



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

www.u3ahamilton.org.nz

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Newsletter 2021

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

Meetings

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 17th 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 Homesteads: The Story of New Zealand's Grand Country Houses.

Writer and publisher Debra Millar presents an illustrated talk sharing the story of some of New Zealand's most iconic and historic rural homesteads. These houses, all still lived in today, occupy an important place in our rural heritage and represent some of the largest and most elaborately decorated houses built in this country in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Most are still occupied by descendants of their founders, many of whom continue to maintain spectacular gardens. Debra will share her stories that have shaped these splendid rural properties accompanied by images taken by award-winning photographer Jane Ussher.

Meet and greet Current Affairs and Book Discussion 1 & 2

Morning tea helpers Paul and Carol

President's message

Tena koutou, greetings to you all.

Well, "the best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry" and our plans for a smooth start to 2021 had to be changed. We were disappointed that Mark Houlahan's talk had to be cancelled yet again but he has agreed to be rescheduled (yet again!) and is booked for our April meeting.



As our next meeting is 17th March, we invite you to wear green if you wish.

Please ensure that you scan or sign in when you arrive. We will be providing tech support after the meeting for anyone wishing to learn how to download and use the Covid tracing app. Bring along your phone (iphone or android) and your password and pin number and we will help you. There is also information on the SuperGold website. Noel Leaming shops offer free support to download this app.



We will be holding our AGM in June and we would welcome people to offer themselves for nomination. It is not necessary to have been a long term member of U3A to be on the committee and it is an excellent way of getting to know people. Please contact me alisonfagan@xtra.co.nz if you would like to discuss this.

There is also a need for convenors of interest groups and people to help with the chairs at our meetings.

At the moment we are once again in lockdown, which affects people and regions in different ways. Many of us were able to attend some world class events at the recent Hamilton gardens arts festival. What a leap of faith for organisers of this and other events to plan and implement such a festival in these uncertain times. Well done Hamilton for supporting them!

Stay safe,

Alison Fagan, President U3A Hamilton.

Groups

Interest group news

Natural Environment of Hamilton group

February's walk was a very pleasant 1 hour stroll around Lake Kainui and we were thrilled to welcome 2 new members. We are lucky to have some keen historians in the group so there was a lively discussion about the history of the lake before we set out. For those people looking for a walk to do with grandchildren, this is ideal as there are a number of hidden "fairy houses" which would provide extra interest for them.

Dining group

The U3A Dining group has restarted.

A booking has been made for 6.00pm on Thursday 18th March at Jaipur Indian Restaurant, 793 Victoria St. Licenced and BYO .

RSVP to Gayle Martin, gayle45@gmail.com or 0211359695 before Monday 15th.

The Computer Technology group

We have room for new members this year. We explore everyday technology including our mobile phones, and look at issues and problem solving as well as topics such as Cyber security. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00am.

Contact the convenor for further details at: carolevelyn49@icloud.com

The Knit, Stitch and Chat group

We meet on the third Tuesday each month at 1:30 pm at the convenor's home.

There are five of us who meet regularly. This means we have room for another three people to join and is a good time to join as people look for new projects for the cooler months. Between us we have a good deal of knowledge which is shared freely and is often the trigger needed to finish a project that has stalled.

In April we may get a group together to visit the Waikato Embroiderers' Guild Exhibition in Morrinsville. Anyone wanting to join our group should contact the convenor on 07 855 8328, or catherineg@hnpl.net

The Antiques and Collectables group

We began the year's programme by meeting at Paul Etheridge's home in Te Pahu. Paul gave us a fascinating insight into coin collecting. We examined several coins including some from Roman times where the detail of the raised relief on the coins was impressive. We were provided with comprehensive notes which included the appropriate vocabulary of the subject, values of old coins, conditions or grades and buying and selling. Paul also offered the following advice:

Keeping Coins for the Grandchildren

You might want to keep a set of the coins that are being withdrawn for your grandchildren. Here are some hints if you choose to do so.

- Select coins that are bright and shiny and have few marks on them
- Keep separately in envelopes so that they do not knock against each other
- Store carefully in dry conditions
- Note that coins should only be cleaned by washing gently in soapy water and dried carefully
- Never polish coins – the surface is destroyed and the value decreased
- Coin envelopes and other storage items are available – see the Premier Catalogue for advertisements

Our March meeting will be hosted by Adam Archer, formerly of Peachgrove Antiques and will be held at his showroom on River Road. Drinks and nibbles will be provided. Our group is currently full.

Convenor: Raeburne Bourke 07 8562413 raeburnebourke@gmail.com

Current Affairs Group

This Group meets from 1.30 to 3.00pm on the first and third Friday each month in the Boardroom at the Celebrating Age Centre. A wide range of topics are addressed bringing forth many and varied views in lively discussions. Group members may nominate and introduce topics if they wish.



There is a charge of \$2 per session, and members can choose to attend one or both sessions.

There is room for two or three new members to join; please contact the convenor first.

If you would like to attend a couple of sessions to try it out, that is OK – just let the convenor know when you contact him.

Convenor: Gorham Milbank 855 4757 milbank@xtra.co.nz

Philosophy Group

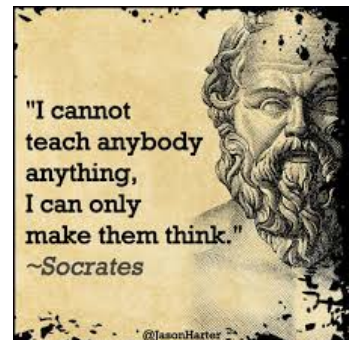
New convenor needed from May.

The Philosophy Group has been meeting on the first Wednesday each month at Gorham Milbank's home from 10.00 - 11.30, plus we socialise for a wee while afterwards. There are seven in the Group with a limit of nine given it is a group meeting in a home. A new Convenor could arrange to meet at their home or at the Celebrating Age Centre – but there would need to be a charge of \$3 per session.

We have operated with no expectation of an academic background; people bring their own ideas about life and its meanings and use these to contribute to the discussions.

If you would be interested in considering convening this group, please contact Gorham. He will happily explain what we have been doing; maybe you could attend a session or two. He is willing to provide some support to a new convenor for a couple of sessions.

Phone 855 4757 or email milbank@xtra.co.nz



New groups

Hiking group

A new Hiking group is being set up. We have enough members to begin planning how this would work. If you are interested, please contact me and I'll put you in touch with the right people.

Memoirs group

Our new Memoirs group still needs a couple more people to make it viable. If you are keen, please let me know.

Graham Harrison gfharrison26@gmail.com 855 6217

Ukulele Beginner Group

We would like to start another beginner group to learn to play the ukulele. No previous experience is necessary, apart from a desire to play and sing with a very friendly group of people. You would need to have a ukulele (expect to spend about \$70) and eventually a music stand. Please contact Judith Hickman 849 0242 (evenings best) if you are interested.

Committee news

U3A Almoner

I have recently taken over the role of U3A almoner from Gorham Milbank.

Gavin Muckle Ph 07 827 3766 (I live in Cambridge) Mobile 021 0744937
gwmuckle@gmail.com

What does the almoner do?

On behalf of U3A Hamilton, the almoner makes contact with members who might appreciate a message of condolence, support or congratulations. The contact could be a card, a phone call, an email or perhaps a visit.

Such a contact may arise out of an illness, bereavement or disabling event. Also we would like to send messages of congratulations for significant birthdays, wedding anniversaries or achievements.

Who lets the almoner know?

Any member can contact the almoner on behalf of another member, or a spouse or friend could make contact on the member's behalf. Interest group convenors, in particular may be in a key position to know if members are in need of acknowledgement.

It is always helpful to provide as much information as possible about the reason why it may be appropriate to acknowledge or send a message of support to the member.

Please leave a message if there is no reply to a phone call to me and I will get back to you.

U3A Webpage Online Blog

The three new postings have been added to the online learning blog on our webpage: www.u3ahamilton.org.nz

- A Poem for February
- Bestselling books
- Australian Writers Group – Peter Carey

New Committee members

With our Annual General meeting being planned, now would be a good time to start thinking of becoming a committee member. We meet on the first Monday of the month at the Aged Concern Centre at 1.30. The meeting usually lasts an hour. This is a great way to get to know how our organisation works and to get to know some new people.

Please contact our president, Alison Fagan alisonfagan@xtra.co.nz or 855 7009.

Secretary needed for our U3A Committee

Paul Etheridge has decided to end his time as our able secretary. Maybe you could be the next person to do this important role. Alison is happy to discuss this possibility. alisonfagan@xtra.co.nz or 855 7009

Membership

Thank you to those of you who have already paid their subscriptions.

U3A subscription for 2021 are now due. The amount is \$30 per person. All members of interest groups need to be paid up U3A members.

The \$30 subscription for 2021 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
- 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 has all the information about how to pay subscriptions.

If you have any queries, please email me at TreasurerHamiltonNZU3A@gmail.com

With thanks,

Christine Williams Treasurer

Outings

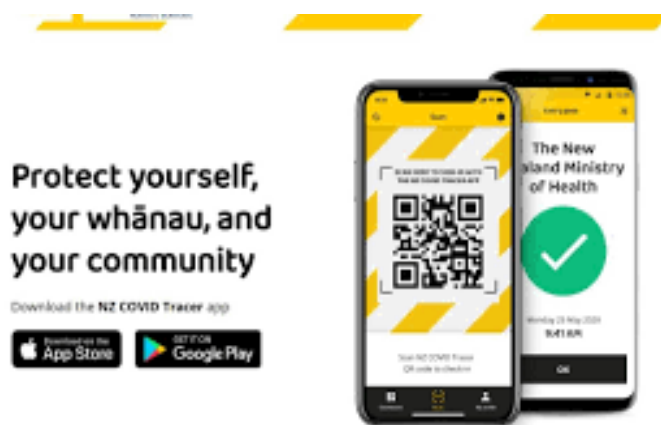
The bus trip to the Auckland Botanical gardens is scheduled for 16th April. The gardens do not provide guided tours but have given me 2 self-guided routes to follow around the gardens. We would do one before and one after lunch. Alternatively you could follow your own route. Lunch can be had at the café, or bring your own. Bus leaves Chartwell Church at 9.30 am and returns approx. 3.30pm.

Cost \$28 please pay online **internet** banking or by cash at any Westpac branch to U3A account: **03 1559 0030619 00**. (include your name for reference); or by cash to treasurer at 17th March meeting. Payment must be made by the 2nd April.

Please indicate your interest by filling in the form at the meeting or contacting me at alisonfagan@xtra.co.nz or 855 7009. Alison

Covid app training

If you would like help with setting up/ using the Covid tracking app, please stay after the meeting. Bring along your phone (iphone or android) and your password and pin number and we will help you.



Could members who are comfortable with helping others install and use the app please stay after the meeting?

Mobility

If you wish to attend our meetings but have transport issues, please let us know. We may be able to find a member near you who can help. If the steps at our usual entrance are a challenge for you, we are able to use the front door nearest the road. Please come in using the first gate. There are no steps for this entrance.