 **NEWSLETTER 108 6 April 2022**

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**Message from Wendy**

Kia ora katoa

I have always known that U3A is a great organisation and about more than just ”lifelong learning” and that has certainly been confirmed for me in recent times. It is also about companionship and mutual support. By now many of you will have had a brush with Covid or know of others who have and I hope you continue to keep yourself as safe as you can in these times. I have had brushes with the two big C’s recently (Cancer and Covid) and have been tremendously strengthened by people’s good wishes and positive thoughts, not to mention the many offers of help from transport and food deliveries to a dog walking offer (thank you Richard) and communication so I have not entirely lost contact with the outside world. Meantime I am convalescing with Hilda and Rob Payne post operatively as my reliable kaitiaki until I am back on my feet in the near future.

Our excellent U3A team have kept the boat afloat so we can all continue to enjoy our activities and each other’s company. To echo Jacinda, “Be kind to one another”. I am one very grateful recipient of people’s kindness.

Stay safe (and negative).

Arohanui

Wendy

**The Next Gathering**

Please note your diaries for **Wednesday 25th May**. The venue and catering are all booked but we are just waiting on confirmation from the guest speaker as to the date. Our Secretary Margaret will send out a formal notice of the Gathering in due course but in the meantime, we can all look forward to meeting together on that date.

Please be advised that the cost of the catering is going up so the price of the lunch will be $12 – more on that to come.

**Group reports** (A number of groups have not met recently because of Covid but the following reports have been provided)

**Scrabble**

The South Wairarapa Scrabble Club continues to meet every second Friday and a very friendly bond has developed with everyone. We do still have room for two more and they would be made to feel very welcome. Our next meeting is Good Friday with an easter themed morning tea.

**Graeme Burnard, Convenor**

**TED talks**

Our next meeting is on 14th April and the topic is Ocean exploration and the issue of seabed mining (a very efficient member of our group has chosen her topic and talks well in advance)

**Margaret Cole, Convenor**

**South Wairarapa Current Affairs Group**

Our last meeting in March was quite well attended with 8 members present.

The topic for this meeting was the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We reviewed an article published in the Dompost on Saturday March 12th. This probed the possible reasons behind the invasion. Members had a copy of President Putin’s speech and we reviewed some background about how the United States plays a central role in this conflict.

**Paul Mallinson, Convenor**

**North-South book group**

8 members met on February 28th at REAP with the topic “Holiday reading”. Some of our members are not yet attending meetings as they are avoiding gatherings at which Covid may possibly be present. On March 28th there were 10 of us in the Roseneath Hall which everyone agrees is a pleasant spot. The topic was “A seasonal book” with some members having difficulty identifying a suitable book. However, on both occasions there was a variety of titles reviewed and quite a bit of discussion. We are foregoing the after-meeting visit to a café at the moment to remain safe.

**Jean Travers, Convenor**

**Philosophy**

Three more members have expressed interest in attending – which will increase the list to 23. If all attended, this would need a large room. The April meeting was deferred to May.

**Tim Bannatyne, Convenor**

**Creative Writing**

The group has been meeting regularly this year. Two new people have joined the group and one more interested – group size is in question and membership may need to be closed soon. As usual there were some very interesting contributions from members.

**Tim Bannatyne, Convenor**

**Carterton Book Group.**

Our group has not met ‘in person’ for a couple of months.   As we are an elderly group, we are ‘isolating’ to keep ourselves safe from Covid.   Hopefully by the end of this month the number of infections in the Wairarapa will have fallen so that we may gather again.   In the meantime we are still all reading up a storm and I have sent out two ‘whopper’ newsletters with all the books we have consumed in the interim

**Sue Burns, Convenor**

**Current Affairs Masterton**

Our next meeting is next Monday 11th April – like many groups, attendance has been smaller over the last 2 months. At the last meeting , the situation in Ukraine was discussed together with other wider and more local topics.

**Richard Jackson, Convenor**

**French Conversation**

Since the last report our meetings have been interrupted by bouts of cold (not Covid) and

members taking the opportunity to travel to different parts of the country.

So last week saw a welcome return to our normal meeting routine. We had a very interesting discussion about the upcoming French Presidential election. The first round will take place on Sunday 10th April . It is expected that Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen will win through to the second round. As you might imagine, the group have discussed this process quite often. It will be interesting to see who is elected at a later date.

**Brett Clark  Convenor**

**Wairarapa U3A Film Group**

On Thursday 18th March, Film Group members were to meet at the home of Martyn and Margaret Baylis to discuss recent films available either at our local cinemas or online. Due to a fairly widespread breakout of Omicron in Wairarapa earlier this month, the gathering was postponed with the aim of getting us together at 2 p.m. on Thursday, 21st April.

Local cinemas have recently shown a number of standout movies (nominated for the BAFTA and/or the Academy Awards). These include “C’mon, c’mon”, “Belfast”, “Parallel Mothers”, “Cyrano”, “The Worst Person in the World”, and last but not least, “The Power of the Dog”. Also noteworthy is the BAFTA award for best actress given to Joanna Scanlan for her performance in “After Love”, the film which twelve members saw together at Masterton’s Regent last December.

**Mark and Lib Coubrough, Cinema Group co-convenors**

**And Finally**

**NAMING THE BABY -** Bay Of Plenty Times Friday May 3 1895

They talked of Medora, Aurora and Flora

Of Mabel and Marcia, Mildred and May

Debated the question of Helen and Honour,

Clarissa, Camilla, and Phyllis and Fay

They thought of Marcella, Estella and Bella

Considered Cecilia, Jeannette and Pauline,

Alicia, Adela, Annette, Arabella,

And Ethel and Eunice, Hortense and Irene

One liked Theodora, another Leonora,

Some argued for Edith, and some for Elaine

For Madeline, Adeline, Lily and Laura —

And then after all, they decided on

Jane