



**U3A TAWA**  
INCORPORATED

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**NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 2015**

**No. 77**



# LUNCH AND MEETING

THE START-OF-YEAR LUNCH AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2016

IN THE TAWA BOWLING CLUB, DAVIES STREET, TAWA

A 'Pot Luck' lunch will be served from 12.00 noon

## PLEASE BRING A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE LUNCH

It would be appreciated if these could be savoury rather than sweet and are suitable for eating with the fingers. On arrival your food will be transferred to platters and can be heated at the hall if required. Members with food intolerances or restricted diets are welcome to bring their own lunches.

**Annual subscriptions are also payable at this meeting.**



## *From the Management Committee*

### **Annual Subscriptions**

In common with every organisation your committee has had to review the cost of running a modern and vibrant activity programme for their members. In 1998 our subscription level was set at \$10 per member and later a hall use donation of \$1.00 then \$2.00 was introduced. It has never been our intention to accumulate funds more than necessary for day to day activities and the acquisition of equipment used by the various course presenters. Other than that we hold a balance on deposit of approximately 50% of our operating budget to cover unexpected eventualities.

Regretfully, at our Annual General Meeting in January 2016 we will be moving a recommendation that the annual subscription be increased immediately.

It will be recommended that:

Individual annual subscription be \$15.00

Joint family annual subscription be \$25.00

Donations where a hired venue is used are to remain at \$2.00 per attendee.

The Management Committee has the power to waive payment of a subscription in special circumstances.

Subscriptions will be collected in the normal manner at the 2016 Annual General Meeting but should the recommendation be defeated the extra paid will be refunded.

### **Re-enrolment and registration for Courses**

Please note that re-enrolment and course registration are two different things. When you re-enrol with Michael Holland and Nicky Lambie at the end table you will pay your subscription at that time. Preferably wait to make your course selection until the end of the meeting (after courses have been explained) and put that sheet only in the box by the door but include NO MONEY. You may, of course deposit your Course Selection in the Box which is normally housed in the Community Centre. However, the TCC will be closed from Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> until Monday January 18<sup>th</sup>. The Tawa Library has agreed to have our dropbox (letterbox) somewhere in the library during this period. It is only closed on the statutory holidays.

### **Situations Vacant**

We have been advised that Helen O'Callaghan (Secretary) and Bill Chaplin (Printing and Publishing) and our long serving Newsletter Editor, Peter Downes, will be stepping down at the next AGM. We have identified some people willing to take on these positions but we are looking for extra committee members. There are only four meetings a year. U3A depends on people volunteering to fill these positions. Please give it some serious consideration

**Courses Subcommittee** is pleased to welcome Minoo Officer. We could use more people on this subcommittee.

## *Some friendly reminders*

- When you attend a session at a hired venue please remember that there is a \$2.00 charge to cover the hall/room hireage.
- If you've registered for a Course and are unable to get there, please send an apology – it has been very embarrassing recently when we've put out 30 chairs and find a very few people attend. This can cause problems with paying the room hire too.

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## ----THE GALLERY----



**Michael Holland demonstrates some of the church vestments in his collection**



***Kate Docherty and Dave Smith with Creative Writing tutor Rosemary Wildblood***

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### ***From the Publicity Officer***

We are now on facebook and on twitter.

Twitter: U3A Tawa @u3atawa; Facebook: U3A Tawa – please "like" or "share" or whatever it is one does with these things!

Our email address (for enquiries etc) is: [u3atawa@gmail.com](mailto:u3atawa@gmail.com) Our website is: [www.u3a.gargal.net](http://www.u3a.gargal.net)

## Helen O'Callaghan . . . . In Conversation with Jancis Potter

**H**elen O'Callaghan is retiring . . . . retiring from the position of Secretary with U3A Tawa, a position she has held for 4 years. She took on the role because she says, “when asked to take this on, I agreed, as U3A relies entirely on the willingness of all members to play their part in its operation.” But retiring is a word I'd use to describe her personality. She's one of those people who does the job without fanfare, never creates a fuss – just gets on with it. Right now she's in the middle of a big shift. She and husband, Bernie, are leaving the home they've lived in in Tawa since 1974 to find greener pastures further North. (Can any place be greener [or nicer] than Tawa?)

Helen was born in Timaru, where the family had a farm, the day Haughty won the cup – this was the origin of her nickname during her early years. A move to the North Island meant her schooling was in Feilding, Titahi Bay and then back south to St Dominics in Dunedin. “At that time we were on the family farm in Waimate, so all the four girls in the family boarded there,” she told me. From secondary school she moved to Dunedin Teachers' College, which led to a varied teaching career: Waimate, Taylorville, Solomon Islands, Johnsonville, Titahi Bay and Maraeroa.

Later she took a position as Educator at Porirua Museum (before it became Pataka) and the Whanganui Regional Museum. She says: “I loved working in the Museum providing learning opportunities for people of all ages. At that time we also had responsibilities for designing and setting up some exhibitions – great fun. I think I have always felt that life is about learning and it goes on for as long as we are alive.”

She's had a number of other jobs including teaching ceramics, a "Peace and Justice Educator"; she's worked in Broadcasting and she's picked raspberries!

Helen is not a person to sit still. She has indulged in many hobbies and pastimes. “Since I was a small child I have always created (and it wasn't always havoc),” she smiled. She's taken numerous craft courses, done university papers, toastmasters and a number of sports activities. “Then when I turned 60 I decided I would like to learn to draw and paint so enrolled in the Learning Connection Diploma Course. Working with students of all ages and backgrounds I learnt as much from my fellow students as I did from the excellent tutors. This, I think, is the most important thing about adult education: that the knowledge is always already there in the group and as educators it is our task to enable that knowledge to be shared.”

“When we moved to Tawa in 1974,” she continued, “we found a wonderful community spirit because it was a new street, so we shared tools, cuttings and gardening tips as we all brought our sections under control. The children played games freely all over the street and we established a tradition of Street Dinners that we held annually for many years.”

Since joining U3A, Helen has run a couple of Art History Courses and currently belongs to a Book Group and Tawahine Voices. “I love the wisdom of the members of the book group. A very special place to go once a month; and I just love the Women's Choir – no matter what bothers there are in my life I know I can once a week go and sing along with many other beautiful voices. Who needs therapy when you are part of a choir.”

Helen considers herself fortunate in that most of her family (3 sisters, 3 brothers, 2 children and 4 grandchildren are all living round Wellington. But, she says (with a wry smile), “After a lifetime of education and learning I still don't know what I am going to be when I grow up.”



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