

U3A Dunedin

Title: Waikouaiti Global Conversations

Facilitator: Kath Ryan

When the Group is Held: Second Wednesday of the month

Time: 2-4pm

Venue: Rotates around the homes of the group members

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The **WAIKOUAITI GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS** group discusses local, national and international topics of interest to its members. Topics may be decided in advance or on the day and discussion is informal, respectful and informative. The group also incorporates a strong social connection element.

ChatGPT suggested the group's name, so our first discussion included artificial intelligence!

Waikouaiti Global Conversations - U3A Newsletter contribution May 2023

We began this group because many of the U3A Interest Groups, especially the Discussion Groups, were full and have been for some time. We were also aware of our carbon footprint in regularly travelling to Dunedin for U3A Courses and Group activities.

Fortunately, the U3A Committee was very amenable to having satellite groups from beyond the city and has been most helpful in getting us started. Our first meeting established a few parameters such as the purpose of the group (to discuss local, national and international topics of interest to our members), how often and where to meet and who would convene the group in the first instance.

The next task was to decide upon a name and one of our members consulted ChatGPT, which suggested Waikouaiti Global Conversations. We accepted that and so our first discussion, held this month, just had to include artificial intelligence, didn't it? In an informal and engaging conversational manner, we also covered a couple of local issues, including the Dunedin City and Otago Regional Councils' Future Development Strategy that will impact our area over the next 30 years. Other topics included the sources of news we trust, U3A courses and electric vehicles.

This group is a test case for U3A and it is quite possible that it too will be full in the very near future. We hope it can be inspirational to other people who would like to begin new U3A Interest Groups.