



www.u3ahamilton.org.nz

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

Newsletter March 2023

Meetings

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 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.

Meet and greet Mah Jong group

Morning tea helpers Margaret Gault, Lesley Lee, Joy Homewood



Next speakers 'Life on a Wing' Barry and Sandra Payne (BAZFliers)

Every age comes with its joys, sorrows and challenges. For some, senior age is a time of freedom, a time when one can look ahead and set off on a new adventure - the next stage of life which some call 'retirement'.

Barry and Sandra Payne (BAZFliers) embraced this stage in their lives, purchased an aeroplane and became long range flyers.

They wish to share some of their more memorable flights, show you some sights, people and places that for some are only dreams.

Being in the third age gives us all the opportunity to learn, broaden our horizons and partake in the adventures of not only our own, but others.

The BAZFliers invite you to board their trusty Comanche ZK-BAZ, fasten your seatbelts and by the time they have finished their presentation you will have circumnavigated our wonderful world.

Committee's message

Tēna koutou – greetings to you all.

It was heartening to note the increased number of members at our first meeting of the year in February. The level of chatter was a good indication of everyone's pleasure in meeting friends again. We know that some folk continue to feel more comfortable wearing a facemask in an indoor gathering and that is absolutely fine. We were pleased to see several visitors in attendance at the meeting, and reiterate that people are welcome to come along for one or two meetings before deciding if they'd like to join U3A Hamilton.

Our speaker last month, Ross Hargood of the Waikato Regional Property Trust provided us with a very interesting oversight of the history of and progress toward the realisation of the new auditorium. There was a good response from membership and many questions posed for our speaker and, although the topic of future car parking arose several times, it didn't dominate the session.

We had a positive response to the first morning tea of the year, so thank you morning tea helpers for managing this. If you are able, in future please try to stay on for a while to have a cuppa and chat with your friends. And yes, we're still looking for some more volunteer helpers please.

Just a quick reminder that we are no longer using the side door to the church hall which not only has steps to navigate but also is really a fire exit. Please come through the front door and into the hall.

Finally, this month a little note of appreciation to our Groups' Coordinator, Graham Harrison. He has a very busy role liaising with the convenors who manage our many and varied interest groups. In addition, he collects information about members' interests and ideas for new groups and works with the people concerned to set up new groups. If you have any ideas for new groups, or want to put yourself on to a list for a new or existing one, just pop over to see Graham at a meeting or contact him at gfharrison26@gmail.com.

Judith Hickman

Online Learning Blog

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

- **Indian Authors Book Group**: Anita Desai
- **Co-governance, partnership and the Treaty of Waitangi**

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome.

Beverley Bell hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com

Group News

If you have any ideas for new groups, please give me a call. Just a reminder – to belong to a group you need to be a financial member of U3A.

New Group: There's a possibility of forming a new Memoirs group. If you've always wanted to write your story, now may be a good time. Please contact me if interested.

Spaces: There are now spaces in our second Gardening group. Let me know if you're keen.

Graham Harrison 855 6217 Gfharrison26@gmail.com

Groups

Book Discussion

This group meets at 1.30pm at Hockin House on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The format is to discuss any book or books that we have recently read.

The group is limited to eight members and, at the moment, we have a vacancy for one more. One of the group has moved away from Hamilton.

Sheila Emslie

Men's Coffee

We meet at 10:30 am on the second Thursday of each month, at Hayes Common. The next meeting is on March 9. Discussions are wide ranging and vary from the serious to the flippant. Please come along if you think this might be for you, and let me know so that I can book a table if necessary.

Bob Wilcock wilcock@xtra.co.nz

Hiking

On Thursday, February 9, a small but enthusiastic group from the Hiking Group climbed up to the tallest recorded native tree in New Zealand on the banks of the Kaniwhaniwha Stream on Pirongia. The return trip took us around six hours including time for lunch at the viewing platform across the stream from the tree. The tree is an impressive sight at 66.5m tall (as shown I could not get it all in one photo) so the trek through some quite muddy sections of the path was worth the effort.



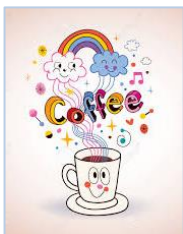
Our next adventure will be the Te Aroha Domain Track walk on Thursday, March 9.

Des Johnston

Play Reading

This friendly group has been meeting in members' homes once a month on the fourth Thursday to read short plays and have a very social, fun morning. We've decided to take a short break right now, but are hoping when we begin again we will be welcoming some new members to join us. Why not come along and blow the cobwebs away on 25th May when we will be reconvening. If you are interested, then just contact our member Heather Allan on 8566251 or 0223099699 who will give full details. (Note: we each contribute a small amount to the cost of couriering the plays).

Coffee Group



Our next outing for the year will be to Olive Cafe , Flagstaff Shopping Centre Hamilton at 10.30 am on Friday March 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 – all are welcome.

Judith Hickman

Singalong Group



Our next gathering will be on Wednesday April 5 from 1.15 – 2.45 pm at Hukanui Reformed Church, 159 Rototuna Road, Hamilton. Open entry – all are welcome plus friends.

Wayne Wright

Uke3A

If you have a ukulele and can play a few chords, then this is group for you. We will meet on Tuesdays March 14 and 28 1.15 – 2.45 pm at Hukanui Reformed Church, 159 Rototuna Road, Hamilton.

Judith Hickman



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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 is necessary, and not everyone is an amazing singer, so don't let that dissuade you if you'd like to learn.

Janet Pope

Knit, Stitch and Chat

It was wonderful to think of and, even better, to actually meet for the first time for 2023.

We knitted, embroidered and chatted, by which I mean we put the world to rights. We caught up with projects, little and large, which had been completed; travel plans undertaken and some scuppered for various reasons. Covid and a couple of weather events have a lot to answer for.

However, this group has an advantage in that even though life may have other things in store for us, we can still fall back on new projects planned and others as yet unfinished.

We are meeting again on March 21 (yes, the third Tuesday comes after the third Wednesday again).

We meet at the Convenor's home from 1:30 pm and finish when we have had our tea/coffee.

Currently we have room for two more people so do come and join us even if you don't knit, crochet, stitch, etc.

What we all need to do in the meantime is check that we are financial members of U3A. This is important for two reasons – firstly, if we have a waiting list for a group then we look for U3A members and secondly, if you want to vote at the AGM you need to be a financial member.

Catherine 07 855 8328

Membership

During February we welcomed Rob Pascoe, Heather McBrydie, Joni Burgess and Rosemary Malins to U3A.

Our total membership at the end of February was 257. Please contact me on hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com if your phone, email or address changes, or if you are leaving U3A, so that I may amend our membership database.

Finally, if you haven't yet collected your name badge, Janet Ruf will be pleased to give it to you. At most monthly meetings you will find her at the entrance to the hall. If you have lost yours, see me and I'll make you a new one.

Judith Hickman