirements. For example – Gluten Free

### 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, Chris and John |            |
| Hall Setup              | Boyd, Phil and Pauline        |            |
| Newsletter Distribution | John Hanna                    | ☎ 489 4425 |
| Newsletter Editor       | Murray Pearson                | ☎ 449 2221 |

### Deadline Date for February 2019 Newsletter

**Sunday 20 January**

Editor: Murray Pearson: ☎ 449 2221 Mobile: 021 644442

Email: [pearson.murray@gmail.com](mailto:pearson.murray@gmail.com)

# U3A Takapuna

## 2018 Christmas Gathering

Wednesday 5 December

### PROGRAMME

- 10.00 Assemble and be seated
- 10.15 President's Welcome
- 10.20 Presentation - That Was The Year That Was
- 10.30 Christmas Quiz
- 10.50 Interval
- 11.00 Christmas Guest Speaker  
Frank Olsson
- 11.45 Conclusion
- 12.00 Lunch



## I Love Takapuna Christmas Carnival

**When:** Saturday 1 December 2018

**Time:** 11.00am – 3.00pm

**Where:** Hurstmere Green, Hurstmere Rd, Takapuna

**Cost:** Free

This year, we are once again closing Hurstmere Road to celebrate Christmas in Takapuna!

We'll have heaps of entertainment for the family including train rides with Sammy the Train, circus workshops, interactive shows, roving characters, food trucks and stalls, bubble shows, bouncy castle, giant games and puzzles, face painters, and balloon twisters. Rumour has it, Santa will come along to enjoy the day too! ☺

The I Love Takapuna Christmas Carnival is a FREE community event on Saturday, 1st of December from 11am to 3pm. Don't miss out!

A big thank you to the [Devonport-Takapuna Local Board](#) for their continued support in this event!

Need help choosing a meet up place for friends to see the event? The centre of the event is Hurstmere Green where our Christmas Tree will be!

**Don't miss this fun family event**

## December 25th in New Zealand History

### 25 December 1814 - First Christian mission established

At Hoho (Oihi) Beach in the Bay of Islands, Samuel Marsden preached in English to a largely Māori gathering, launching New Zealand's first Christian mission.



The Ngāpuhi leader Ruatara translated Marsden's sermon. The two men had first met in Port Jackson (Sydney) in 1809. In 1814 Marsden sent Thomas Kendall to consult Ruatara about establishing a Church Missionary Society (CMS) mission at his kāinga (village), Rangihoua.

Ruatara assumed the role of protector and patron of 'his Pākehā' – the CMS lay missionaries Kendall, John King and William Hall, who had arrived with Marsden on the brig Active on 22 December.

A site for the mission station was chosen the following day. After cattle and horses were landed, Marsden rode along the beach to the astonishment of Māori onlookers.

### 25 December 1894 - First ascent of Mt Cook

At 1.30 on the afternoon of Christmas Day 1894, while many New Zealanders were relaxing and enjoying festive fare, three young men based at the Hermitage became the first to stand atop 3764m Aoraki/Mt Cook, the highest mountain in the colony.



Jack Clarke, Tom Fyfe and George Graham, along with other local climbers, had been spurred into action by news that the American climber Edward Fitzgerald and the famous Swiss/Italian guide Matthias Zurbriggen were on their way to New Zealand. The pair arrived in the country in late December.

Modern mountaineering began in the Alps in the 1850s and soon peaks around the world were being scaled by adventurous young men. In 1882, Irishman Reverend William Green and two Swiss guides got to within 60m of the summit of Mt Cook via the Linda Glacier, a point that was reached again in 1890 by New Zealanders Guy Mannering and Marmaduke Dixon. Mt Cook was not a huge technical challenge for experienced climbers. Given favourable weather, Fitzgerald and Zurbriggen would undoubtedly succeed. But could colonials beat them to it?

# Study and Special Interest Groups



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Famous and Infamous *</b>   | Sue Charlton ☎ 488 0428<br>sk.charlton9@slingshot.co.nz |
| Meets: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday – 14 December at 10.00am<br>Venue: 58 Balmain Road, Birkenhead   |   |
| <b>Christmas meeting followed by lunch</b>   |   |
| <b>Foundations of Western Civilisation</b>   | Graham Ritson ☎ 489 5366<br>graham@ritson.co.nz         |
| Meets: 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday – This month 11 December only: 9.45am<br>Venue: Meeting room, Activezone, 30 Downing St. Glenfield<br>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.<br>27. Descent of man; rise of women 28. Nationalism 1815- 1848 |   |
| <b>Great Artists</b>   | Cherry Worger ☎ 486 0615 geoff.worger@xtra.co.nz        |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> December at 12.00pm   |   |
| <b>Rendezvous Cafe<br/>Christmas lunch</b>   |   |
| <b>Latin</b>   | Geoff Sheehan ☎ 620 5169 theoshee@ihug.co.nz            |
| Meets: Generally on 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday<br>This month on 13 <sup>th</sup> December only at 10.00am  |   |
| <b>Venue:</b> Forrest Hill Presbyterian Church, 151 Forrest Hill Road.<br>As this is an incremental course and builds very much on what has gone before,<br>the group numbers are now closed<br><i>“amare et sapere vix deo cenceditur”</i><br><i>‘Even a god finds it hard to love and be wise at the same time.’</i>   |   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Mind Body Philosophy</b>  | Graham Ritson ☎ 489 5366 graham@ritson.co.nz<br>Stephen Warnes ☎ 027 646 3866 stephen.warnes@gmail.com |
| Meets: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday – 13 December at 9.45am to 12 mid-day<br>Venue: Activezone, 30 Dowling Street, Glenfield<br>Topic: Lecture 19: Francis Crick and binding the brain<br>Lecture 20: Clues on consciousness from anesthesiology |  |
| <b>Modern History *</b>  | Graeme ☎ 489 5526 Martin ☎ 294 7820<br>Graeme: merlgrae@xtra.co.nz                                     |
| Meets: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday – 12 December at 12 noon<br>Venue: Graham Alcock’s home: 919 East Coast Road 09 4735607   |  |
| <b>Christmas Lunch</b>   |  |
| <b>Poetry</b>  | Val Overington ☎ 486 5582 v.j.overington@gmail.com   |
| Meets: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday 10 December at 1.30pm<br>Venue: Apt. C462 Northbridge, Akoranga Drive<br>Topic: Two favourite poems  |  |
| <b>Scientific Horizons *</b>   | Geoffrey Bourke ☎ 021 737 973<br>geoffrey@bourke.gen.nz  |
| <b>Christmas lunch – 12.00pm - The Bay's Club, Browns Bay<br/>New Members Welcome</b>  |  |
| <b>Scrabble *</b>  | Sue ☎ 449 2221 sue@suepearson.co.nz  |
| Meets: 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday - 7 December at 10.00am (Note later start time)<br>Venue: 5A Rahopara Street, Castor Bay.<br><i>Please call Sue ☎ 449 2221 if you intend to come on 7 December</i>   |  |
| <b>One scrabble game and then lunch at Kings Plant Barn in Porana Rd.<br/>More members welcome</b>   |  |
| <b>U3A Travel</b>  | Jocelyn Spinley ☎ 445 3329 spinleys@gmail.com  |
| Meets: 3rd Monday - 17 December at 10.00am<br>Venue: 38 Jubilee Ave Devonport. Jocelyn ☎ 445 3329  |  |
| <b>Christmas party – Please bring a small plate to share</b>   |  |
| <b>World War II *</b>  | Ian Morris ☎ 480 0919 ian.morris@actrix.co.nz  |
| <i>From pre war causes to post war recovery</i><br>Meets: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday - 11 December at 1.00pm<br>Venue: 58 Balmain Road, Birkenhead  |  |
| <b>Christmas Pot Luck Lunch and discussion about 2019 programme<br/>More members welcome</b>   |  |