



U3A Tawa Incorporated

ON COURSE Newsletter

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Website: <http://www.u3a.gargal.net>
Email: u3atawa@gmail.com

Twitter: U3A Tawa @u3atawa
Facebook: U3A Tawa

DOLLARS AND SENSE IN U3A TAWA

We have already confirmed 260 financial members for the New Year. This is quite an achievement given that January is a very awkward month for contacting members as they are often out of Wellington on holiday. We therefore were gratified by the large numbers of members who used internet banking and cheques to post subs before the AGM.



The new measures put in place for payment of subs have worked extremely well and for that we must thank our Membership Secretary Alison Bayly (pictured). The work involved in doing all this administration is enormous. We must also thank Digby Gudsell for his impressively efficient bringing together of all information on course attendees so that coordinators had accurate early lists for their first sessions of 2018.

Many members picked up their blue lapel badges at the AGM on 15 January. Those who didn't will either find them at their first course meeting or attached to their copy of this newsletter.

Issues that emerged in the 2018 enrolment process are:

- If you miss the deadline for course selection, it is necessary to contact the course coordinator to make arrangements for attendance. Some courses (especially those held in members' homes) do have natural ceilings on numbers. So it is a case of getting in early or you may have to attend the course in the second half of the year; assuming it is offered then.
- Members have had difficulty in reaching coordinators as the courses booklet only reveal their landlines. The next booklets will (as far as possible) include mobile numbers, email addresses of leaders, coordinators and committee members.
- Some applications and course selection forms were posted through the door of the Community Centre (which does not open till 21 January).
- Some members expected to be at the AGM but missed because of illness, so could not hand in their course applications. We have extended the time for posting course selections to the end of the week of the AGM.
- The application forms for courses will no longer cover "interested in" courses as this has caused some confusion.

Note for Coordinators – BNZ Closure

With the closing of the Tawa BNZ bank we foresee difficulties for coordinators who collect session fees to be able to bank \$2 coins. The BNZ's new ATM does not take them. We have therefore resolved to move the bank account to Kiwi bank as these deposits can then be easily made at the Tawa bookshop in the Main Road. We will let you know account details when they are available. Until then keep using the BNZ account.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

AGM on 15 January 2018

The meeting was well attended and members are thanked for the excellent (and well chosen) food they brought for the lunch - practically none of which had to be binned after the meal.



Chairman Michael Holland covered the following points which on the day were projected on to a large screen:

- U3A Tawa offered 43 different courses in each of the two semesters with venues ranging from several local churches to the Tawa Library, the Community Centre, and the Roundabout Tavern. All involved were thanked for their exceptional cooperation and generous support.
- The long-running course entitled *Music Nostalgia* has now signed off and Michael offered U3A's sincere gratitude to Alan Stewart who has led the groups for many years using his estimable collection of musical recordings. It was an especially popular offering and will be sorely missed.
- For the first time we were part of *Spring into Tawa*. The sun shone on the event and the new U3A banner was unfurled for the first time over the allotted U3A stall. Although the event is not aimed at gaining new members as such it is important that we maintain a strong and visible local profile.
- The Chairman also thanked life members Joy Chaplin and husband Bill for their many years of valued service in organising the appetizing lunches we have been lucky to have over recent years (with members supplying the actual eats).
- The half-year meeting will in future be held at the same venue but on a tea/coffee and biscuits basis. The AGM will remain as a shared lunch as before.



Special thanks were tendered to both Jancis Potter and John Burke for:

- (a) the quality of the new (blue) courses booklet for (first half) 2018, and
- (b) the marvellous organisation of the delivery of the booklet and the newsletter through enthusiastic members and at no cost whatever to U3A.

The Chairman thanked all of the Committee for their efforts in 2017. All the current committee were re-elected to office. (Full list on website)

THE FINANCES OF U3A TAWA

The finances are healthy but require regular monitoring. Last year we had operating income of \$11,075 against expenditure of \$10,745 and with cash reserves of \$8,800.

Treasurer Jasmine Thompson (pictured) has compiled a budget for the coming year that shows costs may exceed income! Not all 2018 subs are in yet and new members will help boost income levels as the year progresses.

Hall charges are up a little, with printing at \$3,200 and petrol vouchers for out-of-town tutors at \$1200. We aim to save the budgeted \$1400 postage by delivering newsletters by hand (and later on by email for those who agree to that).



There is no proposal right now for any increase in subs. That may need to be looked at in 2019 and will be well signalled in a future AGM or other special meeting with that issue on the agenda.

There is always some uncertainty with overall courses expenditure. That is because some courses, owing to their initial size, are located in halls but over the year, as members do not always carry through with their attendance, the venue/course starts to run at a loss. U3A has done what it can to ensure that such smaller classes are held in members' homes or in other non-cost venues. In the first half of the year there will be 21 courses in paid venues.



I'll give you these tablets for your OCD but don't take them till you tidy up my shelves.

MEMBER PROFILE: David Perry

David has been a stalwart U3A Tawa member throughout his 20 years' of retirement (so far). He particularly enjoys the cut and thrust of honest debate and has played a key role in the Current Affairs group, having been Coordinator of 12 years under Fraser Jackson and Mike Williams before handing over to Helen Roper a couple of years ago.



David left home in 1952 to join the AMP Society where he worked for 13 years, later becoming a registered urban valuer in private practice.

He married Jocelyn in 1957 and the following year they purchased a house in Coates Street Linden. By 1972 this was proving too small for David and Jocelyn's five children so they moved to Fyvie Avenue where the offspring complement rose to seven! The Perrys are now the proud grandparents of 14 children spread across the world in Tawa, Christchurch, Melbourne, San Francisco, Florida, Devon and Belgrade.

In something of an understatement David observes that '*Tawa has been a great place to bring up the family*'.

Like many of our members David moved with his wife to a lifestyle village i.e. Summerset in Aotea. '*We are very happy there, as we have been for the last 61 years, but we still belong to Tawa*'.

The Perrys keep close connections with our suburb where for 60 years they have been (and still are) deeply involved in the Tawa Anglican church community.

'I have had three years on the Linden School Committee, for seven years I was an assistant Cub leader, played cricket for 14 years, bowls for 25 years and simply loved living among the extremely friendly Tawa folk. Jocelyn and I have been blessed with a good, healthy and active life'. Long may that continue!



ANNIVERSARIES TO BE HONOURED

New Zealand's favorite 'heretic' turns 100

Later this month the highly celebrated Sir Lloyd Geering (a member of the exclusive Order of New Zealand) will turn 100.

A short course entitled ***Portholes upon Christianity Today*** will run over three Thursdays from 1 March in the Tawa Union Church.

Addressing aspects of religion that include the fact of Christ himself and Christianity's origins, the Bible and the state of present day theology, we are honored to have persuaded clergymen Dr Jim Veitch and Dr Jim Cunningham along with journalist Ian Harris to reflect on these crucial topics.

Sir Lloyd has lived through much public controversy and was the subject of an abortive heresy trial in the 1960s. He later became a professor of religious studies at Victoria University. The sessions will be a highlight of the U3A year and will be relished by believers and non-believers alike. They will reveal much of what we are: both as people and as a people.



Fifty years on from the Wahine Disaster

Two months from now will be the 50th anniversary of the tragic loss of the inter-island ferry, *Wahine*.

A combination of a tropical storm and Barrett Reef sank a truly beautiful ship and took over 50 lives. Members are encouraged to be part of the U3A/Tawa Library commemoration of a significant and unbearably dark day in our country's maritime history. We picture her as we best remember her and how she, sadly, became.



USING THE U3A TAWA WEBSITE

It is hard to know exactly who uses the website but it seems that some members use it a lot and many others not at all. Committee member Digby Gudsell (pictured) who administers the website reminds of us of what the site currently can and can't do.

The site opens with the URL www.u3a.gargal.net when you type that into your internet search page. It opens on the Home page where there is general information. The Contacts page gives details of the committee members and their functions.

Courses give you the choice of details of the 45 courses as in our Blue Book or a two page courses summary with one line giving basic details of each course.

Membership gives a new form that is to be completed online. This means that you can select or type in things in the boxes before clicking the SUBMIT button. This sends your information to the Committee.

The form can be used for:

- a. Joining U3A Tawa
- b. Advising us of your membership renewal
- c. Selecting your choice of courses that you wish to attend
- d. Any comments you may want to send to us

Newsletters opens copies of past newsletters and other publications posted on the website from time to time.

Photos are of recent events, classes in action etc.

The website is NOT fully interactive so it cannot be used for getting direct answers to particular issues nor to pay subs and the like. However, there are full contact details for Committee members, so do not hesitate to use them.

We do not have Facebook or Twitter links but both can be accessed directly (U3A Tawa and U3A Tawa@u3aTawa respectively) for other related material.



Editor: Dave Smith, 04 232 5084, dogsnake33@gmail.com
Printing/Distribution: John Burke, 04 232 4477, johnburke@xtra.co.nz

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