

U3A TAKAPUNA

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

1991 - 2021

FOSTERING LIFELONG LEARNING



U3A OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

Objectives

1. To provide educational and interest activities for older people.
2. To provide opportunities for retired people to meet, share experiences and pursue interests held in common.
3. To make those in their later years aware of their intellectual, cultural and aesthetic potential and of their value to themselves and to their society and to assail the dogma of intellectual decline with age.
4. To provide from amongst the retired the resources for the development and intensification of their intellectual, cultural and aesthetic lives, in this way helping them make effective and satisfying use of their time in their later years..
5. To create for these purposes an institution which is affordable, where there is no distinction between those who teach and those who learn and the activity is voluntary, freely offered by the members.

Principles

Each U3A is independent and is free to arrange its own programme. However, there are certain basic principles. U3As in Britain, following Peter Laslett, adopted nineteen principles, not all of which are applicable to New Zealand. The Auckland Network has summarised and reduced these to five, which are as follows:

1. There is no distinction between teachers and those taught.
2. No qualifications are required to enter and no qualifications are given.
3. U3As are voluntary self-help organisations. There is a small annual subscription to cover running expenses, but no course fees are charged. The “teachers” [group facilitators] are normally U3A members and get no remuneration.
4. U3As use the great reservoir of knowledge, skills and experience which is to be found amongst older people and is often undervalued or overlooked.
5. Study group meetings are held during the day at a convenient place in the locality, often in private homes.

OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A great deal has changed in the world since the idea of a “university” for people in the third age of life was first mooted in in the early 1970s in France. Indeed much has changed in New Zealand since the founding of U3A Takapuna in 1991; and change goes on – in our world, and in our association. Most is incremental, so that we are not aware of it as it is happening and we only notice, later, that something is different to how it used to be.

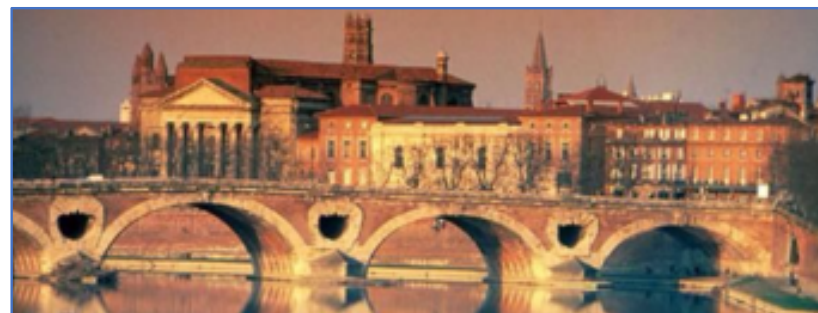
Sometimes change takes place dramatically as it did in 1991 – the year of our foundation and, incidentally, the year of the collapse of the Soviet Union. I don't suppose there is any causal relation between these two events! Dramatic changes in the world do sometimes impose themselves on us at U3A (viz. Covid-19), and we adjust ourselves accordingly.

I think it is part of the genius of U3A that we are able “to keep the mean between the two extremes” of slavish adherence to that which has always been done, and over-eager running after every latest invention. In that light, we have retained from our earliest years a structure of the monthly General Meeting and intervening monthly or fortnightly Study/Interest groups on particular topics. Within that general frame, however, we have seen both gradual development and some dramatic changes. A few groups have endured from the beginning; others have morphed and re-formed over these 30 years; other groups have started and shone for a while, more still continue.

I see no signs of atrophy or calcification in U3A Takapuna and, with confidence, I wish it well for the future.

U3A ORIGIN, HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

The University of the Third Age originated in France, where the first Université du Troisième Âge (UTA) was formed by the University of Toulouse in the early 1970s. The name refers to the concept of the First Age, childhood and education, followed by the Second Age, professional and family development and involvement, and then the Third Age, when the demands of the Second no longer define one's life and the person is enabled to pursue freely chosen interests. In the French model, committees of retired people negotiate with a university to provide facilities and expertise.



U3A was formed by the University of Toulouse in the early 1970s

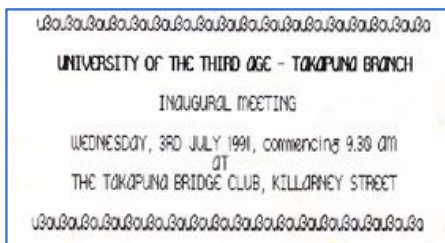
In 1982, Peter Laslett, formerly Reader in Social Structure at Cambridge University and one of the instigators of the Open University in the 1960s, turned his interests to practical means of bettering the life of the elderly. He considered the French UTA as a means of continued intellectual growth for the retired, but rejected its dependence on university staff and facilities. Peter contended that retired people have a wealth of abilities, knowledge, and experience and are quite capable of directing their own continued development. With Michael Young, a co-instigator of the Open University, and Eric Midwinter, Peter Laslett developed a model of a University of the Third Age based on eight Objects and nineteen Principles for U3A (for an abridged and modified version see the inside front cover). By the time of his death in 2001, U3A in Britain had 472 branches and more than 112,000 members. Today, Britain has over 1000 U3As and membership exceeds 450,000.

The first U3A in New Zealand was formed in Remuera in 1989, inspired by returning travellers who had become acquainted with the movement in Britain and Australia. Dr John Stewart, the founding President of U3A Remuera, was instrumental in encouraging the formation of U3As in Takapuna and Epsom. An Auckland Network was formed in 1993, enabling U3As in the region to exchange ideas and encouraging the formation of additional U3As. At present there are 88 U3As in New Zealand, mostly espousing the “English Model”. Of these 28 are in the Auckland region and a total of 52 in the North Island. U3As in the Wellington area were initiated by Age Concern organisers and some follow a different model from most of the North Island U3As. U3As in Christchurch and Otago grew out of Continuing Education departments in universities and there are now 36 U3As in the South Island.

Dr David Cole of U3A Remuera published two editions of 'U3A in Auckland', which give more details of the history and activities of U3A, including the results of surveys in 2003 and 2007 of the activities of Auckland region U3As.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF U3A TAKAPUNA

On an overseas trip in 1990, Sylvia (Roberts) Arcus, a member of a North Shore family of long-standing, heard about U3A in a casual conversation, and was immediately intrigued by the idea of a group where older people could continue learning in a supportive group environment. On returning to New Zealand, Sylvia learned about the U3A that had been formed in Remuera. The Remuera group was contacted and representatives agreed to help with forming a group on the Shore.



John Stewart and several others came to a meeting in Takapuna on 5 June 1991 to explain the philosophy and operating principles of their U3A. The North Shore group agreed to adopt Peter Laslett's precept: "Those who teach also learn, and those who learn also teach". It was

agreed that the learner/teachers would meet mostly in members' homes, studying mainly academic topics, but with considerable flexibility.

A steering committee was formed with Sylvia Arcus as President and June Castle, Secretary. In addition to Sylvia and June, the Committee, as listed in the March 1992 Newsletter, consisted of Ken Adams, Kyle Bamford, Peter Austwick, and the Convenors of the Study Groups. The inclusion of Study Group representatives was intended to facilitate communication between the groups and the committee, but numbers quickly became unwieldy. The committee took on the present structure, viz. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other members with defined responsibilities. At the July 1992 AGM, a Committee of four officers and seven other members was elected. Membership increased rapidly, rising to 92 in June 1992, less than a year after formation.

Foundation President Sylvia Arcus attributes the continuing success of U3A Takapuna to the autonomy of the groups, to the fact that from the earliest years both men and women have taken active roles, and to the practice of allowing anyone to "have a

go" at convening a group, rather than relying on finding people with formal qualifications.

Recent Years

In 2010 as the 20th Anniversary of U3A Takapuna approached, Charlene Cordes, one of our very active members, felt very strongly that someone should write a history of this organisation which has meant so much in the lives of retired people living on the North Shore. Charlene stepped forward and volunteered to undertake this project; the Committee accepted her noble offer.

In compiling this history, Charlene wanted to give an overall view of U3A Takapuna as an organisation, answering questions such as how and when was it formed, who were the prime movers in its formation, and how its mode of operation has evolved. She relied heavily on the archives held by the Secretary, which were remarkably complete, containing nearly all the monthly newsletters, minutes of Committee meetings, and President's annual reports, as well as some correspondence and other documents. Graeme Leaming had written a short history which he delivered at the 10th Anniversary function, and Charlene expressed her gratitude to him for sharing it with her and for his comments. Other long-time members were very helpful in answering questions as they arose. Brian Clark had kept a photographic archive which proved useful. Don Collin, a foundation member living in Christchurch at the time, was very helpful with information and some photos from the early days.

Helen Sturm, a new member of U3A Takapuna at the time, and Margaret McLaren, then Secretary, helped with editing the complete manuscript. Charlene made a huge effort to coordinate this history and gave her time freely and joyfully as a show of gratitude for what U3A had meant to her and her husband, Don.



In 2016, Charlene accepted the task of compiling a new edition of our history to mark the Silver Jubilee. We are indebted to her for making the time for U3A Takapuna in the midst of selling her home and returning to Virginia, USA.

The work of those who prepared the earlier histories of U3A Takapuna has provided a foundation for the sub-committee charged with the task of preparing this current 30th Anniversary of U3A Takapuna booklet.

The success of U3A Takapuna has been possible because of many people not specifically mentioned in this booklet. There are those who are responsible for opening and setting up the hall every month and those making sure our audio-visual systems are working well. There are also hosts welcoming everyone to monthly meetings, those responsible for making sure the morning tea comes out on time and many others. Although space does not permit mentioning them by name, much is owed to them all!

About our Name

Overseas, our organisation is usually known as the University of the Third Age. However, in New Zealand, the use of the term University is restricted by legislation to those institutions so designated by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority. Although U3As meet the original understanding of a University as a community of scholars and teachers, in deference to the law New Zealand U3As do not use the term “University” in their materials or publicity.

U3A TAKAPUNA FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Much also is owed to those who had the foresight and energy to build our U3A in the early years. In 2021 the men and women listed below were recognised as Foundation Members:

Ken Adams	Sylvia Arcus
Joan Austwick	Peter Austwick
Kyle Bamford	Colin Brightwell
June Castle	Don Collin
Toni Coombes	Connie Courtney
Jocelyn Dye	Alan Gales
Faye Houlden	David Johnston
Nan Keall	Peter Kivell
Valerie Kivell	Helen Laird
Graeme Leaming	Sarah Metge
Jim Moody	Sandra Moody
Holly Morton	June Norcliffe-Gales
Betty Sinclair	Malcolm Sinclair
Dawn Thomas	Tom Turnwald
Mac Williams	Janet Wright

U3A TAKAPUNA LIFE MEMBERS

A select few members have been recognised for their outstanding service to U3A Takapuna by being presented with Life Membership. They are:

Ken Adams	Graham Alcock
Sylvia Arcus	Fraser Campbell
Patricia Campbell	June Castle
Colin Climie	Garry Dimmock
Warwick Elley	Alan Gales
Yvonne Hamilton	John Hanna
Judy Hanna	David Johnston
Graeme Leaming	Tony Lewis
Norman Lodge	Sarah Metge
Howard Pugh	Holly Morton
Frank Rickman	Betty Sinclair
Maureen Thoms	John Willmott

OUR PRESIDENTS 1991 - 2021

Harry Truman, President of the United States in the 1940s and early 1950s, said of his office, “The buck stops here.” That is true for the presidency of any organisation. When things go well, others often get the credit, but when things go badly, the President must shoulder the responsibility of putting matters right. In addition to the important behind-the-scenes role, the President has the responsibility for an interesting and smooth-running monthly meeting. U3A Takapuna has been fortunate in the quality of the men and women who have been willing to take on this role.

Sylvia Arcus 1991-1993 Foundation President Sylvia was born in Takapuna, a



member of the well-known Roberts family, and trained as a school dental nurse. During the 1980s she enjoyed time overseas, working at casual jobs and expanding her knowledge of the world. After the death of her husband, Sylvia, ever creative and innovative, played a central role in the founding of U3A Takapuna. In addition, Sylvia taught music, established a baby-sitting business with a neighbour, and helped set up the Stroke Club in Takapuna. Sylvia is known for her enthusiasm, kindness and individuality. The Takapuna community is indebted to Sylvia for her many contributions to its life.

Ken Adams 1993-1995 Holly Morton said of Ken in the newsletter after his death in 1999: "He was an exceptionally gifted man, in professional life working at the leading edge of science and technology, including astronomy. He applied his expertise with similar enthusiasm in retirement to the benefit of many organisations, including U3A. While President of U3A Takapuna he was largely responsible for the intellectual and organisational vision which we still draw upon today. He then initiated U3A Birkenhead, and was President there until his death." Another Foundation Member spoke of a brilliant impromptu lecture on astronomy which he gave when the General Meeting speaker failed to appear.



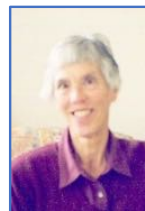
Betty Sinclair 1995-1996 Betty and her husband Malcolm were both Foundation Members of U3A Takapuna. She said that being a foundation member of U3A Takapuna and part of its organic growth, gave strength and stimulation both to their marriage and to their senior years. Writing, poetry, art and music were studied with energy and with love; new companions stretched their horizons. Malcolm convened the foundation Creative Writing group until the couple moved to Christchurch in 1996, where they remained active in U3A. A significant event of Betty's presidency was her interview with Peter Laslett, who gave vision to the U3A concept in the UK.



Colin Climie 1996-1997 Colin was educated at Wellington College and Otago University Medical School. After a period in general practice from 1951, he says that he "decided people were more interesting when asleep so studied anaesthesia in London in 1956". He was lured to Sydney in 1963 as Director of Anaesthesia, Royal Hospital for Women. Retiring to Auckland in 1984, he built a house overlooking the Gulf in Browns Bay and joined U3A Takapuna. In 1999 he and Patricia moved to Hobart to be closer to their family.



Holly Morton 1997-1999 After growing up in England through depression and war, Holly moved to New Zealand, armed with an M.A. in Geography. Becoming a teacher at Whangarei Girls' High School, she began with an assignment on the traditional Maori way of life, learning quite a bit from her class of mostly Maori girls. Later she came to Auckland and married, teaching at Westlake. In retirement she did voluntary work, especially with U3A Takapuna. Holly's main interests have been Poetry and Anthropology. Holly convened the Creative Writing and Poetry groups at different times. She said, "It is wonderful to see U3A Takapuna growing from strength to strength. We are so lucky".



Patricia Campbell 1999-2001 Patricia began her teaching career as Head of Music at Papakura High School and concluded her professional career as Head of Music at Hamilton Girls' High School. Her encouragement of enthusiasm for (good) music among the young evolved to sharing that enthusiasm with the more mature in U3A through convening Musical Studies. A much-enjoyed feature of her Presidency was "short bursts" of musical studies in the General Meeting. Patricia was President during the 10th anniversary celebration and during the preparation for the U3A Gathering in 2001. She quoted Alan MacDiarmid, Nobel Prize winner, "While you are learning, you are living. Once you stop learning, you are dying".



John Willmott 2001-2003 John was born, educated and spent nearly all his life in Auckland. His professional career was as a teacher and Principal, mainly in intermediate schools around greater Auckland except for two years in the UK. His personal interests have focussed around music, especially choirs. John has sung and directed in many choirs, and was Director of the North Shore Male Choir for at least 24 years. He was a church organist for over 40 years. John said he had served U3A Takapuna as "Committee, President, Convenor Modern History, OSCAR victim ... and pianist for Troubadours Orchestral group".



Fraser Campbell 2003-2005 Fraser's formal education in Canterbury was followed



by a secondary teaching career which included 23 years of headmastering. He thoroughly enjoyed his teaching career which he continued in the less formal, but highly stimulating setting of U3A Takapuna. Fraser convened sixteen different study groups, which were always fully subscribed, over sixteen years. A feature of his Presidency was the establishment of Inter-U3A groups, enabling nearby U3As to share resources. His emphasis as President was on ambience: cheerful learning, hearty involvement, with out-of-routine experiences providing splashes of colour. He said, "KEEP LEARNING: KEEP LIVING!"

Howard Pugh 2005-2007 Howard grew up in England through the depression and



war years but having lived three-quarters of his life here sees himself as very much a New Zealander. After qualifying B.Com., A.C.A. Howard held various corporate financial and administrative roles including CEO of a supermarket chain and Managing Director of engineering companies in New Zealand and Fiji. His accounts of his voluntary work in retirement as Field Treasurer of a Mission in Nigeria will be remembered by many, while his

interests in architecture and travel have resulted in several talks to our General Meeting. Howard served as combined Treasurer/Membership of U3A Takapuna for four terms. He built the first U3A Takapuna website and developed an Excel-based financial management programme for the U3A accounts that continued for some years after his term as Treasurer.

Norman Lodge 2007-2009 Norman was born in Liverpool and has Masters' degrees



in both Chemistry and in Food Science. For 20 years he was involved in international aid development, undertaking projects in the food sector in the South Pacific and throughout Asia. He was based in Singapore for 6 years. In 2000 he established his own consulting company and served as Honorary Lecturer in Food Science at the University of Auckland until 2018. For services to New Zealand he holds the 1990 Queen's Commemoration Medal.

His term as President was influenced by the changing times and the use of computer aids for presentations, something that Norman actively encouraged.

Judy Hanna 2009-2011 Judy was educated at Wellington Girls' College and then



qualified as a pharmacist after an apprenticeship at Wellington Hospital. A career was fitted in around marriage to John (and 4 sons) and floral art. Part-time regular positions in community pharmacies and locum work, often in emergency situations, kept knowledge current. Contracts as Trainer of Junior Staff for Pharmacy Guild Auckland and then Area Liaison Pharmacist for Pharmaceutical Society of NZ added variety. As a member of Geology Group and Architecture Group, Judy enjoys the opportunity to expand her life-long interest in these diverse areas, which also increases the pleasures of travelling. "May all U3A Takapuna members benefit similarly."

Ken Pascoe 2011-2013 Ken was born in Auckland and educated at Auckland



Grammar School. He decided to follow a family tradition by entering the teaching profession. As a result he returned to Auckland Grammar as a teacher for ten years. This was followed by a shorter time at Dargaville High School and a move to the newly founded Orewa College. Ken held the position of Principal at Orewa for sixteen years, thoroughly enjoying most aspects of

the profession. After retirement he taught English as a Second Language at several North Shore language schools. In addition to serving as President, Ken was involved with Modern History and looked forward to widening his interests after his term as President. "U3A is a wonderful organisation filled with wonderful and interesting people. Let us all keep trying to make it even better."

Tony Lewis 2013-2015 Tony was born in Taumarunui, remote from the sea, but



contrived to spend over 37 years in naval service (RNZN), retiring in 1992 in the rank of Commodore. He has a BCA degree from Victoria University. After naval service he spent five years as a member of the Residence (Immigration) Appeal Authority and six years as a member of the Takapuna Community Board, including two years as Chairman. "In my term emphasis was given to

membership renewal, the re-institution of "new members' introductory seminars" and "convenor convocations, on a regular basis. I believe it is noteworthy that, after 25 years, seven Foundation Members are still active. We are attracting a steady influx of new members. The future looks bright for our learning society of around 270 members and 34 study groups."

Graham Alcock 2015-2017 Graham emigrated to New Zealand in 2005, with his NZ-



wife. In the UK, he was a Physical Oceanographer, researching sea level changes (“yes, it is rising and yes, it is due to global warming”). Graham joined U3A Takapuna in 2007 and has been a member of the Astronomy and Modern History Groups and Convenor of the Scientific Horizons and Shakespeare Groups. Apart from U3A, Graham spent considerable time in tutoring Year

10 to Year 13 students in Maths and Sciences, thus continuing his part-time teaching career that had started in 1979 with the UK’s Open University. He enjoys supporting both England and New Zealand in sports, which usually gives him two chances of winning.

Ron Wilson 2017-2020 Ron was born in Blenheim and educated at Marlborough



College. He worked for Public Broadcasting in its various guises for 54 years, ending up in Technology and Networks. He moved to Auckland after the Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand was divided up in 1975, and has lived on the North Shore ever since, currently in Browns Bay. Ron was asked to accept the President’s role, which was proving hard to fill, and feels he was

fortunate to follow Graham Alcock’s running of a very successful committee. On completion of the usual 2 year presidency it was difficult to find an immediate replacement, and a Special General Meeting agreed that Ron could continue for a third year. During his term Ron continued to hold the Auckland U3A Network portfolio which included being part of the organising committee for the U3A Network Day 2019, hosted on the North Shore. Ron built and maintains a new U3A Takapuna website to replace the original created by Howard Pugh many years ago. His recording of general meeting speakers and uploading of the sound files to the website gives members the ability to hear talks they may have missed. The Mah Jong group is currently convened by Ron who also participates in a variety of study groups, along with his membership of two Bridge Clubs on the Shore.

Stephen Warnes 2020-present Stephen was born in UK and trained there for the



Anglican priesthood before going to work in South Africa. He lectured in the Department of African Studies at the University of Natal, Durban, with emphasis on Religion, Politics and Bantu Law. He became Director of Training for Ministry for the Anglican Church throughout southern Africa. Stephen came to New

Zealand in 1994 and retired in 2005. “And it was only when I joined U3A that I got to know how much I didn’t know! I’ve been a member of ten groups (five currently) and all these have been engaging and stimulating. The expanded email Newsletter now complements the General Meeting where members and visiting speakers add spice and variety. I wouldn’t be without it!”

Thank you to all U3A Takapuna volunteers



John Hanna preparing newsletters for posting

There are numerous other members of our U3A who have given freely of their time and knowledge and these must also be acknowledged. We offer our apologies for anyone who may not have been mentioned here but whose service is greatly appreciated. However, there are two individuals in U3A Takapuna who keep a low profile and have been vital to the success of our organisation for many years. These are the husband

and wife team of John & Judy Hanna. In addition to their roles as President (Judy) and Treasurer (John), they have both contributed for well over a decade to the smooth running of our U3A: from study groups and monthly meetings, to Christmas socials, provision of food and much of the day-to-day running of the organisation. In particular, John & Judy have organised the monthly mail-outs of the Newsletter, at one time to over 300 members! We gratefully acknowledge their contribution to U3A Takapuna.

“Thank you” are two small words, but in this case they go out in a big way to everyone in U3A Takapuna who has given part of themselves to support our thriving organisation.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER U3As

U3As regularly co-operate locally, nationally and internationally, while maintaining their autonomy. U3A Remuera played a role in the founding of U3A Takapuna in 1991 and several other U3As in the Auckland region. In turn, U3A Takapuna played a significant role in the founding of the Hibiscus Coast (1995), Birkenhead (1997), Devonport (1997) and Browns Bay (2000) U3As.



The Auckland U3A Network Committee was established in 1993, with the aim of facilitating the exchange of ideas among the U3As in the greater Auckland area. Representatives from each of the 27 autonomous U3As in the region now meet at least twice a year to exchange ideas, discuss common problems, and organise events.

In 1999 the Network organised a very successful international conference titled “Towards the 21st Century” to celebrate the first decade of U3A in New Zealand. Additional international conferences have been held in New Zealand, one in Tauranga in 2002 and another in Christchurch in 2007. Individual members from Takapuna have attended all of these, as well as most of the conferences held in Australia. In 2011 two members of U3A Takapuna attended a conference held in India, organised by the Asia Pacific U3A Alliance.

In August 2001, U3A Takapuna, with support from the Network, held a one-day conference titled “A U3A Gathering” at the North Harbour Netball Centre for U3As throughout the Auckland region. U3A Takapuna Network representative Donald Cordes planned the Conference, which was chaired by John Willmott as President.

In 2014 the Network organised an event “Celebrating the Silver Jubilee” marking 25 years of U3A in New Zealand, with a Guest Speaker from the Neurological Foundation and mini-talk presentations by members of Auckland U3As. Similar events were held at St Chad’s community centre in 2016, 2017 and 2018, attended by a number of Takapuna members. Keynote speakers have included Dr Paul Moon, Dr Paul



U3A Network Jubilee 2014

Buchanan and Diane Maxwell. U3A Takapuna organised “Celebrating U3A 2019” with Mike King, New Zealander of the Year, as the keynote speaker. Restrictions due to Covid-19 meant that the Network event planned for 2020 had to be cancelled.

Judy Hanna represented U3A Takapuna on the Network committee for many years, followed by Sheila Young, Graeme Leaming, and Bob Baird. Ron Wilson represented Takapuna for 4 years, including serving on the organising committee for the 2019 event. Rosemary Larsen and Christine Ball are our current representatives.

Inter-U3A study groups evolved when small numbers of members in one U3A made it difficult to form a viable group, while a neighbouring U3A had room for additional members in a group studying a similar topic. After a meeting of presidents of U3As from Birkenhead, Browns Bay, Devonport and Takapuna, Fraser Campbell, U3A Takapuna President, proposed the category. This was approved in 2004, and U3A Takapuna currently has two Inter-U3A study groups.

The establishment of Inter-U3A groups among the North Shore U3As has enhanced the study opportunities for all U3A members.

THE GENERAL MEETING

The monthly general meeting is an opportunity for members to hear stimulating speakers and to interact with members outside their own Study Group.



For the first year, the meetings were held at the St George’s Presbyterian Church Hall in Takapuna, moving to the Takapuna Methodist Church Hall in August 1992, then to the St John Ambulance building on Shea Terrace in September 1993. By the beginning of 1994 the membership had increased to 126 and the St John’s lecture room was no longer adequate. A working group led by David Johnston recommended the Northcote Citizens’ Hall, which has been the venue for the General Meeting since that time. The membership eventually exceeded the 190 limit of that Hall but, as the Committee realised that it would be extremely unlikely that all the members would attend any one general meeting, the membership limit was

raised to 320, and the hall has been adequate since that time. This venue has the advantage of having a stage, a piano, kitchen facilities, a lounge for morning tea, and ample parking, as well as a reasonable hire cost.

Morning tea is an important feature of any New Zealand gathering, and U3A Takapuna is no exception. Almost from the beginning, study groups were rostered to organise morning tea. For several years Toni Coombes took overall responsibility for catering, but in recent years a member of the Committee has taken on that role, with study groups continuing to provide helpers to set up, serve, and clean up. May Stewart was the Catering Convenor early in 2011, handing over to Pam Robinson from September 2011. Frances Hansen served from September 2014, followed by Marcia Roberts from September 2016. Brucilla Wright picked up the role from September 2019, and Janet Poole has been the catering convenor since February 2020.

From the beginning, the monthly meeting featured a main speaker, often a well-known person who was an authority in a particular field. The first recorded main speaker at a monthly meeting in September 1991 was writer and broadcaster Gordon Dryden.

Often speakers have been university staff members. Some recent examples include Associate Professor Stephen Hoadley, speaking on the very topical subject of “Pandemics and Their Influence on Geopolitics”. Dr Miles Gregory entertained us with stories about the “Pop-up Globe”. Dr Laurie Wesley shared his experiences of working as an engineer in Indonesia, then revisiting the country following the disastrous 2004 tsunami. Dr David Belgrave reflected on the history of New Zealand policy towards China. Professor Peter Linehan looked at the effects that recent immigration into Auckland has had on the diversity of religious activity in the region.

A number of speakers have focused on aspects of health. Associate Professor Gabi Dachs talked about the current understanding of the role of Vitamin C in cancer physiology and treatment. Dr Grant Searchfield shared information about research into tinnitus. Dr Jon Simcock brought us up to date with recent innovative treatments for stroke, and Celia Caughey spoke about Happiness in her talk about Vietnamese culture. Harbour Hospice, Orthopedic Surgery, Autism, and the legacy of Florence Nightingale continued this theme. The most colourful speaker was Dr Siouxsie Wiles, featuring antibiotic resistant superbugs and her passion for bioluminescence. More



Dr Siouxsie Wiles, Microbiologist and New Zealander of the year 2021 with Ron Wilson

recently, Dr Wiles has been at the forefront of disseminating accurate information about Covid-19.

Grateful thanks to the Speaker Convenors. Chris Rimmer, Marjorie Warwick, Wensley Wilcox, Stuart Kendon, Christine Ball, Erica Brash and Dale Kerr have provided us with a variety of interesting and entertaining speakers over recent years.

Mini-speakers for the monthly meeting were introduced in 1992; Jack Elmsley was the first in September 1992, and the mini-speakers became a permanent feature of the meeting from March 1993 when Tom Turnwald, convenor of the Geology group, addressed the members. The tradition has been that the mini-speaker is a member of U3A Takapuna, who speaks for 20 to 30 minutes immediately before morning tea. Mini-speakers are often relatively new members, who thus become known to other members and more quickly become a part of the group. In addition, when long-time members speak, we may discover new facets of people whom we have known for some time.

Recent topics presented by mini-speakers cover a wide range including: Cave Paintings in France, Auckland Volcanoes, Pest Plants, Boat Building and Sailing, Christmas in Antarctica, Sub-Antarctic Islands, Customs Street Architecture, NCEA, Sea Level Rise, WWII Historic Places, Food Flavour, Element 13, Twitter, The History of Computers, Bishop Pompallier Hiko and The Tragedy of HMAS Sydney. Study Group promotions replaced the mini-speakers for some meetings, giving an opportunity to promote their activities to encourage members to consider joining the group.

Many talks benefit from visual aids, and in the early years it was a challenge to make these available for the general meeting. An overhead projector was purchased, and members sometimes provided slide projectors. However the set-up wasn't always satisfactory, and increasingly speakers wanted to show PowerPoint presentations.

In 2006 President Howard Pugh successfully applied to the Lion Foundation for a grant to purchase a notebook computer and projector. These have enhanced the

talks at the general meeting, and both have subsequently been upgraded. John C B White operated the computer/data projector for many years, followed by Hilary Miller. Boyd Miller and Chris Dentith now share the role.

The first available Committee minutes, for the 16 September 1991 meeting, record a complaint about the acoustics in St George’s Presbyterian Church Hall, where meetings were held in the first year. The combination of poor acoustics in public venues and the acuity of elderly ears has been a persistent problem and a frequent topic of discussion at Committee meetings. Over the years audio equipment has been borrowed and purchased. For a number of years, Alan Gales operated the sound system, which evolved to include multiple microphones, including lapel microphones. After Alan retired from this responsibility Adrian Geers, Tom Turnwald, and Garry Dimmock continued with this work. Barry Hartley subsequently joined Garry as audio technician. When the sound system needed to be replaced, Norman Lodge as President in 2007 applied for another grant from the Lion Foundation, which allowed the purchase of a modern sound system.



Book sales were held before the General Meeting in June 1996, April 1997, April 2000, April 2001, and May 2003, organised by Maureen Thoms. Funds raised at the first two sales were designated for the U3A Takapuna general fund, but the proceeds of the last three were donated to the North Shore Hospice, amounting to several hundred dollars each time. The 2003 sale raised over \$700 for the Hospice, helped greatly by a generous donation of many books by Betty Coates.

The book sale has not been held since 2003, but the popular Bring-and-Take table at the General Meetings now serves to recycle books. The President often needs to ring the bell loudly to encourage people gathered at the book table to return to their seats after the break. Any remaining books are delivered to a local charity shop, continuing the tradition of supporting local causes.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19



A novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, played havoc with our thirtieth year. Commonly called Covid-19, it was identified first in China and spread rapidly around the world before medical science was able to develop any tools to address this pandemic. Amazingly, within a year, several vaccines were formulated, trialled, manufactured and distributed which now seem to be meeting with some success.



Sue Pearson prepared for first Scrabble group after lockdown

Hardly less amazing were the efforts of our U3A members – especially some of our convenors – to maintain as much of our U3A programme as possible. Although we had to forego several of our General Meetings when first the whole country and, later, Auckland, were in lockdown, nevertheless, some of our study/interest groups were able to continue. Virtual meetings began, courtesy of Zoom*- there were those members who appeared at these in very informal attire. Unfortunately, many study groups were unable to meet in this way during the lockdown and, even after that ended, some groups had to cancel meetings because of the lack of health-security in their usual venues. However, once the

country had stepped down to Level 1, we were back to business as usual.

As we look ahead to future anniversaries – in five, ten, or even more years – we may well wonder how things will have fared in relation to Covid-19. How long did the pandemic last around the world? Did New Zealand manage to maintain the good record it has at present in 2021?

One thing seems certain: that, even with the promised vaccines, there will be that enduring enemy called complacency (is it fair to say, especially among the young?). Hand hygiene, always; face-masks, in some situations; physical distancing, when appropriate. These have been guardians in the past year, and it is vital that we continue to trust them for some time yet.

“If we all follow health advice, others stay safe.”

*Zoom is a cloud-based video conferencing app used to virtually 'meet' with others. Participants can chat during a session, share their computer screen, and view live video or select audio-only. The session can be recorded to view later.

VIEWS FROM OUR "BUBBLES"



Norman Lodge in his bubble

In order to reduce transmission of the virus, during Covid-19 Alert Level 4 people were told to stay at home in their "bubble" other than for essential personal movement. A bubble usually included people living at the same address.

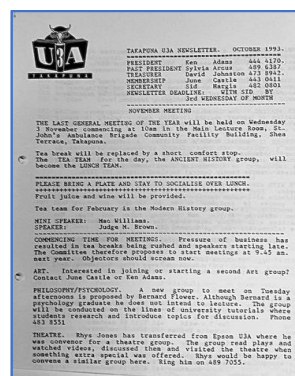
Some U3A members were asked to write their reflections on life in a bubble. These were included as part of a series of "Keeping U3A Takapuna Connected" emails. Common themes appeared in these essays:

- The streets were quieter without the usual traffic, the air was cleaner and birdlife seemed to increase.
- Walking was popular, sharing the streets (*within our permitted radius*) with families cycling, scootering and generally enjoying traffic-free freedom. Teddy bears appeared in windows and gardens, to the delight of young and old.
- Zoom, Skype, Messenger and WhatsApp became regular channels for communicating with family and friends, locally and internationally.
- Reading, online research, working on long-deferred writing projects, and watching movies online were popular activities.
- Some supermarket items were in short supply, or available only at exorbitant prices. Toilet paper was targeted early in panic buying, flour flew off the shelves, and cauliflower became unaffordable.
- Curtailed shopping opportunities reduced the load on credit cards. Ordering groceries online for delivery or 'click and collect' was a new experience for some, avoiding the perils of in-person shopping.
- Baking – subject to the availability of flour – was popular, and gardens came in for more attention although the ongoing drought began to impact on trees and shrubs.

- People living in retirement villages appreciated the extra efforts made by the staff to care for their welfare, and the treats and activities provided when visitors were restricted and outings limited.

In spite of the restrictions, members' reflections on this period were positive and optimistic.

THE NEWSLETTER



October 1993 Newsletter

The importance of a newsletter was realised early in the life of U3A Takapuna. The earliest newsletter in our files is dated September 1991. The August 1991 meeting was announced in a flyer aimed at prospective members, giving background information about U3A, listing the initial six study groups, announcing the subscription (\$35 single, \$60 double), and including a short membership application.

Early newsletters included a report on the previous meeting, speaker information for the upcoming meeting, news from the Committee, and news from the groups. The owl logo first appeared on the newsletter in April 1993. David Johnston had suggested a logo for our U3A; and Jocelyn Dye, who liked owls, designed one which was converted to a horned owl and became the official logo. The owl with its wise and intellectual connotations made a fitting symbol for our group. The original owl logo was up-dated in 2016 with the help of a professional graphic artist. He created several new versions for consideration and our committee constructed a "best mix" of the submissions. The result is the logo currently adorning all of Takapuna U3A's documentation, including the front page of this booklet.

Apparently for the first few years the compilation of the newsletter was the work of the Secretary, although by 1995 June Mackley was listed as in charge for newsletter distribution, while Joan Austwick, Secretary, was collecting and compiling information. After Joan's time as Secretary, a separate role of Newsletter Editor was established. Joan developed a format for the newsletter which was followed by Robert Bann from June 1997 through 2002, with Malcolm Bailey filling in during July-December 1999 while Robert took a much-deserved break. The newsletter was

published as A4 sheets until 1993, when David Johnston as Editor proposed a format of an A5 booklet to which the Committee gave its approval. David continued as Editor until May 2010, when Phyl McCartney assumed this role, handing over to Murray Pearson in 2014.



Emailed Newsletter 2021

From October 2014 the A5 booklet took on a slightly updated format but continued to have a similar content in twelve A5 pages and in February 2018 Murray introduced an HTML format emailed version of the A5 booklet. This offered a way to include colour and access to additional information via links to files and websites. It used a professional cloud-based system called Mailchimp to publish and distribute emails, which made the database easier to manage. The uptake of the emailed version was excellent for our older demographic with approximately 70% of our membership taking advantage of the emailed version. Until early 2020 the printed version and

the HTML emailed version were two separate processes and required lots of copying, pasting and checking.

In September 2019 Murray was joined by Rosemary Larsen who took over gathering the study group meeting information for each month's Newsletter.

The COVID Lockdown in March 2020 disrupted the normal format of the newsletter and for a few months it was replaced by regular "Keeping U3A Takapuna Connected" emails and there were no printed Newsletters.

At the AGM in June 2020, we introduced a new subscription structure which meant members could receive an emailed version of the Newsletter as part of the reduced annual subscription. For those requiring a printed and posted copy, it was agreed they should pay an extra \$20 a year. Currently only approximately 30 printed copies are posted out. The HTML emailed version included even more graphics, colour and links to additional information. To save extensive checking time, the printed version is made up of screen shots of the emailed version presented in a double sided A4 format.

During lockdown Murray developed an online quiz and Jan Judson put together the quiz content. The U3A Takapuna Quiz is now a regular part of our emailed monthly Newsletters.

We recently upgraded our licence of Mailchimp from a single-user free version to a three-user professional version to enable the publishing load to be shared by a larger team.

Heading up to our 30th Anniversary the emailed Newsletter and other digital communications are here to stay and will continue to enhance the way in which we communicate with our members and keep U3A Takapuna connected.

STUDY GROUPS – THE LIFE AND SOUL OF U3A

From the beginning, study groups have been the foundation, the life and soul of U3A. At the first meeting with "missionaries from Remuera", six to eight subjects were suggested. Six groups were formed, with each member of the original committee being expected to convene a group. These six remain active, some with a changed emphasis. By 1993 the number of groups had increased to nine. 1994 saw a further increase to 13. In 2011 there were 35 groups, in 2021 there are 35 once again, of which several are new. Over the years there have been a total of 93 groups. Study Groups originally met in member's homes. Over time, this has changed for several reasons, such as downsizing of accommodation, but often in response to larger numbers wishing to join a group. There is now a need for AV facilities to connect to the Internet, show slideshows, or run DVD's. Increasingly, groups hire a space in a community venue or gather in a meeting room provided in the retirement village where a group member is a resident. Whatever the venue, a Study Group meeting always includes a break for refreshments and most importantly, time for socialising.

The Six Original Groups

Ancient History: (1991-2014) Don Collin convened this group until a move to Christchurch in 2003. He attributed the interest in the group to "an appetite for knowledge about early civilisations which laid the foundations for our civilisation" Don remembered "leading U3A personalities in the group": David Johnston, Brian Clark, Frank Rickman, Robert Bann, and Peter Austwick. Frank Rickman led the group till 2010 and was succeeded by Stephen Warnes. In Nov 2014 the group disbanded

following Frank's death. More recently, Graham Ritson has run several groups using lecture courses accessed from the Internet in this area.

Modern History: 1991 Colin Brightwell was the convenor for the first year, followed by Janet Wright, Colin Climie, June Castle, Graeme Leaming, Kyle Bamford, Roger Gill, Elaine Taylor, George Stevenson and John Willmott. This group became too large to meet in members' homes and now rents a community room. For most years since 2000, the group has studied one topic for the first meeting in the month, and another for the second meeting. Graeme Leaming and June Castle, two Foundation Members, are still active in this group.



Original Ancient History Group. L-R Barbara Thesiger, Don Collin, Alan Gales, Eleanor Markwick, Jocelyn Dye, David Johnston, Matt Ramsden

English: Creative Writing 1991-1998 Malcolm Sinclair led this group until he and Betty moved to Christchurch in 1996. He was succeeded by Holly Morton, 1996-98. Holly began a **Poetry** group in 1998 which continues today with Val Overington. **Writers**, (1996-2005) was convened by John R White. **English Literature** resumed in



Spanish Group 2015

2007, then became **Modern English Literature** with Marjorie Warwick from 2011-14 and is now led by Pearl Thomson and Carolyn Harvey. **Books to Read and Enjoy**, (1998-2016) **Other People's Lives**, 2015- and **Shakespeare** 2014- have extended choices.

Psychology: Jack Elmsley was the convenor for about two years, when the group went into recess. In 1994-97 Bernard Flowers, a psychology graduate, revived the group as **Psychology/Philosophy**, and **Jung** commenced in 2020.

Languages: French 1991 was the first language group with Jim Moody as Convenor. Jim was followed in 2005 till today by Ann Andreassend. **German** (1992-2019) soon followed with Cornelia Wadham, 1992-98, then Ray Evins, and in 2009, Adrian Geers. In 2011-2019 Peter Robinson became Convenor. **Spanish**, 2007- was led by Frank Rickman until 2014, when Pam Robinson took up the reins. It is now called **Spanish Culture**. **Italian Language and Culture** was started by Roger Brebner in 1996, recessed, and resumed with Alan Dabaliz from 2012-14. **Maori Studies** was added in 2016 and a **Latin** course began in 2018.

Travel: 1991 David Johnston started this group, followed by Connie Courtney, Sandra Moody, Alex and Mary Wilkinson, then Jocelyn Spinley from 1998 until the present.- The group features talks and discussions about their intrepid journeys, as well as talks from people outside the group.

Further Developments

Judging by the number of different groups over the years, **History** has been a very popular category with about 26 groups existing at one time or another. There are five currently active. Fraser Campbell convened 15 study groups in medieval, renaissance, early modern European, and NZ history over the period 1994-2016. Fraser's groups differed from others as usually the group completed a two-year syllabus and then disbanded. Fraser also instigated **History of Political Theory** which became **Political Themes and Schemes**.

The Arts is the next largest category. **Music:** which has had four groups including **Classical Opera**, 2009- with **Musical Appreciation** (1992-2019) the longest running, **Musical Studies**, 1998- convened by Patricia Campbell from 1998-2016 and an instrumental group, **Musical Troubadours**, 2001-. **Architecture**, 1999- now includes



Musical Troubadours 2015

Design, Great Artists 1992- retains its appeal, as does **Chinese Painting and Art Studies** 1998 – **Classic Movies** and **Film Appreciation** have a wide audience.



Peter Kivell, Tom Turnwald, Geology Trip South Island 2010

There are, or have been several **Interest Groups** through **Finance and Investment, Food History, Horticulture** and **Local History** to **Chess, Mah Jong, Petanque** and **Scrabble**.

Travel, Sunday Expeditions, Architecture, Auckland Heritage and **Destination Walking** have catered to an interest in visiting various places, as have **Geology** field trips – within New Zealand or internationally, **Current Affairs** luncheon groups were well attended, **Cabbages and Kings** members speak of many things for five minutes each and Jim Hopkins led a **Photography** group from 2000-07.

In the **Science** category we have **Astronomy, Geology**, (tutored by Tom Turnwald for 20years), **Globalisation**, and **Scientific Horizons**. Formerly we had **Anthropology (People of the Planet), Computers, Natural History, Psychology**, and **Technology**. The **History of Ideas (1999-2015)** group proved popular.



Architecture and Design. B:Hive, Takapuna (atrium) Visit (Jasmax) May 2019. L-R Janet Beech, Judy Hanna, Hilary Miller, Shirley Howe, Jude Morris, Sue Newman, Angela Cannon, Chris Clayton-Green, Wendy Bailey, Evelyn Budden

STUDY GROUPS

U3A Takapuna has been fortunate to have a large number of people who have been willing and able to convene groups. Some have had professional experience in the fields covered by their groups; many claim little or no expertise in the topic, but have put their energy and enthusiasm to good use to convene groups.

GROUP	CONVENOR(S)
Ancient History	Don Collin 1991-2003; Frank Rickman 2003-2010; Stephen Warnes 2011-2014
Architecture (& Design)	Gwen Bartley 1999-2001; Ella & John Ikin 2003-2005; Judy Hanna 2006-2009; Diana Wallis 2010-2015; Judy Hanna 2015-
Asian Studies	David Johnston 1996-2006; Georgie Maurice 2007-2009
Astronomy	John (JCB) White 2014-2018; Peter Cradwick 2019; Stuart Kendon 2020-
Auckland Heritage	Christine Ball 2016--
Authors & Writers	John R. White 2002-2004; Maggie Brown 2005-2007; Nola McRae 2008-09
Board Games	Leonne Kho & Ron Wilson 2018-2018
Books to Read and Enjoy	Nan Keall 1998-1999; Leslie Christie 2000-2016
Cabbages & Kings	David Johnston 2009-2016; Rowena Scarlatti & Liz Milne 2016-2018; Anne Young 2018; Rowena Scarlatti & Liz Milne 2018-2019; Anne Young & Liz Milne 2019-
Chess	Ian Sutherland 2000-2001; June Castle 2002-2003; Jan Jupp 2004-2012
Chinese Civilisation: Why it Lasts	Wing On So & Stephen Warnes 2019-2020

GROUP	CONVENOR(S)
Chinese Painting and Art Studies	Doreen Brown 1998 -
Classic Movies	Ian Morris 2019 -
Classical Opera	Mary Skyring 2009-2016; Jenny Adams 2016 -
Classical Studies	Jocelyn Dye 1995-97
Comparative Religion	Bernard Flower 1992; Marcus Cohen 1997; Jean Holm 1998-2007; Stephen Warnes 2015-2018
Computers	Ken Adams 1995
Creative Writing	Malcolm Sinclair 1991-1996; Holly Morton 1996-1997
Current Affairs: Stirrers	Fay Houlden 1997-1999; Vern Pribble 2000-2001; Edith Sharrock 2002; Jess Stanners 2011-2014
Current Affairs: Opinionated People	Fay Houlden 1997-1999; Vern Pribble 2000-2001
Destination Walking	Jenny Adams 2019-2020
Drama Appreciation	Rhys Johns 1994-1999; Marie Hay 2000-2003; Margaret Tranter 2004-07
Early Modern Europe	Fraser Campbell 1997-2001
Early Modern European Studies	Fraser Campbell 1999-2001
Economic History of the World	Graham Ritson 2021-
Embroidery	Norah Turnwald 1999—2014
Famous & Infamous	Doreen Jones 2001-2002; Alison Brown 2004-2007, 2009; Helen Howley 2008-2012; Sue Charlton 2013–2019; Brucilla Wright 2019-
Film Appreciation	John Hall 2005-2006; (No convenor identified for most of 2007); Mary

GROUP	CONVENOR(S)
	Skyring 2008-2009; Muriel Leith 2010-2012; Sheila Young 2012-2013; Naomi Grant & Diana Thompson 2013-2017; Sheila Young 2017; Judith Wishart – 2018 & Judy Ganley 2018-2019; Beth Campbell 2020-
Finance & Investment	Ian Sutherland 1998-2001; Murray Haslett 2002-2010; James Laird 2011; Alec Waugh 2011-2018; Graham Alcock 2018-2019; Chris Rimmer 2019-
Food Explorers was Food History	Judy Hanna 2012-2019
Foundations of Western Civilisation I and II	Graham Ritson 2018-2019; Stephen Warnes 2019-2019
French	Jim Moody 1991-2004; Ann Andreassend 2005-
Gallery Visiting	Three groups in 1995-97 with several convenors
Geology	Tom Turnwald 1992-2012; Boyd Miller 2013-
German (Inter U3A Group)	Cornelia Wadham 1992-1997; Ray Evins 1998-2008; Adrian Geers 2008-2010; Peter Robinson 2011-2019
Globalisation	Roger Gill 2004-14; Chris Ball 2014-
Great Artists	Gwen Bartley 1992-1996; Diane Turner 1997-2002; Val Kivell 2003-07; Jennifer Knutsen 2008-2010; Lesley Smith 2011-2017; Cherry Worger 2017-
Great Artists 2	Fay Bennett 1995-2005; Gwen Bartley 1996-2001; Ann Outwin 2002-2003, 2008-2009; Maryanne Dryfhout 2004; Joy Gibson 2006-2007

GROUP	CONVENOR(S)
Great Civilisations of Asia Minor	Graham Ritson 2020-2020
High Medieval Europe	Fraser Campbell 2005-2006
Historical Studies	June Allen 2001-2002; Andrew Pack 2003-2019; Liz Milne 2019; Bob Atkinson 2019; Liz Milne 2020; Bob Atkinson 2020-
History – Ancient, Modern and Everything Inbetween	Graham Ritson 2016-
History of Eastern Europe	Graham Ritson 2020-2020
History of Ideas	Fraser Campbell 1999-2001; Nelson Tolerton 2002-2003; Alick Kibblewhite 2005-2015
History of Ideas Alpha	Fraser Campbell 2002-2003
History of Political Theory	Fraser Campbell 2005-2006
Horticulture/Garden	Dilys Gill 2004-2005; Heather McDonald 2006-2010
Human Behaviour	Patricia Milson 1998-2000
Italian Language & Culture	Roger Brebner 1996; Alan Dabaliz 2012-2014
Jung	Graham Ritson 2019-
Late Medieval & Early Renaissance Europe	Fraser Campbell 2007-2008
Latin	Geoff Sheehan 2016-
Local History	Val Shaw 1993-1995; Mac Williams 1996; Max Farquharson 1997-1999, 2003; Val Rounthwaite, 2000-2001; Brenda Knight, 2002

GROUP	CONVENOR(S)
Mah Jong Inter U3A Group	David Johnston 1997-2020; Ron Wilson 2020-
Making History	Georgie Maurice 2010-2020
Medieval History	Fraser Campbell 1994-2001, 2014-2015
Medieval History Alpha	Fraser Campbell 1995-98
Medieval to Renaissance Europe	Fraser Campbell 2016
Medieval Life	Priscilla Lowry 2009; Heather McDonald 2009-2013
Maori Studies	Martyn Geary 2017-2020
Mind, Body, Medicine (Philosophy)	Graham Ritson & Stephen Warnes 2018-2020
Modern English Literature previously English Literature	Annette Kibblewhite 2007-2008; Jean Pugh 2007-2008; Marjorie Warwick 2009-2014; Pearl Thomson & Carolyn Harvey 2014-
Modern History	Colin Brightwell 1991; Janet Wright 1992-1993; Colin Climie 1994-1995; Roger Gill, 1995,1999; June Castle 1996-1997; Graeme Leaming,1997-1998; Kyle Bamford,1999; Elaine Taylor 2000; George Stevenson 2001-2003; John Willmott 2004-2017; Graeme Leaming 2017-2018 & Martin Lee 2017-
Music Appreciation	Phyl Wiltshire 1992-1993; Shirley Sadlier 1994-1995; Patricia Climie 1996-1997; Ross Familton 1998-2011; Jennifer Knutsen 2011-2017 & Sally Stone 2017; Jennifer Knutsen 2018-2019
Music Studies	Patricia Campbell 1998-2017; Frances Hansen 2018; Jan Judson 2018-

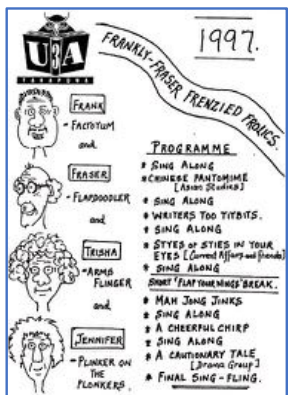
GROUP	CONVENOR(S)
Musical Troubadours	Betty Dance 2001-2015; John (JCB) White 2016-2018; Jocelyn Spinley & Betty Dance 2019-
Natural History	Peter Austwick 1997-2011
New Zealand History	Fraser Campbell 2005-2006
NZ People & Places	Max Farquharson 2004-2009
NZ Historical Geography	Fraser Campbell, 2007-2008
Other People's Lives	Betty Gilderdale 2015-2017; Patricia Lisette 2018-
People of the Planet	Fay Houlden 2003-2008; John Jarvis 2009; Bob Baird 2010-2012
Petanque	Jim Moody 1995-2004; Helen Stoddart 2005-2006
Photography	Jim Hopkins 2000-2007
Poetry	Holly Morton 1998-2003
Poetry II	Shirley Sadlier 1999-01; Dilys Gill 2001-2005; Holly Morton 2007-2011; Pamela Warnes, 2012-2014; Val Overington 2014-
Political Themes & Scenes	Fraser Campbell 2007-2013
Psychology/Philosophy	Jack Elmsley 1991-1992; Bernard Flower 1994-1997
Renaissance Europe	Fraser Campbell 2002-2004
Saxons to Saxe-Coburg	Wally Cook 2002-2008
Scientific Horizons	Barton Evans 2003-08; Graham Alcock 2009-2015; John (JCB) White 2016; Peter Waller 2016-2017; Geoffrey Bourke 2018-2019; Bob Atkinson 2020-
Scrabble	Sue Pearson 2016-

GROUP	CONVENOR(S)
Shakespeare	Andrew Pack 2014-15; Graham Alcock, 2016-2019; Janet Poole 2019-2019; Andrew Pack 2020-
17 th Century Europe	Howard Pugh 2005-2006
Social Issues was Social Science	Stephen Warnes 2016-
Spanish Culture	Frank Rickman 2007-2014; Pam Robinson 2015- 2021 (in recess)
Stage Hands	Brian Clark 1998-1999; Frank Rickman 2002-2007; Sylvia Davies 2008-2009; Vern Pribble 2009
Sunday Expeditions	John R White & Doreen Brown 1996-2000
Technology	Vic Hargis 1996-1998
Theatre Games	June Allen 2003-2004
Travel	David Johnston 1991; Connie Courtney 1992-1993; Sandra Moody 1994-1996; Alec & Mary Wilkinson 1997; Jocelyn Spinley 1999-
Tudor & Stuart Britain	Fraser Campbell 2002-2004
War & Warriors	June Castle 2005-2006
World of Byzantium	Graham Ritson 2019-2020
World War II	Ian Morris 2016-
Writers Too	John White 1996-2005

Active Study Groups as at April 2021 are highlighted in blue above

THE END OF YEAR FROLIC

Learning should always include times of fun and fantasy, and that need is certainly met in U3A Takapuna. A highlight of each year since the early 1990s has been the end-of-year frolic and lunch.



In December 1994, the Medieval History group (Fraser Campbell, convenor) presented a “Christmas Confection”, featuring a pageant in appropriate costumes, with members of the Art, Music, Modern History, and Writers groups sharing Christmas reflections by the famous and yet-to-be famous. Food and light music added to U3A Takapuna’s first Christmas celebration. This format was continued successfully for several years with study groups and individuals providing enthusiastic (and often talented) performances which all present enjoyed.

In 2003, this annual event was given the title “The OSCARS”. **OSCARS** is an acronym for which various explanations have been offered. The one given in the 2004 December Newsletter is **O**utstandingly **S**elected Sketches, **S**ounds, **S**ongs, **C**leverly Created/Compiled by an **A**gile and Artistic Assembly and **R**umbustiously Rehearsed—**S**tar-Studded Seniors...Simply Superb. Whatever the derivation, the OSCARS was an admirable showcase for the talents and creativity of our witty and erudite members at their best.



NOTSCARS 2010 Chinese Painting Group Item – Skits and Songs about Cats

The OSCARS were written, produced and performed entirely by members of U3A Takapuna. Imaginative costumes, attractive scenery, clever scripts, and lively songs gave pleasure to all concerned. Sixty-two people were listed as being involved in the 2006 OSCARS, some in multiple roles – an excellent example of the team work involved.

In 1998 David Johnston recognised that groups organising skits at the End of Year Frolic could use help with scenery, props, lighting and sound. Accordingly, David brought together a group called the **Stagehands** (1998-2009) to assist in these areas.

The Christmas Programme

Over the past 5 to 10 years, the meeting slowly changed format. The skits were replaced with a number of individual items contributed in the main by members of U3A Takapuna. In addition, this December meeting closed with a Christmas lunch and drinks.

One of the newly developed items was TWTYTW (That Was The Year That Was), a slideshow based on a popular weekly satirical TV programme of the 1960s known as TWTWTW (That Was The Week That Was). Our TWTYTW successfully ran for 6 years. This was initially organised by Hilary Miller from 2014 to 2017 after which Christine Ball took over for 2 further years. Hilary and Christine would collect a series of images



that illustrated the year’s happenings at U3A Takapuna, drawing on study groups and monthly meetings, and collate them into a slideshow.

The popular annual Quiz continued and other new items were added. Singing was a well-liked addition to the programme, mainly Christmas carols and old English favourites. This

was led by Patricia Campbell and John Willmott who, over the years, alternated in playing the piano and leading the audience in song; the words to the songs being projected onto a screen. The management of the Northcote Citizens’ Hall eventually

agreed to have the piano tuned, a significant improvement to this item on the programme! Other performances included Warwick Elley (U3A Takapuna’s Poet Laureate) with his recitations, Sheila Hooker reciting Pam Ayres-style poetry in her distinctive North Berkshire accent, as well as vignettes presented by the French and German study groups. The Musical Troubadours, a group of capable musicians from within our membership who meet regularly to play music together, has performed at a number of recent Christmas celebrations.

Many other members contributed items to the Christmas Programme over the years and continue to do so. Another recent change to this annual Christmas event has been to invite guest speakers to entertain our members. The Rose Singers and musicians from Westlake Girls High School have also featured.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day

In February 1995 a barbecue planned for members of U3A Takapuna at Long Bay coincided with Shrove Tuesday and attendees were advised that “In deference to the day, you may wish to bring a frying pan and make your own pancake.”

In 1996 the “Shrove Tuesday Pancake Picnic” was held at the Vaughan Homestead at Long Bay, pancake mix and hot water supplied. In 1997, a barbecue was held on Wednesday 26th February, with no mention of pancakes – perhaps because it wasn’t Tuesday! In February 1999, a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party was held at the home of David Johnston and Jocelyn Dye. This new venue was a great success and David and Jocelyn continued to host this until 2014.



Christine Ball, David Johnston and Chris Rimmer

2015 was a gap year and on Shrove Tuesday, 9 February 2016, the Shrove Tuesday tradition was revived at Long Bay Reserve for what may prove to be the final time.

A few traditions have also been lost over recent years. Muffins used to be served during the tea break at the AGM. This was to encourage attendance. Unfortunately, willing muffin-makers appear to be a thing of the past as far as the AGM is concerned. However, many traditions continue to thrive at U3A Takapuna, including the end-of-year functions held by many of our study groups to celebrate their camaraderie over the past year.

30TH ANNIVERSARY SUB-COMMITTEES

Event Sub-Committee

Stephen Warnes, Tony Lewis, Jan Judson and Dale Kerr

Booklet Sub-Committee

Sue Pearson (Design and Desktop publishing) Hilary Miller, Judy Hanna and Norman Lodge (Content and Editing) Murray Pearson (Technical Support) and Jo Rea (Cover)

Mai i te kōpae ki te urupa, tatou ako tonu ai

From the cradle to the grave, we are forever learning

**Te Reo Maori Whakatauki
Maori Proverb**



U3A Takapuna General Meeting 5 May 2021

U3A TAKAPUNA COMMITTEE

The current 2020/2021 U3A Takapuna Committee members are:

President	Stephen Warnes
Vice President	Jan Judson
Immediate Past President	Ron Wilson
Treasurer	David Gibbs
Secretary	Erica Brash
Speakers Convenor	Christine Ball (-2020) Erica Brash and Dale Kerr (2021-)
Study Group Coordinator	Rosemary Larsen
Reception	Sue Pearson
Membership	Jan Judson
Catering Convenor	Janet Poole
U3A Network Reps	Christine Ball and Rosemary Larsen
Committee Member	Dale Kerr



2020/2021 U3A Takapuna Committee: Left to right President, Stephen Warnes, Janet Poole, David Gibbs, Erica Brash, Sue Pearson, Christine Ball, Rosemary Larsen and Jan Judson. Insert left: Ron Wilson. Insert right: Dale Kerr

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U3A TAKAPUNA

www.u3atakapuna.org.nz

u3atakapuna@gmail.com