



The Line of Fire by Captain Matt Gauldie, Victoria Street, Hamilton

Photo by Anne Devlin

Newsletter April 2023

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

Meetings

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 19 at 10 am (meet and greet at 9.45 am) at the Church Hall of Chartwell Co-operating Church located on the corner of Comries Road and Bellmont Avenue (near Chartwell Mall).

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

Meet and greet Music Appreciation group

Morning tea helpers April: Gill Clothier, Joy Glaysheer

May: Gina Aitken, Helen Thomas

Next speaker Ellie Wilkinson

Ellie is the Community Development and Support partner for the Hamilton Multicultural Services Trust, with oversight of the key services which support the successful settlement of migrants and refugee communities in Hamilton. She began working with the Trust at the end of January 2021 and comes from a background in the community and voluntary sector, having worked in this capacity with the Tertiary Education Commission and with Wintec.

Ellie has a sound understanding of the relationship between government and community groups. She has a Bachelor of Social Services in Adult and Community Education and Sociology and significant local and government networks.

She lives in the Chartwell area and has done so for over 25 years. Her children went to the local schools and now her grandchildren also attend them. Both she and her husband John are involved in local community activities. Ellie is also the chair person for Te Whare O Te Ata which is based at the refurbished community hall on Fairfield Park

Committee's report

Tēna koutou – greetings to you all.

We had a good turnout for our March meeting. It was encouraging to note the number of visitors in attendance and to receive several new enrolments on the day. As always, we encourage you to bring your friends along to a monthly meeting if they are interested in finding out more about U3A.

Our guest speakers, Barry and Sandra Payne, gave us a really interesting account of their intrepid travels around the globe in their single engine plane. Not only did we see pictures of the places they visited and the people they met, but we learned about some of the innovative ways they resolved the difficulties of long distance flying in a very small aircraft.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21, June 2023, prior to the regular meeting. The required documentation will be sent out during May, but now is the time to be considering if it could be your turn to step up and be nominated for the committee. Apart from the general positions, we need people to fill the vacant roles of chairperson and vice-chairperson and newsletter editor.

Judith Hickman

Online Learning Blog

During March 2023, these posts were made to our online learning blog
<https://u3ahamilton.org.nz/online-learning/>:

- [Indian Writers Group](#)
- [The BAZ flyers](#)
- [Keen to learn more about cicadas and their summer chorus?](#)
- [Te Kete Aronui Rototuna Library](#)

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome

Beverley Bell hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com

Volunteers Wanted

Have you got a couple of hours a week to spare?

The NZ Red Cross would love to have you as a volunteer in its friendly store at 189 Commerce St, Frankton. Hours are very flexible.

Phone 07 846 0492, or pop in to the shop to find out more.

Groups

Mah-jongg

For those of you on our waiting list: Don't give up!

We currently have 12 members in our group, the maximum number we are currently allowed at our venue, Matte Black. We play every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 1 – 3 pm.

Quite often people ask me whether they can join our group, and I suggest they contact Graham Harrison gfharrison26@gmail.com to go on the waiting list. A game requires a minimum of three players, and preferably four. Once we get three or more on the waiting list, our mah-jongg expert, Murray Belchamber, is happy to coach those new players at his house in the Hong Kong system which we use.

At that point, the questions are whether the new players are happy to form a separate group, where they would want to meet, and whether any of our existing group would like to join them and so play more often. Several members of our group have said they would be interested in this.

Lesley Dunn

History

February's meeting started with Barbara, fresh from visiting family in Germany, recounting impressions from her visit, including local attitudes to national politicians (dismissive) and the war in Ukraine (Germans dislike the Ukrainians less than the Russians). The Cold War and its recent revival had been the theme for much of last year. We resolved to wrap that up in the March meeting. We worked through the history of Ukraine, noting parallels with earlier topics (Ireland, Scotland, the Italian Risorgimento and German Unification) where 18th and 19th century mythologies of a glorious past fed into the development of national identity and conflict.

The meeting started with Maureen, slightly jet-lagged, recounting highlights of her visit to Italy, Spain and the UK. Her reading gave us the topic for April 12: Edward VII, his life and times. Maureen will lead, referencing Jane Ridley's book *Bertie: A Life of Edward VII* Vintage Publications, 2013. Waipa Libraries has a copy. Hamilton Libraries hasn't. We will dive into the social circuit of the elite and Edward's influence on Anglo-French political relations. Possible Wikipedia articles on: Lily Langtry (Jersey Lil); Deauville; Monte Carlo. Also <https://www.edwardianpromenade.com/season/the-london-season>

May 10: USA and China. Fresh from her visit to Hawaii, Josie will lead discussion on present Great Power relations, referencing last year's discussions on the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

Paul Etheredge

Natural Environs

Our next visit is to A. J. Seely Gully on April 19 at 9.30. Please come to Armagh Street where we will meet our guide. Bring a koha of \$5.00 please and wear suitable footwear.

Janet Ruf Mob.022 687 953

Coffee Group



Our next outing for the year will be to Gloria Jean's Coffee , (Facing Te Rapa Straight) Te Awa, The Base Shopping Centre Hamilton at 10.30 am on Friday 14 April. 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

Current Affairs – CONVENOR NEEDED

Gorham Milbank has been the Convenor for over three years – so it is time for a new one.

The group used to meet at Celebrating Age. Since that was closed for repair, the group has been meeting in the lounge at the Cooperating Church, Comries Road, Chartwell. There were two sessions a month, from 10.30 to 12.00 noon on the first and third Fridays each month. There has been a charge of \$2 per member per session to pay the room rental. In each session, a wide range of topics is usually addressed bringing forth many and varied views and lively discussions. Group members have been invited to nominate and introduce topics if they wish. A new convenor may well make changes.



The group has been in recess from Christmas last year, so this is a good time for new members to become involved along with a new convenor. Gorham is happy to provide some support to a new convenor for a couple of sessions. If you are interested in becoming the convenor, contact Graham Harrison who is responsible for Groups on the U3A Committee – see him at the meeting on 19 May or phone 07 855 6217. OR you can contact Gorham Milbank: Phone: 855 4757, or email: milbank@xtra.co.nz

Singalong



Our next gathering will be on Wednesday 3 May from 1.15 – 2.45 pm at Hukanui Reformed Church, 159 Rototuna Road, Hamilton. Open entry – all are welcome plus friends. We sing songs from pre-War days, onwards. All the old favourites as well as some that are more modern. Please come along and join us.

Wayne Wright

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

The Plantaholics



The Plantaholics met for the second time this year at the Fairfield Project Gardens, beside Fairfield College. The Kukutaaruhe Gully - the site of The Fairfield Project - lies in the heart of Hamilton/Kirikiriroa – 12 hectares of green space currently leased from the Ministry of Education. These gardens are open to the public, with a range of gardens to view, both on the flat and down in the gully. They are planted and maintained by various groups, and allotment holders. As the weather was threatening rain we stayed on the flat, with plenty to see and discuss, with kumara plantings, vegetables, herbs and flowers. Excess produce is sometimes available at the gardens.

Marilyn Hopkins

Uke3A

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

Judith Hickman

Antiques and Collectables

Old photographs, frames, paintings and postcards were our focus of interest for our March meeting. A large, wooden decoratively carved photo frame from 1917 bought to display two early photographs was most interesting.

Two landscapes by the Queensland painter, Vida Lahey (1882 – 1968), were on display. Vida became a prominent artist in Queensland exhibiting widely from 1902 – 1965. In 1902 she visited relatives in Canterbury. She was developing her craft and painted NZ scenes – the two on display were of Lakes Kaniere and Mahinapua, both of which are near Hokitika. The Kaniere painting was in the 1989 Queensland Art Gallery's first major retrospective of her work, 'Songs of Colour: The art of Vida Lahey'. A postcard of Kaniere sent in 1916 from Hokitika showed much the same scene.

We had a delightful watercolour, French Bridge, by Elizabeth Kelly (1877-1946) who was born and educated in Christchurch. Her intention was to be trained as a teacher but her talent developed, especially as a portrait artist. In 1931 Elizabeth began to exhibit with the Royal Academy in London. In 1934, she was awarded a silver medal at the Paris Salon of the Société des Artistes Français (one of Paris' most esteemed arts institutions) which was the highest achievement of any New Zealand artist at the time. Later, in 1938, this and Kelly's many other contributions to NZ's creative community were recognised when she was appointed a CBE. She was the first NZ woman to receive this distinction.

In 1991, Paul Martinson was the NZ's Wildlife Artist of the year where his interest was in endangered birds. The surrealism of his settings in his modern works is most unusual and thought provoking. Paul was a science technician (one of our members worked with him) but damaged two fingers in a laboratory accident and had to retrain as an artist, often using frozen specimens. He is a self-taught NZ artist who uses very fine brush strokes to convey accuracy. The only artist to ever paint a bird with a square tail!

Early 20th century postcards were also on display. One in particular appealed. Although it was of Canterbury College with the Canterbury School of Art behind the main building, it was posted from Reefton on 12 July 1910 by a member of Marlow's Dramatic Company who were to present that night 'Married to the Wrong Man' which was produced in London for the first time in 1909 and had played continuously to overflowing houses! The performance in the Princess Theatre was promoted in the 12 July edition of the Inangahua Times and reviewed in the 13 July edition with the note that the Company would play 'The Wedding Ring' that night.

Raeburne Bourke

Self-Publishing Group

After a long break this group will reconvene on Monday 1st May from 1 – 3pm in the lounge at St Albans Church, Comries Rd, Chartwell. We will “Share, Inform, Question, Discuss, Encourage”

Please bring along any of your publication projects that are partially completed and any ideas you have for your future publications. All are welcome. This informal meeting is open to any U3A members who have an interest in self-publishing – now, or in the future. Members of the new U3A Memoirs group might be able to pick up some useful tips.

We will also discuss ideas for the future of this group.

Janet Hanfling janet.hanfling@xtra.co.nz

Membership

During February we welcomed Tony Zonneveld, Susan Law, Kerry Allen, Gerald Bradley, Mary Masters and Marion Francis.

Our total membership at the end of February was 263. 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.

You may be interested to know that membership of our 29 Interest groups = 290. Many members belong to more than one group of course, and as people have ideas for new groups we look forward to these numbers, both groups and participants, continuing to grow. We are very grateful to the Convenors who give their time and energy organising the wide range of groups which are currently operating.

Committee news

Our subscriptions are up for renewal as of 1 January each year - thanks to all of you who have already paid.

It is still only \$30 for the year, and this entitles you to participate in any of the interest groups, and receive the newsletter.

Please renew your membership if you have not already: You can pay directly to our bank account: 03 1559 0030619 00, or pay in cash at the next meeting

Special Messages

Alzheimer's NZ is promoting a free app called: 'My Life Journey'

You may have heard about this New Zealand designed app created by Alister Robertson originally as a tool for carers to provoke conversations with people living with dementia.

It was designed to help residential care staff to learn more about you or your family member, and become a conversation starter.

But anyone wanting to record the key moments in their life can use the app - right down to new parents wanting to record key milestones of their new baby.

It has ten categories and prompts to stimulate memories.

You can record audio clips, add photos and write down memories. This is a way to preserve & leave your legacy.

You could Google the app for more information, and download it from the AppStore.

Advance Personal Care Plans

An advance directive or advance care plan tells doctors what you do or don't want if you can't speak or make decisions for yourself. It can include withdrawing care that would otherwise keep you alive if it is clear your directive conditions are met.

U3A Hamilton received an email from Louise Duffty regarding her petition to support Barbie's Bill. She has asked that members be informed of her work.

[Barbie's Bill](#) aims to have a centralised directive database, standardised directive templates and a mandate to make directives binding - so people's wishes and their informed consent are heard and followed.

The details as to what the Bill is seeking to achieve and other FAQs are on <https://barbiesbill.nz/> and Barbie's Bill is on Facebook and Instagram.

The petition for the bill can be signed online at <https://barbiesbill.nz/>.