



Sunset over Lake Rotoroa Photo: Anne Devlin

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HAMILTON

## November Newsletter 2022

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

### Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on November 16 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 morning tea for all to share.

### Meet and Greet

 History, New Zealand

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

**Future speaker** Ross Hargood who is the chairperson of the Hamilton Theatre Trust will speak to us about the new regional theatre on 15 Feb.

**Next Speaker** Dr Kirstine Moffat is Associate Professor in the English Programme at the University of Waikato. She has published widely on nineteenth-century New Zealand literature, music, and culture and is the author of *Piano Forte: Stories and Soundscapes from Colonial New Zealand*. She has a lifelong love of Jane Austen's fiction and relishes any opportunity to research, teach, write about, or talk about her favourite author. Kirstine is passionate about teaching as well as research and was the proud recipient of a 2020 Ako Aotearoa National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award.

### **Jane Austen and Music**

Jane Austen's novels are rich in musical interludes, from practice sessions at home, to performances at parties, to accompaniments to dancing. This reflects the author's own love of music. According to Austen's niece Caroline, 'Aunt Jane began her day with music' and her extensive collection of music books, many of them handwritten, are on display at the Jane Austen House at Chawton. While music gave Austen daily pleasure, her depiction of music in her novels is complex, highlighting both her interest in music to express genuine feeling and provide welcome entertainment, but also her awareness that music in Regency England was also bound up with discourses about femininity and class.

I will begin with the place of music in Austen's life and end with a discussion of music in her novels. Throughout I will intersperse words with sounds. All the pieces I am going to play are from Jane Austen's music books, music we know she was familiar with and played herself. The musical portion of the talk will feature popular dance tunes, traditional songs, and works by Joseph Haydn, Ignace Pleyel, Johann Baptist Cramer, and the Duchess of Devonshire.

Dr Kirsten Moffat

### **Committee's Message**

Tēna koutou – greetings to you all.

The Committee is heartened to note the steady increase in attendance at our monthly meetings over the past three months. We have been through some difficult times over the past few years and getting back to the new "normal" has been quite a challenge for many of us.

Last month's speaker was Sarah Summerfield, who is one of the Deputy Principals from Fairfield College. Sarah shared with us the school's philosophy central to all aspects of management and curriculum delivery that ensures the focus is always on students' well-being. It was heartening to hear about how the school has overcome challenges and achieved positive outcomes for their students.

Many members assist with the running of U3A throughout the year. The Committee acknowledges and thanks all the convenors of our many interest groups; the IT team who manage our sound and audio visuals every month; Gorham and his team who arrange and collect the chairs and tables; Beverley who updates the website; and lastly Neil, who wears his bright vest, and looks after our health and safety.

This is the final newsletter for 2022, and the Committee extends best wishes for the festive season to all our members. We hope to see many of you at our 16 November meeting and invite you to join us afterwards for tea/coffee and a few festive treats.

Judith Hickman

## Membership

This month we welcome Graeme Jamieson, Neil MacLean, Sharon Campbell, Karen Bourke and David Sedgewick to U3A.

Please endeavour to wear your name badge at the monthly meetings. We do provide one for to all new members, but many are still awaiting collection. If you are new and haven't collected yours, please do so. If you have lost your badge, see me to arrange a replacement. Also, please note that we do not collect them back at the end of a meeting. (One suggestion is to keep them in the glove box of your car.)

Please encourage your friends to come along and see if U3A would be an organisation that interests them. Visitors are welcome to attend one or two monthly meetings or Interest Groups before deciding if they wish to join.

Judith Hickman

## Online Learning Blog

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

- [November Speaker 2022](#)
- [More photos of the new regional theatre](#)
- [History of Pay Equity in New Zealand](#)
- [Indian Authors Book Group](#)
- [The new bridge over the Waikato river](#)
- [Drone footage of the new Manawatū highway](#)

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome.

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

## Coffee Companions Group

Our final outing for the year will be at 10.30 am on Friday, 2 December at Robert Harris Cafe, 593 Te Rapa Road, Te Rapa.



## **Natural Environment Group**

Our end of year walk is planned for 23 November. We will visit the Matakoni Reserve which is the riverbank walkway at Beerescourt. Please meet at 134 Beerescourt Road at 9.45 for a 10.00 start. This is Jackie's house. Please park on the street.

Janet Ruf

## **Mah-jongg Group**

The mah-jongg group meets at Matte Black cafe at the St Andrew's golf course at 1 pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. Lots of fun. We play the Hong Kong version of the game helped by our expert, Murray Belchamber. We're currently at capacity, but if you're interested in joining, keep reading. 😊

There are currently two people on our waiting list. Murray has said that once there are three, or preferably four, people waiting, he will be happy to coach them for sessions at his home to bring them up to speed. Just how to accommodate more of us at Matte Black is not yet clear. We would need a minimum of four players to set up a second group, and some of our current group have suggested they could host additional games at their homes with new players. We're probably looking at next year at this stage, but if you're interested and you want to join, don't hesitate to add your names to the waiting list.

Lesley Dunn

## **Shakespeare Group**

We have had a great year. We've watched several films based on Shakespeare's plays and we've read a couple of plays aloud together. We're finishing the year by watching Twelfth Night. This last meeting is on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 12:30 pm.

Next year our programme will include a trip to Auckland in June to see King Lear. We do have room for a couple of people to join our group. If you are interested please text Alison Ringer at 027 346 3691.

## **Lone Nitwits Group**

This is a group with a difference. We don't have regular meetings because members sometimes find it difficult to get out, and wanted something to do independently at home. So the Nitwits was established with the idea of providing knitted items for distribution to children from needy families. We began knitting peggy squares to make small blankets to give away next winter. If this venture is something you'd like to be involved with, please contact me for more information.

Judith Hickman

## Hiking Group

### Te Tapui Loop Track Walk – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022

A small group of four made the short trip out past KIWITAHĪ to the Te Tapui Reserve and walked the Te Tapui Loop Track.

The weather was fine with the threatened rain not materialising so the track was quite firm underfoot. We walked in the recommended anti-clockwise direction which was a little steeper getting up to the lookout but a gentler descent.

There were a few fallen trees across the path on the descent, some of which required a bit of effort to clamber over/under/round.

The walk took just over 4 hours including a snack stop at the summit and a lunch stop about half-way down.



We are planning to do the Hillary Hope Reserve walk on 8<sup>th</sup> December as our last walk this year.

Merry Christmas to everyone.

Des Johnston

## Singalong Group



This group has been together now for eight months, and we've enjoyed singing together. We look forward to welcoming anyone who likes to join in an informal singsong to come along in 2023 and try us out. We're not a choir and no musical knowledge is required – just enthusiasm. Our next session will be the first Wednesday in February 2023 from 1.15 – 2.45 pm at Hukanui Church, 159 Rototuna Road.

Wayne Wright

## The Computer Group

We have been able to meet face-to-face again this year, no longer having to get together in an outdoor setting .

When Covid prevented normal meetings, members shared technology links and information via email.

During the final lockdown we looked at digital pastimes such as online jigsaws, Scrabble, crosswords and puzzles such as Wordle & Spelling Bee.

Other sites offered virtual cycle tours (like the Roman Appian Way) and walking tours, as well as Museum & Art Gallery tours. A fascinating site accessed the live view from various home windows around the world.

Since then we've looked at Cyber Safety, digital libraries like BorrowBox, Cloud storage for images & data, safe uses of social media such as Facebook, avoiding hacking and scams, and E-waste recycling.

We've solved some of our technology problems thanks to expertise within the group.

Carol Carr

## Plantaholics

We meet once a month at members' homes and visit gardens and places of interest. We do not have any vacancies at present.

Our monthly meeting for September was cancelled due to the Queen's funeral.

The next meeting was to a suburban vegetable garden, not only for the vegetables, but also mature trees and many other plants of interest. Gardeners always have something other than their main focus on the go to try out and grow into other interesting plants for their gardens. Then it was off for coffee at a local cafe to discuss our own gardens. At the end of November one of our members is hosting us at her gully section. As it has been a while since we visited there will be plenty to notice growth-wise, and many new plants.

Marilyn Hopkins

## Ukulele Groups (2)



Uke3A is for those who can play a few chords ukulele and like to sing and play in a group. Come along and join us in 2023.

Judith Hickman

Beginners is for those who would like to learn. All you need is a ukulele and a music stand. We will teach you to play, and before long you can join the Uke3A group. We'd like to start a new group for 2023.

Janet Pope

## Antiques and Collectables

Our October meeting featured the life and works of F G (Fred) Gurnsey (1868 - 1953) who undertook an apprenticeship with Hems & Co of Exeter, a pre-eminent firm of ecclesiastical carvers working throughout the UK and Europe. Fred also undertook training in metalwork and enamelling and brought his family to NZ in 1906. Fred taught at the Canterbury College of Art and was its acting Director during the last year of WW1. In 1922 he resigned to take up private commissions and one of his best known and outstanding works is the reredos in the Christchurch Cathedral. He did other work in the cathedral, including the war memorial in wood and stone in the Chapel of St Michael and St George. He carved the altar and choir stalls in St Mary's Church, Merivale, and the altar, pulpit, and other ornamentations in St Barnabas Church, Fendalton. His work in St Mary's Church, Timaru, which included the choir stalls and organ case, is considered by many to be the best he did in wood. Among the best examples of his stone carving are the Tai Tapu Church and the Maheno Church near Oamaru. His public works included the lions on the bridge of Remembrance, Christchurch and the memorial to W F Massey at Point Halswell, Wellington. The only known public work in Hamilton is the Bishop's throne in the Hamilton Cathedral. Some works in private hands were demonstrated and illustrated.

Raeburne Bourke

## From the Archives

### The First Annual General Meeting

The first AGM of U3A in Hamilton at the end of the first year of operation was held on June 19, 1996, at the Hillcrest Baptist Church. Forty- six members were present at the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting 2 minutes silence was observed for Dr Peter Lane who had been killed in a car accident in May of that year. He had been a guest speaker earlier in the year.

The first Annual Report was presented by the President, Beryle Osmond. It was recorded that the organisation was in a good financial position and that the total membership stood at 72. A decision was made to reduce fees.

Guest speakers during the year had included Renee (writer in residence at the University), Hugh Clifford (creatures of the Southern Ocean), Shirley Maddox (the Treaty of Waitangi), Richard Lawrence (Global Warming), Michael Easther (Hypnotherapy), Margaret Evans (Mayor of Hamilton), Bishop David Moxon (Christianity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century), Hans Nieschmidt (German Art) Peter Lane (Money).

Groups operating at the time of the meeting were; History of Mathematics and Music, German Conversation, New Zealand Writers, Photography, Poetry, Opera Appreciation and Philosophy.

The following officers were elected for the following year; Dr Bob Allbrook (President), Beryle Osmond and John Turner (Vice Presidents), Inga Lane (Secretary), R Knight (Treasurer). Committee Members – J Shaw, B Crawford, E Goodrick, V Cooper and S Blackie.

The guest speaker at the meeting was Dr Vivianne Cooper who spoke about microalgae and water quality.

