



HAMILTON

www.u3ahamilton.org.nz

Email hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com



Municipal Swimming Pool site. Gone but not forgotten

Photo: Anne Devlin

September Newsletter 2022

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

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 21 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.

**Please use the main access to the foyer to
access our general meeting.**

Meet and Greet History - General

Please stay in the church foyer and meet people as they come in the external door.

Next Speaker Sarah Thomson

“The Impact of Climate Change on Kirikiriroa Hamilton”



Sarah Thomson was elected as a West Ward Hamilton City Councillor in 2019. She is currently the deputy chairperson for both the Environment Committee and Infrastructure Operations Committee.

The Environment Committee provides guidance and oversight of the Council's strategies, policies and plans relating to the wellbeing, protection, enhancement and sustainability of the city's natural environment.

The Infrastructure Operations Committee oversees the management of our essential water, waste and transport services.

Sarah will share with us the work she does within the Council and answer any related questions.

Possible Future speakers

19 October: Sarah Summerfield who is Deputy Principal at Fairfield College will speak about the school's philosophy and meeting student needs.

16 November: Kirstine Moffat who is on the staff of the English Department at Waikato University will speak about Jane Austen - Musician and Writer.

Previous Speaker request

Bruce Clarkson, one of our previous speakers has asked if we can identify the person who talked to him in July about restoring the gully by their own property. He would like to make contact. Please talk to Noeline Alcorn at the next meeting or email your details to hamiltonu3a@gmail.com

Past President's Message

Tēnā koutou, greetings to you all.

Our August speaker gave an interesting perspective of the role and function of community radio.

Those of you at the meeting would have noticed our new meeting's co-ordinator, Bob Wilcock who did a wonderful job of organising and chairing the meeting. Our new speaker co-ordinator has arranged speakers for the rest of the year but would welcome any suggestions for future speakers.

It is anticipated that we will soon be able to resume providing morning tea after the meeting. However, we need a morning tea co-ordinator to fill this role.

Please consider volunteering for this this.

Take care of yourselves and others in these difficult times.

Alison Fagan

Online Learning Blog

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

- [UK online gardening, nature and environment courses](#)
- [Indian Authors group](#)

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome.

Beverley Bell hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com

Groups

We are starting to collect names for a 3rd book discussion group, so if you're interested, please get in touch.

Don't forget what fun you could have with Scottish Country Dancing.

Graham Harrison 855 6217 Gfharrison26@gmail.com

Hiking City Walk – 11th August 2022

Another short city walk again for August, from the Grantham Street boat ramp to Cobham Bridge and return via Hayes Common Café.

The next walk was on Thursday 8th September. This time we did the Kauri Loop Track at the northern end of the Hakarimata Range.

Des Johnston

Mah-jongg Group

Our group was originally set up by Murray Belchamber several years ago and has become increasingly popular. We play the Hong Kong version of the game, and Murray has been supporting new learners and helping us all extend our knowledge and skills. We meet at Matte Black, the café attached to the St Andrew's Golf club on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 1 to 3 pm. Lots of fun, chatting, coffee, and increasing (slowly!) our ability to strategize.

We currently have no vacancies, due to Matte Black's limits on numbers. However, Murray is happy to teach potential new members at his home for several sessions to bring them up to speed once there are at least four people on the waiting list to be able to make up a hand. Meanwhile our existing group is seeing whether we can negotiate alternate sessions at Matte Black to accommodate more people.

So, for the time being, if you want to join us please contact Graham Harrison, gfharrison26@gmail.com ph. 07 8556217, to go on a waiting list.

Lesley Dunn

Shakespeare Interest

This group continues to meet monthly, though we had a break during the film festival. Our programmes have included watching several films of Shakespeare plays. Lately we have taken up reading plays aloud. Two months ago we read about half of "Much Ado about Nothing", and watched the rest on the Kenneth Branagh/Emma Thompson film. At our last meeting we read about half of "Measure for Measure," and plan to finish reading it aloud at our next meeting. We are finding that we understand the words better as we read aloud. It might sound daunting to some, but it's actually fun.

Alison Fagan

Antiques and Collectables

Our August meeting featured linen and leather items. We enjoyed seeing and handling beautiful leather books, miniature leather purses containing old English coins, and hand-made, embossed photo frames made in the 1930's. Delicately embroidered table and supper cloths abounded and we admired the patience and ability of their creators. A comprehensive volume enabled some of the embroidery to be identified. The superior efficiency of linen tea towels over the cotton version was not debated. We came away (after a delicious afternoon tea) with comprehensive printouts on the history of both linen and leather. It appears that the first evidence of clothing being worn was by Neanderthals in South Eastern France around 50,000BC and the first use of needles was in Russia around 28,000BC. It was interesting to note that stingray leather is used in motorcycle racing because of its high abrasion resistance created by the tiny bumps with which the skin is covered.

Raeburne Bourke

Natural Environment

This group will be meeting 28 [Sept.at](#) 9.50 in Keswick Cres.Huntingdon in order to explore the Mangaiti Gully. The extension of the pathway is waiting for us.

Janet Ruf

Current Affairs

Invitation

There is room for three new members to join; please contact the convenor first.

This group meets from 10.30 to 12.00 noon on the first and third Friday of each month.

There is a charge of \$2.00 per member per session to pay the room rental (one trial session free).

We meet in the Lounge at the Cooperating Church, Comries Road, Chartwell. Those attending are expected to wear masks, except when talking.

A wide range of topics is addressed bringing forth many and varied views and lively discussions. Group members are invited to nominate and introduce topics if they wish.

Gorham Milbank 855 4757 milbank@xtra.co.nz



Singalong Group

Despite winter's ills and chills, we continue to enjoy an old-fashioned sing-song each month. We have plenty of space, and welcome new members. 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. Next gathering is Wednesday 5 October.



Wayne Wright waynereta@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 Coffee Culture 70 Boundary Road Hamilton on Friday 14 at 10.30 am. Please text me on 027 664 6712 if you'd like to join us.

Judith Hickman hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com

Membership

It is pleasing to see the number of people who have continued their involvement in Interest Groups and are attending our monthly meetings. We encourage members to invite friends to come as visitors to one or two monthly meetings.

If any of your contact details have changed, please advise me at hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com. Likewise, if you have decided that you will not be returning to U3A this year, please advise so that our membership database may be amended.

We extend a warm welcome to two new members, Mary Lou and Bruce Jillings who joined during August. In the past we offered "Getting to Know You" meetings for new members from time to time. Unfortunately these have been on hold since the pandemic changed our lives, but with restrictions likely to ease, and spring around the corner, we intend to begin again later this month.

Judith Hickman hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com

Auckland Museum and Auckland Art Gallery Report

August 31

We boarded the Greenlines bus by 8am and headed north on the new Expressway which did not disappoint. Our bus driver explained some of the many Māori art works along the Expressway. She safely delivered us to the Museum and after a welcome cup of coffee we were free to explore the Ancient Greeks: Athletes, warriors and Heroes exhibition at our own pace for the next two hours.

The vases and statues, many of them at least 2,500 years old, were curated to tell stories of the Greek gods and heroes, and the values they espoused. Many were prizes awarded to winners in sports tournaments, music competitions, and poets and playwrights. Others depicted famous battles and included a frieze showing Amazon women fighters, though women were not much in evidence either in Greek society or in the exhibition. There were interesting snippets: knucklebones was a popular sport for children, male athletes normally competed naked, well massaged with oil, horse riders rode bareback, and Olympic champions could be set for life with fame and rewards. There were some exquisite items of gold jewellery. Greek ideals of the importance of (male) physical perfection, prowess in warfare and daring were prominent but also the importance of music, sponsored by the god Apollo and drama. Interestingly the dramatists were more feted than the (all male) actors. If you haven't seen the exhibition yet it is well worth a trip to Auckland. The pots, mostly designed to carry oil or water, are on loan from the British museum until November and this is a rare chance to sight them.

After our adventurous back-street trip from the Museum to the Art Gallery and lunch, we viewed the collection of Orthodox icons from Greece, Turkey, Ethiopia and Russia. Entitled Heavenly Beings, it provided a feast of rich golds and reds with depictions of saints, such as St George, martyrs, madonnas and angels. Designed to promote devotion and worship, they are both familiar and strange to those of us more used to Western European religious art and a fascinating collection of images. The exhibition closes on 18 September.

We left Auckland just before the school traffic started and had time for an ice cream at Pokeno. Coming off the Expressway at the Chartwell interchange and Pardoia Blvd, we were back to our parked cars by 4.30. A wonderful day ☺

Beverley Bell

From the Archives

Interest Groups

From the beginning, interest groups have been the lifeblood of U3A in Hamilton. At the first meeting of the Interim Executive Committee on May 5, 1995, the establishment of several groups was discussed.

- The History of Mathematics and Music to be led by John Turner
- The Dead Sea Scrolls to be led by Harry Huggon
- Our World – Bruce Hosking and John Turner
- Law and the Layman – Evelyn Goldrick to find a leader

Other ideas discussed included wetlands, earth sciences, trees, vintage cars, creative writing and poetry. By the time of the next meeting on June 1, groups on the History of Music and Mathematics, Dead Sea Scrolls and Poetry were underway. By July 19, groups on Law and the Layperson, Genealogy, Our World, and the History of NZ Farming were also underway. At this stage the total membership of U3A was around 62

Some groups appeared to have been quite formally structured. The group on the History of Mathematics and Music for example initially met each week at the home of John Turner. Numbers were limited to 8. At the beginning of the session there was time for quiet reading from a set book, a break for morning tea, then further discussion and use of a white board to work out mathematical problems.

At the end of the first year, 10 groups were operating or under consideration.

Gavin Muckle

TO ALL ORGANISATIONS USING OUR FACILITIES ... ABOUT OUR BOOK SALE and ANNUAL CHARTWELL CHURCH FAIR

This is to let your members know that in the next month there are two exciting community events happening at Chartwell Church.

BOOK SALE - Saturday 1st October, 1-3:30pm
FAIR - Saturday morning, 15th October, 9am–12pm.

Book Sale: We are accepting book donations at any point over the next six weeks. All kinds of books (other than encyclopaedias) – something for everyone. Great prices.

Church Fair: One of the most effective sections of the Fair has become the sale of recycled items. We have built up quite a large bargain hunting clientele over the past six or seven years. There is always a big demand for used furniture, electrical goods, sports equipment, crockery, kitchenware, linen, books, videos, toys ... almost anything in reasonable condition ... EXCEPT used clothing, footwear, computers and non-digital TVs.

Refresh your garden from the huge variety of plants including vegetables in time for spring planting. There are hundreds of plants!

This letter is to ask your members to put these two events in their diaries. Please consider donating to this event when sorting through your cupboards, sheds, bookshelves, crockery shelves, moving to a new home or replacing furniture or whiteware. Contributions to any of our Fair Stalls would be appreciated. Contact the church office (8557434) about dropping off goods.

We would be very grateful indeed for your help with this.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Bowcott & Erica Harris
Fair Coordinators