

U3A FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY 'S DAY

Better if you're not:

- ...living by yourself
- ...mobility restricted
- ...lacking robust health
- ...lacking robust wealth
- ...in dental direness
- ...knee-damaged
- ...bronchial
- ...hard of hearing
- ...experiencing a host of other predicaments



Happy Valentine's Day anyway!

COMMUNITY FORUM

Date and Time: Wednesday, February 21. Doors open at 9:30 am

Venue: Bridge Club Rms, Neil Hunt Park, Tarawera Rd, Lynmore

Welcome to our first get-together of the year.

Enjoy tea, coffee and munchies (no charge!)

Want to know more? Call 027 310 8348

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Guest Speaker: Commander Yann Lehe

A French aviator of distinction, Yann will share with us his flying achievements over several decades.

From: **French Navy pilot : 6058**

- 24th February 1981



To : **Classic Flyers / NZ Warbirds 2020---**



www.u3arabia.com



550 carrier landings (100 at night)



**EMB 312 Tucano
Flight instructor 2001-2002**

**Liaison Officer Mission
Enduring Freedom
Indian Ocean feb-may 2002**



**Search, look, listen and report over
AFRICA : Niger, Mali, Libya, Tunisia,
Egypt, Chad**

YOUR COMMITTEE

PETER WOOD: <i>PRESIDENT</i>	07 345 5099
MELVYN BOWEN: <i>VICE-PRESIDENT</i>	07 345 3221
LIZ LOVE: <i>SECRETARY</i>	07 332 5608
ANN SULLIVAN: <i>TREASURER</i>	07 348 1991
PAUL GELLATLY	027 4987 124
BRIAN GILLESPIE: <i>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</i>	027 310 8348
JIM HARTWIG	021 027 47976
JILL NICHOLAS	027 424 3091
JOHN TURNER	07 345 6955

Our sympathies go to **Paul Gellatly** who lost his wife, Pat, on January 23rd. Paul is a highly regarded and exceedingly competent U3A committee member. It is an immense loss for him and his family. All the best, Paul.

Newsletter Editor **Brian** lost his right eye by being in the same place as a pointed piece of wood. He has been known to consider both sides of an argument. This may change!

Jill Nicholas has been weathering challenges to her health. All the best, Jill!

Each newsletter, we will profile a committee member.

ANN SULLIVAN

Ann is the Treasurer of U3A Rotorua. A significant member of U3A for something like 17 years, Ann does the financial stuff. With Ann, the buck stops here!

Ann was born in 1940 in Spennymoor (sounds expensive) County Durham. Her war years were spent in Spennymoor and London. Post-war, Ann grew up in Paddington, being schooled in London to GCE 'A' Level A teacher at various Catholic schools, she emigrated to New Zealand with her husband Andrew in 1967 on the swept-up Northern Star.

In 1973 Ann registered with the newly created "Open University" in England to do a degree by correspondence and taking exams in London. She was helped by Andrew and her patient long-suffering London-based mother. Her reward after five years was an Upper Second Class Honours Degree in Mathematics.

Andrew, a mechanical engineer, also became a teacher and they lived and taught in Whanganui, Hamilton and Tauranga.

They divorced in 1986 and Ann ended up in Rotorua where she was a tutor at Waiariki Polytechnic for 20 years.

An inaugural member of Rotorua U3A in 2007, Ann remembers [Mel Bowen](#) and [Judy Somerville](#) who became President and Membership Secretary, while Ann became, what else but Treasurer.

She has a great interest in the outdoors and has tramped many NZ National Parks. The summit of her tramping days came in 1975 when she joined a group to walk from near Kathmandu to Mt Everest Base Camp. Three weeks of 8 hour daily walking at high altitude. No wonder one of her boots fell apart on the very last day. She is now convenor of the U3A Walking Group. Indoors, for 30 years Square Dancing was another major interest, with Ann “doing the Kiwi thing” – President, Secretary, Treasurer of the Sulphur City Square Dancers on a rotating basis.

In later years, a strong emphasis has been on predator control at Blue Lake, with Ann acting as co-convenor of the U3A Ratbags. Here she is proudly holding her first dead rat. Some 3,600 pests have been terminated since U3A took up the pursuit in 2019.

Ann keeps track of you, so please pay your \$10 sub when it comes up. With \$10 now equating to a cup of coffee and a small cake, please keep us lubricated.



NEW U3A TECHNOLOGY

If you have difficulty following this, ask one of your grandchildren to explain. 😊

The new U3A wireless modem is used to connect a computing device to the internet in situations where no **conventional** internet access is available **via WiFi or fibre**. It connects a computing device to the internet via the mobile telephone data network instead.

Some of us may use this already in cases where the telephone company does not want to repair or extend an existing copper or fibre landline connection and (unbeknown to the customer) installs a wireless modem instead. It saves the telephone and

internet provider paying Chorus for the use of their cable network – all this after respective governments spent billions installing fibre all over the country.

This technology is a god-send for the farming community. Many there are not connected via fibre. It now gives them full-speed internet access, using a wireless modem, as long as they are within mobile phone coverage.

The U3A wireless modem is available, via **Mel Bowen**, to any group that needs the internet in locations where there is no internet access, such as the Bridge Club rooms or the Parksyde rooms. Written usage instructions, and the password, are in the box with the modem.

Jim Hartwig
U3A Committee

GROUP REPORT: HISTORY

Bob Christensen is stepping into the role of Convenor of U3A History. Yours truly has stepped back because of a serious eye injury.

Born in Wellington, Bob attended Wellington College. He joined the Bank of New South Wales in 1963 and was with them for thirty years . His last eight banking years were as manager.

Bob has a BA in History and a Diploma of Sport from Massey University . He has taught History at Havelock North High School.

Bob and Sandra have been married for 54 years. They have two sons and a granddaughter. Bob's chequered background includes his being a commercial apple orchardist in Hastings.

B & S came to Rotorua six or seven years ago to be closer to family. Up Iles Rd, they maintain a productive section - *...orchids or fruit, anybody?*

Bob has been a professional tennis coach for ten years, another string to his racquet. Resplendent in white, he was a head-turner not many decades ago. He is a keen mountain biker enjoying flits through the Redwoods.



Bob Christensen Trilogy. Author of:

- *Danish Blood*
- *The Cousins*
- *Karla, the Girl with the Red Hair*

Accomplished story-making from a multi-talented achiever. Also, giving life to a Scandinavian legacy brought here from Denmark in the 19th Century. A fourth book is on the way.

Brian Gillespie
U3A Committee

ROTORUA U3A INTEREST GROUPS

Highlighting indicates that the group currently has vacancies (February, 2024.) For more information, visit our website: www.u3arotorua.com

Topic	Time	Contact
Armchair Readers	2 nd Thursdays 10.00am	Coral Day 349 336 seeday@xtra.co.nz
Art History	2 nd Monday 10.00am	Anne Hunt 3487680 anneanddonhunt@gmail.com
Book Reviews (1)	3 rd Mondays, 2.00pm	Jill Nicholas 027 4243091 jill.nicholas@gmail.com
Book Reviews (2)	4 th Mondays, 2.00pm	Jeanette Ogg 348 8501 mandj.ogg@gmail.com
Cities	1 st Wednesdays 1.00pm	Cate Frey 220853913 catefrey1@gmail.com
Cooking for One	Check with Annette Bogun.	Annette Bogun 345 8198
Current Events (1)	1 st Thursdays, 10.00am	Nan Miller 3455817
Current Events (2)	1 st Wednesdays, 10.00am	Annie Wells 274595157
Current Events (3)	2 nd Tuesdays, 10.00am	Jim Hartwig 985 4146
DVD Movies	3 rd Thursdays, 2.00pm	Ann Sullivan 348 1991 annsullivan822@gmail.com
Films	1 st Mondays, 12.30pm	Judy Somerville 357 2292
Gilbert & Sullivan	3 rd Wednesday 2.00pm	Ann Sullivan 348 1991 annsullivan822@gmail.com
History	2 nd & 4 th Fridays, 10.00am	Bob Christensen 020 4069 0982
Philosophy	4 th Thursdays, 1.30pm	Peter Wood 345 5099 stpeterwood@gmail.com
Photography	2 nd Tuesdays, 2.00pm Outings on 4 th Tuesdays	Dell Gee 021 050 2440 or 345 6557
Poetry	2 nd Thursdays, 2.00pm	Margaret Lett 343 9223 margaretlett@gmail.com
Ratbags	Check with Peter Wood	Peter Wood 345 5099
Science and Engineering	2 nd & 4 th Mondays, 9.30am	Mel Bowen 345 3221 mel.bowen@xtra.co.nz
Singing – The “Grey Warblers”	Twice monthly – time and venue notified by e-mail	Hilary Calman Hilary.calman@gmail.com
Spanish Conversation	1 st & 3 rd Fridays, 1.00pm	Joan Wood 345 5099
Visits	1 st Fridays, 1.30pm	Judy Somerville 357 2292

Walking Group	2 nd Fridays, 9.20am	Ann Sullivan 348 1991 annsullivan822@gmail.com
Wednesday Art Group	Every Wednesday, 1.15-3.00 pm	Mel Bowen 345 3221 mel.bowen@xtra.co.nz
Writing for Families (1)	1 st Fridays, 9.30am	Anne Stewart 345 9369 bastewart@xtra.co.nz
Writing for Families (2)	3 rd Mondays 10 am	Gordon White 273458634 poppagordie@gmail.com