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# NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2025



In the year 2025  
If man is still alive  
If woman can survive  
They may find  
A Group or two  
Woo hoo  
Something to do  
Some interest to pursue  
Gonna make it one day  
All the way with **U3A**



*With apologies to:  
Zager and Evans 1969*





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## COMMUNITY FORUM

**Date and Time:** Wed, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 9:30 am

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

Welcome to our Summer get-together.

Enjoy tea, coffee and munchies (no charge!)

Want to know more? Call 027 310 8348

\* \* \* \* \*

**Guest Speakers:** **Kylie Kennett**  
**Rotorua Lakes Council Inner City Mngr**  
**and...** **Robert Severne**  
**Safe City Guardian Team Leader**

Kylie and Rob are coming to U3A to talk to us about community safety within the CBD. Kylie has nearly 14 years previous experience in the NZ Police and Rob has an extensive working history with Corrections and other councils.

They will talk to us about the role of the Safe City Guardians, the CCTV team and the safety teams partnerships with Police and non-government organisations such as Te Pokapu.



## Our Safe City Team of the Guardians and CCTV:

- Provide visibility, responsiveness and reassurance
- Deter anti-social behaviour
- Educate and encourage adherence to Council bylaws
- Connect vulnerable persons (i.e. rough sleepers) with social services where possible and move them on when needed
- Advise relevant Departments on damage/vandalism to Council structures and properties
- Escalate issues to Police as needed.



*Some of the Safe City Guardians you'll see patrolling the CBD.*



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## YOUR COMMITTEE

BRIAN GILLESPIE: <i>PRESIDENT &amp; NEWSLETTER EDITOR</i>	027 310 8348
MELVYN BOWEN: <i>VICE-PRESIDENT &amp; ALMONER</i>	07 345 3221
LIZ LOVE: <i>SECRETARY</i>	07 332 5608
PAUL GELLATLY: <i>TREASURER &amp; MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY</i>	027 4987 124
JIM HARTWIG	021 027 47976
JILL NICHOLAS	027 424 3091
JOHN TURNER	07 345 6955
JUDY SOMERVILLE	07 357 2292
JULIA STEELE	021 155 6776

### Committee Notes:

- ♥ **Possible new group?** Those interested in forming a **Cryptic Crossword** group please let President Brian know.  
027 310 8348
- ♥ **Sadly, Cooking for One is no longer operating.** We will canvass for interest at the Forum. It will need defined leadership. Thank you to **Annette Bogun** for her efforts.
- ♥ There is a possibility of **Current Affairs Gp 3** being absorbed by **Current Affairs Gp 1**. We are looking at this matter.

***Each newsletter, we will profile a committee member.***

## Judy Sommerville



Judy grew up on a farm in the back blocks of Te Kuiti. She and her sisters rode horses to the small country school. Judy's horse was a Shetland called Twinkle who specialised in tipping her off. Later they bussed to Te Kuiti High School where dancing was one of the many learnings. Otago University followed and a degree in science.

Judy went straight into High School teaching at South Otago High School at 20 and then to Te Kuiti High. Her subjects were Biology, Science, Maths and Geography. She liked taking groups out exploring nature and studying Geography. Then on to Lytton High in Gisborne and later off to Canada. She had many different jobs in Canada including waitressing and childcare. After a stint waitressing in Yellowknife, she took off with three others to hitch hike about 5000 km down to Calgary for the Stampede and up to British Columbia and Alaska – a



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huge adventure. They hitched back down to Edmonton and took the train to Nova Scotia. Judy was employed as a Biology teacher and was Form Teacher of the bottom class of the bottom grade – a delightful group. Then to the UK to work as a house maid on the Isle of Skye before heading to the continent in a VW with a small tent, plus three others, all the way to Greece and back.

Back in NZ, Judy went teaching for four more years and then, finally, she went to Teacher Training College! She really enjoyed two years at McKillop College in Christchurch with great pupils and colleagues, enjoying lots of tramping and skiing – and more class trips. Then she side-stepped somewhat, working as a technician at the Forest Research Institute and breeding insects at DSIR, Auckland. Later, a new career, tutoring at Waiariki Institute of Technology, Rotorua for 14 years – a most enjoyable time, with great colleagues and students, tutoring Business Communication, Word Processing and Typing.

Following that, she taught English to migrants for several years part time, calling it the best job in the world. When she retired, the U3A in Rotorua was beginning, and she was hooked. She, along with [Ann Sullivan](#), [Mel Bowen](#), [Graeme Ennor](#) and others, helped get the first groups going. She was Convenor of the Visits Group from the start along with [Coral Day](#), a wonderful Co-Convenor. Judy looks forward, as part of the committee, to doing what she can to assist the U3A to enable older people to keep learning and socialising and being in the community.

## R.I.P. GRAEME

It is with sadness we note the death of former U3A president **Graeme Ennor** who had been unwell for some time. Graeme was the powerhouse responsible for bringing U3A to Rotorua a tad over 17 years ago. At the time, he was manager of the Mokoia Community Association and a passionate advocate for those of more senior years keeping their minds active through ongoing learning opportunities. This is exemplified by our 'Never too old to learn' motto. We thank Graeme for leaving us this enduring legacy. In March 2015 I had the privilege of compiling a Rotorua Daily Post *Our People* profile on Graeme. The beginnings of the profile are below and link to the full story on our website.

\_ **Jill Nicholas**

**Journalist and U3A Rotorua committee member**



*"Finding out intrigues me so I've a lot of finding out ahead of me."*



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## **Our People: Graeme Ennor, March 29, 2015**

Graeme Ennor.

FIND a pigeonhole and stick Graeme Ennor in it ... you've got to be joking.

This is a man on whom many labels can be hung. He's something of an academic (he taught for years), has been a bit of an adventurer, isn't particularly good at making money but is an excellent manager, the Mokoia Community Association (MCA) was his baby.

The thought of older people's brains atrophying horrifies him. He was instrumental in setting up, and currently chairs, the 300-plus member U3A - University of the 3rd Age and, at a time the very word Islam sends shudders down spines worldwide, he's a dedicated student of it.

A former "dead spot" in his garden's based on the gardens of the Mughal Empire, incorporating most of the main Persian principles. Water flows four ways, olive, fig and pomegranate trees flourish but the usual date palm's missing. The Ennors "make do" with their neighbour's cabbage trees.

It's his thinking place. Graeme Ennor's a thinking kinda guy, however he hasn't always been as academically-focused as he now is...

*...read more about Graeme's fascinating life on our website or at <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/rotorua-daily-post/news/our-people-graeme-ennor/4ZX2RNV6W53XF3XSSSI5HEXLWU/>*

### **R.I.P. CORAL**

**Coral Day** was in U3A from the beginning. She was very loyal to U3A and the Visits group of which she was Co-Convenor (she also convened another group). A retired nurse she had risen high in that profession, notably in Thames. We miss her very much and we miss her strong commitment to U3A. A caring and dedicated lady. JS

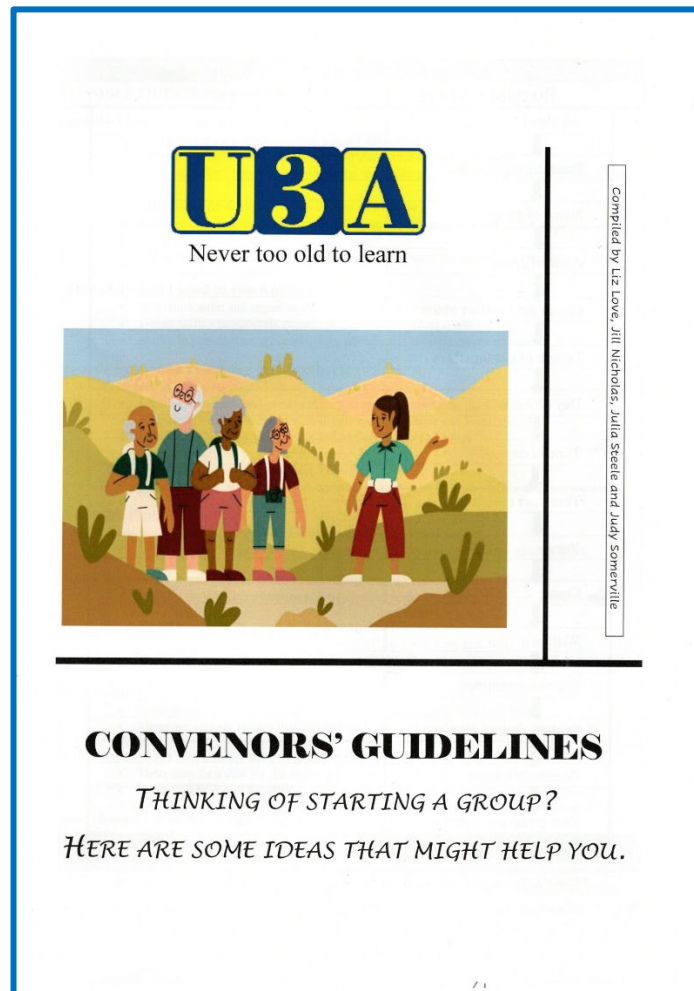




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## CONVENORS' GUIDELINES

Several members have been compiling the Convenors' Guide, most notably Judy Sommerville. This was issued to Committee members and Group Convenors at their luncheon on Wednesday ,12 February. If you would like a physical copy, let Judy know at our Forum next Wednesday, or ring her: 07 357 2292



Also, courtesy of Andrew Patterson, our Webmaster, we will have a digital version available for downloading.



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**ROTORUA U3A INTEREST GROUPS:** Highlighting indicates that the group currently has vacancies (February 2025) For more information, visit our website: [www.u3arotorua.com](http://www.u3arotorua.com)

Topic	Time	Contact
Art History	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mondays, 1.30pm	Anne Hunt 3487680 anneanddonhunt@gmail.com
Book - General	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays, 2.00pm	Jill Nicholas 027 4243091 jill.nicholas@gmail.com
<b>Book Reviews</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, 2.00pm</b>	<b>Jeanette Ogg 348 8501 mandj.ogg@gmail.com</b>
<b>Cities</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays 1.00pm</b>	<b>Cate Frey 220853913 catefrey1@gmail.com</b>
Current Events (1)	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursdays, 10.00am	Nan Miller 3455817
Current Events (2)	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesdays, 10.00am	Annie Wells 027 459 5157
<b>Films</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Mondays, 12.30pm</b>	<b>Judy Somerville 357 2292</b>
History	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Fridays, 10.00am	Bob Christensen 020 4069 0982
<b>Philosophy</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 1.30pm</b>	<b>Peter Wood 345 5099 stpeterwood@gmail.com</b>
<b>Photography</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 2.00pm Outings on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays</b>	<b>Dell Gee 021 050 2440 or 345 6557</b>
<b>Poetry</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays, 2.00pm</b>	<b>Margaret Lett 343 9223 margaretlett@gmail.com</b>
Ratbags	Check with Peter Wood	Peter Wood 345 5099
<b>Science and Engineering</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, 9.30am</b>	<b>Mel Bowen 345 3221 mel.bowen@xtra.co.nz</b>
<b>Singing – The “Grey Warblers”</b>	<b>Twice monthly – time and venue notified by e-mail</b>	<b>Hilary Calman Hilary.calman@gmail.com</b>
Visits	1 <sup>st</sup> Fridays, 1.30pm – can vary	Judy Somerville 357 2292
<b>Wednesday Art</b>	<b>Every Wednesday, 1.15-3.00 pm</b>	<b>Mel Bowen 345 3221 mel.bowen@xtra.co.nz</b>
<b>Writing for Families (1)</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Fridays, 9.30am</b>	<b>Anne Stewart 345 9369 bastewart@xtra.co.nz</b>
<b>Writing for Families (2)</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays 10 am</b>	<b>Gordon White 273458634 poppagordie@gmail.com</b>