

Taradale U3A Newsletter

April 2021



PRESIDENT PETER'S PONDERINGS:

At its first meeting last month, the new Committee made the decision that there would be no charge this year for our get-togethers in Taradale Town Hall. At this stage we have no entertainment/speaker booked for the next meeting on Wednesday 5th May, but we are working on it and would love to see as many members there as we can! Finally, it was a pleasure to attend the Recital Class of the *Napier Performing Arts Competitions Society* in the Municipal Theatre on Good Friday on behalf of *Taradale U3A* and to present the first prize to the winner - Lillian Gibbs from Dunedin. Lillian has expressed her appreciation to us for our sponsorship of that prize. So, look out for yet another NZ star on the international opera circuit!

Until our next meeting, keep well.



News about Groups:

Scrabble

Scrabble started up towards the end of January in the *Octagon Room* at *All Saints Church* on the corner of Puketapu and Church Road in Taradale. There is off-road parking from Puketapu Road. The starting time is 1.30pm. Cost to cover rental is \$3 per person per afternoon but, if more than fourteen people turn up, we can go reduce it to \$2. We don't aim to make a profit, so give random free afternoons if and when funds allow.

Beginners French

This started up at the beginning of February at my place - 36 Churchill Drive, Taradale. Please ring me if you would like to join us. Marion Sturm (Convenor) – 06 844 88 72

Intermediate French

This popular group meets weekly in Napier but there are no available places at the moment.

Friday French

This has started up again from 1000-1100 in a private home and we do have room for a few new members. We usually start each session with participants talking about what they've been doing the previous week, before we read, translate and discuss a topic chosen by one of us. *Venez nous rejoindre* – come and join us! Franki James (Convenor 06 843 59 26)

Some things to consider as a result of Covid 19
(contained in a recent communication from HB DHB)

Kindness is contagious, too
Keep your distance but don't be distant
Keep doing the things that keep you well
Remember why you do what you do

News about Groups (cont.)

Bon Vivant

Our members continue to dream up new topics combining food and beverages – and, hopefully, extending our knowledge while having a lot of fun and laughter.

November - the hosts have twice endeavoured to organise a French Picnic at Waimarama Beach And, each time, the event has been thwarted either by *Covid-19* or the weather. Because of the heavy rain, the venue was changed to a home where we enjoyed our picnic indoors with food and wine displaying a French theme. Not only can our members dream up great themes, the ability to research and produce high quality food can only be marvelled at. No-one ever goes home hungry! A quiz at the end of afternoon tested our French knowledge – or lack thereof! December rolled round with a late afternoon get-together called *The Colours of Christmas*. Red, green, white and gold were the prominent food colours, finishing with chocolate fudge (otherwise referred to as “reindeer gifts”!) and finishing with a quiz relating to Christmas Carols for which *i-phones* provided a number of answers.

January, and the hot weather was conducive to a BBQ - together with the unfortunate news that two of our number were leaving Taradale and heading south to live closer to family. We will miss Beverley and Peter Turnbull who were not only founding members of *BV*, but for their sense of fun, lively nature and rollicking sense of humour.

Despite not being able to travel, in February the group undertook a virtual trip to the Basque country featuring *Pinxtos* (similar to tapas), a wine match and - of course - some *sangria*. Those who had previously been fortunate to travel to that part of the world, regaled us with tales and shared their colourful memories.



Bon Vivanters playing croquet on the lawn

March was the *Mad Hatters Tea Party* – with quizzes, a game of croquet and, as we were short of balls, we discovered that worm-ridden apples were a great environmental substitute and the birds enjoyed them as a wonderful treat once we had left them on the lawn. Sandwiches, filled rolls and various cakes, large and small, were consumed – and we wore hats or pigtails according to the character we had chosen including a couple of Mad Hatters, a White Rabbit, Alice, the King and Queen of Hearts, a Mock Turtle, a Duchess and a Duke (or was it a Duck?)

2021 is looking well-booked with new ideas and themes. Happy New Year to all U3A members as we continue to enjoy the companionship, laughter, fun and knowledge our many and varied groups bring.

Sue Lambourn – 021 795 568

A date for your diary!

Wednesday, 5th May

at 10 o'clock

Taradale U3A Coffee Morning

in Taradale Town Hall

Obituaries

Margaret Hicks



U3A recently lost one of its brightest stars with the death of Margaret Hicks. Margaret always brought enthusiasm, flair and new ideas to everything in which she was involved. She served on the *Taradale U3A* Committee and became a very popular President.

Margaret was a member of the *A to Z* group and also one of the luncheon groups. In 2008 she founded *Words!Words!Words!* and over the years inspired many people with her love of words, literature and especially poetry. U3A says farewell to a really special person who will always be remembered for her exuberance and engaging personality.

Peggy Lynex– 1 July, 1926 - 8 March, 2021



Peg and her husband Dick Lynex joined U3A Taradale around 1983 or so after Dick retired. They were keen to develop new friendships and continue to learn and discover more about the world and community they lived in. One of the first groups they often spoke to the family about was the wine tasting group – at that time, the Hawkes Bay wine vineyards were small in number but they knew them all. Peg enjoyed the groups she participated in – *Words Words Words*, an Italian group, French and a myriad of others during her time as a member. Each month she attended the coffee meetings and as she grew older enlisted family help to be driven to the meetings as she had no wish to miss either the speaker or catching up with the various friends she had made over a cup of coffee. While she was unable to attend U3A over the past two years she welcomed the newsletter and being updated as to what was happening within the U3A community as it gave her something to discuss with visitors to the rest home. The family wish to thank U3A and various members of U3A who sent bereavement messages.

Sue Lambourn

Taradale U3A sponsorship of Recital Class

Having been thwarted last year by *Covid 19*, for the first time *Taradale U3A* this year sponsored the winner's prize of \$500 in the *Recital Class* of the *Hawke's Bay Easter Festival* organised by the *Napier Performing Arts Competitions Society* (NPACS). The *Recital Class* - which is open to competitors aged 16 and over - took place in the *Pan Pac Foyer* of *Napier's Municipal Theatre* on the evening of *Good Friday*, with twelve young vocalists from all around New Zealand having entered the contest.

Currently in its 112th year, the *Festival* - otherwise known as *The Easter Comps* – has become something of an institution, most of the trophies and other prizes having been donated by local families, many of whose children, parents, grandparents and, indeed, great-grandparents, have competed over the years in disciplines including instrumental music, dance (tap, modern and ballet) and junior and senior vocal.

Each competitor in the *Recital Class* performed a programme comprising three items, being a 20th Century Art Song, either a French *mélodie* or a German *lieder*, and a piece of their own selection, contributing to what constituted a thoroughly enjoyable evening adjudicated by well-known soprano Gina Sanders. It was, therefore, regrettable that only a handful of *Taradale U3A* members turned up to support the event, among them several Committee members and President, Peter Green, who presented the prizes to the three finalists - Lillian Gibbs (1st), Katie Trigg (2nd) and Sarah Hubbard (3rd). Amply justifying our involvement, these three vocalists deservedly made the cut the following evening in the preliminary round of the prestigious *Brayden Coldicutt Aria 2021* which was held in *Napier's MTG Century Theatre*, all three being among the six finalists who performed during the *Gala Evening* in the same venue on *Easter Sunday*, with Lillian taking out second place overall.



Photo: Sue Lambourn

Recital Class winners (from l. to r.)

Alexandra Francis (Very Highly Commended), Sarah Hubbard (3rd), Lillian Gibbs (1st),
Taradale U3A President Peter Green, Katie Trigg (2nd) and Olivia Pike (Very Highly Commended).

Some points to ponder

No piece of paper can be folded in half more than seven times.

Oak trees don't produce acorns until they are at least fifty years old.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

Richard Millhouse Nixon was the first US President whose name contains all the letters in the word 'criminal'. The second was William Jefferson Clinton.

Women blink twice as often as men.

All polar bears are left-handed.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Humour: God's Plan for Aging (contributed by Chris Geddis)

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good. Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So, as you age, if you find that you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will and that it's all in your own best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Nine Important Facts to Remember as We Grow Older:

1. Death is the number one killer in the world.
 2. Life is sexually transmitted.
 3. Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
 4. Men have two motivations: hunger and hanky-panky and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
 5. Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe even years.
 6. Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
 7. All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
 8. In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal
 9. Life is like a jar of jalapeño peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.
- Please share this wisdom with others.

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L'ASSOCIATION FRANCAISE DE HAWKE'S BAY PRESENTS

FRENCH INSPIRED BAKING FUN

with
ALLYSON GOFTON

WEDNESDAY 5 MAY
HASTINGS LIBRARY
DOORS OPEN 6.30PM • 7.00PM START
REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Hear Allyson Gofton talk about her new book *The Baker's Companion*, while she prepares a sample of recipes for you to try.

\$35
per ticket

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LIMITED SPACES**

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Kiwi cook Allyson Gofton returns to Hawke's Bay for a French inspired fun-filled evening in Hastings Library at 6.30pm on Wed 5th May. She will be signing copies of her most recent publication *The Baker's Companion* (the perfect gift for Mother's Day on Sun 9th May!) both that evening and the following morning from 1000-1130 in *Poppies Bookshop* in Havelock North. All welcome – but get in quick, limited spaces and tickets selling fast!

We welcome a new Committee Member (one of several who will be featured in future newsletters):

Hi!

My name is Christine Smith, and I am the new Treasurer for *Taradale U3A*. I volunteered for this position because I believe that voluntary organisations rely on the participation of their members to flourish.

I have always been a keen reader and an advocate of life-long learning. I am retired but retain a small tax agency business for long-term clients and family. Retirement has given me more time to pursue the activities that interest me. This includes daily walks, writing books about our family (now on to my fourth book) and cross-stitch and other handicraft work. I am fortunate to have had an interesting and varied career that included working as a financial accountant in the UK, as well as being a chartered accountant and teaching. My last part-time position was lecturing in taxation at *EIT* and *NMIT* (Nelson) when I enjoyed passing on my interest in taxation law.



I'm not a sports person but do enjoy swimming. Although my knees no longer support me on longer tramps, I still do easy tramps and welcome the chance to explore our beautiful country with a pack on my back, enjoyment of our environment having made me aware of the issues of sustainability.

Travel has been a large part of my life, some of this in connection with my husband's job or my previous job as financial and commercial manager at *Ericsson NZ*. Travel has given me some wonderful memories, such as trekking in Nepal, seeing the wildlife and gorillas in Africa, white water rafting in various countries and snorkelling in tropical waters. In addition, travel has given me an appreciation of other people and their way of life. Our year teaching in Guilin, China, was a highlight of our international experiences. I am currently a member of the *U3A* Geography group.

My life is primarily centred around my family, my husband Tony (Convener of the Geography group); my daughter and two granddaughters on a life-style block in Hawke's Bay; my son and his wife in Berlin with their 15 month old daughter and a son due in May; and my daughter and her family in Victoria with an almost 4 year old son and two and a half year old twins. Like many of you, I am waiting for travel to open up and will be lining up for a vaccination. I am committed to issues of social injustice, inequality and child poverty and have served on the Board for the *Anglican Trust for Women and Children*, *Lifeline Hawke's Bay* and *Peoples Advocacy* in Napier.

I look forward to working with *U3A Taradale* to ensure that this organisation meets the varied needs of its members. If you have any suggestions for improving our organisation, please contact me. My phone number is 834 1300; email chrismsmith999@gmail.com.

U3A Taradale Committee 2021

President	Peter Green	845 1246
Secretary	Margaret Butterfield	835 3788
Treasurer	Christine Smith	834 1300
IPP	Janice Cram	
Almoner	Jenny Pyatt	836 7270
Committee	Steve Lusby	0210769387
	Vince Allcock	845 3643
	Erin Mahony	844 3833