

# PORIRUA U3A

LEARNING IS FOREVER

## PORIRUA U3A INTEREST GROUPS FOR 2025

<https://www.porirua3a.nz>

"Wisdom is not a product of schooling, but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it" - Albert Einstein



### Astronomy/Cosmology

When: Monthly, Commencing Tuesday 18th February 2025

Time: 2-3 pm

Venue: Tawa Union Church, 6 Elena Place, Tawa

This is a small group of members who are keen to learn and share their knowledge about our night sky, solar system, cosmos, and much more.

Everyone is welcome and you do not need a science background to enjoy this group. New members are welcome!

There is a small fee of approximately \$5 for each meeting to cover room hire.

Co-ordinator: Michael Lynch

Telephone: 022 606 8066 Email: [m.lynch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.lynch@xtra.co.nz)



### Book Discussion 1

When: 2nd Tuesday. Beginning February 2025

Time: 10 am

Venue: Each meeting is held at the home of a member who acts as host and leads the discussion, or at Whitby Lakes Retirement Village every second Tuesday.

In addition to studying two or three selected titles in detail, we try to cover a wide range of topics and authors in different genres during the year. If interested please give Lesley a call.

Co-ordinator: Lesley Harrison

Mobile: 021 161 5475 Email: [lesleymargaret@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:lesleymargaret@hotmail.co.nz)



### Book Discussion 2

When: Second Thursday of April - November 2025

Time: 1:30 pm

Venue: Each meeting is held at the home of a member.

Members read and talk about the book they have read according to the month's genre.

This introduces members to a wide variety of titles and authors. If this sounds like you please join us.

Co-ordinator: Carolyn Rait

Telephone: 021 121 0218 Email: [carolyn.rait@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn.rait@gmail.com)



## Bridge

When: Weekly Mondays commencing 13th January 2025

Time: 9:30 am

Venue: Plimmerton Croquet Club rooms, Ulric Street, Plimmerton Industrial Estate.

The group plays social bridge and no bridge experience is necessary. Prospective players can just turn up or contact Ian.

Co-ordinator: Ian Fowler

Telephone: (04) 233 0045 Email: idnfowler@hotmail.com Cellphone: 027 343 2443



## Creative writing

When: Every 3rd Wednesday

Time: 10 am

Venue: We take turns to meet in each other's houses.

This group aims to write for enjoyment and the sharing of stories with others.

A focus for our writing is decided at each meeting and can include 'Anniversary', 'A Trump story', 'Maps', or an 'ABC' mystery. Sometimes we explore the intricacies of writing poetry. At other times we write about our own experiences or explore writing fiction. We share our stories at the meeting. At times members of the group share past stories. We enjoy our time together over a cup of tea or coffee and something to eat.

As we meet at each other's houses, this group is limited to 10 people. If needed, an overflow creative writing group will be formed, meeting on the first Wednesday of each month for an additional 10 people.

Co-ordinator: Joan Reader

Telephone: 04 233 8041 Email: jreader@actrix.co.nz



## Film Group at the Lighthouse

When: 3rd Saturday of the month, commencing 18 January 2025

Time: Varies according to session times.

Venue: The Lighthouse, Pauatahanui.

Members are advised of the decision on timing, the Tuesday or Wednesday prior. We have coffee afterwards to look at a few reviews and discuss the film.

Co-ordinator: Jan Grainger

Telephone/Mobile: 021 176 2304 Email: janhgrainger@gmail.com



## Garden

When: 4th Wednesday of the month

Time: 10:30 am. Times may vary slightly from time to time

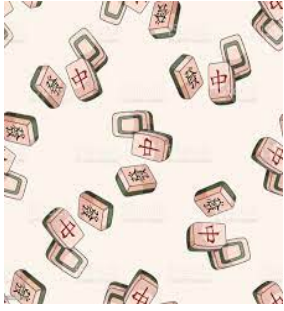
Venue: Various Gardens and some members' homes

A friendly group, some of whom are long-time gardeners with a lot of expertise that they willingly share; whilst others are quite new gardeners.

In 2025, we will meet at the members' homes, sharing garden-related activities and discussions such as pruning. We have a light morning tea. Some months, we will visit easily accessible gardens. For these visits, there will be a \$3 charge to cover a gift for the owner. Please come and "try us out."

Co-ordinator: Kaye Phillips

Telephone: 027 975 8569 Email: 46nanakay@gmail.com



## Mahjong

When: Wednesdays, weekly commencing 15th January 2025  
 Time: 1:30-3:30 pm  
 Venue: Plimmerton Croquet rooms, Ulric Street.

There is a small fee of \$4 per session to cover the room hire. This is a social group suitable for both experienced and new players. Lessons will be held throughout the year.

Co-ordinator: Marcia Forsman  
 Telephone: 021 406 570 Email: [marcia@venture.co.nz](mailto:marcia@venture.co.nz)



## Play Reading

When: Second Friday, May-September 2025  
 Time: 10 am  
 Venue: TBC

Our tutor, Pat Knight, has sourced a varied range of reading material for us, covering comedy, short skits, Oscar Wild etc. A small charge is made towards photocopying as required. This ensures a copy of the current reading for each person's use. We begin with coffee or tea. This group is not at all serious and we have a lot of fun. Acting experience is not necessary.

Co-ordinator: Pat Knight  
 Telephone: (04) 233 6634 Email: [patknight@xtra.co.nz](mailto:patknight@xtra.co.nz)



## Science

When: Mondays, fortnightly commencing 17th February 2025  
 Time: 10 am  
 Venue: Combined Church, Mana Ave, Titahi Bay.

There is a small fee of approximately \$5 for each meeting to cover hall hire. We begin with a cuppa, a great assortment of biscuits and a friendly catch-up. Our venue has a large TV screen, so Colin brings our programme on a USB. We have a selection of documentaries, 15 minute TED Talks or snippets from YouTube. They vary from the solar system to bacteria; crows; dung beetles to mushrooms; women in science to healthy looking cats running around the ruins of Chernobyl and anything in between. Discussions can get lively. Everyone is welcome. You do not need a science background to enjoy this group. The group has been meeting since 1991. New members are welcome.

Co-ordinator: Joan Conroy  
 Telephone: (04) 236 7756 Mobile. 021 131 1695 Email: [joancon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:joancon@xtra.co.nz)



## Scrabble

When: Commencing 17th January 2025, and every second Friday thereafter.  
 Time: 10 am  
 Venue: Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street, Tawa

After a cuppa (including an assortment of delicious cake or biscuits) and a catch-up, we form two teams and play one (or sometimes two) game. It doesn't matter whether you've played scrabble a lot or only occasionally; we always have fun and come away having spent a great morning together. Contact Bill if you're interested in joining our group.

Co-ordinator: Bill Gebbie  
 Telephone: 027 6770 180 Email: [billnmary@xtra.co.nz](mailto:billnmary@xtra.co.nz)



## Tai-Chi

When: Weekly on Fridays commencing 14th February 2025

Time: 10 am - 11 am

Venue: Tawa Union Church, Elena Place, Tawa. (Held in conjunction with Tawa U3A)

These classes will be led by an experienced Tai Chi instructor and catered for seniors across both Tawa and Porirua U3As.

Tai Chi helps to improve balance, flexibility, and overall mental and physical health. This results in better sleep quality, improved blood circulation and cognitive functions, and reduced stress and anxiety.

A donation of \$4 per session covers the hall's hire fee, and there is a donation/koha for our instructor, Mercedes, who volunteers her time.

New members are welcome.

Co-ordinator: Michael Lynch

Telephone: 022 606 8066 Email: m.lynch@xtra.co.nz



## These Changing Times

When: Thursdays, fortnightly. Beginning February - November 2025

Time: 10am-Noon

Venue: Meeting at a member's home.

We discuss a range of topical issues from history, to science, to education both locally and abroad. We also discuss topical issues, nominated before each meeting by a group member.

Issues are agreed on before the next meeting with a person or persons selected to lead the discussion. Research material may be required or sent out depending on the topic.

Discussions are both interesting and lively.

Co-ordinator: Michael Lynch

Telephone: 022 606 8066 Email: m.lynch@xtra.co.nz



## Possible Groups

If there is enough interest we will begin other groups, eg. An Opera Group or a Walking Group.

Contact: Bill Gebbie

Telephone: 027 6770 180

Email: billnmary@xtra.co.nz