



Newsletter July 2024

Special General Meeting 24th of June

The U3A Tawa midyear Special General Meeting was held on Monday June 24th attended by 49 members.

The Constitution was discussed, and it was explained that new legislation required us to update our existing Constitution.

A tool for writing a suitable constitution, including some compulsory paragraphs, had been provided by MBIE, a Government Department. This had been worked on by a small Committee led by Alison Bayley and included David Wratt, Marie Prescott and Marian Hobbs. In April a meeting, open to all members, had been held to discuss the draft.

Dave Smith had submitted several amendments, and these were either agreed to, rejected or amended further. Dave was unable to attend the meeting. The Secretary subsequently contacted him with the results of his proposed amendments.

As a result, the draft Constitution, as amended, was ratified by the meeting and submitted to MBIE. This was carried by a large show of hands.

On further business Alison Bayley had indicated at the AGM that she would like to stand down from the position of U3A Chairperson and Alison nominated Marian Hobbs as the replacement Chairperson. There were no other nominations, and Marian's nomination was approved by a show of hands.

Alison was thanked for her sterling work as Chairperson over the last 5 years, noting in particular her leadership on the renewal of the Constitution. This was strongly acclaimed by the meeting.

Pat Hammond also indicated that she would be stepping down as Course Co-ordinator at the end of the year so a replacement would need to be found.

Course Co-ordinator Role

The role of the upcoming vacancy of the Course Co-ordinator consists of organising courses for the year and compiling the course booklets and mid-year inserts. This involves contacting all coordinators twice a year to confirm whether the course will be continuing in the following semester, and to arrange for any changes to the website, e.g. times and/or venues. The Co-ordinator also needs to set up any new courses.

Currently the Course Coordinator also books the venues for courses and designs the power point showing upcoming courses, but this could be done by one or two other people.

So, the U3A Committee invites Members to put their name forward to pick up this important role at the end of the year. As explained it could potentially be a shared role.

New Courses

New Courses announced at the SGM were:

- **Literature – Janet Frame: Glimpses of an Angel** – Coordinator Valerie Saxton – valerie.m.saxton@gmail.com. Mary Lynn Boyes will give selected readings from the life and works of Janet Frame to honour the centennial of her birth in August 1924. This will be held on August 28th and September 4th at 1:30pm at the Tawa Library.
- **Tawa Hikers** – This walking group was referred to in the May Newsletter and is now about to get underway. The Co-ordinator is Allan Johnson - nzsharall@gmail.com. They will meet every Thursday@ 9:00am for a 9:15 am departure at the Tawa Rugby Club.
- **English Civil Wars, Presidency of Harry Truman and Reading Shakespeare**. These 3 courses (two of which have started) have had to be cancelled and will be offered again in 2025.
- **Outings with Porirua U3A**. Co-ordinator Bill Gebbie - billnmary@xtra.co.nz. Bill often organises one-off day trips and Tawa U3A members are welcome to join them. Recent trips have included pre-Christmas trips to the Op-shops in Petone and to the Institute of Environmental Research and Science in Kenepuru.

If you would like to be added to Bill's contact list, please enrol on our website in the usual way and we will pass on your details to Bill.

- **A New Opera Group?** John Bolland is looking at the possibility of setting up a group covering the subject of Opera. At the moment there are no fixed dates, times, or format although watching or talking about opera is likely to be the main focus of the group. If anyone thinks they might be interested, please contact John - bollywelly@gmail.com or on 021 264 0941. The next step will be to have a get-together, of those who might want to join so the Group and, over coffee, to decide the best way forward.

News from the U3A Committee Meeting 1st July 2024

At the Meeting of the 1st July it was advised that Tawa U3A currently has 203 Members, and 11 Members receive a hard copy of this Newsletter delivered to their address.

In the current year 70 members have paid \$5 for a hard copy of the Booklet so they are entitled to a hard copy of the new Course Supplement for Semester 2. This outlines the new courses in more detail. Your Booklet is currently held in the Tawa Community Centre near the entrance and has your name on it, so please pick it up from there.

The Choir

The Tawa U3A Choir, the U3A Singers, are led by the Musical Director Jancis Potter and meet every Monday afternoon in Tawa Union Church Hall. They sing a wide range of music, from popular music to the classics, and everything in between. A friendlier group of people would be hard to find and new singers are always welcome to join. (particularly men - there always seem to be a shortage of them!).

Jancis chooses some lovely pieces, and is very understanding when the Choir doesn't get it right the first, second, third or even tenth time....but is delighted when they do. There are "Friends and Family" concerts every six months, and they regularly sing at rest homes and retirement villages. It's great being part of a choir....as Ella Fitzgerald once said, "The only thing better than singing is more singing".



Finally, don't forget to regularly check the U3A Website for the latest news and updates at www.u3atawa.org.nz

Tim Davin

Publicity - Tawa U3A Committee