



U3A Tawa Incorporated



ON COURSE Newsletter

December 2018 – No. 86

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NEW U3A TAWA WEBSITE HAS ARRIVED!



The new website, www.u3atawa.org.nz, went live on 29 November, but if you inadvertently use the old website address it will still take you to this new one. It is the product of much intensive work over the last six weeks on the part of Digby Gudsell and Rainbow Creative of Tawa.

We aim to have a site that is up-to-the-minute with U3A news and can facilitate member activities to a very high level.

The site has eight topic buttons (with drop-down menus). They cover U3A history and news, course information, exact course locations, a courses enrolment system and calendar, present and past newsletters library and new options for contacting the Committee.

It is noted that the site is readily to hand on mobile phones and tablets as well as desktop and laptop computers. The Tawa Community Centre and Library both have internet access on a very generous basis for U3A members. Committee members Digby Gudsell (ph 232 6110), Jasmine Thompson (ph 238 2191) Alison Bayly (mob 0274 379 215) and Dave Smith (ph 232 5084) would be happy to assist anyone wanting to learn about navigating the site and completing enrolment.

Members can, of course, enrol and pay their subs in the time-honoured way at the AGM on 14 January 2019 if that is their preference. The website has enhanced information about all our courses, but members who have asked for a copy of the course booklet will get it with this newsletter. There will also be a good supply of booklets at the AGM, Community Centre and the Library. Nobody needs to miss out.

The site has a very attractive homepage that constantly shuffles several colourful views of Tawa. For that we are much indebted to photographer John Pierce who has kindly waived his fee to assist us. The result is a site that will bear comparison with that of any other U3A in the country.

The Committee is at pains to emphasise that the site was not launched to make U3A Tawa less sociable and more remote. On the contrary, it is designed to stimulate interest and encourage us all to interact with a wider range of courses and fellow members. It may also attract new members in due course.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF U3A TAWA

To be held at the Tawa Bowling Club, Davies St Tawa, on Monday 14 January 2019.

Lunch to be served from 12 Noon with the meeting immediately following. Please bring a finger food contribution towards the lunch.

Savoury items (that can be quickly heated up in the Club kitchen) are preferred to sweet ones as we on occasions end up with a large surplus of cake that has to be disposed of.

Course enrolment and payment of annual subs for 2019 can be completed at the meeting (if members have not already enrolled via the website).

SPRING INTO TAWA

Last year we took a stall at Spring into Tawa. The weather then was hot and the stall got wedged between the stalls of two major political parties.

This year, Saturday 27 October, the weather was less accommodating but the stall site on the Main Road was well placed. The stall was backed with a number of blowup pictures of U3A activities under the slogan "*the best \$15 worth in Tawa*".

The opportunity was taken all morning to buttonhole passers-by who fitted the demographic profile of U3A and hand out our leaflets. A surprising number of people stopped to talk with us about U3A. They seemed to welcome the fact that we do not retail commodities as much as ideas and well-being. A very worthwhile

community exposure of our increasingly well recognized organisation.



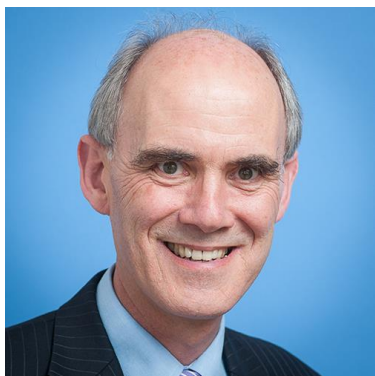
TRI- LECTURE SERIES: LIVING IN AN UNSTABLE WORLD

Last year U3A Tawa mounted a tri-series of lectures in honour of the 100th birthday of Professor Lloyd Geering on the subject of *God in light of modern Theology*. That series was very well attended both by members of U3A and members of the wider public.

In similar vein, we are now mounting another tri-series early in the first term of 2019. The point has often been made in U3A discussion and current affairs groups that we all live in increasingly confusing and worrying times. The New York Stock Exchange looks more and more like a casino. Governments struggle to cope with the rise of massive commercial corporations that dwarf them. Climate change challenges the very nature of partisan short term politics and policy-making. Interest rates remain stubbornly low.

We are privileged to have presenting on these complex topics Professor Jonathan Boston (world renowned in the field of public policy), Professor Martin Lally who is a prominent expert in the field of financial economics (he has written widely on the collapse of finance companies in 2008) and Glenn Wilson who is a senior analyst with FNZC and a seasoned student of investment markets and opportunities.

There will also be a session on how the NZ law has changed in recent years to address the huge social issues that arise from having an ageing population. It is hoped that members will again turn out in great numbers for these highly prestigious lectures.



Professor Jonathan Boston



Professor Martin Lally



Glenn Wilson

COORDINATORS & LEADERS MORNING TEA



At the annual thank you morning tea for Coordinators and Leaders, U3A Tawa Chairman Michael Holland paid special tribute to the

people he sees as “the engine room” of U3A. They are the people who make sure that sessions are interesting and well-signalled, make sure of times and venues, field all the inevitable apologies and bank hall hire monies. (Many leaders too are their own coordinators.)

An excellent spread was put on at the Tawa Union Church by Mr and Mrs David Russell (a former committee member). This year the opportunity was taken to view a demonstration by Digby Gudsell of the new website. Several of the members present took the opportunity to use the website to sign up for their 2019 courses. It can all be done in under two minutes.

IN MEMORY OF PAT



It is with great sadness we record the death on 21 September of Patricia (Pat) Marie Downes; an active member of U3A Tawa for around 20 years.

We send our deepest condolences to her husband Peter who is also a U3A member of long standing and who edited this newsletter for many years.

Pat was a highly intelligent woman with a deep love of reading and fondness for the arts (to which the huge stacks of book and DVDs in their home readily attest). For many years Pat ran her own U3A book club from home and acted as a diligent coordinator for both Carolyn Marshall and Bruce Murray in their courses.

After a life in secretarial services, Pat aimed for and obtained an arts/literature degree, part of which focused on very demanding Russian literature. When she and Peter were free of the usual family obligations, they began travelling the world with a vengeance for 15 years. By then they had family in North America to visit. A highlight of their travels (in light of Pat's earlier study) was a magnificent boat trip from Moscow to St Petersburg.

A life wonderfully lived and shared with so very many. Pat's passing is an irretrievable loss to us all.

U3A SINGERS ON A ROLL

This is our biggest class with 50+ members that goes back to the start of U3A Tawa. They swear by it; not only for its high quality singing but also its stimulation of sensations of health and wellbeing. As the song (almost)

says, you can "Wrap your troubles in [songs] and [sing] your troubles away"!

The singers aim to work on a basis of 12 songs each semester with a wide variety of styles. No-one has to be able to read music or sing perfectly in tune – that will come as choir members get confidence from being surrounded by others. There's never the feeling that anyone will stand out – except if they're soloing. The only requirement is to simply want to sing with other people and enjoy the camaraderie. Conductor, Jancis Potter, generally brings out a new 'seating plan' every so often, partly to improve choral balance but sometimes just to give people the opportunity to get to know someone new. Stand-out favourite songs this year have been 'All that Jazz' from *Chicago* and 'Georgy Girl' from the film of the same name.



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