



U3A Tawa Incorporated

# ON COURSE Newsletter

November 2019 – No. 91

Website: [www.u3atawa.org.nz](http://www.u3atawa.org.nz)  
Email: [info@u3atawa.org.nz](mailto:info@u3atawa.org.nz)

Twitter: U3A Tawa @u3atawa  
Facebook: U3A Tawa

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF U3A TAWA

Notice is given of the 2020 AGM of U3A Tawa to be held at the Tawa Bowling Club in Davies Street at 1pm on 13 January 2020 with lunch beginning at noon. Members are invited to bring lunch items that lean more to the savoury than the sweet, and which can be eaten as finger food.

### SIGNIFICANT CHANGES FOR COMMITTEE

Monday 4 November 2019 marked the last meeting of the current U3A Tawa Committee. Several members have been on the governing committee for quite a few years and are likely to step down, most notably the crucial positions of Chairman and Finance Manager. The time has come for others to have their turn at the helm and help determine the future direction of U3A Tawa. New people bring new ideas.

Nominations will be called on 13 January at the 2020 AGM. However, it is helpful if interested members can put their names forward as soon as possible, so please give serious thought to helping us out in a year of major personnel change.

Current Chairman, Michael Holland, now lives in Horowhenua and will be stepping down. Similarly, Jasmine Thompson has moved up to Kapiti and will not be available in the coming year. The Publicity Officer position is also open, and we need an Accounts Reviewer.

The Finance position is important but does not have to be filled by an accountant or professional book-keeper. Our accounts are mainly tracking income from membership fees/session fees and payment for the many class venues we use each week.

### VISUAL EQUIPMENT UNDER REVIEW

U3A Tawa runs a growing number of courses, such as Travel group and Opera viewing, that use visual projection of images and other essential information.



We have to make hard decisions about when to retire or acquire things such as laptops and projectors.

Equipment Manager John Baldwin recently reported to us an issue with our Mitsubishi Projector bulb dying in mid-performance. That has been resolved with a new bulb fitted and

the "other" one held as a spare. All good for another decade, we trust!

We will not be buying a back-up projector – were we to do so, it would need to be lugged to every session just in case we had a problem. We help Probus when they need equipment and we can arrange to borrow their projector (via phone 232 6488) if ours ever fails (hopefully not mid-presentation). Similarly, Toastmasters can assist.

We also have to contend with the fact that U3A classes are daytime events; so 'sun through windows' becomes enemy number one to seeing the clearest images. A new "higher lumen" projector could have merit for rooms troubled by morning sun.

Light troubles projectors far more than it does modern televisions. Increasingly, our external venues are installing large televisions that can be used for our classes. (A large TV at Doris Mills would be simply ideal, by the way!)

The Community Centre boardroom already has a large wall-mounted TV. Computers, iPads, and iPhones can connect to that via its 6m HDMI cable. Phones & tablets need dongles (a tiny modem with the ability to connect to wireless or mobile broadband) to connect to this HDMI.

Our middle-aged 2014 Toshiba laptop computer is well equipped with both sorts of state-of-the-art connections, and has adequate software for our presenters - so all good!

## TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

We are currently evaluating a course that will instruct on how to put together a PowerPoint presentation and how to use a sophisticated array of visual aids that can make our sessions even more rewarding.

## READING SHAKESPEARE



The group have just finished *As you like it*, one of the sunny comedies with the usual mixture of cross-dressing, melancholy clowns, sibling rivalry, gullible (but crafty) rustics and replete with many incongruities (a lion and serpent in the Forest of Arden) and memorable songs: *Under the greenwood tree* and *It was a lover and his lass*.

It will be noted that no-one was forced to sing just as no-one is forced to read; there are several members who come solely to listen to some of the greatest verse (and prose) in the English Language.

As there was time available in the last session, the group also read Act V of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

in which the Mechanicals (workmen) perform the story of *Pyramus and Thisbe* at the Duke's court.

This was a splendid way to end the course as it is a masterpiece of knockabout comedy, over-acting and dreadful dialogue. It seems that Shakespeare enjoyed writing what one of the Court characters described as "The silliest stuff that ever I heard" (he not being in a position to have seen the current British government strutting its Brexit stuff).

Silly it truly was, and over 400 years later in a small place 12,000 miles removed from the Duke's court the group very much enjoyed reading it aloud

## HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

All members are now in receipt of an information pack containing the following:

- this newsletter
- the 2020 courses booklet. A short supplement of new courses in the pipeline for the second half of 2020 will be distributed next June.
- Agenda for the AGM 13 January 2020
- Minutes of the 2019 AGM
- a returnable form to request receipt of printed newsletters.



"Any other skills besides scrapbooking?"

Disclaimer: This newsletter is created for the interest of U3A Tawa members only. The writer and the executive make every effort to ensure that the information it contains is correct but take no responsibility for any inadvertent errors that might appear.

Editor: Dave Smith, 232 5084, dogsname88@gmail.com