



U3A TAWA
INCORPORATED

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2015

No. 75

**At the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting on 12 January 2015
appointments were made for the current year. See CONTACTS.**

From the AGM

125 members gathered on Monday 12th January for the annual AGM and shared lunch. Chairperson Brian Wilson welcomed everyone, gave an outline of the proceedings for the day and thanked Joy Chaplin and her capable team in the kitchen. After the lunch (always far more than we needed) Don Hunter spoke briefly about the option of taking courses "On-Line". This excellent scheme is based in Brisbane and offers a wide variety of courses that can be studied individually or as a group. Website: <http://www.u3aonline.org.au>

The AGM elected a new committee (see list on pages 1 and 2) and thanked the retiring members, Brian Turner and David Belz. Thanks were also proffered to Maureen Johnston for her work on setting up the website and to Pam Hughes who has run the Theatre Outings Group for 18 years. The annual subscription is to remain at \$10. There was considerable discussion about the new trial design and layout of the course and membership registration forms. (The committee have been working on ways to simplify the enrolment procedure). Concern was also expressed about disclosure of members' private details on the course rolls and in bulk emails. It was confirmed that it is illegal to disclose private details on emails and bulk mailings should be BCC (blind carbon copy). Co-ordinators are asked to ensure they comply with this requirement.

It was after 1.15pm before the new Courses Co-ordinator, John Baldwin, presented the new courses for the first half of 2015. A number of speakers expanded on the information given in the booklet and the meeting wrapped up before 2pm.



*An interesting
discovery for
members of the
Ancestry
Research group*

Member Profile

Jancis Potter in Conversation with Mary-Lynn Boyes

The U3A Course booklet has featured presentations by Mary-Lynn Boyes on Katherine Mansfield ever since 2010. Her interest in this author began during her time at Sacred Heart Lower Hutt with her English teacher. She told me, “Sister Bernard was a true mentor. She inspired the love of literature and inspired me to become a teacher.” Before this her destiny was to become a shop girl like her mother until she found a suitable husband. “Dad subscribed to the view that daughters required only a basic education and my sisters and I were earmarked for marriage or the convent and could work at Griffins or Colgate until then. Mum begged to differ.” Her mother won her father over and she ultimately attended Victoria University on the studentship scheme.

She took her first teaching job at Tawa College and paid off the studentship bond. “Fourth form English was divided into twelve streams. I taught the top and the bottom, preferring the latter. A particular challenge was introducing reluctant sixth form boys to Katherine Mansfield. Armed with Sister Bernard’s school leaving gift to me (her own collection of short stories) we by-passed *At the Bay* and settled on *The Fly*.

Mary-Lynn then entered another bond: the marriage bond with Jonathan and became a Vicar’s wife in Palmerston North, Shannon and later Porirua. Here they raised two children, Andrew and Katherine. She says, “The convent girl morphed into a Vicar’s wife. I thrived in the multi-cultural ethos of Porirua, joined the Community Council, N.C.W. and the newly formed Social Justice Board. I wrote a weekly column for *Te-Awa-Iti* newspaper and snatched snippets of time to write poetry just for myself.”

In the 1990s she was freed from parish duties when Jonathan took on hospital chaplaincy in Palmerston North. “Here,” she says, “in the Palmerston North Library I found a new mentor, Kathy Dyson, and the Women and Literature Programme she tutored there. With Community Education funding for women in transition the programme provided self-directed learning pathways for women who had missed out for assorted reasons. It proved just my cup of tea: first as a student/trainee tutor I followed Kathy to co-ordinate the programme from 1998 – 2004. During that time we collectively published our original work with an annual title, broadcast, performed and displayed our art. At the same time my personal memoir/collection of short stories, essays, and poems was born and named *Race You to Soames Island*.

It felt like coming full circle when they moved back to Tawa in 2008 just around the corner from Tawa College. Here she encountered U3A. She told me, “when I was introduced to U3A by an old friend and flat-mate from Teacher’s College days, I took to it like the Nathan Street ducks to crossing McLellan Street Bridge. The innovative model of mature citizens dipping into the well of accumulative knowledge and experiences we share is so good.”

In 2014, the centenary of the First World War, Mary-Lynn’s offering of *Katherine Mansfield’s War* “has now morphed into the proposed course on related themes of WW1.” That war, apparently, is in her genes. “My parents were always in the wars,” she says, “both were born at the outbreak of the first and they married on the eve of the second.”

But perhaps her mother’s background and her father’s beliefs have found resolution in Mary-Lynn’s part time employment. You will find her working as the “shop girl” a couple of days a week in Tawa’s “Today’s Girl” for women’s fashions.

From the Courses Sub-committee

To start 2015 U3A Tawa is offering over 50 courses, probably a record number, and members will have noticed a few changes in the communications from the Courses Sub-committee.

Brian Turner has stepped down after many years of diligent service as the Courses Co-ordinator and we thank him very much indeed for his enthusiasm and dedication to the job. His place has been taken by John Baldwin.

Other changes are making it essential that we review and alter how we communicate with members. Today, letters cost 70c (not 40c) postage and NZ Post has warned us to expect mail deliveries only three days a week. Even now, a letter posted early Friday evening might not be delivered across Tawa before Wednesday. Because of this, the Courses Sub-committee is looking at a greater use of email messages and increasing the use of the Internet.

We are hoping that more members will come on line to use the Internet for faster and more direct communicating.

Emergency Management

Do you know the four Civil Defence Centres in Tawa where you can arrange to give or receive support in an emergency? We can't remove the hazards in the Wellington area but we can reduce the impact. The preparations you make now will dictate how well you cope. Learn what to do. This is one session on Thursday 9th April at 10.00 am in the Emmaus Centre at St Christopher's Church.

CPR Training

Can you help someone having a Cardiac Arrest? Your immediate action may be the difference in the eventual outcome for a family member or friend. A Wellington Free Ambulance instructor can show you how to recognise the signs and how to react.

This is one session on Thursday 14th May at 10.00am in the Emmaus Centre at St Christopher's Church.

We have a few vacancies for both these important community sessions. You are welcome to bring along a friend or neighbour whether or not they are a U3A Tawa member. The usual \$2.00 per person applies.

To book a place in either of these please contact Brian Wilson 234 7085 or email bwilson1@xtra.co.nz

With much sadness we note the death in November of one of our staunch and long-time members, Brian Delaney. He was Membership Secretary and Courses Secretary for three years and a huge supporter for very much more. We send our condolences to Brian's widow, Faith, and their family.

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