



HAMILTON

NEW ZEALAND

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A hungry silvereye/tauhou  
Photo: Anne Devlin

## July Newsletter 2022

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

### Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on July 20 at 10 am (meet and greet at 9.45 am) in the hall of the Chartwell Co-operating Church located on the corner of Comries Road and Belmont Avenue (near Chartwell Mall). There will be no morning tea after the meeting.

**Meet and Greet** The Plantaholics

**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 Ambassador for New Zealand's Biological Heritage National Science Challenge.

### Past President's Message

Tēnā koutou, greetings to you all.

I am really sorry that I was unable to attend the AGM last month due to being in covid isolation.

Many thanks are due to Judith Hickman for running the meeting so well. I am also grateful to all the others who ensured that the morning went smoothly.

I would like to sincerely thank our two retiring committee members. Janet Sceats has continued in her role as speaker co-ordinator despite very trying personal circumstances. Peggy Koopman-Boyden has contributed her wealth of contacts and knowledge of the concerns facing our membership to our discussions and decisions.

The new committee has met and, despite not having a president or vice president, will continue to function until at least the end of the year. They would still welcome any new members.

Take care of yourselves and others in these difficult times.

Alison Fagan

## Online Learning Blog

Over June 2022, these posts were made to our online learning blog  
<https://u3ahamilton.org.nz/online-learning/>:

[Australian Authors' Book Group: Markus Zusak](#)

[Waikato Expressway Hamilton Bypass](#)

[Garden Bird Survey 2022](#)

[Art on Parliament TV](#)

[Cobham Drive Overbridge](#)

[Matariki](#)

[Speed limits on the Waikato Expressway](#)

[More info on the Waikato Expressway](#)

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome.

Beverley Bell [hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com)

## Groups

### Antiques and Collectibles

The topics of interest for our June meeting were weapons and old books which produced some interesting exhibits. Someone thought that her best weapon was her tongue but this was not on display! We read some gruesome nursery rhymes and examined old recipe books amongst others. Daggers featured but we all went home unscathed.

Raeburne Bourke

### Computers

We continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the convenor's home, exploring a variety of everyday technological topics including use of smartphones.

There is space for one or two more members.

If interested in joining contact the convenor at: [carolevelyn49@icloud.com](mailto:carolevelyn49@icloud.com)

## **The Plantaholics**

We had a trip to the Hamilton Gardens recently to view the newly opened Egyptian theme garden. The day was quite chilly, and even at 10 am we were not the first there, with a school group going through before us, as well as many other interested visitors. There was plenty to discuss with three of our group having been to Egypt and were able to compare favourably their experiences with what was in front of us, although it is a lot smaller.

Marilyn Hopkins

## **Coffee Companions**

Our next outing will be at 10.30 am on Friday 12th at Hayes Common in Hamilton East. If you would like to join us for good conversation, tasty food and quality tea or coffee you would be very welcome.

Judith Hickman [hamiltonnzu3@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonnzu3@gmail.com) or phone 849-0242

## **Singalong**

This group is growing as more folk come along to sing old favourite songs. We have plenty of space, and lots of songbooks, so if you would like to join us, just come along. We meet at the Hukanui Reformed Church, 159 Rototuna Road on the first Wednesday of the month from 1.15pm - 2.45 pm. Put Wednesday 3 August in your diary and come and join us.

Wayne Wright. [Waynereta@gmail.com](mailto:Waynereta@gmail.com)

## **A venue for group meetings**

Groups may like to consider Hockin House as a meeting venue. Please contact either Marilyn Hopkins 0272 749 179 or Neil Curgenvin 027 244 1348.

## From the Archives

*This is the first in a series of articles taken from the U3A archives recording the development of U3A in Hamilton.*

### **The First Meeting.**

The meeting at which it was decided to set up U3A in Hamilton was held on April 4, 1995, at the William Goodfellow Chapel at the University of Waikato. This was held under the auspices of the 60 Plus Group. Key people involved included **Evelyn Goldrick** who lived at Tamahere, and who had been a member of U3A in Australia, and **Bruce Hosking** who was Director of Continuing Education at the University. The meeting was also addressed by **Sylvia Arcus** from U3A in Auckland. About 30 people were present. A decision was made that an 'organisation generally known as the University of the Third Age be set up' and an interim executive committee was formed. Members of this committee were **Bruce Hosking, Irene Baty, Ian Wilson, Beverly Thorn, Evelyn Goldrick, John Turner, Ian McLeod** and **Harry Huggon**.

Three days later on April 7, a second meeting was held at the University where 'U3A Waikato' was formally established, and it was resolved to invite Beryl Osman to be the first president.

John Turner who was present at the meeting commented in an interview in 2019 that members were very much attracted to the idea of continuous, life-long learning.

Gavin Muckle