



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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

July Newsletter 2021

Meetings

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 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 (near Chartwell Mall).

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

Next speaker Representing the Unrepresented.
How activism is helping change the world.

Priya Kurian is a Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at the University of Waikato.

She will draw on her recently published book: Public Relations and Sustainable Citizenship 2021

Priya will explore how grassroots activism in the realms of air, water and land offers lessons, insights and ultimately hope for a better, more sustainable future.

Meet and greet Wine Appreciation group

Morning tea helpers Natural Environment group

President's message

Kia ora, greetings to you all.

Thank you to those of you who came to our AGM last month. We were rewarded with an entertaining and informative presentation by Coryn Knapper of the Riverlea theatre.

A group attended a very enjoyable lunch together after the AGM. Thank you to Gayle for organising this at such a lovely venue.

The new committee has met and discussed some ongoing issues. One decision that has been made is that we would no longer use the side door for access to our meetings. The main front entrance is on the northern side closest to Comries road, and doesn't have any steps. The foyer is more spacious and allows us to set up various noticeboards etc. The side door will remain one of the emergency exits.

Please use the main front entrance to the foyer to access our general meeting.

A group of intrepid explorers travelled a complete circuit of Hamilton on the Orbiter bus recently. Useful stops were noted, particularly the ease of access to the hospital, and also that the Rotokauri transport hub provides access to the Base. The group enjoyed a coffee together afterwards. Rumours that "Wheels on the Bus" was heard from the back of the bus are totally false. Our website <https://u3ahamilton.org.nz/> continues to be an important tool to inform and attract members. In the last 4 months the home page has been visited 3315 times. Of these almost 300 visited the monthly meeting and the interest group pages. Nearly 200 accessed the online learning page, the article on the Wairere Drive extension and Peacocke extension being the most popular.

Stay safe and warm

Alison Fagan, President Hamilton U3A.

Groups

Interest group news

Book Discussion Group 1

We meet at Hockin House, Selwyn Street on the fourth Tuesday of every month. We give a donation of \$2 each to Hockin House at each meeting. 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.

Sadly one of our members has had to leave the group, so there is a space for one person in order to again make up the full complement of eight.

Sheila Emslie

Environment Group

On 23rd June, 2021 eleven people met at the Flagstaff Shopping Centre on a fine, warm day. We proceeded north through short patches of bush along the eastern bank of the Waikato River; crossed over on a walk/cycling bridge to the western bank. We headed south, through bush or along city streets, to the Waiewe Bridge and back to Flagstaff. Where we all enjoyed a "coffee break". The pathways were all level and there was little difficulty.

U3A French Group

The group will meet on Thursday 22 July for Term 3 which will be for 8 sessions until 9 September. During our three-week break we've been fortunate in being able to maintain our links with France, the country and its culture, via television coverage of the Tour de France and the excellent and very enjoyable French Film Festival at the Lido. We'll have some great discussions inspired by both events when we meet up again!

Amicalement
Janice Smith

The Hiking Group

Our membership has climbed to 17. On Thursday 8th July, 10 members of the group climbed Kakepuku, a peak of 449m just south of Te Awamutu. The weather was a bit cloudy with the odd passing shower, which mostly managed to skirt around us. This meant we were not able to get quite the views that would be possible on a clear day. The track was a little slippery in parts due to the recent rains but did not stop all from reaching the trig station at the summit. An interesting side-line was that 2 members discovered that they were related about 3-4 generations back. You never know what you will find on a walk!

Photos show the intrepid group about to start the walk and at the summit.



The group selected our next walk to be along Te Waihou Walkway (which runs beside the Waihou River near Putaruru) on Thursday 12th August. In September we will do the walk to the Ruapane Lookout on Pirongia. Members were also keen for a couple of longer walks over summer with suggestions of Mt Karangahake and the Pinnacle.

Des Johnston

Antiques and Collectables

The topic for our June meeting was 'Silver with a family connection'. We enjoyed sharing a range of silver items and hearing of the family connection.

Judy McDonald gave us a fascinating, abridged history of the development of cutlery. We learnt that the word for spoon came from the Anglo – Saxon 'spon' meaning a chip of wood and that meat was eaten from the point of a knife. Erasmus (1526) informed diners that they should not lick their fingers, nor should they wipe their knives on their coats – they should use the table cloth as that is what it was there for!

We heard about the development of forks and how the addition of chromium to carbon-steel by Englishman, Henry Brearly, revolutionised the cutlery industry as steel utensils no longer had to be washed and dried immediately after use to ward off rust.

We had a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting afternoon.

Raeburne Bourke

Mah-jongg Group

Our group was originally set up by Murray Belchamber several years ago now and he is back with us supporting new learners and helping us all extend our knowledge and skills. We play the Hong Kong version of the game and are currently focussing on building higher scoring hands across a session. We meet at Matte Black, the café attached to the St Andrews Golf club on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 1 to 3 pm. Lots of fun, chatting, coffee, and increasing (slowly!) our ability to strategize.

Our group is now up to 12 however, so for the time being, if you want to join us please contact Graham Harrison, gfharrison26@gmail.com 8556217, to go on a waiting list.

Lesley Dunn

New groups

Shakespeare For Everyone

This group is now up-and-running. The group's first meeting is on 4 August. Phone Alison Ringer 027 346 3691 for details.

Online Learning Blog

In June, these posts were made to our online learning blog

<https://u3ahamilton.org.nz/online-learning/>:

- Being a distance grandparent
- Hamilton East By-Election, Hamilton City Council
- Auckland Newsletter
- Kapiti Expressway, Wellington
- Annual Garden Bird Survey
- Australian writers group- Helen Garner
- Waikato Expressway Update

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome.

Beverley Bell