



Taradale U3A Newsletter

February 2023

A PONDER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Greetings to our Taradale U3A family.

Well, we were warned to expect extreme weather brought about by the effects of climate change – and it is happening. Our beautiful Hawkes Bay has been savagely attacked by rain and wind, flood and destruction. Our human vulnerability to nature's moods has been exposed yet again.



Every one of us will have been affected by Gabrielle's unwelcome visit. Some of you will have been directly affected by Gabrielle's visit – houses damaged, livelihoods threatened or swept away. Or perhaps you have been supporting family and neighbours who have suffered and are still suffering. At the very least we will all have been inconvenienced: by no electricity, no phone or internet connection, and no access to TV news and its vivid images of Gabrielle's carnage. We will all have worried about friends and neighbours and done what we could, within the limits of our strength, to support them. Many of us have been supported by others.

For any who have been seriously impacted by Gabrielle's coming: 'Kia Kaha', stay strong and stay together. I have found it sobering to reflect that though we in our house are secure, on the other side of the hills that we see from our back yard there are folk who are struggling against the elements and facing the possible loss of their homes and livelihood.

I have wondered how we who are older and who have been inconvenienced rather than damaged by Gabrielle may best contribute to the rebuilding of our community over future months and years. To date the greatest need has been for powerful machinery, youthful muscles, and technical expertise during the initial 'clean up phase'. Where do we fit in? A few suggestions may help as you respond to that simple question:

- We can continue to keep in touch with friends, family and neighbours – affirming those who are doing the hard work of clean up and rebuild. We know how to encourage and support those who are struggling to put life together again. We understand the feelings of lostness, grief and anger that often follow an event like this.
- We can refuse to encourage or share in damaging, politically motivated and angry criticism that is already emerging, of those who did their best to support us in the aftermath of Gabrielle's visit. Local body leaders and agencies, the NZ government, politicians and departments served us very well in extraordinary circumstances and deserve our gratitude. We can encourage a positive attitude as together we respond to Gabrielle's nasty embrace.
- We can participate in community conversations as local and national politicians and agencies ask what we have learned from this event and how we can best prepare for similar events in the future. We have measured wisdom and experience to contribute and to share.
- Our U3A group meetings provide us with an opportunity to share our experience with Gabrielle and to receive and offer support.
- We can continue to do those simple things that make an enormous difference: sharing meals and baking, phone calls and neighbourly visits.

- Our circumstances vary and our experiences differ yet I'm sure we all have a contribution, whether large or modest, to make to the rebuilding of our shared place.

Well, that's a few thoughts that occur to me as I ponder what has been for all of us a worrying and at times stressful time. You'll have more to add.

Note the important note about the **March 6th** meeting of '**Community Affairs**' which will become an opportunity for us all to gather and reflect. See you there!

Kia Kaha.

Keith Rowe, President.

From our Groups:

AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON OUR ENCOUNTER WITH GABRIELLE.

THE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS GROUP HAS OPENED THEIR MARCH MEETING TO WHOEVER OF OUR U3A FAMILY WANTS TO ATTEND. THERE WILL BE NO DESIGNATED OR INVITED SPEAKER. RATHER THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE AND REFLECT ON OUR EXPERIENCES WITH GABRIELLE AND HER AFTERMATH.

TARADALE SENIOR CITIZENS HALL, 9.40AM, MON 6 MARCH.

THE HALL HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO US AT NO COST BUT WE'LL HAVE A MODEST KOHA TO PAY FOR COFFEE AND BISCUITS.

A NOTE FROM THE TE REO GROUP', ANOTHER OF OUR GROUPS TOUCHING DIRECTLY ON IMPORTANT ISSUES AND POSSIBILITIES CONFRONTING OUR NATION.

We are a small, friendly group meeting at the Knightsbridge Masonic Village Hall in Balmoral Street on Friday mornings. We are learning conversational Te Reo Maori.

Why should you consider joining us? Firstly, Maori is a New Zealand language. The Maori language and culture are what make our country the unique place that it is. The second reason is that as we age, our brain cells are not working as fast as they used to, and learning a language like Maori which has no link with English provides a considerable challenge. Beginners are welcome. We have a very patient teacher!

If you are interested in joining us, please contact me, **Claire Donkin, Phone 02102987728.**

A TIMELY INVITATION FROM THE GEOGRAPHY GROUP.

The Geography section of Taradale U3A meets at 10am on the first Friday of every month at the Community Hall of Mission View Masonic Retirement Village, 190 Avondale Rd, Greenmeadows. We believe the group's 2023 topic of Global Warming should be of great interest to us all in the light of recent events both in New Zealand and around our planet. According to a recent TV1 Climate Special some 80% of New Zealanders believe Global Warming is occurring but 50% of us do not know what to do about it.

The meetings are usually conducted by members who wish to give a presentation and refreshments follow. There is no compulsion to be a presenter.

This is by way of a cordial invitation to come and join us at our next meeting on Friday 3rd March. You would be most welcome.

For more information please contact **Jan Brock (0273148007)**, **David Brock (0274740097)** or Email brockdj@xtra.co.nz.

GROUP CONVENORS MEETING:

MONDAY 13 MARCH, 9.45 am

Mission View Village Hall, 190 Avondale Road.

This is our opportunity to share experiences, learn from each other and to plan ahead.

From the Committee

U3a Committee 2023

Keith Rowe	President	president@taradaleu3a.org.nz	021 258 5298
John Warren	Treasurer	treasurer@taradaleu3a.org.n	845 4623
Yvonne Huckson	Secretary	secretary@taradaleu3a.org.nz	021 149 5415
Erin Mahony	Almoner	etmahony@gmail.com	844 3833
Janet Turvey	Registrar	janet.turvey51@gmail.com	027 367 9120
Jeanette Elgie	Convenor Coordinator	jeaj2010@hotmail.com	8444537/ 0272217919
Peter Green	Past President	pandagreen@xtra.co.nz	0274 795 403
Geoff Tilyard	Event Coordinator	gbtilyard@gmail.com	06 280 9013

From the Treasurer:

Due to the recent major weather disruptions "The Committee" has decided to extend the Fee Discount to the 28th March 2023.

Thank you to all 150 Members who have already paid their subs, for all others please see below.

U3a Taradale Inc

Membership Subscriptions for 2023 are now due

Annual Subscription per member for the Financial Year 1st January to 31st December 2023 is **\$15.00**

If paid before the **28th March 2023** the fee is **\$10.00**

The U3a Bank Account is: 03 0631 0175173 00

Please state **First Name** and **Surname** in the Reference fields.

If Address /Email or Phone has changed please contact :

Janet Turvey on janet.turvey51@gmail.com or Phone **027 3679120**

Any Member who has not paid by June 30th 2023 will be removed from the Membership List