



U3A Tawa Incorporated

ON COURSE Newsletter

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Website: www.u3atawa.org.nz

Email: info@u3atawa.org.nz

TAWA U3A CELEBRATES 25 YEARS.

The 2021 midyear meeting of Tawa U3A had a festive atmosphere as we gathered to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of U3A in Tawa. As well as the usual tasty pot-luck lunch, entertainment was provided by the choir and the ukulele group. A cake was cut by two foundation members, Joy Chaplin and Bev Johnson.



Graham Ellett, also a foundation member, shared some memories of the early years and spoke of what U3A membership had provided for him over the ensuing period

'I believe the strength of U3A Tawa has been to encourage participation. Not only with courses like Book Reading but also Leathercraft, Outdoor Games, Meccano, Choirs and Ukulele. Some courses have been running for a long time. These include Computer Chatter, Current Affairs and the Keep Fit class'.



From the Chair

Our generation has been challenged by many changes in society, which, for the most part, have brought about improvements to our lives. We can remember the washing machines that our parents used back in the 40s and 50s, along with the old style telephones, radios and cars. As members of society's older generation we are now confronted with the new innovations of this decade. Internet banking is a mystery to some of us. How Covid-19 will impact society is still an unknown for 2022 and beyond.

From my windows I can see the school kids at the railway station, outside the supermarket and at a sports training centre. I wonder what changes in their world will improve their lives? The results of climate change will probably dwarf all else. I remember greenhouse gases being discussed when I studied Geography back in the 1960s. I thought that this would have some good effect as we would have less cold weather in winter and more warmth in summer. Yeah right! It is already a calamity in many places with an excess of heat and cold, wet and dry, wind and fire.

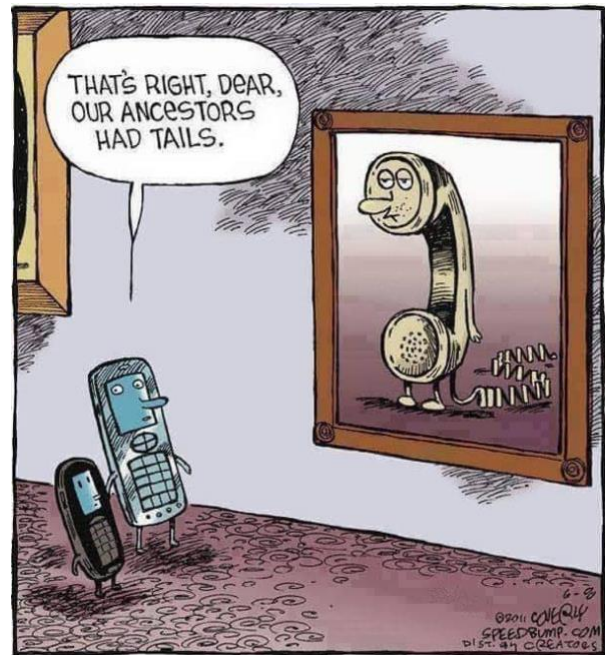
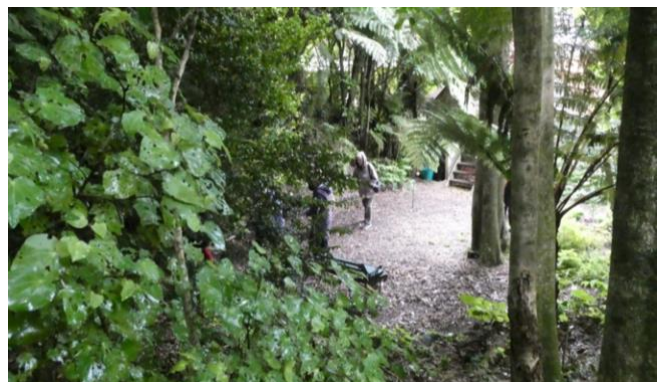
Do the children born this century have much idea of what they are unwittingly getting into? There will be less use of petrol, gas and coal, and less buying of stuff so that factories produce less. Perhaps the future will see more growing of fruit, vegetables and herbs at home. For me, gardening is my one answer to everything. However, for others of the U3A community, it is music that enables the spirit to find peace.

U3A activities encourage members to participate in fun with music or discussions or games and craft skills. These activities should be sociable, informative and fun, with the emphasis on enjoyment. We have programmes for the body and the soul which should make any stormy day seem a lot better. Whether the problem has been a disturbed sleep, a leaking hot water cylinder or a sister who is unvaccinated, being with other people, talking and thinking are all helpful in alleviating pressures and bringing balance back into life.

Essential to U3A are the leaders, tutors, coordinators and committee. Many thanks to you all. Perhaps you should all get pies, as did some of the recent receivers of the Covid-19 vaccination.

Alison Bayly

Members of the U3A Garden Group enjoy visits to two different local gardens.



THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Monday 17th January 2022 in the Tawa Bowling Club, Davies Street, starting at 1pm.

As we are constrained by the present Covid-19 level guidelines, the committee has made the planning decision that there will be no pot-luck lunch before the meeting. Please do not bring food to the meeting.

Following the AGM there will be a presentation of the courses that will be offered by Tawa U3A in 2022.

We encourage members to re-enrol for 2022 online through the U3A Tawa website. This can be done from 20 November 2021.

Subscriptions can be paid by direct credit into the U3A bank account. All details are available on the website.

On the day of the AGM, the Bowling Club will be open from 12 noon and committee members will be available to help with membership registrations for those who need help. The annual subscriptions can also be paid then.

Several of our existing committee are standing down at the upcoming AGM and we convey our thanks to them.

John Baldwin joined the U3A committee in 2013 to help facilitate the development of a website. He has been active in looking after the equipment, in organising venues for U3A activities and as a member of the courses committee.

John Burke has been a member of the committee since 2015. Many members have had course booklets and newsletters personally delivered by John and his team over the years.

Helen Thompson and Helen Roper were elected on to the committee at the 2019 AGM. Helen T has ably kept the minutes and undertaken the many secretarial tasks needed. Helen R has produced the newsletters over the same period.

U3A depends upon people volunteering to fill committee positions. We are looking for members to step up and keep U3A running strongly in 2022.

There are only five committee meetings a year.

From time to time, we are asked to take part in research studies. Last year the research topic was 'the experiences of older people in the Covid-19 lockdowns'. This year we have received the following request for members who are migrants to New Zealand to complete a survey. Details are below. If you are interested in taking part, please contact the researchers directly by email or phone.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Are you interested in being part of a study about migrants growing old in Aotearoa New Zealand?

We invite you to participate in an interview if you:

- Are 65 years or older
- Immigrated to Aotearoa New Zealand between the ages of 18 and 50

What is involved?

We want to hear about your experience of living and ageing in New Zealand. If you agree to take part, you will be interviewed and simply asked to tell us about your life story. The interview will take 1-2 hours.

As a token of our appreciation you will receive a **\$50 supermarket voucher**.

If you are interested or have any further questions, please feel free to contact us:

Agnes Szabo (Senior Lecturer, Project Lead)

Email: agnes.szabo@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 021 107 2595

Vanessa Sieng (Research Assistant)

Email: vanessa.sieng@vuw.ac.nz

This research has been approved by the Victoria University of Wellington's Human Ethics Committee (reference number: 0000029035).



Our condolences

Tawa U3A members extend our sympathy to the families of the following people who have died in recent months. **Dianne Woodward and Fraser Jackson**

Editor: Helen Roper 048970155 gandhroper@gmail.com

Disclaimer: This newsletter is created for the interest of Tawa U3A Inc's membership 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.