



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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## Newsletter July 2020

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

### Meetings

#### Next meeting

The July meeting has been cancelled however we will be holding the AGM with a speaker on 19<sup>th</sup> August. The speaker on August 19<sup>th</sup> will be Judge Merelina Burnett.

We are hoping that Rob McGowan, whose talk was cancelled earlier this year, will be able to speak later in the year. There will be more details of future speakers in the August newsletter.

### President's report

We are so lucky to live in New Zealand. While we are able to pursue most of our normal activities our U3A peers in the United Kingdom are still unable to meet and must rely on Zoom and other technologies. Covid-19 seems rampant in many parts of the world and older people in particular face major restrictions on their movements outside of home.

We plan to have a meeting for all members on Wednesday, 19 August in our normal meeting place at the Cooperating Church hall in Comries Road. We will hold the AGM first to receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements and also elect officers and committee members for the coming year. A guest speaker will follow the AGM and you will find details of this event elsewhere in the newsletter. This is an opportunity to celebrate and to meet old and new friends. Please make sure it is in your diaries. However, we are safety conscious. If you are unwell please stay home and take care of yourself.

As I noted in the previous newsletter we always need new members for the committee. This is a great way to meet new people and feel a vital part of the organisation. Please contact me if you would be prepared to join us. Enthusiasm is the key requirement. In particular we are looking for a treasurer to keep track of subscriptions and payments.

As we resume normal activities we are also looking to form new interest groups. While some groups continue over many years, it is also normal in U3A for groups to form, flourish and then fold so that people have a chance to explore a range of different interests over time. Some groups have ended this year. We want to form new groups so Graham Harrison has already started to contact people who have expressed interest in certain areas to organise get-togethers. There will also be a display on the notice board at the AGM. The committee is also anxious to maintain regular contact with group convenors to ensure they feel supported and to seek their advice. A meeting with convenors is planned for late July.

The website continues to develop. We hope to demonstrate some of the new features at the AGM. The new database is being trialled and is already proving useful to committee members who need information to plan activities and contact members. The lockdown convinced many people that the internet is a key tool for information, communication and social interaction and we hope you will enjoy and use new features on the website.

I look forward to seeing you all on 19 August.

Noeline Alcorn, President

## Groups

### Interest group news

Now that we have some degree of normality again, we're probably ready to enjoy interacting with others in our U3A Groups.

Over time it is our hope to broaden the range of groups we offer so keep your ear to the ground and your eyes on the notice board. If you are keen to form a new group, please let me know; I'm ready to receive your suggestions.

Graham Harrison Groups co-ordinator: [gfharrison26@gmail.com](mailto:gfharrison26@gmail.com) 07 855 6217

## **Theatre and Shows Appreciation Group**

More live shows are now in the pipeline, with some theatres such as the "Meteor" being very busy.

The exciting part of all this is that the shows from London, England will continue to be streamed until 31 August and can be accessed by clicking on:

[National Theatre at Home](#) and [The Shows Must Go On](#)

## **The Armchair Astronomy Group**

This group held its first meeting following the lockdown on Friday 3rd of July. All agreed that it was good to be back to something like normality.

As usual we were right into interesting discussions on a range of topics, that is, after we had shared stories about negotiating the lockdown levels.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday 7th August 2020.

## **Ukulele Groups Uk3A and Beginner**

Uke3a Group re-convened in June but members have been learning new songs and practising during the Covid 19 lockdown.

We meet at the Hukanui Church 159 Rototuna Road at 1.30 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Uke3A welcomes new players who have some experience. We have a lot of fun.



The Beginner Group caters for those who'd like to take up this sociable instrument.

If you are interested, contact Judith Hickman at [hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com)

or phone 027 664 6712

## **Coffee Companions**



The Coffee Companions group congregates at a chosen café at 10.30 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month. The coffee is always good, and the conversation stimulating.

We welcome new members.

If you are interested, contact Judith Hickman at [hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com) or phone 027 664 6712

## New groups

### Photography Group

In the March newsletter there was information about a potential photography group. Here is an update from Colin.

My proposal is that we form a photography group.

I would suggest we stick to basic techniques but this could be expanded to bringing in a local specialist if required. So no matter what equipment you use or what level of expertise you have please come along. I could include field trips, show and tell or editing techniques if members wish.

Please contact me: Colin Williams [joh123@xtra.co.nz](mailto:joh123@xtra.co.nz) or 853 3944.

## Members

It is with regret that we have heard of the passing of Fay Wright on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. For many years Fay was a member of U3a and the convenor of the literary appreciation group. Due to the restraints of Covid 19 her family has had trouble contacting people who may wish to commemorate Fay's life.

Her brother Timoti has invited anyone who wishes to attend her memorial to be held at Zender's Centre and cafe in Ruakura Road Hamilton on Saturday 18th July at 11.00 am



## Committee news

### Health and Safety

Our Health and Safety co-ordinator, Colin Williams, is organising a training in the use of a defibrillator. The committee feels that this is a useful skill for our members to have and there is a defibrillator at the church hall where we hold our monthly meetings. Defibrillators are also situated in many other public places for use by people trained in their use.

U3a will pay for this training with the understanding that those who are trained will be available at general meetings on a rostered basis.

Please contact Colin at [joh123@xtra.co.nz](mailto:joh123@xtra.co.nz) or 853 3944 if you are interested in doing this training (or if you are unsure if you have already indicated interest!)

## U3A Archives

Last month's newsletter included a summary of U3a's first year compiled by our archivist Gavin Muckle.

The full report is available on our website <https://u3ahamilton.org.nz/what-is-u3a/>

Use Ctrl and Click on [The First Year](#)

Here are some snippets of particular interest.

- ❖ On April 23 1995 the first Newsletter was distributed. It was written by, Harry Huggon and contained a brief account of the meetings on April 4 and 7, the names and contact details of the members of the interim committee, a proposed annual subscription and information about three proposed study groups.
  - History of Music and Mathematics (John Turner)
  - The Dead Sea Scrolls (Harry Huggon)
  - Computer Technology (John Wells from the University)
- ❖ During the year were there two outings to stage shows in Auckland, to 'Me and My Girl' in July and CATS in October.
- ❖ Early members recall that there was a strong sense of camaraderie among members and that most members knew each other.

## Outings

Our planned trip to Maungatautari was cancelled due to Covid 19. We are hoping this will go ahead later in the year. The exciting news is that there have recently been kiwis released into the Sanctuary, these are part of the Kiwi for Kiwis scheme.