



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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An image of the proposed Waikato Regional Council theatre

Newsletter February 2023

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

Meetings

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb 15 at 10 am (meet and greet at 9.45 am) at the hall of Chartwell Co-operating Church located on the corner of Comries Road and Belmont Avenue.

Following the guest speaker's presentation, we have morning tea/coffee and a chance to chat.

The confirmed dates for the 2023 U3A monthly meetings are as follows:

15 February, 15 March, 19 April, 17 May, 21 June, 19 July, 16 August, 20 September, 18 October and 15 November. Please make a note in your diaries of these dates.

Next speaker Ross Hargood of the Waikato Regional Property Trust

Located at the South End of Victoria Street and next to Embassy Park, the theatre will feature a 1300-seat auditorium with circle balconies and flexible staging able to host drama, kapa haka, orchestral concerts, rock-pop-and-rap gigs, musicals, ballet, opera and community ceremonies. Ross will share with us the journey so far.

Meet and greet Knit, Stitch & Chat group

Morning tea helpers Kay Garvey, Coryn Knapper, Yvonne Amey

Committee's message

Tēna koutou – greetings to you all.

Welcome back to U3A in 2023. We hope you've all had a good holiday break, despite the peculiar weather, and are looking forward to joining us to listen to challenging speakers, and also to resuming the activities of our many and varied interest groups. In fact, this year could be the one for you to consider a new challenge – maybe you'll try out a new group, or even be part of starting a new one!

Our final meeting for 2022 with Dr Kirstine Moffat was well attended and proved, as expected after her earlier presentation, to be both educational and most enjoyable. We heard about the links in Jane Austen's books with music she loved and played, all of which came alive for us as Kirstine played excerpts from the pieces.

This meeting was rounded off with a shared morning tea, a nice way to end the year after the prolonged impact of Covid and associated restrictions.

We really need a few more volunteers to assist with morning tea at the ten monthly meetings. We need three people each time, so need many more so that each one only has a single turn. Come on folks, please offer your help.

The committee has planning for the 2023 programme well underway, and assure you we will have an interesting speaker joining us each month. Please invite your friends to come along to see if U3A will interest them, and welcome any new folk you may notice who might have come along by themselves.

Judith Hickman

2023 Subscriptions

As we start a brand new year, it's time to pay our subscriptions again. Gone are the uncertainties of the last two years, so let's all get financial and be ready to enjoy everything we have to offer. Still only \$30 for the year, and for access to joining any of the interest groups.

For those who can pay online, the bank account is (Westpac) 03-1559-0030619-00. If you need to pay in cash you are able to do that at the monthly meeting. If you pay online you will receive an email receipt - please note, as this is dependent on updating the database, it could take a few days for this to occur.

Christine Williams

Online Learning Blog

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

- [New Bus Hub in Ohaupo Road, Glenview](#)
- [Expressway Art Work](#)
- [Indian authors group](#)

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome.

Beverley Bell hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com

Groups

Computer Technology

We meet in the convenor's home on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am.

We explore a topic each time as well as looking at members' experiences and technical issues. We endeavour to solve the latter using the expertise within the group. We are users of a range of Android and Apple devices & programmes including smartphones, and share tips and advice on our technology use.

We have room for one or two new members: contact the convenor for more details at carolevelyn49@icloud.com

Carol Carr

Current Affairs

This group is continuing the summer break until late in March. In the March Newsletter there will be an advertisement inviting more U3A Members to join the Group. As well, there will be an opportunity for a new person to offer to be the group convenor.

Here is how the group has been operating.

We have been meeting from 10.30 to 12.00 noon on the first and third Fridays each month. There is a charge of \$2 per member per session to pay the room rental. Sessions have been held in the Lounge at the Cooperating Church, Comries Road, Chartwell. With new members and a new Convenor, these arrangements may change.

Do give this group some thought. Look out for the advert in the March Newsletter.

Gorham Milbank

Men's Coffee

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at Hayes Common. Please join us for informal discussions on almost everything. Contact Bob Wilcock at wilcock@xtra.co.nz if you would like to participate.

Bob Wilcock

The Page Turners

This book club continues to go from strength to strength with a group of active participants. The members are also diverse readers so we are exposed to different genres and that expands our individual experience. So many books & only so much time!

Susan Gresson

Natural Environment

This is a casual group which explores different parts and features of Hamilton, places that perhaps you would not venture to on your own. This may include information specific to that environment.

Our first meeting for 2023: February 22. Meet 10am at the carpark in Garnet Avenue, Te Rapa in front of Spotlight. Approximately 1 hour walk around Minogue Park and Lake Rotokaeo. Wear waterproof shoes as we'll be walking on grass most of the way. Coffee afterwards at Forest Lake Gardens Cafe.

Janet Ruf

Coffee Group



Our first outing for the year will be to Cafe Fresca 78 Alison Street Hamilton at 10.30 am on Friday, February 10. If you'd like to join this group, call or text me on 027 664 6712. There's no limit on size for this group – if there are too many, we'll just ask for a second table.

Judith Hickman

The Antiques and Collectables

We gathered for our meeting on February 3rd to enjoy a fascinating afternoon with Anthony and Michelle Licht of Goldsmiths Gallery. Michelle outlined their journey in the retail environment and Anthony explained much about the manufacturing process, giving details of modern techniques and how these have influenced modern craftsmanship. Anthony explained the makeup of different carats and colours of gold as well as giving advice on the care of our jewellery. An old tooth brush and dishwasher detergent is still the best choice. We heard about the differences between natural, lab-grown and synthetic diamonds and how it is now virtually impossible to tell the difference between the lab-grown and natural diamonds with the price of the lab grown being about half that of the natural variety. Almost all gem stones can be altered in some way and this has gone on since the days of the pharaohs. There are also many synthetic gemstones. Anthony obligingly took some time examining and commenting on the various items which members had brought. We felt very privileged and had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Raeburne Bourke

Uke3A

We were the early birds this year, and met twice during January. If you have a ukulele and can play a few chords, then this is the group for you. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 1.15 – 2.45 pm at Hukanui Reformed Church, 159 Rototuna Road, Hamilton. This month's dates are Tuesdays 14th and 28th February.

We play and sing for fun and companionship and along the way improve our skills together.



Judith Hickman

Ukulele Beginners

If you would like to learn to play ukulele, then we can teach you. We arrange locations, times and lessons to mutually suit – we are very flexible. No prior experience necessary, and not everyone is an amazing singer, so don't let that dissuade you if you'd like to learn.

Janet Pope

Singalong



We met for the first time on 1 February, and although our number was small, our singing was not too bad. Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, 1 March from 1.15 – 2.45 pm at Hukanui Reformed Church, 159 Rototuna Road, Hamilton. There's no limit on the size of this group, there's plenty of room, we have songbooks for all, so come along and bring a friend or two to help us raise the rafters.

Wayne Wright

History

The history group has a new venue, Meeting Room 3, The Link, 4 Te Aroha Street, Hamilton East, Hamilton 3216

The convenor phone number is now 027 777 0292. The first meeting will be February 8. We will have an open discussion on anything that has engaged the interests of members since we last met.

Paul Etheredge

Group News

Let's hope this year will enable all our groups to meet on a regular basis. (We just need to get rid of this horrible weather!) Best wishes for your groups.

Calling all group convenors: I have recently sent out an email to you about a Convenor's Get-together. If you are a group Convenor and have not received my email, please let me know urgently: gfharrison26@gmail.com

Graham Harrison 855 6217

Members

This month we welcome Moray Carr, Christo Potgieter and Wendy Maclarn to U3A.

Our total membership at the end of 2022 was 262 of whom 199 were financial. We understand that some of you will not have attended meetings last year due to health concerns, and would like to reassure you that we would be very happy to see you come back to us. However, if you have decided not to continue with U3A, please advise me on hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com so that I may amend our records.

Finally, please remember to wear your name badge at the monthly meetings. It's so much nicer to talk to people when you can see their name.

Judith Hickman

Outings

If you, or your group, have an interest in organising a trip or outing to a place or event, we would be pleased to see some of these happening. In the past there have been very enjoyable trips to various gardens and to the Auckland Museum and Art Gallery. Whilst the participants are expected to cover their share of the costs for a trip, U3A is able to provide a limited contingency for unforeseen circumstances so that an organiser can have confidence when they want to make arrangements. If you have an idea you would like to explore, please feel free to approach any of our friendly committee!