



'The Farming Family' by Margret Windhausen
Photo: Anne Devlin



HAMILTON

NEW ZEALAND

www.u3ahamilton.org.nz

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June Newsletter 2022

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

Next meeting

The next meeting , our AGM, will be on Wednesday, June 15 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.

Next speaker Loren O'Sullivan from the registered charity NPH will describe her experiences volunteering in Honduras in 2013 and 2014. She will share some success stories of the children she has worked with, the impact of the pandemic in Latin America and provide updates from Kiwi volunteers who are currently working there.

NPH stands for Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos which means our little brothers and sisters. They help vulnerable children and families in nine countries across Latin America and the Caribbean to reach their full potential and break out of the poverty cycle.

Meet and greet Natural Environs

President's message

Tēnā koutou, greetings to you all.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the May general meeting. What an enjoyable event it was with another entertaining presentation by Coryn Knapper. We are truly grateful to her for being so accommodating of all the changes caused by Covid related cancellations and restrictions.

Our next meeting will be our AGM. It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible there. Relevant documents will be emailed to you prior to the meeting.

We still have to abide by the rules for the orange alert level set by the church. These are:

1. Masks must be worn, for the whole time you are in the hall.
2. Maintain one metre social distancing.
3. Sanitise upon entering the hall. Hand sanitisers will be available at the main foyer entrance.

We would ask for your support by:

1. Only attending the meeting if you are well and not in isolation.
2. Being suitably dressed: we are required to ventilate the hall from the high windows, across to the side door.
3. Bringing along a water bottle, if you wish, as we are not serving morning tea.

Please consider volunteering as a committee member, interest group convenor, morning tea coordinator, helping with setting up venue etc. U3A and other organisations can only continue to function with the willing contribution of time from members.

This will be my last newsletter message as president, as I am not able to continue in the role due to personal reasons. It has been an eventful two years, starting with our first ever online U3A election. The constantly changing alert levels made it difficult to make decisions about meetings etc but the committee always made the members' health and safety their priority. I am immensely grateful to the committee and our convenors for their time and commitment.

Keep safe
Alison Fagan

Subscriptions for 2022/23 year

Although it has been a very disruptive year, we still need to keep our cashflow. Being a financial member is required to participate in the interest groups, many of which have continued to operate and thrive. Thanks to all those who have already paid. The full year sub is \$30, but due to the cancellation of so many meetings over the last year you are welcome to just pay \$20 if you choose. If you pay online (U3A account 03-1559-0030619-000) you will receive an acknowledgement by email within a few days. I am also able to take cash payments at our meetings.

Christine Williams, Treasurer

Online Learning Blog

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

- [Flu tracking](#)
- [History of NZ Epidemics](#)
- [Update on the latest bridge](#)
- [Australian Authors Book Group](#): Lianne Moriarty

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome.

Beverley Bell hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com

Groups

History Group

This group will resume activities at 1.30pm on Wednesday 8 June in Hockin House, 15 Selwyn Street, Hamilton. We will continue and complete our discussion of pandemics, looking at the 1665 Plague in London, an example of the recurrence of the Second Bubonic Plague (Black Death of 1346 – 1353).

We will then decide what we will discuss at following meetings.

There are vacancies and visitors who wish to see if the group will suit them are welcome at our meetings.

Paul Etheredge

Hiking Group

Karamu North Walkway – 12th May 2022

Ten members of the hiking group completed the Karamu North Walkway on a bright, sunny and windless day. The walk started at the entrance to the Four Brothers Reserve on the Hamilton-Raglan Road and ended at Old Mountain Road. The first 500-600m was a good climb through bush then the remaining 2km was over undulating farmland. Lunch was enjoyed in a paddock at the beginning of the Karamu South Walkway overlooking some interesting geological formations. The views from the walk stretched from Raglan and the Te Akau wind farm to Mount Te Aroha.



For our next outing we are planning to walk the Waitahweta Pipeline walk through the Karangahake Gorge on Thursday 9th June 2022. As the journey to Karangahake takes just over one hour and the walk is one hour each way this will be an all-day adventure.

Des Johnston desnviv@xtra.co.nz

Dining Group

Our next get together will be lunch at Cafe Fresca, Alison St Hamilton at 12.30 on Tuesday 21st June. Please confirm with Gayle at gayle45@gmail.com or 0211359695 before Saturday 18th June. Gayle Martin

Computer Group

This group meets at 10:00 am on the first Wednesday of the month at the convenor's home, and is for people interested in computing & technology.

We explore a topic each time, having done a little bit of research; then have a more general discussion on technological issues.

We try and learn about how technology works, problem-solve, and learn a few new skills.

We have room for one or two more members.

If interested contact Carol at carolevelyn49@icloud.com

Gardening Group 2

The second gardening group restarted in April. This meeting was a meet and greet at the Hamilton Garden's Cafe where two new members, Jean and Meredith, joined us. Our May get-together was at Jean's place. She has recently moved to Cambridge and has been very busy planning and planting her garden. We were all impressed with her efforts.

Our group now numbers seven and we still have vacancies. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am. We would love to welcome more members.

Carol O'Meagher

Plantaholics' Group

We meet once a month, with a limit of 10 members to allow for room in lounges as we rotate the meetings in each other's homes. Over the past three years we have visited each other several times to show off new projects and plantings and the progress made. It can be quite spectacular sometimes. And of course, we compare successes and failures which makes for interesting discussions. We visited local plant woman Val Clotworthy recently, and most of us came away with plants and ideas for our own gardens. The Hamilton Gardens is also a great place to visit at different times of the year, depending on the style of the garden. This month we are visiting the new Egyptian Garden.

Marilyn Hopkins

Antiques and Collectables Group

We were pleased to meet for the first time this year and chose to celebrate with lunch at Churchill's Restaurant, Te Awamutu. The sun greeted us warmly, the food was delicious and there was plenty of chat. We moved on to visit the antique shops in Ohaupo where there was much of interest. Our June meeting will focus on weapons and old books.

Raeburne Bourke

Natural Environment Group

Members of this group met recently for a walk through the Mangaiti Gully. Starting from Keswick Crescent we did a loop on established tracks before heading onto recently constructed (narrow!) boardwalks and gravel paths along the Kirikiriroa Stream to the headquarters of the Mangaiti Restoration Trust at Granache Place.

Here we met Murray, the team leader of the Jobs for Nature team. He gave us a very interesting talk on what the team is doing to restore the gully. Our group was amazed at this wonderful environment in the middle of an urban area. Some of the concerns that Murray mentioned are the invasion of hybridized native plants, the predation by cats and particularly the contamination of streams by household water pollution. All car/ house/ roof cleaning runoff ends up in these streams and eventually the Waikato River. Murray was thrilled with the success of the JFN scheme and how one of his team had secured full time employment in the conservation sector. However, with funding for only 3 years, the long term success of this restoration work is problematic.

Below are links to 2 recent news articles about the Jobs for Nature programme and Kiri Allan's visit to the gully.

<https://ourhamilton.co.nz/community-environment/focus-on-mangaiti-gully/>

<https://ourhamilton.co.nz/community-environment/jobs-for-nature-begin-restoring-mangaiti-gully/>

Alison Fagan

Singalong Group



The group now numbers 20 and is growing, with plenty of space for more folk to join. At our second meeting we sang many songs ranging from "Daisy Daisy" to "Hallelujah". We meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 1.15 pm – 2.45 pm at Hukanui Reformed Church, 159 Rototuna Road, Rototuna. Please let us know if you'd like to join this group and sing with us or just come along on the day. Our next gathering is Wednesday 6 July. Wayne Wright waynereta@gmail.com

Uke3A



Our Ukulele Group meets from 1.15 pm – 2.45 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at Hukanui Reformed Church, 159 Rototuna Road, Rototuna.

New members, beginners or experienced, are welcome.

Judith Hickman hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com

Coffee Companions



This group is open to all, so come along and join us at 10.30 am on the 2nd Friday each month. Our next visit will be to Ethos Café at Te Ara Hou Village, 100 Morrinsville Road, on Friday, 10 June at 10.30 am. Please text Judith on 027 664 6712 if you'd like to join us.

Judith Hickman hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com

Knit, Stitch and Chat Group

We haven't linked up much this year but in April we went out to the Cornerstone Alpaca Farm, 49 Peach Road, Gordonton and enjoyed a very pleasant time. On this occasion we didn't do the farm tour or the felted soap class but have these in mind for another time. The coffee and the shop were both very good. This would also be a great place to take the grandchildren.

In June we will head the other way and reconnoitre some shops in Cambridge. After all, one has to keep an eye on supply outlets. No doubt there will be a retreat to a nearby coffee shop to compare notes.

In July we may get back together for a catch up on how various projects are coming along. We also put the world to rights, hence the chat.

We aim to meet at 1:30pm on the third Tuesday each month at the convenor's home, Covid - willing.

If this sounds like the sort of thing you would enjoy we have space for a couple of more people, so please contact Catherine on 07 855 8328.

Catherine Gurnsey

Shakespeare Interest Group

This group met on Thursday 19th May at 10:30 am at the home of one of the members. We spent an enjoyable time talking about clauses and phrases that Shakespeare coined that are particularly picturesque and that are still in use. We found that you don't have to read much of a play before you come across some of these. The next meeting is on Thursday 23rd June. We will probably watch a film.

Alison Ringer

Men's Coffee Group

Our next meeting will be on Thursday at 10:30am on 9th June at Hayes Common in Hamilton East.

Bob Wilcock

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.

Membership

Our membership is currently 267. Now would be a good time for everyone to either bring along a friend to U3A, or encourage them to find out more about our organisation and our focus on life-long learning by checking out our website www.u3ahamilton.org.nz . There are brochures and posters advertising U3A available at all monthly meetings. Please take as many as you like.

Note, for anyone who joins U3A from June onwards the half-year subscription is \$15.

If any of your contact details have changed, please advise me at hamiltonnz3a@gmail.com. Likewise, if you have decided that you will not be returning to U3A this year, please advise so that our database may be amended.

Judith Hickman