

U3A

NP and

Stratford



APRIL 2024 -

*From the President*

**WHO'S NEW AND WHO'S WHO**

**Speaker Review**

**Groups AND Group News**

**What's On / Members Corner**

## From the President



Dear U3A members,

As always, it was heartening to see such a good turn-out for our last meeting and thank you for the many ideas passed to the committee. Shirani has gallantly taken on the task of organising a picnic (watch this space) and is already planning indoor events for the cooler weather. In the meantime, a few things to update you with:

Scam alert! One of our members has received an official letter from 'Z' showing her car (and number plate) filing up at a Z garage. The letter states that she drove away without paying and legal steps will be taken. It is a scam that Z are aware of, but please be alert. The scammers are becoming more sophisticated.

Recently Sarah and I reviewed the U3A archive to find that, although we have records, they are incomplete. Therefore, if you have any U3A materials (photographs, minutes, etc.) we'd appreciate receiving them. And, if you are keen to help create an up-to-date archive, please contact me.

Talking of archives, and thinking of genealogy, how about this? My sister in the U.K. has taken up the search for family history and (drum roll) finds that we are direct descendants of Elizabeth Woodville. English history buffs will recall that she became Queen in 1464 upon her marriage to King Edward IV. She is popularly known as 'The White Queen' (the War of the Roses), was mother to the Princes in the Tower and was grandmother to Henry VIII.

Back in NZ, I look forward to family excitement as the Easter bunny appears. A friend plays the bunny, arriving in full costume on an Enfield motorcycle. It is bedlam, particularly when our neighbour's dog joins in.

On that note I wish you an enjoyable Easter and, by-the-way, there is no need to curtsy (hahaha).

Warm regards,  
Linda

## Red Dot Specials

*Welcome to these  
special new members!!*

*Easily spotted by the red dot on  
their name tag.*



*Please make them especially  
welcome.*

*Sarwat Salam Barry Boekman  
Katherine Kingsbury*



## WHO IS WHO AT U3A



Left to right: standing— Shirani, Pam, Judith, Sarah, Bob

Seated— Raewyn, Bill, Linda (President), Sylvia

### Committee

**President** Linda Cox 752 7877 [linstevecox@xtra.co.nz](mailto:linstevecox@xtra.co.nz)

**Secretary** Sarah Clarkson 753 9660 [clarksonsarah60@gmail.com](mailto:clarksonsarah60@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** Raewyn Wright 021 1902604 [raewyn.wright@xtra.co.nz](mailto:raewyn.wright@xtra.co.nz)

**Newsletter** Sylvia Huitson 027 6000 302 [sylvia.hijklm@gmail.com](mailto:sylvia.hijklm@gmail.com)

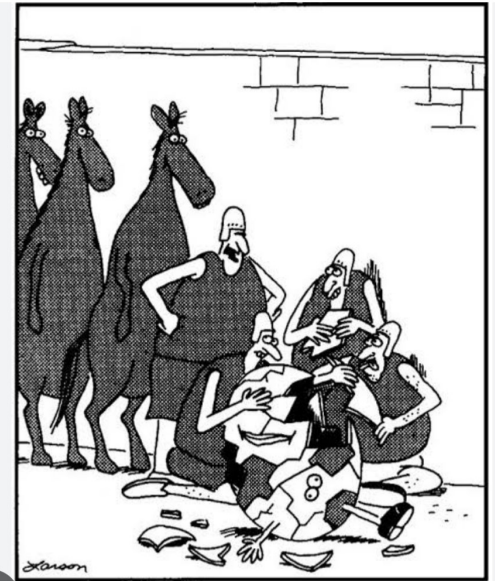
**Speakers** Bob Garnham 758 1585 [bob.garnham@gmail.com](mailto:bob.garnham@gmail.com)

**Membership** Judith Bell 757 2070 [twojbell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:twojbell@xtra.co.nz)

**Almoner** Shirani Smith 756 7833 [shirani.smith@yahoo.com](mailto:shirani.smith@yahoo.com)

**Groups** Bill Irving 751 0833 [bill.irving@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bill.irving@xtra.co.nz)

**Meet & Greet/Venue Manager** Pam Murdoch\_021 040 0895  
[pamelamur43@gmail.com](mailto:pamelamur43@gmail.com)



"OK, OK, you guys have had your chance—  
the horses want another shot at it."

### Committee Support

**Almoner** Kevin Murphy

**Catering** Allison Liggett 758 8156

**Media Technician** Karl Rossiter

**Computers** Paul Van Kuyk

**Gofers** Chris Brown & Carol Carter

**Reviewer** Kevin Murphy

**Website Support** Peter Kivell



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No, No, **HE** doesn't want you!!! Phew!!! Lucky Escape!!!

**But WE want you!!!!** Are you new, old, feeling unwanted, or eager to be more involved? Are you unsure, shy, modest? Do you have time for ONE meeting a month?? And we'll hope you will do just a little more, but **NO BAKING SALES, NO HOUSEWORK, AND NO WORKING BEES!!!** A Santa's little helper for the Groups Co-ordinator would be very welcome.

The U3A Committee wants You!!! Don't be shy, contact Linda or whisper in the ear of a Committee Member. You will be greatly appreciated and welcomed!

Or to put it simply - **HELP !!!!**



## MARCH MEETING REVIEW

The meeting began with President Linda Cox asking the Committee members to introduce themselves and give a synopsis of their areas of responsibility. U3A NP currently has 349 active members

### Guest Speaker, Bill McCullum, CEO, Pacific International Hotel Management School, (PIHMS)

Bill McCullum first came to Taranaki in the early 70s and was offered a job as a charge nurse, setting up the psychiatric unit at Taranaki Base Hospital. It took him seven years to complete a comprehensive nursing degree at the Taranaki Polytechnic. He became a tutor and rose through the ranks, to become Deputy Principal at the Polytechnic.

In 1974, when PIHMS was established, Bill took up a job teaching at this campus. Bill has written the curriculum for a number of courses at PIHMS. Bill said it is hard to define education, always a process of change and learning. He emphasizes the importance of students learning as opposed to teaching them. Bill focused courses on skills, knowledge and attitude. He cultivated an environment of discipline.

At the beginning of 2020 the school had 500 students. When Covid struck it took the tutors just two days to shift the courses to online learning. PIHMS is a private organization that was significantly, financially impacted by the pandemic. It's taken four years for PIHMS to gradually get back up to speed. It currently has 100 students.

Bill said proof of the school's success is that many of its graduates are sort after by businesses and have gone on to become managers of hotels and restaurants in NZ and other countries around the world.

Bill McCullum is a man of vast experience. He spoke with authority and wisdom. In his eighties, Bill said he is too busy to retire.

Bill was introduced by Linda Cox and thanked by Karl Rossiter.

*Review and photo: Kevin Murphy.*



Try to open Grampy's chair a little slower next time, puddin'.

### **COMPUTER SUPPORT**

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## - WHAT'S ON -

U3A MONTHLY MEETING: Wednesday 10th April at 1.30 at Brooklands Church, Bideford Street. All welcome.

Guest speaker Blair Telford was born and bred in New Plymouth. A former mechanic, Olympic Athlete, Police Officer for 30 years, and now retired, spends his time traversing across countries. Blair will have a brief PowerPoint and presentation about his latest walk across America. A trek (South to North) of 4500 kms across the Mojave Desert, into the Sierra Nevada's and along the Cascade Mountains.

Bob Garnham.



U3A Shared Picnic When: Saturday April 13th

Where: Waitara River Mouth/Marine Parade It's a lovely place by the river. It has BBQ facilities and fishing if you are keen, singing and ukelele group happy to have a sing along. Not confirmed but planned. Any suggestions / thoughts greatly appreciated . A few people I have talked to are very keen!! Have a great week end.

Shirani



Stratford Shakespeare Festival 6-13th April including

Baldricks BIG Day Out Saturday 13th at Stratford Racecourse.

Percy Thompson Gallery: Stratford Art Society Exhibition to 21st April and Rita Angus from 26th April—23rd June.



Anzac Day. 25th April. As we remember those who died for us, let us also value those who lived through WWII and whose memories risk being lost to us forever. I recently interviewed my 93 year old Mum about her early years and war memories. The fear of Hitler, even after the war ended, was real. Stalin knew Hitler was dead, but kept this news from the allies.



**LEST WE FORGET** the sacrifices made for us in ALL wars. To keep us safe.

Photo: Colonel Malone. Stratford Business Assn.

Movie: The Mountain. Starring our Maunga, Taranaki. Yes, I nearly fell off my chair. You know the feeling when you see a bit of scenery and you KNOW you have been there. This is about some children who want to climb the mountain to try and find a cure for cancer. Brought to us by Rachel House and Taika Waititi of Wilderpeople fame.

# Group News

**Groups almost ready to begin:**

Genealogy for Beginners, History of Castles, Te Reo, Travellers Tales, Western Philosophy, a 2nd Hard Walking Group

**The History and Spread of the English Language. (1 more needed please!)**

**Geology needs more people!!**

**WINTER IS COMING**

**JOIN A GROUP.**

Line Dancing Group



**There is a dance leader ready to teach anyone interested**

Don't forget there are plenty of current groups that are able to take new members. Look for the **GREEN** groups on P 5 & 6

**ONLY \$20 A YEAR TO BELONG TO U3A!!**

**Please remember to pay your sub!**



## **Making payments to U3A**

The committee have recommended that the subscriptions for 2024 will be \$20.00.

**NB. Posted Newsletters require an extra \$15.**

**Internet payments:**

U3A New Plymouth, Bank account 15-3948-0305523-00

Particulars – First name, Code – Surname, Reference – Subs 24

Sending a payment by post: Post cash to: Raewyn Wright 29 Fulford St New Plymouth 4310 Place cash in an envelope with a piece of paper with your name, the amount of the payment, and what it is for. Payments at meetings: Payment slips and resealable bags will be available at meetings. Please complete a payment slip and place it in a resealable bag with the payment cash (correct amount only.)

## Art History

After 26 years this group of eight remaining members has decided to cease meeting as a group. We had our last meeting on Friday 22nd March. We had our first meeting in April 1998 with 13 members.

The years have taken their toll, nevertheless we have many happy memories of shared meals, visits to Art Galleries, individual presentations (our main monthly program) & enriched friendships. We have not run out of topics but some of us have run out of energy. We have covered centuries & countries & had an enjoyable & educational time.

Dawn Page Convenor.

*Linda and the Committee, on behalf of U3A members, would like to acknowledge the huge contribution Dawn has made to U3A's Art History group over the last 26 years.*



## **Duty Groups for General Meetings**

<b>April 10</b>	<b>Geology</b>
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Genealogy Beginners</b>
<b>June 12</b>	<b>Grazers Lunch</b>
<b>July 10</b>	<b>Herbs</b>

Group Conveners, when your group is rostered on please phone Ally 758 8156 and tell her you will have group members to assist. Please do this at least a week before the meeting that you are scheduled to help with.

# Groups

Groups underlined and in red are full



<b>Antiques &amp; Collectibles 1</b>	Barry Gilliland	759 0206	<a href="mailto:BarryGnz@gmail.com">BarryGnz@gmail.com</a>	4th Tuesday 10.30am
<b><u>Antiques &amp; Collectibles 2</u></b>	Jan Wilks	753 3574	<a href="mailto:janclyde2019@gmail.com">janclyde2019@gmail.com</a>	2nd Thursday 2.00pm
<b>Art 101</b>	Bill Irving	751 0833	<a href="mailto:bill.irving@xtra.co.nz">bill.irving@xtra.co.nz</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday 10.00am
<b>Art Appreciation</b>	Carol Mundt	757 9613	<a href="mailto:cbmundt@xtra.co.nz">cbmundt@xtra.co.nz</a>	3rd Wednesday 1.30pm
<b><u>Art Explorers</u></b>	Annette Bredow	758 1940	<a href="mailto:annettebredow@outlook.com">annettebredow@outlook.com</a>	Last Friday 10.00am
<b><u>Café Readers</u></b>	Frances Pentelow	758 3622	<a href="mailto:fpentelow@xtra.co.nz">fpentelow@xtra.co.nz</a>	4th Thursday 2.00pm
<i>Venue: Puke Ariki Library (level 1)</i>				
<b><u>Café Talk</u></b>	Norma Hansen	027 510 0032	<a href="mailto:norma.hansen@hotmail.com">norma.hansen@hotmail.com</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday at 10.00am
<b>Café Talk too</b>	Linda Schwartfeger	027 8567867	<a href="mailto:r.estate@xtra.co.nz">r.estate@xtra.co.nz</a>	2nd Friday at 10am
<b>Chess</b>	Shirani Smith	756 7833	<a href="mailto:Shirani.smith@yahoo.com">Shirani.smith@yahoo.com</a>	1st & 3rd Tuesdays 2.00pm
<b><u>Classical Music 1</u></b>	Terry Heaps	027 432 2279	<a href="mailto:terry.heaps@xtra.co.nz">terry.heaps@xtra.co.nz</a>	3rd Tuesday 10.00am
<b>Classical Music 2</b>	Carol Carter	758 8199	<a href="mailto:carolcarter@xtra.co.nz">carolcarter@xtra.co.nz</a>	3rd Thursday 2.00pm
<b>Conversational French</b>	Marian Biggs	027 818 3423	<a href="mailto:marianbiggs54@gmail.com">marianbiggs54@gmail.com</a>	1st & 3rd Tuesdays 2.00pm
<b><u>Conversational Spanish</u></b>	Steve Thorstensen	751 0865	<a href="mailto:sthorste321@gmail.com">sthorste321@gmail.com</a>	2nd & 4th Wed 10.00am
<b><u>Current Affairs</u></b>	Margaret Bunyan	769 9405	<a href="mailto:maggiebp@outlook.com">maggiebp@outlook.com</a>	4th Thursday 1.30pm
<b><u>Current Affairs too</u></b>	TBA			1st Wednesday 1.30pm
<b><u>Cycling</u></b>	John Shuker	751 2812	<a href="mailto:hjshuker@xtra.co.nz">hjshuker@xtra.co.nz</a>	Tuesdays 9.30am
<b><u>Codgers Coffee Club</u></b>	David Honeyfield	021 165 8748	<a href="mailto:dahoneyfield@gmail.com">dahoneyfield@gmail.com</a>	2nd & 4th Thursday 10.00am
<b><u>Codgers Coffee Club too</u></b>	Basil Cook	027 3831946	<a href="mailto:basiljcook@gmail.com">basiljcook@gmail.com</a>	1st & 3rd Thursday 10.00am
<b><u>Enjoying our Gardens</u></b>	Alma Clague	753 5452	<a href="mailto:ajayrothwell@gmail.com">ajayrothwell@gmail.com</a>	4th Monday 1.30pm
<b>Environment Action</b>	Kevin Murphy	757 8918	<a href="mailto:mkmurphy@hotmail.com">mkmurphy@hotmail.com</a>	5th Wed As & when at 10.00am
<b>European History</b>	Bruce Durdle	027 273 2844	<a href="mailto:bmdurdle@gmail.com">bmdurdle@gmail.com</a>	1st Thursday 1.30pm
<b><u>Famous &amp; Infamous</u></b>	Chris Brown	027 753 9901	<a href="mailto:bamboosa@xtra.co.nz">bamboosa@xtra.co.nz</a>	3rd Wednesday 1.30pm
<b><u>Films &amp; Foreign Films</u></b>	Denise Rowe	021 145 7926	<a href="mailto:denter@xtra.co.nz">denter@xtra.co.nz</a>	3rd Friday at 12.30pm
	Cecelia Stringer	027 943 6860		
<b><u>Films Too</u></b>	Bill Irving	751 0833	<a href="mailto:bill.irving@xtra.co.nz">bill.irving@xtra.co.nz</a>	1st Wednesday 1.00pm
<b><u>Flora Friends</u></b>	Christine Hucker	027 534 6700	<a href="mailto:huckerchristine@gmail.com">huckerchristine@gmail.com</a>	4th Monday 1.30pm
<b><u>Gardening for Pleasure</u></b>	Libby Smale	753 6094	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.smale@gmail.com">elizabeth.smale@gmail.com</a>	4th Tuesday 10.00am
<b><u>Gardening Therapy</u></b>	Basil Cook	027 383 1946	<a href="mailto:basiljcook@gmail.com">basiljcook@gmail.com</a>	4th Thursday 10am
	Carol Carter	758 8199	<a href="mailto:carolcarter@xtra.co.nz">carolcarter@xtra.co.nz</a>	
<b><u>Geometry</u></b>	Raewyn Wright	021 190 2604	<a href="mailto:raewyn.wright@xtra.co.nz">raewyn.wright@xtra.co.nz</a>	2nd Friday 1.30pm
<b>Geology</b>	Neil Ingram	7550415	<a href="mailto:nwj.ingram@gmail.com">nwj.ingram@gmail.com</a>	4th Thursday 10.00am

## More Groups



<b>Genealogy Beginners</b>	<b>Gail Tanner</b>	027 376 0630	<a href="mailto:gailjt@outlook.com">gailjt@outlook.com</a>	2nd Wednesday 9.30am
<b><u>Grazers Lunch Group</u></b>	<b>Jane Kernohan</b>	021 022 16911	<a href="mailto:jkernohan@xtra.co.nz">jkernohan@xtra.co.nz</a>	3rd Wednesday 1.00pm
<b><u>Herbs</u></b>	<b>Janet Durdle</b>	021 156 7224	<a href="mailto:janet.durdle@gmail.com">janet.durdle@gmail.com</a>	3rd Thursday 1.30pm
<b>History of Espionage</b>	<b>Gail Geange</b>	021 733 281	<a href="mailto:ggeange8@gmail.com">ggeange8@gmail.com</a>	TBA
<b>Mahjong</b>	<b>Felicity Murray</b>	755 4555	<a href="mailto:flissym@gmail.com">flissym@gmail.com</a>	Mondays @ 1.30pm
<b>Needlework</b>	<b>Judith Bell</b>	757 2070 021 264 8499	<a href="mailto:twojbell@xtra.co.nz">twojbell@xtra.co.nz</a>	3rd Thursday 1.30-4.30pm
<b><u>Playreading</u></b>	<b>Stephen Wright</b>	021 978 428	<a href="mailto:steve.wright1@xtra.co.nz">steve.wright1@xtra.co.nz</a>	3rd Wednesday at 10.00am
<b><u>Readers 2</u></b>	<b>Eileen Foy</b>	751 4123	<a href="mailto:befoy@xtra.co.nz">befoy@xtra.co.nz</a>	1st Tuesday 2.00pm
<b>Singalong</b>	<b>Jeanette Hasell</b>	06 9274437	<a href="mailto:jeanettehasell@hotmail.com">jeanettehasell@hotmail.com</a>	1st & 3rd Thursday 1.30pm
<b><u>Sketching</u></b>	<b>B. Gilliland</b>	759 0206	<a href="mailto:barryGnz@gmail.com">barryGnz@gmail.com</a>	1st & 3rd Fridays 10.00am
	<b>Lauraine Parkinson</b>		<a href="mailto:lauraine_p@yahoo.co.uk">lauraine_p@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
<b><u>Tasting plates</u></b>	<b>Heather Shuker</b>	751 2812	<a href="mailto:hjshuker@xtra.co.nz">hjshuker@xtra.co.nz</a>	1st Thursday 1.00pm
<b>Theatre</b>	<b>Margaret Bunyan</b>	760 9405	<a href="mailto:maggiebp@outlook.com">maggiebp@outlook.com</a>	<i>All welcome to join.</i>
				<i>Information about various plays, shows, etc. will be circulated in advance.</i>
<b><u>Travel &amp; Photography</u></b>	<b>Margaret Irving</b>	751 0833	<a href="mailto:bill.irving@xtra.co.nz">bill.irving@xtra.co.nz</a>	1st Monday at 1.30pm
<b><u>Travel &amp; Photography too</u></b>	<b>Marnie Luond</b>	027 253 8127	<a href="mailto:marnie.luond@gmail.com">marnie.luond@gmail.com</a>	3rd Thursday 1.30pm
<b>U3Alele</b>	<b>Shirani Smith</b>	756 7833	<a href="mailto:shirani.smith@yahoo.com">shirani.smith@yahoo.com</a>	2nd & 4th Thursday 2pm
<b>Writing for Pleasure</b>	<b>Linda Cox</b>	756 9128	<a href="mailto:linstevecox@xtra.co.nz">linstevecox@xtra.co.nz</a>	3rd Wednesday 10.00am
<b>Walking (Easy)</b>	<b>Judith Bell</b>	021 264 8499	<a href="mailto:twojbell@xtra.co.nz">twojbell@xtra.co.nz</a>	Mondays 2.00pm
				<i>Walking on the flat every 'fine' Monday. Ring Judith for info.</i>
<b>Walking (Moderate)</b>	<b>Brenda Fawkner</b>	027 338 7400	<a href="mailto:bnjfawkner@gmail.com">bnjfawkner@gmail.com</a>	Monday at 9.30am
	<b>Jean Duff</b>	021 0653853	<a href="mailto:jeadu4@gmail.com">jeadu4@gmail.com</a>	
				<i>All welcome, especially those interested in the environment ring Brenda or Jean for info</i>
<b>Walking (Hard)</b>	<b>John/Heather Shuker</b>	751 2812	<a href="mailto:hjshuker@xtra.co.nz">hjshuker@xtra.co.nz</a>	
				<i>All welcome to join at 09.30 am every Monday, ring John first.</i>
<b><u>Wine Appreciation</u></b>	<b>R &amp; S Clarkson</b>	753 9660	<a href="mailto:sarrob@xtra.co.nz">sarrob@xtra.co.nz</a>	3rd Tuesday at 7.00pm

## Stratford Groups

<b>Current affairs</b>	<b>Monica Newmarch</b>	021 104 3020	<a href="mailto:newmarch90@gmail.com">newmarch90@gmail.com</a>	Last Tuesday in Month 1.30pm
<b>Walkers</b>	<b>Bill Sarten</b>	06 765 7621	<a href="mailto:speder_8@hotmail.com">speder_8@hotmail.com</a>	Every Monday 9.30am

# Members Corner

One of the scariest things I've done and there have been a few, was in 2005, bungee jump off the Auckland Harbour Bridge. This was by a man who suffers from acrophobia and occasionally stupidity. Standing on the precipice, it felt like I was about to die. Why do it you may wonder? Because me ego didn't want the others with me to think I was a wimp! Duh!

**Kevin Murphy.**

*For all we know, Sir Edmund Hilary may have climbed Everest with exactly the same motivation!!!! It's less important WHY we did it than we did it!!!! Yay, Kevin! Who is next???*



## Bucket List - Done or To Do

No town like Alice.

Way back in the middle of last century, in my native England, I read Nevil Shute's novel 'A Town Like Alice'. It should be noted that the book isn't about Alice at all. It's about some folk wanting to establish a settlement fashioned similarly to Alice. Ever since I have retained a romantic notion of the town of Alice, situated in the centre of Australia, miles from anywhere. Fast forward to the 2020s in New Zealand. It dawned on me, with no financial or family obligations, there was no impediment to my taking a trip to Alice Springs. So, out came my credit card. As my favourite mode of travel is by train, going by the Ghan was a no brainer.

There I did the usual touristy things: The School of the Air, the Flying Doctor service centres. I flew home. Alice's airport, charming and bijoux, was a far cry from the utilitarian shack described in the 'Alice' book. Oh, and the food was just scrumptious. Ordinary things like a salad roll seemed to taste better. And, apologies Skippy, I partook of a kangaroo steak.

*Anne Ferguson Completed!!* Contributions welcome for next month please!



## Writers Group.

Antona introduced the group to Haiku. These are good to keep your brain sharp. Three lines, non rhyming, made up of 5 syllables in the first and last lines, and 7 syllables in line 2.

*Soaring over plains*

*Below the shape emerges*

*Ancient Xanadu.*

Sylvia

AND examples of 6 word stories /Flash Fiction:

*I came, I saw, I conquered.* Or in Latin 3 words!  
Veni, vidi, vici. Julius Caesar

All types of writing and writers are welcome at Writers Group. Lots of different perspectives are on show. Our Words Festival in March helped get the creative juices flowing for those who attended.

## THE FAMILY OF WRITERS

