



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter July 2023

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

Meetings

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 19 July** 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 Belmont Avenue (opposite and near Chartwell Mall). Following the guest speaker's presentation, we have morning tea/coffee and a chance to chat.

Next speaker

Our speaker on the 19th July will be **Viv Leonard**, on the topic of Antiques. Viv is the proprietor of Arkwrights Antiques in Paeroa and she will share her knowledge of old items of interest with us.

Meet and greet

July Natural Environment
August Hiking

Morning tea helpers

July Noeline Alcorn, Lesley Lee

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President's report

We held the AGM in June and elected the following members to our committee: Bob Wilcock (President and meetings coordinator); Mary Arvidson (Secretary); Christine Williams (Treasurer); Carol Carr (audio visual team leader); Graham Harrison (coordinator of special interest groups); Judith Hickman (membership, database, acting almoner); Sandra Eaton (speakers, catering) and Catherine Gurnsey (speakers). We welcome Catherine as a new committee member and farewell Anne Devlin and Gavin Muckle.

Our June speaker was Dr Richard Vipond, a Medical Officer of Health with Te Whatu Ora Waikato. Dr Vipond gave a fascinating talk about his research findings in relation to the Delta variant of the Covid epidemic. He talked about the regional and national Covid responses, and the Waikato incident management including managed isolation facilities.

Bob Wilcock, President

Obituary

Dave Douglas

Many members of U3A Hamilton will have been saddened to hear of the death of Dave Douglas on June 15. Dave was a longstanding and very active member of U3A in Hamilton. He was President in 2012 – 2014 and again for a second term in 2015 – 17.

He was an active member of several interest groups over the years. Most notably, for a number of years, up until very recently he was the convenor and driving force behind the NZ History Group. As a former secondary school teacher of history teacher, Dave retained a strong interest in and enthusiasm for that subject of which he had an encyclopaedic knowledge.

Dave had a long career in education including a remarkable 26 years as Principal of Te Aroha College.

He will be sadly missed by his many friends in U3A Hamilton. We extend our sympathy to his wife Sue and members of his family.

Online learning

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

- [Maori Map of Aotearoa](#)
- [New Rototuna Library opens on 21 July](#)
- [Book Discussion Group 3](#)
- [Cambridge to Piarere Road Safety Update](#)

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome. Beverley Bell
hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com

Interest Groups

The **Natural Environs** group

We met at the Base at 9.30am and carpooled to the Te Otamanui Walkway in Te Kowhai. It was unknown territory for some of us! We started at the Coombes Road entrance (just north of Te Kowhai village on the Ngaruawahia Road north) which goes directly to the lagoon. There were good information boards along the track telling the history of the area. It's a firm gravel path, basically flat, with some seats along the way. It is not a loop track but you can walk to Te Kowhai village. We just walked for just over an hour and then enjoyed refreshments at Saints cafe in the village. Thanks to Jackie Larson for organising the walk and providing the notes".



Antiques and Collectables

This month's theme was textiles and exhibits ranged from flour bags (which were once used to line little boys' trousers) to prototype samples for the Globe Theatre hangings. The earliest item was a 1920/25 school sewing project – an intricate sampler showing a range of sewing and mending skills. Some post war items were not of linen as at that time there was a shortage of the fibre which had been in demand for retreading tyres etc.

We were interested to learn of the creative lineage through five generations of the one family even though at the daughter's generation, embroidery had taken a back seat to cross stitch and cake icing!

We saw some beautiful ecclesiastical embroidery, stitched in the 1960's but with a modern look. Nancy Bennett, an Englishwoman, was not impressed with the state of vestments and set up monthly classes in Hamilton to improve the situation.

We heard about the background to the creation of the Globe Theatre hangings from one of our group, Kath Des Forges, who was the co-ordinator of the project. This was fascinating and it is hoped that another meeting focussing on this topic alone may be organised.

Raeburne Bourke

Shakespeare Interest Group

This interest group continues to enjoy Shakespeare in engaging and varied ways. The programme this month includes finishing reading Pericles aloud and a report on the Auckland Theatre Company's production of King Lear. This brilliant production was enjoyed recently by a small group. This group also visited and admired (and handled!) the first folio of Shakespeare's plays held by Auckland Public Library. (We are looking forward to seeing the first four folios of Shakespeare at the Library on an open day in November. This open day is being planned but has not yet been announced publicly.) Please contact Alison Ringer by text if you are interested in coming along to this group.

The Page Turners

Our group continues to flourish with regular meetings and diverse reading interests. Recently we have been reconvening for lunch at a near by cafe after the meeting. One advantage of the wet weather is that the opportunity to read is without the guilt of outdoor chores being neglected.

History Group

The topic for the June meeting was Russia (Putin) and China (Xi) vs. The West. An interesting discussion on the origins and state of the present tensions and the position of other states, particularly Brazil, India, Iran, South Africa, the Arab world and the states of Oceania.

July's meeting has short talks on: Ibn Khaldun, Abd al-Rahman; Raymond Firth; Henrietta Maria, Queen of England; Rishi Sunak; and USA 2024 Presidential Election: candidates for Party Primaries. We will catch up on the state of the USA election in the last part of future meetings.

We still have vacancies.

Paul Etheredge

The Computer group

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

We explore a topic each meeting, and also look at our current technological issues and activities.

We recently examined some of the current scams circulating via text, email and social media. Everyone had an experience to share.

Nigel Latta has a documentary series on TVNZ called 'You've been scammed' that could be helpful in learning how to recognise and avoid scams.

If you are interested in joining the group contact the convenor at:

carcarr04@yahoo.com

Ukulele Group Uke3A Jam



A few of us entertained the Ngaruawahia Friendship Group last month with a selection of old-time songs. We enjoyed playing, and it was good to see so many people singing along with us. Uke3A Jam meet on Tuesdays 11 and 25 July 1.15 pm– 2.45 pm at Hukanui Reformed Church, 159 Rototuna Road, Hamilton. Anyone who can play a few chords is welcome to come along.

Judith Hickman

Coffee Companions Group



Next outing for the Coffee Companions is 10.30 am on Friday 14 July at JAM cafe in Queenwood village. Joining us for coffee (or tea) is a nice way to get to know a few people when you're new to U3A. If you'd like to come along call me on 849 0242.

Judith Hickman

Singalong Group



We were pleased to welcome a group of residents from Awatere Retirement Village who joined us at our last Singalong session. The visitors knew all the songs and enjoyed the experience. This group is open to all, in fact the more the merrier. If you like singing old time songs, come along and join us at our next gathering at 1.15 pm on Wednesday 2 August at the Hukanui Reformed Church, 159 Rototuna Road, Rototuna.

Wayne Wright

Members

Membership

Our membership continues to grow with 31 new folk having joined us this year. During June we welcomed Jan and Warwick Silvester, Andrea Corbett, Richelle Whittaker and Vicki Mitchell.

Please contact me either on hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com or text/call 027 664 6712 if your phone, email or address changes, or if you are not sure whether or not you have paid your annual subscription, or if you are leaving U3A, so that I may keep our membership database current.

Judith Hickman