



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter October 2019

Life is for learning.....learn for life

Meetings

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 16th October at 10 am (meet and greet at 9.45 am) at the Church Hall of Chartwell Co-operating Church located on the corner of Comries Road and Belmont Avenue (opposite Chartwell Mall).

Following the guest speaker's presentation, we have morning tea/coffee and a chance to chat.

Next speaker



HOW TO BE OLD

Our advertised guest speaker has had to cancel. There will be an alternative talk!!!!

Meet and greet

Gardening and Mahjong

Morning tea

Helpers for 16th October are Lorene Elliot, Angus Macdonald and Pat Bradley
Many thanks to all the 2019 helpers, I will keep you all on the list for next year unless you request to be removed.

Janet

President's report

It was great to see so many members present at our last meeting to hear Law Professor Al Gillespie speak about the way in which the Christchurch Mosque shootings have changed New Zealand permanently. We have lost our innocence and sense of safety and cannot go back to the way we were before. He addressed some of the complexities of the shooting and its aftermath. He explained how the attacker was legally able to buy guns here which are banned in Australia. He outlined the implications of charging the perpetrator with terrorism as well as murder. The terrorism charge will allow him to defend himself and give him an international voice. He also noted how highly the Prime Minister's response in the aftermath of the shooting was regarded overseas.

Along with this newsletter you will receive a copy of our Health and Safety Policy and Evacuation Procedures. Please read them. We still have work to do to flesh out all our policies and will keep members posted. We are seeking volunteers with a background in medicine or first aid and volunteers who would be prepared to undertake training in the use of the Church defibrillator. A training session is planned for November.

U3A Hamilton has a new website which we hope will provide easily accessible information about our activities. We are interested in feedback.

Coming events include the bus trip to Ayrlires, the garden in Whitford, a trip to the zoo which will include a close up encounter with the giraffes, and a trip to the Hamilton Gardens to see the newly developed areas. In 2020 there will be a resumption of the ethnic dining group with a yum char lunch and a guided trip to Maungatautari is planned for March. Watch the noticeboard for details.

We also hope to launch some new interest groups in the New Year. If you have an interest or are prepared to organise a group please contact Judith Hickman. U3A is based on the idea that members learn actively together and share their expertise.

Noeline Alcorn. President

Groups

Interest group news

Family History Group

In New Zealand we are all immigrants and so we have a story to tell about our ancestors. Some came in the early 1800s and many are still arriving to our islands in the South Pacific. As a group we have already compiled a genealogy for many of the names and details of where our ancestors came from. Each month members do further research into the lives and times of an ancestor. Then, at our monthly meeting we each share our thoughts, writings and resources about our family member with the group members.

This year, we have chosen a broad topic for each meeting, e.g., migration; occupations; health and medical issues; homes and other buildings; and education. Each member chooses how to use the topic and to present their work to the group.

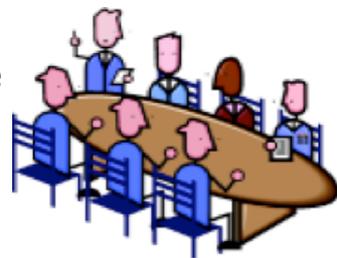
This group is full at present as it takes time to share our 'stories' and enjoy a cuppa at the end of the session. Another group is starting up – more information will be available in the New Year.

Current Affairs Group

Members are welcome to join this lively group; you can choose to attend one or both monthly sessions. A great variety of topics are addressed bringing forth many and varied views. You will be able to nominate and introduce topics if you wish.

Convenor: Gorham Milbank

Telephone	07 855 4757
Venue:	Boardroom, Celebrating Age Centre
Time	9.30 am – 11.00 am
Date	2nd and 4th Fridays of the month
Cost	\$2.00 per person per session (<i>to cover room hire</i>)



Coffee Companions



Our next outing, at 10.30 am on Friday 11 October, will be to the **Village Cafe, Whatawhata**. If anyone needs a ride, please contact Judith.

The 1 November venue will be Cafe INC, 12/11 Thomas Road, Rototuna. (Please note this is the first Friday instead of the second.)

There's no limit on group size, so if you are interested in joining, just come along.

Convenor: Judith Hickman phone 849 0242

Members

Membership

Total membership 272

We welcomed: Wally McKenzie, David Clark, Rodney Russell, Jackie Broughan, Jackie Larsen, Godfrey Larsen, Cathy Khouri, Janet (Jan) Moloney, Muriel Leadley and Janelle Wallace.

We farewelled : Belinda Merian Davis, Marlene Dons, Colleen Lecky, Frances Mace, Marcia Black and Jean Petterson.



CAN YOU HELP?

We need volunteers to keep our organisation running smoothly. This could be by serving morning tea, working as part of a team to administer first aid as needed, serving as wardens in the event of an emergency or convening interest groups. If you are willing to help please sign the lists on the noticeboard, contact Judith Hickman or Noeline Alcorn, or make yourself known at a meeting. If there are plenty of volunteers you would be called on not more than twice in a year.

Almoner's role

What does the Almoner do?

On behalf of the Club, the Almoner gets in contact with members who might appreciate a message of condolence or support or congratulations. This contact could be a phone call, an email, a card or perhaps a visit.

People who might appreciate such a contact could be experiencing an illness; perhaps they are in hospital; they may be suffering bereavement or other grief; or they may have experienced a disabling event.

On the other hand, the Committee would also like to send a message of congratulations to members for their 90th birthday, 60th wedding anniversary, or significant achievement such as being named in the New Year or Queen's Birthday Honours lists. Please let Gorham know.

Who lets the Almoner know?

Any member could contact the Almoner on behalf of another member, or a spouse or friend could contact on the member's behalf.

One key group of members who could pass information on to the Almoner is the group leaders. You may pick up the sort of information above; please contact the Almoner and pass it on. Or it may be the member has been away, and you are concerned; again, feel free to contact Gorham.

Here is Gorham's contact information.

P Hamilton 855 4757

M 027 626 1564

E milbank@xtra.co.nz

If Gorham, or his wife Yvonne, don't reply to a phone call, please leave a message saying the call is about U3A; please clearly state your name and phone number and Gorham will get back to you. Gorham will need you to let him know the name of the U3A Member; he will need some information about the illness or other matter; he will want to ensure he has the information noted accurately so he will clarify that with you. Gorham has a list of Member's phones and addresses, but it can be helpful to let him know a bit more if the person is in hospital or away from home.

Outings

Ayrlies

This trip to Ayrlies garden on 22 October has one vacancy, if any one would like to go, or has a friend who would, please contact Alison Fagan at 855 7009.

Zoo Visit

A guided tour of Hamilton Zoo is planned for Monday November 18. It will be led by Judith Macdonald who has been a host at the zoo for seven years. We will meet at the zoo at 9.45am for an introduction before attending a keeper talk at 10am. By midday we'll be at the bottom of the zoo so I suggest you bring a picnic lunch (or buy one from the zoo cafe) and we can have a rest before climbing up to the fishing cats, the chimps, the lemurs and the rain forest. We'll finish about 3pm.

There will be a face to face with the giraffes - a talk and you can feed them.

Cost \$19 entry (group rate for parties of 10 or more) plus \$25 for the encounter. \$44 total. This needs to be paid to U3A pay by online **internet** banking or by cash at any Westpac branch to U3A account: **03 1559 0030619 00**,

Sign up at the next meeting or contact Judy Macdonald directly at 839 3763.

Hamilton Gardens

A trip to Hamilton Gardens is planned for December, this will be led by Janet Sceats who is a tour leader for the gardens. Our November speaker is Peter Sergel the Director of the gardens so this will be an opportunity to see the subjects of his presentation.

Maungatautari

A trip to this ecological sanctuary is planned for late March 2020

Special interest

A website worth checking out is

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/400028/supergold-card-changes-to-benefit-tech-savvy-seniors>