

# U3A TAUPO MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER



**NEXT MEETING - AGM  
10AM TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2024  
ROTARY HOUSE  
SPEAKERS:  
Ray Toms and Sheryll Keen on  
Travels through Europe**

## **AGM MEETING (JUNE) SPEAKERS:**

Ray Toms and Sheryll Keen will talk about their four and a half months of travel through Europe focusing mainly on their trip through the Balkans and their extremely interesting time in Albania, a country with a turbulent past and an interesting history.



**The speaker at our last meeting**, was Ted Rufer. At our April U3A morning tea, we were very fortunate to have such an entertaining, interesting and energetic presentation by Ted Ruffer on Ironman.

To the loud microphone announcement of "Are you ready to rumble" Ted burst into the lounge room at Rotary House in a colourful boxing outfit and proceeded to regale us with his many amusing and interesting tales regarding the highs and lows of becoming an Ironman, and the many fascinating characters he has met and spent time with along the way. According to Ted, the four disciplines involved are – swim, bike, run, drink beer!! He brought along a large selection of colourful props, such as his special high performance running shoes, T-shirts, wetsuit, speedos, caps, goggles, etc, which he used for competing, all sorts of handy little racing items, and of course his Ironman bicycle. Ted has certainly enjoyed every one of his six Ironman races from when he first competed in 1985. Over the years he has also competed in many triathlons in both NZ and Australia, six Half Ironman and three Ultraman races. It was a fun presentation by Ted with much audience laughter throughout.

**With the AGM in June**, nominations for offices for the next year ahead can be made now. With that in mind, there is a [nomination form](#) attached at the end of the Newsletter, or you can click on the link to obtain it.

Nominations are open now until the AGM on 11 June 2024.

Charlette Wickham is stepping down from the office of Chair, so that position is open for new candidates.

Please consider who you would like as your Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee and nominate accordingly. Please make your nominations before the AGM, so that they can be accepted by the nominee before we elect at the AGM.

## Groups News

Here is some feedback from some of the group activities over the last month:

**Current Events Group:** Last meeting we discussed public toilets, prompted by Winston Peters' concern about uni-sex toilets, and started a discussion about free speech which we are going to continue next meeting along with the issue of charter schools and any other topic that members wish to raise. This group is full at the moment.

**Cuisine Group:** Enjoyed a visit to Incredible India where the owner spoke to us about the foods of India. We shared very tasty entrees and came away very satisfied! Some of us have made return visits as the food was so delicious! Next meeting has a focus on Mushroom dishes! Please contact Janet Hird if you would like to join.

**Travel Group:** Armchair travellers were taken to Naseby in May by local artist Wendy O'Callaghan - all from the comfort of Nukuhau! What a tour we had of all the businesses in the area and surrounds - from individual trees, the local library open one day a week and graveyards, gold mining history tales, to an engineering company, cafes, garden tour, "the golden hour" evening light. Wendy has such enthusiasm for the area and has created fabulous art in response to her visit. Contact Gill Warren if you would like to join.

**Phone Group:** Last meeting looked at using apps including social media to jazz up our photos with text and more! If you would like to join up the phone group, please email Leigh at [lhynes89@gmail.com](mailto:lhynes89@gmail.com). Meetings usually take an hour but sometimes carry on for two as we get excited about some of the phone functions!

**Ted Talk Group:** This month the group watched [a talk by Jeff Speck](#) about Walkable (15 minute) Cities and that stimulated some interesting conversation about whether Taupō could work better if more facilities were handier. We are considering a submission to the Taupō District Council as they open consultation of [their long term plan on June 4th](#). Walkable cities are beneficial for health, environment and economics. Watch the video for more.

**Petanque Group:** Our small but happy Petanque group meet on Thursday mornings at 9.30am on the piste just behind the museum. New players for each game and no serious competition. It would be great to see you there.

Information about each of the groups can be found here

[Armchair travel](#)

[Book club](#)

[Cuisine](#)

[Current Affairs](#)

[Petanque](#)

[Poetry](#)

[Scrabble](#)

[Smartphone \(sharing tips and tricks\)](#)

[Table tennis](#)

[Ted Talks](#)



These photos were taken at Incredible India



## 2023/2024 Committee

Chair	Charlette Wickham	027 201 1753	charswick@gmail.com
Vice-Chair	Vacant		
Secretary	Shirley O'Leary	07 377 3343	aspengrove@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer	Teresse Karaitiana	027 6222039	teresse2016@gmail.com
Group Coordinator	Leigh Hynes	027 4746499	lhynes89@gmail.com
Members	Heather Dockery	07 378 8361	heatherdoc@xtra.co.nz
	Val Liddle	027 5258384	v.liddle@xtra.co.nz
	Irene Nankivell	027 2229296	coxnank@xtra.co.nz
	Linda McGrogan	027 4477532	lindamacg7@gmail.com



### A note on subscriptions

**Your 2024-25 Taupo U3A subscriptions are due by the 31st May** and can be paid in at any time from now until then.

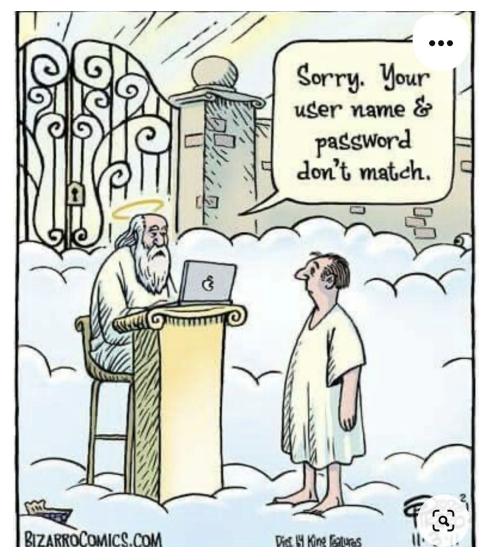
Please pay \$15 per person to the bank account  
U3A Taupo 06-0429-0359294-00

And, please, include your name as reference.

### Research about aging in NZ

- [Stats NZ project](#) that people aged 65+ will increase from 16% of the population to 21-25% by 2048
- [Massey University research](#) urged that volunteering organisations should “recognise the wealth of potential volunteering power that will be increasingly available as more baby boomers reach retirement.”
- [A Beehive report](#) to the new government says that “Survey results indicate 33% of people aged 60-69 lack necessary digital skills, increasing to 50% for those aged 70-79 and 79% for those aged 80+.”
- [An OECD report](#) on aging population and government revenue says it is not all bad news.

What implications are there for each of us in these reports? What does it mean for U3A?





## NOMINATION FORM FOR COMMITTEE

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION: (Chairperson/President) (Vice President) (Secretary) (Treasurer)  
(Committee Member)

Please circle the position you are standing for

I

Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Acceptance Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_