



## Newsletter September 2019

[www.u3ahamilton.org.nz](http://www.u3ahamilton.org.nz)

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

### President's report

Our August speaker, Bridgette Toy-Cronin, provided a fascinating overview of access to civil justice in New Zealand, including the plethora of tribunals which attempt to seek agreements without final resort to the court system. Barriers include cost, lack of knowledge and a reduction in legal aid. A number of people resort to representing themselves which can harm their chances of success.

The Committee has affirmed its key objectives as providing members with access to mental stimulation and opportunities to meet new people and enjoy their company. It also decided on key responsibilities for committee members who are not designated officers.

Judith Hickman: Membership

Judy Macdonald (also Vice President) and Janet Sceats: Programme of speakers.

Julie Shaw: Website

Alison Fagan: Newsletter

Peggy Koopman-Boyden: Events

Murray Belchamber: Safety warden. Groups

Gavin Muckle: Archive.

Gorham Milbank: Almoner

We have drawn up a health and safety policy, which will be presented to members in the next newsletter. It will also be presented to the Church Office, which is required by law to ask for such policies from regular hirers. We are still seeking volunteers with medical and first aid experience who can be available at meetings and events. Please contact me if you would be willing to help. Thanks to those who have already offered their assistance.

We are also developing a new website which will be more flexible and user friendly. The transition will be made over the next few months.

The next new members' meeting will be held on Thursday 19 September at 10.00 at 1 River Oaks Place. This is a great way to meet new friends and learn about the organisation.

Noeline Alcorn

President

## Meetings

### Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 10.00 (meet and greet at 9.45) 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

#### **Christchurch, March 15: Before, During and After.**

Al (Alexander) Gillespie is a professor in the School of Law, University of Waikato with interests in environmental law, the laws of war, civil liberties and issues of pressing social concern. The author of 16 books, he has been awarded a Rotary International Scholarship, a Fulbright Fellowship, a residency at the Rockefeller Bellagio Centre in Italy, and the New Zealand Law Foundation International Research Fellowship. His most recent award was from the Franquai Foundation in Belgium, with which he held a professorship at Ghent University for six months during 2018/2019. Professor Gillespie was the first New Zealander to be named Rapporteur for the World Heritage Convention, involving international environmental diplomacy under the auspices of UNESCO. He has also been engaged in policy formation for the United Nations, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and governmental, commercial and non-governmental organisations in New Zealand, Australia, United States, United Kingdom, Ireland and Switzerland.



## Meet and greet

Greeters for 18<sup>th</sup> September are Ukulele 1 & 2 & Knit, Stitch & Chat

## Morning tea

Helpers for 18<sup>th</sup> September are Carol McKillop, Mary Arvidson and Gina Aitken.

### More volunteers are needed

Three people are now needed at each meeting to assist with the morning tea for an increasing membership. If you are willing to take a turn, please add your name to the list on the information table. If you are already on the roster, Janet asks that you check to see that your details are correct as she sometimes has difficulty contacting people.

Janet Hanfling's contact details are: [janet.hanfling@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janet.hanfling@xtra.co.nz) or phone 855 3551

## Upcoming speakers

October: Dr James McKelvie, ophthalmologist, on eye problems and recent research findings.

November: Peter Sergel who will speak on the Hamilton Gardens.

## Groups

## Interest group news

### Mah Jong Group



We have room for more Members – Mah Jong is played by groups of four playing individually.

Our group learns, plays and enjoys one of the original versions of the game – Hong-Kong Mah Jong which largely retains the form, rules and character of the earliest style. Because of this it is significantly different from the Americanised form seen in most club groups.

Most of us are novices but the game is fairly easy to learn. It is interesting and fun to play. You do not need to know anything about the game to join our group. You will receive all the guidance and encouragement you want from the rest of us.

We had a minor hiccup a week or so ago when we arrived to find that one of the tables had been “relocated” but that has been sorted by a member so you will have a place to play when you join us. The photo shows members enjoying their “new” table.

## Garden group



An enthusiastic group of gardeners gathered for the first meeting at Judy Mac's urban paradise. Since then we have met in each other's gardens or at nurseries. Knowledge and plants are exchanged in a relaxed and friendly way.

One of our aims is to bring spare seedlings to U3A meetings for members who only need a small number of plants for their garden. Currently the group is full but interested gardeners can put their names on the waiting list.

The photo shows Lesley showing some of the group around her food forest.

## Coffee Companions Group

Our venue for Friday 13 September is Cafe 547, 529 Grey Street, Hamilton East, at 10.30 am. Any members are welcome to join us.

## Members

## Membership

Total membership 269

We welcomed: Anne Devlin, Diane Fergusson, Graham Harrison, Shelagh Kew, Pam Russell, Mary Shilton, Michael Stevens, Elwyn Stone, Ian Taylor, and Dr Sun Jack Wong.

We farewelled : Jean Outram and John Turner

## Members needing transport

We have become aware that it may be difficult for some members to attend meetings or groups due to transport difficulties. If this applies to you and you would like to be put in contact with someone who may be able to help, please contact [hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com)

## New members' meetings

The next new members meeting will be held on Thursday 19 September at 10.00 at 1 River Oaks Place. This is a great way to meet new friends and learn about the organisation.

## Outings

### Ayrlies garden trip

A day trip by bus to visit this Garden of International Significance is planned for 22 October 2019. Check it out at [www.airlies.co.nz](http://www.airlies.co.nz).

We will leave from Chartwell Church at 8.00 and return by 4.00. Due to the Botanic Gardens Café not being able to reserve a table for us we will no longer be going there. Instead we will have lunch at the Lime Tree Café in Whitford. They have outdoor picnic tables and you are free to bring your own lunch if you wish, or you can eat their delicious food! We will return home directly from Whitford.

Cost for the bus is \$22 pay online **internet** banking or by cash at any Westpac branch to U3A account: **03 1559 0030619 00**, Payment must be made by the 18<sup>th</sup> September. There is also a \$20 entry fee to Ayrlies garden which must be paid in **cash** to the garden on arrival.

Signup sheets will be available at the meetings or contact Alison at [alisonfagan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alisonfagan@xtra.co.nz) or 855 7009

**Please note that payment is due by 18<sup>th</sup> Sept**

### Future trips

#### Zoo visit:

There will be another guided visit to Hamilton Zoo led by Judy Macdonald in late November. Cost and date to be advised but an indication of interest would be useful.

#### Hamilton Garden visit:

A trip to the 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 next March/ April.

## Special interest

A website worth checking out is

<https://www.yourcityelections.co.nz/>