



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter August 2020

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

Meetings

Next meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 19th August 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.

Covid-19 precautions

The AGM and following talk will be our first large meeting since lockdown began. Some of you may feel apprehensive about this and we all need to take sensible precautions to keep ourselves safe. If you feel unwell or have any symptoms like a runny nose or sore throat please stay home to protect yourself and other people. We will provide hand sanitiser and try to keep the rows of seats further apart than usual. Special precautions will be taken in the kitchen in preparing morning tea.

Next speaker

Mark Houlahan is Associate Professor (English) in the School of Arts at the University of Waikato. In lockdown he finished reading the proofs for his newest book, *New Directions in Early Modern English Drama: Edges, Spaces, Intersections*, co-edited with Aidan Norrie (Medieval Institute Publications /De Gruyter 2020), and is eagerly awaiting the arrival of his own copies.



He has published many essays and chapters on Shakespeare in New Zealand performance. His talk is part of a new phase of research: using contemporary databases such as *Papers Past*, what new ways can we understand the early years of commercial New Zealand Theatre?

In this talk Mark will survey the surviving evidence for the 1895-96 production *The Land of the Moa: A Trans-Tasman Tale*. This play includes the onstage eruption of Mt. Tarawera, a shipwreck and a gunboat chase.

Meet and greet: Coffee Companions and Numismatics.

Morning tea helpers: Barbara Cumming, Pam Fisher and Joy Homewood.

President's report

This is my last message as President of U3A Hamilton as I will be stepping down from the role at the AGM this month. The last five months have been strange ones during which online communication was initially the only safe way to contact each other. Online opportunities, however, were a lifeline for many people in self-isolation or a small bubble. As the lockdown eased small groups began to meet again and we celebrate the return to something like normality this month. As an organisation we continue to plan for safe ways to meet, avoiding close contact, sanitising hands and staying home if we feel unwell. Our coming together as a group is an exciting prospect.

You will have received copies of the Annual Report and Annual Accounts along with nomination forms for places on the committee. If you are interested please nominate yourself or someone else as it is a great way to meet new people and share ideas. Nominations must reach the secretary by 17 August. We are particularly keen to find a volunteer for the position of Treasurer and also to find someone willing to act as almoner. The almoner does not need to be a member of the committee.

The internet has become a vital part of life for New Zealanders of all ages. Our own organisation operates a website with information of all kinds and most communication is online. However, some members may still experience uncertainty in dealing with new features, such as blogs or Zoom, and we hope to hold a session in the coming months to familiarise everyone with opportunities available. We can use the Queen as a role model as she has learned to use Zoom at 94.

It has been an honour and a privilege to chair the committee over the past three years and I want to thank all those committee members who have given so generously of their support during this time. Noeline Alcorn, President.

Groups

New groups

Antiques & Collectables

This newly formed group will be meeting on the 2nd Friday of the month at 1.30.

At the moment there are 2 spaces available. If you're interested please contact either Paul Etheredge 825 9888 or Graham Harrison gfharrison26@gmail.com 855 6217

Groups Waiting Lists

Graham is implementing a new system - just add your name to the list in the folder at the Groups Notice Board. This will be checked monthly.

Please feel free to add your name again - he may not have copies of any previous lists.

Group News

Play reading

This group has room for one or two new members. They meet at a member's house on the on the 4th Thursday of the month at 10:15am

They usually read two one act plays and do not stick to older female characters, but read all sorts.

They are sociable and friendly so if you are interested in joining contact Marguerite Toy at sketetoy@gmail.com

Computing

This group meets at 9.30 am on the first Wednesday of the month Meetings largely focus on the technical needs or problems of the members and can include smartphone use etc. This month we are investigating the features of YouTube as it was successfully used by the music appreciation group to form playlists and continue virtual listening sessions during lockdown.

If you are interested in joining this group please contact Carol at carolevelyn49@@icloud.com

Natural Environment of Hamilton

After 3 years of sterling work by Noeline Alcorn this group has a new convenor, Neil Fagan. Members have stepped up to organise visits to interesting sites in the Hamilton area with guest speakers planned. Next year they may revisit some of the trips made during the early years of the group. Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

If you are interested in joining this group please contact Neil at neilfagan@xtra.co.nz or 855 7009.

Committee news

As Noeline stated in her report the AGM is being held on 19th August. The relevant documents will be emailed out or posted to those members without email addresses.

Nomination forms which are due on 17th August can be

- scanned and emailed to Paul Etheredge at etheredge@xtra.co.nz
- or sent to U3a Hamilton PO Box 1103, Hamilton

Membership

Updated brochures will be on hand at the August meeting, and we are hoping that all members will take at least one to give to a neighbour or friend to inform them about what we do, and hopefully encourage them to come along as a visitor to a meeting.

Please remember to advise any changes in your email, telephone or addresses so that we can update our records and keep in contact.

Name Badges

There are many name badges awaiting collection. If you don't have one, please check and see if it's there. We do not ask them to be returned at the end of meetings. If you do not have one, please let Judith know.

Emergency Contact

This is purely voluntary, but if you'd like to have an emergency contact added to your membership details please contact me.

NB: Our membership records are kept securely on our database, used only for contact, newsletters and interest group management and are never shared

Judith Hickman, Membership Secretary hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com.nz or telephone 849 0242