



**Tongue of the Dog** by Michael Parekowhai  
Photo by Anne Devlin



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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## February Newsletter 2022

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

**The general meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February is CANCELLED**

### President's message

Tēnā koutou, greetings to you all.

I hope that you have had an enjoyable holiday season and have been able to spend time with family and friends.

The committee has met and planned our start to the year and how to manage our general meetings. Our first meeting was to be a relaxed, social affair with Coryn Knapper presenting an interactive musical experience. Unfortunately, with the move to the red traffic light on the protection framework, we cannot hold our general meeting in February.

Our membership is still in a healthy position despite the reduced number of meetings last year. We would like to suggest that you bring a friend along to a meeting when they recommence and encourage them to join U3A. With new members, there is the potential for new interest groups to be established and this is beneficial for all members.

**There is a change to the April meeting date. The general meeting will now be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday i.e. 27<sup>th</sup> April. (Covid willing) This is due to the school holiday programme being held on our normal meeting date.**

Looking forward to seeing you at a meeting sometime this year!

Alison Fagan.

## Membership subscriptions

As we start our 2022 year, we hope we will be able to hold our meetings most months. We do know that we are at the mercy of Covid-19 in the community. Our programme was disrupted in 2020 and 2021 by lockdowns and restrictions. Last year we gave you the option of paying the full \$30 subscription, or the reduced amount of \$20, if you felt that was more appropriate. We will do the same this year. So, the full subscription (due now) is \$30 per member, but you may choose to pay the reduced amount of \$20 for the coming year.

The bank number is Westpac 03-1559-0030619-00 (Please put your whole name in the reference fields if you can. This makes for less confusion when there are similar names on the database). I will, of course, be present to accept cash at the meetings if you prefer to pay that way. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Christine Williams: Treasurer

## Online Learning Blog

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

Face masks

More information sites for home management of mild Covid-19

Home management of mild Covid-19

Covid-19: Testing positive for Covid – what to do

River walking paths

Covid traffic light system

Australian writers group November 2021

Covid records and vaccinations

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome.

Beverley Bell

## Our Membership Database

*What information do we collect?*

Contact details (address, phone, email), subscription payments and membership of interest groups.

*Why do you require addresses when most contact is by email?*

You'd be surprised how often people, when enrolling, make a mistake with their email or phone number, or we find one or the other doesn't work any more. And, as doctors aren't the only ones with hard to read writing, sometimes the data entry error has been mine.

*Who has access to this information?*

I have oversight of the database and maintain the membership records. The Treasurer and Interest Group Coordinator are responsible for the parts of the database relating to their responsibilities. Read-only access is available to other committee members if they need it.

We do not print any contact details of members, and the information we hold is not provided to any other person or agency.

### Keeping the Database up to Date

This is always a challenge. If you have changed your address, telephone number or email please let me know by either emailing [hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com) or text 027 664 6712 or telephone 849 0242 (evenings are best). I notice that many people these days are abandoning land lines and using cellphones instead, so if this applies to you, I'll expect a call before too long.

Judith Hickman: Membership Secretary

## Groups

### Page Turners Group

The Page Turners continue to meet regularly to discuss the books we have read. The group represents a diverse readership which creates interest & exploration of ideas. There are no vacancies in this group, at present.

Convenor: Susan Gresson

## Theatre Group

The Theatre group is reforming so they can again enjoy the company of others and have someone to go to shows and movies with. If you would be keen to be part of this group, please phone or email Graham.

Convenor: Graham Harrison [gfharrison26@gmail.com](mailto:gfharrison26@gmail.com) 8556217

## Shakespeare Interest Group

The S.I.G. is a relatively new group of 5 that wants to explore Shakespeare further. Some of us studied some plays at school, but knew we only scratched the surface. Others know his plays well and want to revisit him and share their delight. We keep an eye out for Shakespeare performances on stage, TV or film; we have discussed the historical context of Shakespeare's times; and we have looked at Othello and one sonnet. In February we will be watching a recording of King Lear. Please text 027 346 3691 if you are interested in joining us or just visiting, and I will phone you back.

Convenor: Alison Ringer

## Dining Group

This group is for all U3A Members who wish to eat together at a restaurant or cafe every 2 to 3 months. It can be dinner or lunch, whatever the Convenor decides.

There is no set number, just contact me before the due date when it is advertised in the newsletter, and I make the booking. Quite often it is a licensed and BYO wine place that accepts individual bills. I like to choose a place where there is ample parking and moderate cost.

Convenor: Gayle Martin [gayle45@gmail.com](mailto:gayle45@gmail.com) 0211359695

## Uke3A Group

The Ukulele Group reconvenes on Tuesday 9 February 1.15 pm – 2.45 pm. at Hukanui Reformed Church, 139 Ruakura Road. Everybody is welcome to come along to sing and play with us – experienced players and beginners alike. We have a good programme and will arrange extra tuition if requested.

Convenor: Judith Hickman 027 664 671



## Coffee Companions Group

Coffee lovers rejoice – we will meet on Friday 11 February, 10.30 am, at the Lakeside Cafe, Hamilton Gardens. If you like to try out Hamilton’s great variety of cafes, and enjoy an informal with chat with others, then this could be the group for you. We are quite flexible, and people come when it suits them. I have to make a booking for us, so I do like to be advised of your attendance prior to each visit, please.



Convenor: Judith Hickman 027 664 6712

## Current Affairs Group

This Group meets from 1.30 to 3.00pm on the first and third Friday each month (next session 18 February). A wide range of topics are addressed, bringing forth many and varied views in lively discussions. Group members are invited to nominate and introduce topics if they wish.



Our usual venue is the Boardroom in the Celebrating Age Centre – but that is not available at present. For now, we meet in the Lounge at the Cooperating Church, Comries Road, Chartwell. Those attending must have a Covid Vaccine Pass.

There is a charge of \$2 per member per session to pay the room rental. There is room for two or three new members to join; please contact the convenor.

Convenor: Gorham Milbank 855 4757 [milbank@xtra.co.nz](mailto:milbank@xtra.co.nz)

## Hiking Group

The Hiking Group originated when some members of the Natural Environment Group felt that they would like to participate in walks with a little more challenge. As at January 2022, the group has 17 members. Members are asked to volunteer to research and plan walks.

Walks completed so far include Kakepuku, the Kauri Loop Track at the north end of the Hakarimata Range, The Waihou Springs Walk in Putaruru, the Kaniwhaniwha Caves and the Maungakara Walk on Pirongia.

The group meets on the second Thursday of each month and members car-pool from a site selected for the day. A \$5.00 koha is paid by each participant to the driver of each vehicle used.

Convenor: Des Johnston

## Play Reading Group

We have 6 women members. New members are welcome.

We usually meet on the 4th Thursday each month, at 10:15 am, at Pat Stannard's home, 20 St Paul's Road, Chartwell.

We generally read two short plays after a chat and a cuppa.

It is not necessary to have had any acting experience. It is about getting together, enjoying each other's company and sharing a common interest.

We are beginning the new year on Thursday 10th Feb, 10:15am. We are having a shared morning tea and will read a short play. (New comers are not required to participate if they simply wish to just check it is something they may enjoy.) We will also discuss any changes needed for the coming year.

If interested in joining us, please contact Marguerite.

Convenor: Marguerite Toy 0226700540 or 560 1698.

## Mah-jongg Group

Our group was originally set up by Murray Belchamber several years ago. He is now 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 cafe attached to the St Andrews Golf club on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 1 to 3 pm. We have lots of fun, chatting, coffee, and increasingly (slowly!) our ability to strategize is improving.

Our group is now up to 12 and the Matte Black management has asked us not to extend the group size. So, for the time being, if you want to join us please contact Graham Harrison, [gfharrison26@gmail.com](mailto:gfharrison26@gmail.com) 8556217, to go on a waiting list. Once there are four or more it may be possible to set up a second group.

Convenor: Lesley Dunn

## Self-Publishing Group

This group usually meets on the first Monday of the month, 1.30pm to 3pm in the boardroom of the Celebrating Age Centre. Due to Covid restrictions, the Centre is closed at present. The date and venue of the next meeting is uncertain.

The aim of the group is to provide information and to give support to people who wish to self-publish their work. Sometimes we have a speaker who can give us specific information on such topics as formatting, publishing programmes, proofreading etc. At other meetings we have shared our own publishing experiences. We welcome new members to our current group of nine people.

Convenor: Janet Hanfling. [janet.hanfling@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janet.hanfling@xtra.co.nz) 07 855 3551

## French Group

The meeting we had on Thursday 12 August at the CAC, half way through Term 3, was sadly just a few days before the Level 4 lockdown on 17th . We had been inspired for that session by the film 'Antoinette in the Cévennes' that we had enjoyed in the French Film Festival, to explore with the help of some excellent articles in French, the life of Robert Louis Stevenson, whose hiking trip in 1879 with a donkey, Modestine, produced 'Travels with a Donkey,' one of his earliest writings. We did have one last get-together in 2021, on 9 December near the Turtle Lake in Hamilton Gardens. All fifteen of our group were able to attend for this very pleasant social occasion with tea and cake and lots of French chat and our hope for a 'Bonne Année 2022'. For a variety of reasons though, only one of which is the omicron variant, our first meeting of the year is unlikely to be before Easter!

Convenor: Janice Smith

## Computer Group

As this group is not a large one and all members are vaccinated, we were mostly able to meet in 2021 except for the period of lockdown. Regular 'Tech tips' were shared when we could not get together.

Topics explored:

- Voice activated applications
- 'The Cloud'
- Photo storage apps
- Digital calendars
- Cyber safety & Netsafe
- Pros/ cons of Social Media
- Password managers
- Favourite apps & programmes
- Device housekeeping
- Filing systems
- Keeping data safe
- Use of PowerPoint

We try to solve practical computer and smartphone problems, and understand how technology works. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00. We have space for one or two new members.

Convenor: Carol Evans [carolevelyn@icloud.com](mailto:carolevelyn@icloud.com)



## Book Discussion Group

We meet at the historic Hockin House, Selwyn Street on the fourth Tuesday each 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 each member presents a book or books that have been read recently, or sometimes one that has been especially enjoyed in the past. The titles are an interesting and eclectic mix of authors, genres and styles which generates much interesting discussion on topics many and various.

As we have a full complement of eight members, there are currently no vacancies.

Convenor: Sheila Emslie [sheilamemslie@gmail.com](mailto:sheilamemslie@gmail.com)

## Knit, Stitch and Chat Group

We had planned to start meeting in February but, with Covid having its way with us again, this will have to be deferred until a more appropriate time. However, when we do start meeting again I am sure we will have lots of projects to show off and the world will still need to be put to rights. This group is probably the most experienced with needles so vaccinations and booster shots should have posed no threat on that score.

For the future we will, Covid willing, continue to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, at 1:30 pm, at the Convenor's home. At present we have room for another 3 or 4 people to join us. We work on a variety of individual projects at various experience levels. Degree of concentration required is measured by conversation levels. If this sort of activity appeals to you, please contact me.

Convenor: Catherine Gurnsey 07 855 8328.

## Antiques and Collectables Group

Our group had enjoyed a varied programme during 2021. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at 1.30 pm, usually in each other's homes. This means the membership is limited to 8. (It is currently at 8.) We have had shopping trips to Paeroa's antiques shops and to Adam' Archer's display showroom on River Road. Our home meetings cover a range of topics of interest – old coins, Wedgewood black basalt ware, china (the potteries of Stoke-on-Trent and Derby), silver with a family connection and masks. We welcomed Roger McGirr to our Antiques Roadshow meeting. Several gatherings were cancelled because of Covid but we managed to meet up for a very pleasant Christmas luncheon at Fresca's where we were treated to individualised crackers, handmade by Prue. It was a very happy and festive way to end the year.

Convenor: Raeburne Bourke