



**NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 2021**

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## U3A TAWA ANNUAL MEETING 2021

The AGM began as usual with an opportunity for members to enrol in courses and pay the membership fee. Members of the committee helped in this process. A shared lunch followed with an opportunity to renew friendships.

### Chairperson's report

Alison Bayly, the Chair of Tawa U3A Management Committee reported on the past year and the effect that Covid-19 had on the programme of our organisation.

Reflecting on the March 2020 lockdown, she commented: *We learned a new vocabulary: bubbles and clusters, elimination or eradication, contact tracing and genomic testing, isolation or quarantine. Most of our groups closed down for 2 to 3 months, planning to continue when Alert Levels allowed get-togethers of more than 10 people. Some groups such as Ancestry tried Zoom meetings. Other groups, Botany, Write It and Philosophy used the website to maintain people's interest. There are still items on Facebook which now form a diary for musical groups. Communication between members continued – through the website and emails, and with texting and phone calls. Thanks to the leaders and coordinators who lessened the effects of social distancing.*

In conclusion, Alison noted that *Tawa U3A has shown its value during the year of Covid and we need to consider that the same could happen in 2021 with a new strain of the virus. Our organisation needs to be strong, and I am sure we would handle a second lockdown better than the first. As a member of U3A Tawa I give many thanks to the Management Committee and the Courses Committee for the work they do in providing the structure of this organisation.*

**Current Affairs  
has changed  
venues and  
now meets in  
the Annex of St  
Christopher's  
Church.**



# An invitation to Tawa U3A members

## Climate Change - Addressing New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Members of Tawa U3A have a special opportunity to hear directly from a member of the Climate Change Commission about how we can cut New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions, and to ask her questions.

**Dr Judy Lawrence will speak about "Making the net zero carbon transition" at a session of the Tawa U3A Current Affairs Group at 10am (coffee from 9.30 am) on Wednesday 7 April at St Christopher's Church Annex.** (The church is diagonally across the roundabout from the Tawa Public Library).

Dr Lawrence is a Climate Change Commissioner, and a Senior Research Fellow at the New Zealand Climate Change Institute at Victoria University of Wellington. She is also a coordinating lead author for the Australasia chapter of the currently underway IPCC Sixth Assessment Report. Judy has a unique perspective on providing climate change advice to central and regional government and industry, dating all the way back to various posts as a senior government official in the late 1980s. Her academic work focuses on decision making under uncertainty and identifying ways of facilitating robust decision-making for climate change, such as sea level rise.

Members other than those already enrolled in the Current Affairs course can RSVP to the Coordinator Helen Roper at [gandhroper@gmail.com](mailto:gandhroper@gmail.com) or by phone on 04 897 0155.



**An attentive audience at our 2020 lectures on climate change with guest speaker Dr David Wratt.**

## 1996 – 2021: U3A TAWA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

**At the 2021 mid-year lunch, we are planning to celebrate this significant milestone – U3A Tawa's Silver Jubilee.**

The following account of the beginnings of U3A in Tawa was written in 2006 by the then Newsletter Editor Marie Wilson.

*U3A groups provide a place where retired people can acquire new skills and knowledge in a friendly non-competitive atmosphere.*

*The concept of establishing groups linked to local universities to provide on-going education for senior citizens was first developed in France in 1973. The idea spread to Britain where the link with universities was dropped in favour of providing community-based classes with tutorage coming from within the ranks of the membership. From Britain, the movement found its way to Australia, then on to New Zealand.*

*The idea of developing a U3A in the Tawa-Linden area was first mooted in 1996 by local Rotarians. A public meeting was then held, and Tawa-Linden University of the Third Age was born. By 1998 a constitution was prepared, and the group became an incorporated society. In its infancy there were 55 financial members who were offered a choice of 9 courses. Ten years later the membership had grown to 475, making it one of the largest U3As in the country. About three-quarters of the members lived locally with the remainder living in other areas of Wellington. Despite never advertising for members or running recruiting drives the membership continues to grow.*

*An annual subscription was set at \$10 a year. Members were able to select from over 40 courses every 6 months, with a dozen or so new subjects offered each time. Some of the courses such as Botany, English Literature and Sociology could be labelled academic, while others like Quilting, Ramblers and Music Nostalgia are merely hobby groups. A theatre group and a dining group are purely social.*

*To encourage a more social atmosphere, preference is given to holding courses in private homes. If a course is particularly popular and a larger venue is required, there are a number of community and church venues in Tawa available for hire.*

*Through the efforts of committee members, tutors, course conveners and others who have given freely of their time and energy over the past decade, U3A Tawa has provided senior residents of the Tawa community with a vehicle to receive the mental and social stimulation they once got from being in the workforce.*

*Such is the community spirit of the citizens of the area there is no doubt U3A Tawa will continue to grow from strength to strength.*

**STOP PRESS: Tawa U3A Garden group continues in 2021 with Jeanette Satterthwaite as Coordinator. The group meets next on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at Emmaus Centre, St Christopher's Church.**

## Committee Members 2021

Alison Bayly	Chairperson, Equipment <a href="mailto:wiseowlalison@gmail.com">wiseowlalison@gmail.com</a>	027 437 9215
Helen Thompson	Secretary <a href="mailto:helenthompsonnz@gmail.com">helenthompsonnz@gmail.com</a>	477 1340 / 021 137 0946
Marie Prescott	Treasurer <a href="mailto:the.mothership@xtra.co.nz">the.mothership@xtra.co.nz</a>	232 7679 / 027 200 0737
Pat Hammond	Course Coordinator <a href="mailto:exlibrarypat52@gmail.com">exlibrarypat52@gmail.com</a>	027 335 0038
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Aileen Wood	Publicity <a href="mailto:aileenwood@hotmail.com">aileenwood@hotmail.com</a>	232 6024 / 027 212 6024

## Courses sub-committee 2021

Pat Hammond (Coordinator)	027 335 0038
Jancis Potter	232 3915 / 027 635 4733
John Baldwin	237 6501
Don Hunter	232 9633
Eileen Preval	232 4272
Diane Cashmore	232 3152
Valerie Saxton	232 7303



## 2021 Committee

From left: Pat Hammond, Pauline Gallagher, Alison Bayly, Helen Thompson, Helen Roper, Marie Prescott, Aileen Wood, John Burke, Digby Gudsell.  
Absent: John Baldwin.

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