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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024



MERRY

CHRYSANTHEMUM



AND A

HAPPY GNU



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COMMUNITY FORUM

Date and Time: Wednesday, December 11th. Doors open at 9:30 am

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



Welcome to our Christmas get-together.

Be in to win one of **two Christmas Hampers**

Get the motor out of the garage – not
the lawn mower



Enjoy tea, coffee and munchies (no charge!)

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Guest Speaker:

Trevor Johnston

Education to Employment Vocational Broker
Taiohi Turama, Rotorua Youth Centre



From fighting apartheid head-on to climbing Everest – this action man has found freedom “fantastic” in Rotorua.

Trevor was the sole coloured member of the South African second post-apartheid Everest expedition. The 14 man team spent three months on the mountain’s treacherous North Face. Climbing Everest is by one of Trevors many achievements.

These include his activism against the authorities, helping to signal the end of apartheid in South Africa. Trevor was present at Capetown’s infamous Trojan Horse massacre October 15th, 1985. No stranger to violent situations, he survived a hold-up in the notorious Cape Town Flats. His assailants were intent on murdering him but the gun failed to fire...maybe divine intervention? Trevor is inclined to think so.

Despite his humble background, Trevor achieved a Bachelor of Arts in Education bolstered by a post-graduate degree in Higher Education.

He also inherited his father’s love of climbing. Passing a stringent selection procedure (25,000 applicants!), Trevor was able to fulfil a childhood dream – the climbing of Everest. Despite being the only non-white in the team, he had no difficulty brushing aside allegations of tokenism, fully realising his wonderful achievement for what it was. The ascent was full of challenges and he revelled in them.





Post-Everest, Trevor has had various international roles, usually involving deprived young people. He was a Programme Manager for VSA (Volunteer Service Abroad) and a Jump executive in South East Asia. He and wife Michelle spent the covid pandemic in Luganville, Vanuatu . Trevor has visited over 70 countries

The pair moved to Rotorua just over a year ago. A clean, green environment is what they were after and they enjoy the local manaakitanga. Trevor is a soccer (football) man; he coaches the Ngongotaha Lakes team, is a Level 3 referee and a Licensed FIFA agent.

Cherishing the outcomes of their move, Trevor and Michelle were quick to apply for residency. Now “110% Kiwi”, he has given up his South African passport. And, he is devoted to the All Blacks; a true mark of Patriotism.



You can discover more about Trevor in Jill Nicholas' *In Profile* at <https://www.inprofile.co.nz/inprofile/joackson/cy9gr-5mm8s-7666e>



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YOUR COMMITTEE

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JOHN TURNER	07 345 6955
JUDY SOMERVILLE	07 357 2292
JULIA STEELE	021 155 6776

Committee Notes:

- ♥ **First Forum 2025:** Wednesday, 19th February
- ♥ **Convenors' Lunch:** to be held Wednesday 12th February
- ♥ **U3A Group Convenors' Guide:** Committee members [Jill](#), [Judy](#), [Julia](#) and [Liz](#) ([Jim](#) and [John](#) on waiting list) have laboured hard to produce this Guide. It will be available early 2025 and provides valuable information that any aspiring group convenor will find most useful.



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Each newsletter, we will profile a committee member.

Paul Gellatly



A self-acknowledged boomer Paul, though born here in Wellington in 1946, had his first birthday in Lincoln, UK. Dad had re-joined the RAF after a notable wartime flying career. Paul and Jim Adams attended schools in the same locality and Paul went on to graduate from Brighton College of Technology with Upper Second Class Honours in 1969.

During this time he met and married Pat. As most of you know, Pat, Paul's revered wife of more than 54 years, passed on in January this



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year.

Early on, Engineering experience took Paul and Pat to Surrey, South Wales and Portsmouth – bridge design and motorway construction featuring. South Wales saw the arrival of their two children, both of whom have Birth Certificates written in Welsh.

Despite promising promotion opportunities in London, Paul applied for NZ jobs and landed a Regional Council Engineering role in Wellington. Here, among other things, he worked on the National Library and, in the spirit of his father, took up flying, gaining his pilot's licence in 1984.



Paul has had 50% shares in a Piper Cherokee 6300 and a Bantam Microlite.



He moved on to the Lower Hutt Drainage Company, his vocational home for 10 years. Thence to Taumarunui in 1994 to be CEO of Ruapehu DC LATE (Local Authority Trading Enterprise), and then his own firm (Paul Gellatly Consulting Engineer) for a rewarding 21 Years. Of his numerous engineering activities, the one he enjoyed most was the inspection and rating of bridges which provided him the opportunity to travel all over New Zealand.

Now retired, Paul resides in Lynmore. Son Neil and his wife Katrina and Paul's 15 year old granddaughter live in Alexandra – a good summer visit spot. Daughter Elizabeth is a paramedic, living with her partner Brad in Lake Hood near Ashburton. Come to think of it another good spot to visit in summer.



In October we visited centenarian **Eileen Shapley** in her Cantabria apartment to personally deliver her newsletter. Eileen took control of the situation and it was a very pleasant experience all round.

Julia, Eileen, Brian

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Notice from the Convenor of the group *Current Events (3)*.

Our group is getting very small. For various reasons people cannot come any more. If we do not get more members we will close the group. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested, let them know about us to come and try us out.

We meet every **2nd Tuesday of the month** at **10am** in one of our lady-member's home. Everybody brings one or two topics for discussion. Any subject is game, even politics. But we keep it civil and not personal. Duration is a maximum of 2 hours for those who can afford the time. Contact **Jim** the convenor at wieland00@gmail.com, (07) 985 4146, 021 027 47 97 6.



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ROTORUA U3A INTEREST GROUPS: Highlighting indicates that the group currently has vacancies (December, 2024.) For more information, visit our website: www.u3arotorua.com

Topic	Time	Contact
Art History	2 nd & 4 th Mondays, 1.30pm	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 027 459 5157
Current Events (3)	2 nd Tuesdays, 10.00am	Jim Hartwig 985 4146
Films	1 st Mondays, 12.30pm	Judy Somerville 357 2292
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
Visits	1 st Fridays, 1.30pm	Judy Somerville 357 2292
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