



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter November 2019

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

Meetings

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 20th November 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

Our next speaker is Peter Sergel who will be talking about 'The ongoing development of Hamilton Gardens'



Peter Sergel has been director of Hamilton Gardens for the last twenty years but involved in designing and overseeing its development for over forty years. He'll be telling us about the Gardens' gradual development over the past 50 years, explain the current development programme and plans for the future.

The photo shows Peter creating a model for the surrealist garden.

Meet and greet

Wine appreciation and New Zealand history

President's report

Judy Macdonald entertained us at the October meeting with an entertaining look at old age in literature from Miss Havisham who allowed life to stop when she was jilted, to Mrs Dalloway who lost her sense of self in marriage, to the rollicking story by Margaret Mahy about the man whose mother was a pirate and who went back to sea when her son had pushed her in a wheelbarrow to the ocean.

Our trip to Ayrilies in the following week was a fulfilling day out. The magnificent garden stretches over four hectares of rolling countryside and we wandered around at our leisure. The sun shone after early showers. On the return bus journey, we all sat in randomly allocated seats so that we had an opportunity to talk to another member whom we did not know well. It was a brilliant idea. Thanks to Alison Fagan for her organisation of the trip.

Another trip is planned for 25th March to the sanctuary mountain at Maungatautari. Details are included in the newsletter and you can sign up at the next meeting.

I must apologise for the last meeting of the year and the Christmas morning tea to follow as I shall be in the South Island where a group of colleagues are launching a festschrift in honour of a pioneering woman educational researcher who never stopped asking pertinent questions till her death at 92 last year. We are delighted to honour the work of this lifelong learner by publishing a book celebrating her life and work.

The November meeting of the committee will approve new guidelines for group convenors and their communication with the committee at its next meeting. It will also receive feedback on the new website. Unsurprisingly there were a few minor glitches before our webmistress was able to assume full control and make necessary changes. However, we are pleased with the new layout and potential.

Though most activities of our organisation come to a halt during December the Committee will once again host a social function for group convenors and others who providing ongoing assistance at meetings.

Noeline Alcorn

Groups

Interest group news

History group

The last meeting of the History group for 2019 will be held on 13th November. The topic for the meeting is the Hundred Year's War and its modern version – Brexit. We will also decide on the 2020 programme.

Coffee Companions



The final outing for the year will be to **The Cafe, Donovan's Chocolate Factory**, Maui Street, Pukete Estate on Friday, 6 December at 10.30 am.

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

Convenor: Judith Hickman phone 849 0242

Mah Jong

From the Mah-Jong group – We still have room for more Learners and Players. The game is easy to learn and almost as easy to master. You do not need to know anything about the game to join this group. Give Murray a call on 850 8279 and come along.

New groups

Computing Group

This, so far, small group has had its set-up meeting where we worked on establishing our meeting structure and times. We settled on meeting in the morning of the first Wednesday each month. We decided that this would not be a high-tech group and will welcome anyone with an interest in, or a desire to learn about, or a need to develop and practice skills in – computing in its widest sense. The main topic for November's meeting is "What we can do with Excel." If you would like to join or for more information call Murray Belchamber 850 8279

Potential groups

The following three groups have a few members registered, if there are others interested in these groups could they contact Murray Belchamber 850 8279 . These groups could then become established.

These are Photography, Debating and Board Games.

Members

Membership

It has come to our notice that some new members have joined via the website, but not filled in their information details so we don't have any contact details for them. If you are reading this via the website could you please complete and submit the form.

Total membership 279

We welcomed: Mary Boss, Barbara McLean, Jill Bennet-King, Stuart Mackenzie, Sandra Stuart, Terry Brady, Gay Summers and Anita Tyrrell.

We farewelled : Pamela Anderson

Committee news

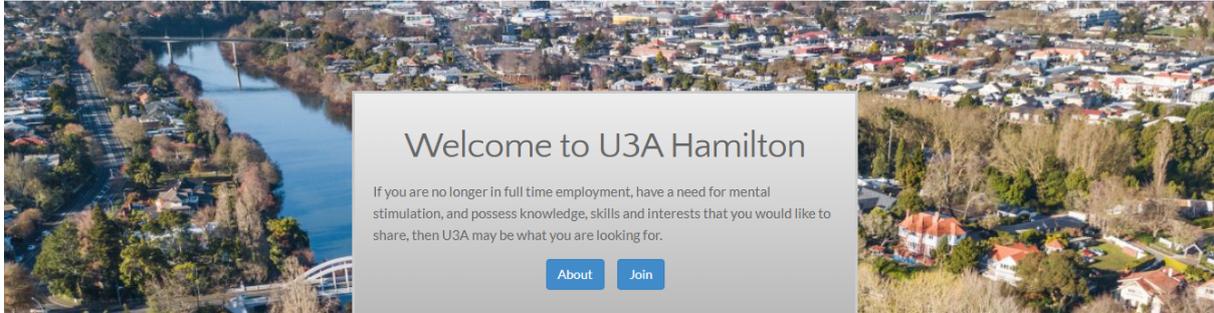
Our webmistress Julie has been working hard on the new website and it is now live. Here is a screenshot of the home page. Use the drop down menus to find the interesting information that is stored here.

Clicking on this hyperlink will take you to our home page

<https://u3ahamilton.org.nz/>



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Outings

Ayrlies

The trip to Ayrlies was a success, and there were many positive comments about the beautiful gardens. The lakes with their surrounding irises were a particular delight.

Anne Devlin will be sharing her photos of the day via data show at the next meeting.

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 is \$44 in 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. We need 10 members to sign up for this trip to go ahead.

Hamilton Gardens

The date for this visit is tentatively set for Thursday December 5th at 10 am. If there are more than 10 people interested it is proposed to offer a second tour. The tour will include the most recently opened garden: the Picturesque Garden, but also The Katherine Mansfield Garden, the Concept Garden and a number of the other gardens. Hamilton Gardens charge \$20.00 pp for a 1 hour Garden tour but have agreed to let our group (s) pay a minimum of a \$10 donation pp. This will be paid at the gardens. (Tour guides are volunteers) The tour duration is at our discretion.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the next meeting or contact Janet Sceats pool.sceats@xtra.co.nz.

Maungatautari

A booking has been made at Maungatautari for Wednesday 25 March. We are offering two guided tours but you will have the option to do only one tour though this will involve some waiting after lunch.

We will travel by bus leaving Chartwell church hall at 9.30 am.

- The first tour will be at 11 am: Secrets of the Tautari wetland. This involves the tuatarium and close ups of the takahe family.
- We will have approximately 45 minutes for lunch, bring your own. Coffee will be available for purchase.
- The second tour will be at 12.45 pm: Ancient forest. There are some hill climbs on even paths.

We will return to Chartwell at approximately 3.15 pm.

Costs are for bus and one tour \$41, and for bus and two tours \$59. This must be paid by 21st February by online **internet** banking or by cash at any Westpac branch to U3A account: **03 1559 0030619 00**. (include your name for reference);

Judith Hickman will have a registration list at the next meeting.

Special Message

This is the last newsletter for 2019, it comes with best wishes to you and your families for the holiday season and we look forward to seeing you in 2020.