



HATEA U3A NEWSLETTER ***FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024***

Meetings: 2nd Thursday each month at 10am

St. John's Church, Kamo Road, Whangarei

President: Dick Berry 0274733401

Secretary: Sheila Little 4597166

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2024. Our committee met early this year to set out objectives for us as an organisation, to see who we have lined up for speakers; to see that our small groups are going well with attendance and content; to set the fee for 2024 and to look towards the AGM. etc. Your current committee members are "happy in their skins". Nevertheless, Sheila will have nomination forms at our first meeting, 8th February.

If we can get all our suggested speakers, then we are in for an interesting year. As always we are open to any suggestions on speakers, small groups, topics for forums etc. I will have a Suggestion Box (well tin actually) at every meeting. Talk to your committee members - they have a red spot on their name tags. And that reminds me, don't forget your name tags for the main meeting. Let's make this a really great year.

Dick Barry
President

It was a very disappointing turnout for our end of year function in November with just 22 people present. These things take a lot of time and effort to organise and it was a little embarrassing to have asked a group to entertain us and only 22 people turn up. The entertainment may not always be of your choice, but as members it is appreciated if you support us. We're always open to suggestions so if you have any thoughts for future end of year entertainment, please let Sheila know and she will try to organise it.

Whilst realising we can't always attend every meeting, being a member of U3A means our main meetings are an integral part of that membership and it can only be beneficial to the group and make it more vibrant, if more members make the commitment to show their support. Perhaps mark your diaries at the beginning of the year for 2nd Thursday each month from February to November to make sure you know when we're meeting! Once again a lot of time and effort goes into organising interesting speakers and sometimes attendances are very low. We're always open to suggestions for speakers so if you have any ideas, please contact one of the committee and we will do our best to make it happen.

From your committee.

For new members morning tea is a gold coin donation but recognising that many people don't carry change these days, no-one is denied a cuppa if they have no money on them 😊

ALMONER: A reminder that Marie Kaire is our Almoner so if you know of any member who needs any help or support please let Marie know. A kind word or a card is always welcome when someone is struggling in these difficult times.. Email Marie at marie.kaire@gmail.com

NAME BADGES: *Once again can we ask that you please try to remember to wear your name badges to our meetings. It does make it so much easier to get to know one another as it's not always possible to remember everyone's name! New members' badges have a small jewel on them to indicate they're new members so please make sure you make them feel welcome at our meetings. Committee Members have a red dot.*

FEBRUARY MEETING

FIFTEEN MINUTE SPEAKER:

Peter Coatsworth will talk about his walk from Cape Reinga to Wellington in twenty six days! Quite an achievement.

MAIN SPEAKER:

Tony Balme is a recently retired barrister who will talk about his 40 years working as a defence lawyer in Napier and Tauranga. His talk will cover the often misunderstood role of a defence lawyer, observations and anecdotes from the "trenches" and comments on the challenges facing a criminal justice system under huge pressure to deliver fair and timely outcomes.

MARCH MEETING

This will be our AGM so come along and have your say and elect our President and Committee for 2024. Our speaker will talk about The Treaty of Waitangi - a very topical subject at the moment. We won't have questions at this meeting but our April Meeting will be a Forum style meeting when we will discuss The Treaty. Full details of the speaker will be forwarded at a later date.

Group	Meeting Day	Time	Contact Person	Phone No:
Art Appreciation	4th Thursday Monthly	1.30pm	Kathy Hay	0211836009
Antiques Collectible And History	3rd Thursday Monthly	1.30pm	Sheila Little	4597166 0211218743
Books	1st Tuesday Monthly	1.30pm	Catharine Fisher	4338478
Currents Events 1	1st Tuesday Monthly	1.30pm	Marie Kaire	4351150
Currents Events 2	Last Friday Monthly	9.45am	Dick Berry	0274733401
Famous/Infamous	1st Tuesday Monthly	10.am	Sheila Little	4597166 0211218743
History	Last Wednesday Monthly	10am	John Hoby	021 252 5347
Te Reo Maori 1	Monday Weekly	10.am	Marie Kaire	4351150
Te Reo Maori 2	Wednesday Weekly	10am	Marie Kaire	4351150
NZ History	1st Thursday Monthly	1.00pm	Marie Kaire	4351150
Writing Stories	1st & 3rd Thursday Monthly	10.am	Janice Davison	4352722



GROUP REPORTS:

Art Appreciation:

Our Art Appreciation group aims to view art available in our area. We have an outing monthly on the **4th Thursday of the month**. In October we visited the Tutukaka Gallery stocked with great examples of local art - paintings, glass, woodturning, weaving, jewellery, and much more. Steve Moase spoke to us about his work over the years and shared his ever present sketch book. Effie and Murray Lints invited us to afternoon tea at their lovely home overlooking the sea, and shared their art pieces, including Murray's collection of art ties.

In November we visited the Art Museum at The Hub to view two exhibitions, "An Inverse Unit of Time", and "Less Complicated Than Simple". We were challenged by the meanings of the exhibitions but appreciated the skill used in creating the exhibits. We also visited Reyburn House to view the Whangarei Heads Art Trail - "What Next". This was a delightful collection of art by the amazing and varied artists living in the Whangarei Heads area. We really enjoyed this. We gathered later at Stephanie McMillan's home for a shared afternoon tea. We have not decided on the venue for our February outing yet, but this year we intend to visit the Quarry Art Centre and galleries in Mangawhai.

Elaine Hawkins.

Antiques, Collectibles and History:

Our first meeting this year will be Thursday **18th February at 1.30pm** when we will go through our programme for the year. For our March meeting we hope to visit Mangawhai Museum and the Bennetts Chocolate Factory for lunch, numbers permitting. Anyone interested in joining us for this outing is very welcome; contact Sheila on 4597166

Sheila Little
Convenor

Books:

Our first meeting for the year will be on Tuesday afternoon, **6th February at 1pm**. We will be talking about books we have read during the break and will decide on the topics for the next 2 meetings.

Catherine Fisher
Convenor

Current Event 1:

This group usually meets at The Party Room at McDonalds on the first Tuesday of month but as the 6th February is Waitangi Day the first meeting for 2024 will be on the second Tuesday, **13th February at 1:30pm**. Also the March Meeting will be on **Tuesday 12th March** as the room was already booked. All other meetings from April through to December will be as normal, first Tuesday each month.

Marie Kaire
Convenor

Current Event 2:

All our dates are set for the year and the venue is set.

Dates: **last Friday of the month from February to November.**

Venue:- 44 George Point Road, Onerahi

With all that is swirling around us in the world and in N.Z. we are in for some vigorous discussions/debates..

Dick Berry
Convenor

History:

The History group will meet on **Wednesday 21st February at 10am**. We will be meeting at the home of Jean Hawes, 1 Brighton Road, Kensington. Any queries phone John, 0212525347

John Hoby
Convenor

NZ History:

We meet on the 1st **Thursday of the month at 1pm at Bahai Centre**. Our first meeting of the year will be 1st February Our topic will be researching 'The Treaty of Waitangi' Why? Where? Who? When? Timeline? Please come prepared to debate Treaty issues.

Marie Kaire
Convenor

Famous and Infamous:

We meet **1st Tuesday each month at 10am** sharing the hosting at each others' homes. There are so many interesting subjects to research and discuss, which always gives rise to some very stimulating discussions. Our first meeting of the year will be Tuesday **6th February at 10am at Sheila's**. If anyone is interested in joining us, contact Sheila on 4597166

Sheila Little
Convenor

Te Reo Maori (Advanced)

Our group started back **22nd January at 68C Cairnfield Road at 10am**. This more advanced group meets at the home of Mary Gibson at 68c Cairnfield Road every Monday starting 10am and ending with a shared lunch at 12 noon.

Marie Kaire
Convenor

Te Reo Maori (Beginners plus)

This group started on 24th January at **109 Rockingham Road, at 10 am**

Marie Kaire
Convenor

Writing Stories:

The Writing Stories Group continues to meet at the Bahai Centre on the corner of Mill Road on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 10.00 a.m. Our first meeting of the year will be 1st February..

Janice Davison
Convenor

THE WRITERS CLUB

Enthusiasm exudes from us all
Varied world experiences enthrall
Retracing footprints of many years
Stories, encounters, all that occurs

I observe, marvel at these accounts
Very attentive, often spell bound
Stories as old as the hills and sand
Family, travels to distant lands

Marie, wonder woman I surmise
Teacher, writer, artist on the rise!
Creative crochet boggles my mind
Finesse, neat stitches of every kind
Nostalgia from life lived in Norway
Childhood pleasures around Golden Bay

Liz surprises with her collection
Stamps collected from every nation
Unique experiences and travel
Humour and giggles fill her babble
A synopsis shared of family ties
So complicated but now more wise

Janice details Hokianga days
Carefree among the cows, mud and maze
Sharing stories of family long gone
Even seeing the Queen amongst the throng
Her cats are treasured and so adored
Holds our team together we applaud

Margo pure satire we laugh and cry
Lilliput caravans high and dry
Then rambling on about what to write
Suspense of goals, then finally light
Bamboozles our minds, what's up next
Telling us stories with loaded pretext

There is Mike the beloved grandpop
"Grandad" printed at the tattoo shop
A trophy for literature I would say
Books, articles that will never fray
Loving accounts of Beverly so dear
Shared in sorrow as I shed a tear

Effie often 'no story today'
An article on the table lay
I dunk my biscuit, now I'm intrigued
With such an interesting news feel
The stories with intricate details
Of life's journeys like a train on rails

But we are all completely unique
I can't crochet, excel in art or teach
Writing is my skill and from my heart
History and topical thought to impart

By Pamela Walker

**U3A HATEA NOMINATION FORM
FOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE
AGM 2024**

I nominate:.....

For the position of:.....

Signed: Proposer:.....**Date:**.....

Signed: Seconder:.....**Date:**.....

I agree to my nomination being put forward:

**Signature of
nominee:**.....**Date:**.....