



The War Horse by Matt Gaudie, Memorial Park



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

## Meetings

### Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 15 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 on the opposite side of the road). Following the guest speaker's presentation, we have morning tea/coffee and a chance to chat.

Meet and greet French Language

Morning tea helpers Coffee Companions

## Next speaker Bruce Clarkson

Bringing indigenous nature back into New Zealand towns and cities.

Professor Bruce Clarkson leads an MBIE funded research programme *People, Cities and Nature: Restoring indigenous nature in urban environments*. His research has had a direct impact on Hamilton gully restoration initiatives and the Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage park project near Hamilton Zoo. In 2005, together with independent consultant Dr Wren Green, he carried out a review of progress on the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy for the chief executives of the sponsoring government agencies. In 2006 he was awarded the Loder Cup, New Zealand's premier conservation award and in 2016 he received the RSNZ Charles Fleming Award for environmental achievement. In 2021 he was awarded (jointly with his wife Dr Beverley Clarkson) the Hamilton Kirikiriroa Medal for contribution to the natural environment. Professor Clarkson is chair of the Australasian Chapter and a Board Member of the International Society for Ecological Restoration. He is also an Ambassador for New Zealand's Biological Heritage National Science Challenge.



## President's message

Tēnā koutou, greetings to you all.

Once again we are in lockdown and although the advent of spring and better weather makes it somewhat easier to deal with, we should acknowledge the heightened anxiety caused by this Delta variant of Covid.

Regrettably our general meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> August had to be cancelled due to the imposed Covid lockdown. We will try to reschedule Dr Richard Hoskins for a later meeting. Peggy Koopman-Boyden made the comment that at least it wasn't Mark Houlahan who had been postponed twice due to Covid!

At this stage we are planning as if the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September will go ahead, but if we are not be at level 1 at that date then it will be cancelled.

We returned from Auckland a few days before lockdown and I somewhat nervously checked the places of interest to see if we had been at any of them at the times listed. It was a sobering experience, and made me realise how lucky we are to not have had any cases in the Waikato.

Please keep in touch with friends and family and reach out for support if you need it.

Stay safe,  
Alison Fagan

# Groups

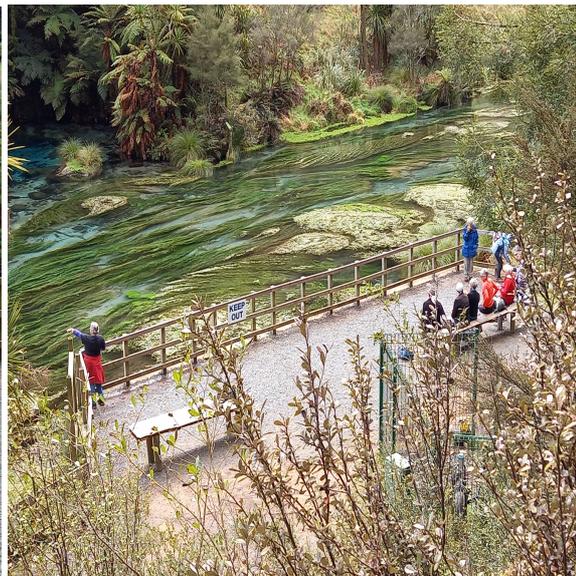
## Hiking Group

A group of 10 from the Hiking Group walked the Te Waihou walkway to the Blue Springs near Putaruru on 12<sup>th</sup> August. It was a lovely day with some extra entertainment provided by pukeko and several nice trout spied in the stream. Thanks to Betty McGregor for gathering the information.

The next outing for the group is planned to be the Ruapane Track on Pirongia on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October. This was to be our September hike but Covid intervened. Thanks to Bob Simcock for getting the details for that.

The Hope Hillary walk was suggested for our October outing but unfortunately the area is closed for lambing during October, so we will leave that for another month.

Des Johnson



## Antiques and Collectables

Our August meeting took the format of an Antiques Roadshow with Mr Roger McGirr being our guest expert. We enjoyed hearing his comments on a variety of objects ranging from an early Chinese terracotta plaque to English glass and pottery, Chinese porcelain and Japanese miniatures. Oriental was the loose theme. Antiques have been a lifetime interest for Roger, starting when he was 10 years old, and he said he was still learning. We appreciated Roger's wide-ranging knowledge and enjoyed a very informative afternoon.

Raeburne Bourke

### Come and Play the Ukulele

With

U3A Jam

**When?** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month

**Time?** 1.15 pm – 2.45 pm

**Where?** Hukanui Reformed Church  
159 Rototuna Road, Rototuna

**Cost?** \$2 per session for venue.

**Who can join?**

Anyone – we will teach you to play.

All you need is a ukulele and love of playing,  
singing and good fellowship.

**Convenor?**

Judith Hickman ph 027 664 6712 or 849 0242

Hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com



## History Group

This year we have been looking at Pandemics. I have two references that may interest those who observe the 2020-21 pandemic and people's responses – human nature hasn't changed. Look up online

- Thucydides Plague of Athens 429 BC Text and Commentary
- Boccaccio The Decameron, "Introduction". Fordham and Northampton Universities have the same translation. They do not give the rest of the introduction where the characters leave Florence and retire to a country estate, not un-similar to those who fled Auckland in our lockdowns.

Paul Etheredge

## Outings

### Potential trip to Eden Garden and Winter Gardens

I have started investigating and planning another bus trip to two gardens in Auckland. The proposed date is 27<sup>th</sup> October and will include a buffet finger food lunch in a private pavilion at the Eden Garden. This will obviously be dependent on the whole country being at level 1 at that time.

The cost and itinerary are yet to be finalised.

Here is some information on the gardens-

[www.edengarden.co.nz/](http://www.edengarden.co.nz/)

[www.gardens.org.nz/auckland-gardens/auckland-domain-wintergardens/](http://www.gardens.org.nz/auckland-gardens/auckland-domain-wintergardens/)

If you would like to register your interest please contact me at

[mail@u3ahamilton.org.nz](mailto:mail@u3ahamilton.org.nz)

Alison Fagan

## Online Learning Blog

In July and August, these posts were made to our online learning blog

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

- Being a distant grandparent
- The Page Turners Book Club
- Olympics and Paralympics 2020 in Tokyo
- Australian Writers group: Kate Grenville
- Patricia Grace
- August 2021 lockdown information links
- More Lockdown information
- Healthy for Life
- Lockdown smiles
- Royal New Zealand Ballet online shows
- Greater Auckland Newsletter August 2021

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome and can be emailed to: [mail@u3ahamilton.org.nz](mailto:mail@u3ahamilton.org.nz)

Beverley Bell