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April Newsletter 2021

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

Meetings

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 21 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 (The Chartwell Mall end of Comries Road).

Following the guest speaker's presentation, we have morning tea/coffee and a chance to chat.

Our Speaker

Happy Birthday Mr. Shakespeare!

On Friday April 23, we celebrate Shakespeare's 457th birthday. But how do we know it's his birthday, and why should we celebrate him? What do we know about his life? What is the secret of his global success?

What set him apart from his talented peers, Christopher Marlowe, or even Elizabeth the First, herself a poet and speechwriter?

What are the best (or worst) versions of Shakespeare to watch? How does Shakespeare transcend time and language to still amaze us?

In this talk, I will cover these and other Shakespeare mysteries. For those who like what Hamlet calls "a passionate speech", I'll recite at least one of the famous sonnets.



Photo courtesy of Waikato Museum of Art and History

Mark Houlahan, Associate Professor, English Programme, Te Kura Toi (School of Arts), University of Waikato.

Next Speaker Rob McGowan, Department of Conservation, Tauranga, will speak on Wednesday 19 May. **"Tiwaiwaka - Looking at the environment through Maori eyes"**

Meet and greet Theatre and Shows group and Australian authors group

Morning tea helpers Lesley Dunn, Joy Glaysher and Gill Clothier

President's message

Greetings to you all. I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing Easter.

Well, we finally held our first general meeting of 2021 and what an interesting meeting it was. Debra Millar gave a fascinating presentation on some of the iconic homesteads of New Zealand. This topic obviously resonated with many of our members judging by the number of people chatting with Debra afterwards. Some relevant resources have been uploaded to the online learning part of our website. Click here <https://u3ahamilton.org.nz/march-21-meeting/>
We look forward to our April meeting on the 21st with Mark Houlahan speaking about some of the mysteries of Shakespeare.

U3a Hamilton is in good heart and we welcome many new and prospective members. New groups are being established with convenors stepping forward, which is most encouraging. Our meetings and groups could not function without the

willingness of the committee, convenors and other volunteers. If you feel you could contribute in any of these roles please contact me. I would particularly like to acknowledge Paul Etheredge and Trevor and Dorianne Hornby who stepped in to organise the morning tea at our last meeting.

U3a Hamilton is keen to organise interesting trips. If you have any suggestions of suitable destinations please contact me or any committee member. We would also be keen to hear from you if you are prepared to organise such a trip!



Stay safe,
Alison Fagan, President U3a Hamilton.

Groups

Interest group news

The French Language Group

Our first term will conclude on 8 April after eight weeks, with the date extended by one week to encompass the level 2 lockdown.

It's always very enjoyable to catch up with the other enthusiastic members of the group! Most members have been able to join us this first term, with only one person unavailable until next term, which starts on 6 May. As for our activities, well, there is never a shortage of subjects to read about and discuss in French, all highlighted in news from France and other French-speaking countries, as well as from the world in general. In doing so we expand our knowledge of French culture and the French language!

Janice Smith

Antiques and Collectables Group

Our March meeting was a visit to Adam Archer's Antiques showroom on River Road. We were warmly welcomed and given free reign of the venue where the wide variety of exhibits held a lot of interest. Some of us left with lighter wallets! It was very pleasant sitting on the deck enjoying drinks and nibbles, the view and happy conversation. Our next meeting is a day trip to Paeroa exploring the retail outlets.

Raeburne Bourke

Book Discussion Group 1

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month and have a full complement of eight members. There is no required reading or even a topic, but rather at the meeting each member presents a book or books that has either been read recently or enjoyed in the past. The titles are usually an interesting and eclectic mix of genres, with recommendations often added to the future reading list of the other members.

As a group we decided to continue to limit the number of members to eight, but I am happy to add names to a waiting list.

Sheila Emslie

The Numismatic Group

This is dissolving as the Waikato Numismatic Society is no longer meeting on a regular basis and is reviewing its future.

Paul Etheredge.

Current Affairs Group

Invitation for several new members to join; please contact the convener first.

See last month's newsletter for details on session times, dates, venue, and costs. First in, first served.

The room we use has a fire safety number limit, so the opportunity to get into this group may not be repeated for some time.

Gorham Milbank Phone: 855 4757 email: milbank@xtra.co.nz

Self-Publishing Group

The next meeting will take place in the boardroom at the Celebrating Age Centre on Monday 3 May from 1.30 to 3pm. Cost: \$3 each to pay for room hire. Jillene Bydder will share her recent experience of self - publishing a book. We welcome new members.

Janet Hanfling janet.hanfling@xtra.co.nz 07 8553551

Natural Environment of Hamilton

March outing : Allan Turner Walkway and Swing Bridge which links Woodcock Road, Tamahere and Fuchsia Lane, Matangi.

A small group enjoyed exploring the swing bridge and the walkway in the gully below. This is being revegetated by the Tamahere Restoration Trust. Afterwards we enjoyed a shared picnic tea.

New members are welcome to join us on future walks. Please contact Neil Fagan on neilfagan@xtra.co.nz

Online Learning Blog

The March postings in the online learning blog on our webpage:
<https://u3ahamilton.org.nz/online-learning/> are:

- Some Early Twentieth Century Australia Writers
- *Man Alone* by John Mulgan
- Family History
- March 21 Meeting: Debra Miller and *New Zealand Country Homestead*