



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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## Newsletter March 2020

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

### Meetings

#### Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 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

#### **Robert McGowan JP (M.Soc.Sc. Waikato)**

"Tiwaiwaka: looking to ancient wisdom to address present challenges".



How we can find a way forward as we confront the repercussions of climate change, global pollution, and the lack of leadership on a global scale to create a sustainable world economy.

Rob McGowan currently works for the Department of Conservation (DOC) and is the Amo Aratu for Nga Whenua Rahui (NWR), a contestable Ministerial fund established in 1991 to provide funding for the protection of indigenous ecosystems on Māori land.

Rob is one of the foremost authorities on rongoā Māori (traditional Māori medicine) and is well respected nationally for his work with and for the restoration of rongoā Māori practice in New Zealand. He has been involved for more than 20 years in teaching, researching and assisting Māori re-engage in traditional uses of NZ native plants, particularly for medicine (rongoā Māori). Rob is a regular presenter on Māori Television's "Kiwi Maara & Maara Kai programs sharing his vast knowledge on rongoā Māori with the New Zealand public. He is author of "Rongoā Māori – a practical guide to traditional Māori Medicine" (2009).

In 2018 Rob was awarded the Loder Cup for outstanding work in ensuring matauranga Maori (traditional Maori Knowledge) in conservation management.

In his current work he is part of DOC's project to build a bridge between Western Science and Matauranga Māori (traditional Māori knowledge) in conservation management.

Rob is one of the founders of Tane's Tree Trust a non-profit charitable trust that was established more than 10 years ago to encourage New Zealand landowners to successfully plant and sustainably manage indigenous trees for multiple uses. He remains an active Trustee.

He is a former Catholic priest and a fluent speaker of te reo Māori.

## Meet and greet

Current affairs, Book discussion 1 & 2

## Morning tea helpers

Margaret Gault, Paul Etheredge and Helen Thomas

## President's report

It was great to see so many people at our February meeting to hear Dr Kirstine Moffatt's enthusiastic presentation of Gilbert and Sullivan performances in Australasia. Some of the audience even joined in singing the lyrics to her piano accompaniments.

Coming activities include a trip to Maungatautari (Sanctuary Mountain) and our March general meeting where we will hear from Rob McGowan, an expert on rongoa Māori (traditional Māori medicine). Rob was awarded the Department of

Conservation's Loder Cup in 2018 for his sustained contribution to the investigation, promotion, retaining and cherishing of New Zealand's indigenous flora.

The committee is in the process of organising meetings for groups of people who have expressed interest in new study groups in the hope of initiating these. Interest groups are a great opportunity to learn something new, share one's own knowledge, and meet new friends. We are also looking for people willing to convene groups, join the committee or commit to first aid training.

The April meeting will be held in the church rather than the church hall as the hall will be in use for a children's school holiday programme. There is plenty of seating and we will still offer a cup of tea afterwards.

Noeline Alcorn

## Groups

It is very gratifying to have 3 new convenors step forward, many thanks to those people. As more groups are established there will be a need for even more convenors!

### Interest group news

#### Book discussion group

Here are some books that the book discussion group have been reading. You might enjoy them too! I will include more next month!

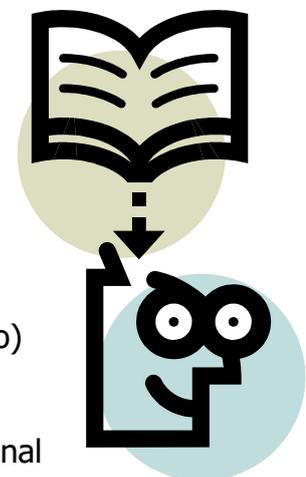
**Of Ashes & Rivers that Run to the Sea.** Marie Munkara, (Bio) 2016

One of the stolen generation, this tells of the removal of aboriginal children from their families. Light skinned, Marie was raised by a white family. At 28 years of age an old baptismal card changes the course of her life.

**Until Tuesday: a wounded warrior and the golden retriever that saved him.**

Luis Carlos Montalvan (Bio)2011

Written by a US serviceman who sustained injuries & PTSD. His dog becomes his support & lifeline.



### **Song for Rosaleen** Pip Desmond, (memoir) 2018

A memoir of a family coping with their mother's dementia.

### **I am Forbidden** Anouk Markovits (F) 2012

Joseph's story of survival from the Nazis moves from Europe to the USA.

It brings to life four generations.

### **First Class** Christopher West (NF) 2012

This is a history of Britain through postage stamps, from the 1840 Penny Black to the First Class stamp 2012.

### **Mah Jong**

The U3A Hamilton Mah Jong group was originally set up last year by Murray Belchamber. He has expertise in one of the original versions of the game – Hong Kong Mah Jong - and taught this to the rest of us. The game is significantly different from the American form played in most clubs in Hamilton. With Murray away for the next while, I have taken over as interim convener.

There are seven in our group, and while we presently lack Murray's skills and knowledge we are working from Murray's notes and learning as we go along. We meet at St Andrew's Library from 1 to 3pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

The game can be played with three or four players per table, so an additional member or two would be welcome. We have a lot of fun. If you're interested in joining us, please give me a ring – Lesley (Dunn) 021371314

### **New Zealand History Group**

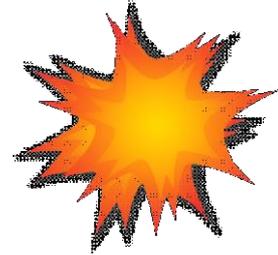
The New Zealand History Group has been operating since the beginning of 2019. The group meets every first and third Thursday of the month at 1.30pm at the St Andrews Library. The group was initiated by and is convened by Dave Douglas but at present Dave is unwell and Paul Etheredge and Gavin Muckle are acting as co convenors.

During 2019 the group looked at the period from first Polynesian migration and settlement of Aotearoa through to the end of New Zealand Wars in the 1870s. We discussed such issues and topics as; pre European Maori settlement, early Maori/European contacts, the Treaty of Waitangi and the New Zealand Wars and their aftermath.

In the first part of this year we are dealing with aspects of European settlement, economic and political development in the period from the 1840s to the end of the nineteenth century. We have made a start by looking at the beginnings of systematic European settlement and pastoral farming. This will lead on to consideration of the Gold Rushes and their impact (which is planned for this week and for March 19), Julius Vogel and his scheme for borrowing to finance public works and immigration in the 1870s, the depression of the 1880s and the Liberal Government of the 1890s (including such issues as woman's suffrage and the beginnings of the welfare state).

The idea is that when we reach the present, the group will cease to exist!!

New members are welcome. Please contact Gavin Muckle  
[gwmuckle@gmail.com](mailto:gwmuckle@gmail.com)



### **Computer group**

The U3A computer group has re-established this year and is in the process of developing a direction according to member's needs. The focus will be on computing and technology in everyday life, as our devices are often interconnected.

We have compiled an introductory list of topics to explore.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30. There is room for up to 10 attendees and would appreciate notification of non-attendance so a spot could be offered to anyone waiting to join.

We do currently have some spaces for interested members.

Contact Carol at: [carolevelyn49@icloud.com](mailto:carolevelyn49@icloud.com)

## **New groups**

### **Photography group**

As a relatively new member, I have offered to form a photography group. I am not proposing high tech talk about F numbers, ISO levels, shutter speeds etc but a basic look at composition and style or indeed whatever else you would like to discuss.

Meetings could involve trips to different places that are potentially photogenic and/or include a bit of show and tell.

Please contact me, Colin Williams. [joh123@xtra.co.nz](mailto:joh123@xtra.co.nz) if you are interested.

## Outings

The Maungatautari trip is going ahead on the 25<sup>th</sup> March but using private transport rather than a bus.

## Committee news

### 2020 subscriptions

The 2020 subscriptions are now due and many thanks to those who have paid. The subscription year is from February to December 2020. All interest group members need to pay the subscription. The amount is \$30 per person and may be paid in the following 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 at general meeting. Please do not give cash to any other committee members.

Our webpage [u3aHamilton.org.nz](http://u3aHamilton.org.nz) has all the information about how to pay subscriptions (click on 'to join' in the menu)

Beverley Bell, Treasurer

Special  
Message

