

# PORIRUA U3A

LEARNING IS FOREVER

## PORIRUA U3A INTEREST GROUPS FOR 2024

<https://www.porirua3a.nz>

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



### Astronomy/Cosmology

When: Fortnightly Wednesdays

Time: 10am at member's home

Night sky observations are subject to weather conditions & the day/time will vary.

Venue: Each gathering will either be at a member's home or Tawa College grounds for night sky observations.

You do not need a telescope or binoculars, as these will be provided. You just need a desire to explore the night sky by looking up to the observational Universe.

When not looking up, we will check out the latest advances in astronomy and cosmology with the help of experts in the field.

Co-ordinator: Michael Lynch

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



### Book Discussion 1

When: 2nd Tuesday. Beginning February 2024

Time: 10am

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 on 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

Telephone: (04) 234 1677 Email: lesleymargaret@hotmail.com



### Book Discussion 2

When: 2nd Thursday April - November

Time: 1:30pm

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: (04) 234 7422 Email: carolyn.rait@gmail.com Cellphone: 021 121 0218



## Bridge

When: Weekly Mondays beginning 08 January 2024

Time: 9:30am

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: 10am

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

The aim of this group is 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 there is a need, an overflow creative writing group is to be formed, meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month for an additional 10 people.

Co-ordinator: Christine Healy

Telephone: (04) 236 8573 Email: candjhealy@xtra.co.nz



## Film Group at the Lighthouse

When: 3rd Saturday beginning 17 February 2024

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: jangrainger@gmail.com



## Garden

When: 4th Wednesday

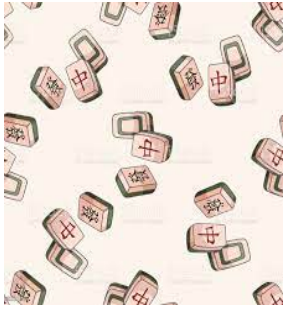
Time: 10:30am. Times may vary slightly.

Venue: Various Gardens or St Mary's Anglican Church Whitby

We are a friendly group some of whom are long-time gardeners with a lot of knowledge which they happily share, whilst others, are new gardeners. We visit gardens and discuss all things gardening with the owners in the summer. From May-August we meet at St Mary's Anglican Church Whitby and have morning tea, a guest speaker, benching, a swap table and sometimes a raffle. We have a small charge of \$3 per month which we use to buy a small gift for the garden owners, and to pay for the hall. Please come and "try us out".

Co-ordinator: Lisa Webber

Telephone: 04 234 7458 Email: lisawebber3@gmail.com



## Mahjong

When: Wednesdays, weekly  
Time: 1:30-3:30pm  
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: 2nd Friday, May-September  
Time: 10am  
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 beginning 12 February 2024  
Time: 10am  
Venue: Combined Church, Mana Ave, Titahi Bay.

There is a small fee of approximately \$5 each meeting to cover hall hire. We begin with a cuppa and 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: Beginning Friday 16 February and every fortnight after.  
Time: 10am  
Venue: The scrabble group at a member's home.

After a cuppa (including an assortment of delicious cake or biscuits) and a catch up, we make up two teams and play one (or sometimes two) games. 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 beginning 02 February 2024

Time: 10am - 11am

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

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

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

There is a donation of \$2 to \$5 from each attendee, per session, to cover the hire fee of the hall, together with a donation/koha for our instructor Mercedes who volunteers her time.

Co-ordinator: Michael Lynch

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



## These Changing Times

When: Thursdays, fortnightly. Beginning February - November 2024

Time: 10am - Noon

Venue: Meeting at a member's home.

We discuss a range of topical issues from history, to science, to education both local and abroad. We also discuss topical issues, nominated before each meeting by a member of the group. Issues are agreed on prior to 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



## walking Group

When: Every Monday

Time: 9:30am

Venue: We meet at a specified place each week. This changes as we alter our route for interest.

These walks are at a steady pace but not too brisk. After each walk those who wish to, gather at a local cafe for a drink and chat.

Co-ordinator: Kay Phillips

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



## Possible Groups

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

Contact: Bill Gebbie

Telephone: 027 6770 180

Email: billnmary@xtra.co.nz