

ON COURSE Newsletter

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SPRING INTO SUNSHINE

The annual **Spring into Tawa** event had a rather spotty record in the days when it was held three weeks earlier than this year's event. The weather seldom helped and strong winds frequently spoiled the day. Now mounted in late October SIT enjoyed one of the best October days in living memory and sunscreen was, at last, called for.

Sporting its new banner and a montage of photos of its various learning and social sessions, U3A Tawa was projected on a stall in the middle of a somewhat crowded Tawa Plaza - wedged incongruously between the National and Labour party stalls. Committee members took turns to (wo)man the stall and to give a living presence to an organization that does not have universal recognisability.

For four hours we were able to hand out pamphlets, course overviews and application forms to anyone who appeared to fit the main U3A demographic. It was noted that most people at the event tended to be in the 8 - 35 age range. Many of those we engaged in conversation turned out to already be U3A members.

This was a worthwhile appearance in the suburb on a special festive day; even though by its nature it wasn't an ideal forum in which to recruit for U3A. It is intended that, before long, such a stall will be erected for a full day near a local supermarket when we will be better able to target passers-by in smaller and more engageable groups.

