



HAMILTON

NEW ZEALAND

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March Newsletter 2022

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

U3A general meetings are cancelled for 3 months.

We will reconvene in June or when the orange traffic light is reinstated.

Isolation

If there is someone you know who may be feeling the anxiety of the times, perhaps a phone call might be welcomed.

President's message

Tēnā koutou, greetings to you all. I hope you are keeping well.

The committee has met and decided to suspend our general meetings for 3 months with the proviso that, if the orange traffic light is reinstated, we will reconvene our meetings earlier. This gives some surety to our venue managers and prevents us cancelling speakers.

In the meantime, many of our interest groups continue to meet and fulfil an important role in the lives of our members. Please continue to support these groups and even consider joining another one in these restricted times.

In this newsletter there is a message from Beverley Bell about information she has uploaded to the website. This includes the game Wordle. I have been playing this game online for a few weeks and really enjoy it. It is free, without advertisements and can be challenging. Each day everyone around the world gets the same puzzle so it is a perfect opportunity to share your success with a fellow Wordler!



Recently there was a news item about a 80 year old woman who failed to share her Wordle result with her daughters. When they went to check on her they found she was being held hostage! A positive aspect of technology!

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/feb/11/saved-the-wordle-clue-that-helped-rescue-80-year-old-woman-from-hostage-ordeal>

There are other ways of keeping in touch however. Perhaps make a commitment to contact someone who you know is on their own or struggling. This contact could have a focus like watching the same show and then discussing it the next day, or trying the same recipe and sharing the result.

Recently our Natural Environment group decided to morph into a weekly walking group to give all U3A members an opportunity to meet and get some exercise. There is more information from Graham in the groups section.

Until we can meet again, take care of yourself and those around you.

Alison Fagan

Online Learning Blog

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

- Wearing face masks
- Managing breathing in a Covid-19 infection
- 2021 Garden Bird Survey results
- Progress on the Hamilton Bypass section of the expressway
- Wordle
- Australian writers' group for February 2022: Alex Millar
- Free Rapid Antigen Tests for COVID-19
- Using a Covid RAT test
- Healthy Minds Challenge

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome. Beverley Bell

Groups

Gardening Group

An update on the second U3A gardening group.

We are looking for new members. We have six current members including a new person who has just joined from Cambridge. There are five vacancies and we would welcome you and your gardening ideas.

Carol O'Meagher 0277333210

Natural Environment Group

It seems we have to be flexible in these difficult times. To this end, the Environment Group is adapting to meet the current situation. At the moment, they are treating the sessions as a Walking Group, meeting at the Lake Rotoroa (Hamilton Lake), in front of The Veranda, at 9.50 on each Wednesday. If this sounds like something that would suit you, please feel free to join them.

Graham Harrison gfharrison26@gmail.com 855 6217

Ukulele Group



Our Ukulele Group is still meeting 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at the Hukanui Reformed Church, 159 Hukanui Road. We welcomed three new members this year, and would welcome anyone else who cares to join.

Judith Hickman 0276646712

Coffee Companions



In February, 14 members of Coffee Companions met at the Hamilton Gardens café for a very welcome catch-up and a delicious morning tea/coffee. Our next outing will be Friday, 11 March, at 10.30 am at Matteblack Café at St Andrews Golf Club. All welcome.

Please text Judith on 027 664 6712 if you'd like to join us on Friday 11 March.

New Groups

Singalong Group



Many people would like to sing, but don't want to join a choir. Would anyone be interested in a Singalong Group that would meet one afternoon each month to sing the old songs from the 40s, 50s and 60s? Nothing formal – just singing for fun. We have a volunteer convenor, but can't start until it's safe to do so. Please let us know if you'd be interested to join this group and sing with us.

Email hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com

Lone Nitwits



Who has a stash of wool hidden away and a bit of time on your hands, now we're all trying to stay safe, and thinking about the evenings to come when winter arrives? If this sounds like you, how about offering to knit or crochet some 10 cm (4 inch) square peggy squares (plain or fancy, anything goes) that may be made into cot blankets and given to needy families? This would be a group that doesn't actually need to meet – perhaps the Lone Nitwits? Please email hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com for more information.

Men's Coffee Group

Venue: Hayes Common, Hamilton East

Date: Thursday 14 April (2nd Thurs of the month)

Time: 10.30

We will meet outdoors (safer these days) for a social and relaxing time. Discussion will be free ranging. All men members welcome. Please email Bob Wilcock at wilcock@xtra.co.nz to let him know you're coming.

From the U3A Almoner

Please contact me if you are aware of any U3A member who might appreciate a message of condolence, support, or congratulations. This could include those experiencing an illness, bereavement, disabling event, any significant milestone or cause for celebration.

Gavin Muckle 021 074 4937 gwmuckle@gmail.com

An Obituary: Dr John Turner

Many members of U3A in Hamilton will be saddened to hear of the death of John Turner in his early 90s. John was one of the key founding members of U3A in Hamilton. In 1995 he was a newly retired Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Waikato. In April that year he was present at a meeting at which it was decided to set up a branch of U3A in Hamilton. He was elected to an interim committee and then to the first Executive Committee. At that stage he had a major role in the development of the constitution. He remained on the committee for most of the next 10 years until 2005 and was the fourth president of U3A Waikato in 1999 – 2000.

John had strong interests in both mathematics and music. In the first year of U3A he began a study group called the History of Mathematics and Music. This was one of the first ever interest groups and continued in various forms under his leadership for many years.

In an interview in 1919 about the beginnings of U3A in Hamilton John said that he was motivated in his involvement in U3A by the idea of continuous learning. He maintained a strong commitment and enthusiasm for this notion.

John's contribution to U3A in Hamilton was profound and very significant. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.