



Porirua U3A Inc

Newsletter October 2025

Kia ora to all U3A members

I am completing writing this newsletter after our very stormy weather. I watched the trees and power lines buckling under the wind and I hoped that everything would stay where it should be. I hope you are keeping warm and dry and safe in your homes.

This is a very important newsletter as it is the last one for the year and the last one before our AGM in November.

Note from Bill Gebbie (President)

Dear U3A members

I hope you feel you've had good value for money from your U3A membership this past year. Please encourage others to join: our \$15 subscription is ridiculously cheap for the benefits of access to over 40 interest groups across Tawa U3A and ourselves, along with the chance to attend short courses, get along to a variety of events, go on trips and take part in other activities. Most other similar groups cost more to join, and their activities can add a lot to that cost. As a committee we've done what we can to keep membership costs low, particularly when other costs are climbing. I know that coordinators keep costs low wherever they can, and for trips we car-pool or take public transport if at all possible.

Our upcoming AGM is our final gathering for the year. We will have an excellent speaker, and of course a delicious lunch.

Looking forward to 2026 I'd ask you to consider standing for the new committee. The scope of each job is well defined, and sensible processes are in place to look after the interests of members. The job of Treasurer is particularly important, and Carolyn not only keeps meticulous records but also keeps our membership base up to date. Without our email system and reliable membership records we wouldn't be able to keep you informed. Our last survey of members identified communications as a key area to work on, and I'm proud of what we've achieved.

But of course, there are always ways to improve, and the AGM provides an opportunity for feedback from members. I look forward to seeing you all again.

Regards

Bill

2025 Annual General Meeting

The 2025 Annual General Meeting will be held on:

Thursday 27 November 2025

The meeting is held at:

North Baptist Church at 69f Discovery Drive, Whitby, Porirua 5024

The meeting will begin at 12.15pm with a catered shared lunch. We are not asking for a koha at this meeting.

A Nomination Form is included at the end of the newsletter.

Please nominate a member for the committee and email the nomination form to poirau3a@gmail.com. Ensure the form is also signed by a second nominator and the person you have nominated. Or bring the completed nomination form to the AGM.

Guest speaker – The Guest Speaker at our AGM Meeting on 27 November 2025 is:

Mary O’Keeffe, a consultant archaeologist based in Wellington

She has run her consultancy, Heritage Solutions, since 1997.

In this time Mary has undertaken a variety of heritage projects, including archaeological assessments, on-site archaeological monitoring of earthworks and construction, policy development, provided guidance to local government, and appeared numerous times as an Expert Witness in Environment Court.

A section of notable projects include: the MacKays to Peka Peka Expressway; Transmission Gully Expressway; Peka Peka to Otaki Expressway, West Wind windfarm; seismic strengthening of Shed 6 and Queens Wharf, Wellington; conservation and remedial work for Government House, Wellington; assessments for various projects for Transpower; redevelopment of Wellington Hospital site; archaeological contribution to Central City Framework project, for Wellington City Council.

Mary is a board member and previous Chair of ICOMOS New Zealand. She has undertaken an expert mission for World Heritage inscription for UNESCO. She is a member of the New Zealand Archaeological Association. She is past President and Patron of the Maritime Archaeology Association of New Zealand. She has sat on the

Wellington Conservation Board, and the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace Trust. She is a guest lecturer in heritage matters for the School of Architecture, Victoria University of Wellington.

Executive Committee 2024/2025

Bill Gebbie President porirua3a@gmail.com (027 667 0180)

Christine Healy Secretary porirua3a@gmail.com (027 647 8919)

Carolyn Rait Treasurer/Membership porirua3a@gmail.com (021 121 0218)

Michael Lynch Interest Groups Co-Ordinator m.lynch@xtra.co.nz (022 606 8066)

Marcia Forsman Catering (021 406 570)

Collin Russell Speakers/Liaison with Tawa U3A (027 247 3399)

Colin Brown Website (028 413 2372)

Paula van Wijmen Committee (021 181 8584)

If you have any ideas which you would like the committee to consider or items you want shared with the members, please be in touch.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Annual General Meeting on **Thursday, 27 November 2025**.

Christine Healy

Secretary

Porirua U3A (INC)

Nomination Form for Committee Members

At our AGM on **27 November 2025**, members will vote to elect a new Committee for the coming year. In order to ensure the continued success of Porirua U3A (INC), we need several new members to join the committee each year.

Committee membership is not onerous. It does provide some rewarding insights and experiences for those involved.

To ensure that there is a mixture of experience committee members with the new committee members, members are asked to stand for two or three years.

All financial members are eligible to stand for committee membership.

Please consider standing for membership or nominating, with their consent, another member to stand.

I nominate _____

For the position of _____

Signed _____

Seconded _____

I agree to be nominated _____

Date _____

Christine Healy

Secretary

Porirua U3A (INC)

porirua3a@gmail.com

Porirua U3A