



www.u3ahamilton.org.nz

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Newsletter February 2020

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

Next meetir

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 19th February 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

'O joy unbounded': Gilbert and Sullivan in Australia and New Zealand.



Kirstine Moffat shares her current research on the history of the production, reception, and cultural significance of Gilbert and Sullivan in Australia and New Zealand. She will explore the almost fevered enthusiasm for Gilbert and Sullivan in the 1870s and early 1880s. This popularity has persisted, and Kirstine will also talk about both **the** professional and amateur performances of the operas, as well as the long tradition of Gilbert and Sullivan in schools. Her talk will be interspersed with some familiar tunes from the operas, and she hopes that the audience will be in a singing mood! Kirstine's research is ongoing, so if you have Gilbert and Sullivan stories and memories to share please let her know as she is keen to interview you and draw on your expertise.

Kirstine is Associate Professor in the English Programme at the University of Waikato. She has published widely on nineteenth-century New Zealand literature, music, and culture and is the author of *Piano Forte: Stories and Soundscapes from Colonial New Zealand*. She loves teaching New Zealand and Victorian texts and offers a variety of papers on adaptation, dystopian writing, tragedy, and comedy. In 2019 she was the recipient of a University of Waikato Teaching Excellence Award.

Meet and greet:

Music appreciation and Knit, Stitch and Chat

Morning tea helpers

Joy Homewood, Sheila Emslie, Janet Hanfling and Margaret Gault.

President's report

Best wishes for 2020. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our first meeting with speaker Associate Professor Kirstine Moffat.

The committee held its first meeting recently to discuss plans for the year. With regret we accepted the news that Murray Belchamber has had to resign from the committee and approved the co-option of Colin Williams to take over responsibility for health and safety. We are grateful for Murray's contribution and welcome Colin's willingness to accept the role.

There is still time to register for the U3A trip to Sanctuary Mountain, Maungatautiri on 25 March. This promises to be a fascinating trip with expert guides and is also a chance to meet new members of the organisation. Details are provided elsewhere in the newsletter.

The second half of February brings the iconic Hamilton Gardens Festival of the Arts with two weeks of activities to suit a range of tastes and interests. This is an event not to be missed.

U3A still needs volunteers in a number of areas. Let us know by emailing hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com or speaking to a committee member at a meeting. Some of the tasks are practical, for example, helping with morning teas, putting out and clearing chairs for the meeting. We also desperately need more people to take responsibility for convening interest groups. These small groups are the life blood of U3A but they need someone who will maintain communications with members and with the committee as the group learns together. It is not an onerous role.

Our membership continues to climb which is exciting as new members bring new skills and interests. New members' meetings are planned for early March and early April.

Noeline Alcorn,

February 2020.



Groups

Interest group news

Knit, Stitch and Chat:

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month so this time it will be 1:30 pm on Tuesday 18 February at 9 Tiffiney Place, Chartwell.

If there is something you want some help with, or there is something new you want to learn, we'll see what can be done. Contact on Catherine on 855 8328 or catherineg@hnpl.net

Writing for Pleasure

This group is in recess at the moment. If you would be interested in joining this group either as a member, or as a convenor, please contact Gorham and register your interest. Phone 855 4757 or email milbank@xtra.co.nz

Mah Jong and Computer groups

Would members of these groups, for which Murray Belchamber was the convenor, please contact Paul Etheredge at etheredge@xtra.co.nz

Current Affairs groups

Friday morning Current Affairs group. The venue being used is no longer suitable but some members are keen to continue with the morning sessions in an alternative room. However a convenor is needed. If you would be willing to consider being the convenor, or even just to be a member of the group, please contact Gorham. Phone 855 4757 or email milbank@xtra.co.nz

Friday afternoon Current Affairs group. Gorham Milbank is convening this group on the first and third Fridays of the month from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. It is will be held in

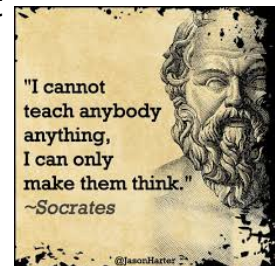
the Celebrating Age Boardroom; and the cost is \$2 per session. The next session will be Friday 21 February. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Gorham. Phone 855 4757 or email milbank@xtra.co.nz

Philosophy Group

We meet on the first Wednesday each month at Gorham Milbank's home from 10.00 am to 11.30 am, and we socialise for a while afterwards.

There are seven in our group, so there's room for just one more person. However, if there are several people interested, we could look for another venue.

You do not need an academic background; your own ideas about life and its meanings and reasons and values are what you bring and contribute to the discussion. If you would be interested in joining, contact Gorham. Phone 855 4757 or email milbank@xtra.co.nz



Coffee Companions

Our first outing for the year is at 10.30 am on Friday 14 February, which will be at Matteblack Cafe located at St Andrews Golf Course, 64 St Andrews Terrace, Hamilton. There's no limit on group size, so if you are interested in joining, let Judith know.
Convenor: Judith Hickman phone 849 0242



Ukulele Groups: Uke3A Jam and Beginners

Our first get-together for 2020 will be at 10.00 am on Tuesday 11 February for morning tea and an informal "Jam" session. From then on we will learning and playing together from 1.30 – 2.30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.

If learning to play a ukulele is something you'd like to try, give Judith a call or come along and meet us and see what it's all about.



Members

Convenor: Judith Hickman phone 849 0242

Membership

Total membership 277

We welcome: Ceridwyn Parr, Sylvia Hill, Judy Owen, Andrea Donnison, Kath Hamilton, Patricia Dare, Zewdi Yohannes, Sharon Martin

We farewelled: Keith Holborow, Doreen Maggs, Murray Belchamber, Jack and Valerie Thomas, Ann Harlow, Kim Linklater, Marcia Black and Mike Dix.

Committee news

Treasurer

The U3A subscription for 2020 is now due. The amount is \$30 per person. All members of interest groups need to be paid up U3A members.

You will recall that in 2019 we changed the subscription year to match the calendar year. There was a one-off interim subscription for June to December 2019. With the changes now in place, there will be no subs due in June as in the past. From now on subscriptions will be due in February of each year. Thank you for your help in implementing this change.

The \$30 subscription for 2020 may be paid in these ways:

Our bank account number is Westpac 03-1559-0030619-00

- **Internet banking** with your name and initial as the reference into our bank account, number as above.
- **Cash** - ask the teller at any Westpac branch to deposit the cash into our account, number as above.
- **Cheque** made out to "U3A Hamilton Inc" and posted to PO Box 1103, Hamilton.
- **Cash** direct to treasurer, Beverley Bell, at the general meeting. Please do not give cash to any other committee members.

Our webpage u3ahamilton.org.nz has all the information about how to pay subscriptions.

Transport

Do you need transport to our monthly meetings?

The committee has realised that several of our members have difficulty getting to and from our meetings. In the March newsletter there will be a suggestion on how we can connect hopeful passengers and helpful drivers.

As an alternative you may wish to use the total mobility taxi subsidy voucher scheme. There is information about this scheme on our website.

<https://u3ahamilton.org.nz/total-mobility-scheme/>

Volunteers

As Noeline pointed out in her message there is a need for volunteers for various roles. In particular the stalwarts who put the chairs out and back at the monthly meetings could do with some assistance. If you would like to help with this job could you please approach Gorham at 9.10 am at the meeting. Thank you.

Convenors

Two quotes from our website are

- "U3A is a unique organisation of retired and semi-retired people who enjoy learning from each other, sharing their skills and life experiences, mainly through meetings and interest groups."
- "Being a member of a group should be fun, educational and life enriching. If you are a financial member of Hamilton U3A, you can attend monthly meetings and join any interest group that has a vacancy. You may belong to several groups if you choose."

We have groups who need a convenor to continue operating and also potential groups waiting for a convenor in order to be established.

The convenor organizes meeting venues/dates and communication among the group members and provides information for the monthly newsletter from time to time. The convenor does not have to be an "expert" or a "teacher" as groups are usually self-managing." The convenor does not need to teach, or even to create a curriculum.

In some regions, convenors are only allowed in the role it for one year, and then someone else takes a turn. In others, if you want to be part of U3A for more than five years, you must have spent at least one year as a convenor.

U3A Hamilton doesn't have such rules, but with our polite requests, we are not getting enough convenors. **We urgently need members to offer to be a convenor.**

Outings

Maungatautiri

A booking has been made at Maungatautiri 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.

Zoo

This trip has been postponed until further notice.

Hamilton Gardens

Two very successful tours of the gardens were held in December and were much enjoyed by the participants. Our thanks to Janet and Kay for giving their time and expertise in leading these tours.

Special Message

Members' Challenge for 2020

Either bring your friends along to a U3A Hamilton meeting as guests, or suggest they check out our website: u3ahamilton.org.nz There are brochures available for you to take to hand out to interested people.