



www.u3ahamilton.org.nz

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The War Horse by Matt Gaudie, Memorial Park

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

President's message

Tēnā koutou, greetings to you all.

As I write this message Hamilton is in Level 3 lockdown, and with ongoing uncertainty, the committee has decided to cancel the October general meeting. This is the third meeting in a row to be cancelled. We hope to be able to hold one in November.

Although we have been unable to gather as a large group and benefit from a presentation from a speaker, I know that many of our interest groups have continued to meet under Level 2. These groups provide a valuable forum for important interaction in difficult times. Once levels drop, more interest groups will be able to meet again.

The potential bus trip to the Eden Garden and Winter Gardens is also cancelled.

Take care of yourself and others.

Alison Fagan

Groups

Antiques and Collectables Group

Both our September and October meetings had to be cancelled because of Covid levels. Four members were looking forward to a day trip to Te Kuiti, where an antiques shop was having a closing down sale. This also had to be cancelled because of the return to Level 3. We are hoping for more luck in November.

Raeborne Bourke

Computer Group

These are some of the topics the Computer Group has explored

- Voice activated applications
- 'The Cloud'
- Photo storage apps
- Digital calendars
- Use of screenshots
- Pros/cons of social media
- Cyber safety
- Password managers
- Favourite apps and programmes
- Device housekeeping
- Filing systems
- Keeping data safe
- Use of PowerPoint

We try to solve practical computing and smartphone problems and understand how technology works.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am. We have space for one or two new members.

Contact the Convenor at: carolevelyn49@icloud.com for details.



Natural Environment Group

In September the Natural Environment Group met at Lake Rotopiko for a walk around this peat lake which is enclosed by a predator-proof fence. We were met by Karen Denyer, the CEO of the NZ Wetland Trust, who gave us a very interesting talk about the lake and the work of the trust and their volunteers. They have planted many natives and have had support from other community groups to build boardwalks. One fact that fascinated us is that up to 500,000

starlings nest at the lake each night. This has a disastrous effect on the undergrowth which is killed by all their droppings. The Trust has tried several remedies such as shooting the birds, but none have been successful. It seems that many other restored environments are having similar problems; they are victims of their successful replanting and pest eradication.

We then walked around the lake, starting with the new pontoon, reading the many information boards. It was shocking to see the almost complete lack of undergrowth under the trees.

Alison Fagan



Online Learning Blog

In September, these posts were made to our online learning blog
<https://u3ahamilton.org.nz/online-learning/>:

- Family history matters
- For the Grandchildren
- Australian Writers Book Group: Richard Flanagan
- History Interest group
- Learning about nutrition and mental health
- Gardening newsletter
- Inside Government House

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome and can be emailed to

mail@u3ahamilton.org.nz

Beverley Bell