



Hamilton Gardens Photo by Anne Devlin

www.u3ahamilton.org.nz

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June Newsletter 2023

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

Meetings

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 21 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 (near Chartwell Mall).

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

Meet and greet Book Discussion Group 2

Morning Tea Roster June Lesley Dunn, Anthony Viner

July Noeline Alcorn, Lesley Lee

We would be grateful for some more volunteers to help with morning tea, please.

Alison Ringer

Next speaker Dr Richard Vipond is a Medical Officer of Health with Te Whatu Ora Waikato.

His presentation will focus on his research findings in relation to the Delta variant of the Covid epidemic.

He has worked across DHB incident management team, regional Covid response, National response and working groups, and Waikato incident management including managed isolation facilities, developing close working relationships across multiple sectors. Waikato Delta response (Oct 2021 to Jan 2022) was the peak of the Waikato public health service response, following the Waikato Way - Manaakitanga, mahi tahi, and kawea ake.

Our Committee's Message

Tēna koutou – greetings to you all.

Last month we welcomed Fiona George who provided us with an interesting talk about the Red Cross international organisation. Good listening was rewarded with a plentiful supply of chocolate treats, and everyone returned home with some interesting information about how to record important life events and end-of-life plans. Free copies of this booklet are available from www.redcross.org.nz

As the time draws nigh for our AGM and election of new committee members, this is the final call for anyone who is willing to serve for the next year or so to get a nomination form in by email to www.hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com prior to 21 June 2023.

Two valuable members are retiring this year from the committee: Anne Devlin who has edited our newsletters and has been responsible for the lovely photographs on the front page each month, and Gavin Muckle who has been our almoner and managed the archives. Both have been on the committee for several years, and we sincerely thank them for their time and the work they have done for U3A Hamilton.

Judith Hickman

Online Learning Blog

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

- [International Documentary Film Festival 2023](#)
- [Indian Authors' group](#)

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome.

Beverley Bell hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com

Groups

Ukulele Groups **Uke3A Jam and Beginners.**



Uke3A Jam will meet on Tuesdays 13 and 27 June 1.15 pm–2.45 pm at Hukanui Reformed Church, 159 Rototuna Road, Hamilton.

There's no limit on size for this group – if you can strum and sing a bit, come and play with us. All are welcome.

Judith Hickman

The Beginner Group meets at members' homes on days and dates to suit. A small group is operating now, so if you'd like to start let me know.

Janet Pope

Computer Technology Group

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

We explore a wide range of technological topics to do with our use of computers and smart phones.

We research a topic for each meeting, and also try to solve our technological issues.

An interesting recent discussion was on the devices and apps we use that support health, safety, fitness & well-being.

If you are interested in joining contact: carolevelyn49@icloud.com

Antiques and Collectables Group

The topic, Carlton Ware and other colourful ware, proved popular. We looked at a variety of items from useful things to decorative ones; items gifted for significant events such as weddings or celebrations.

There were items specifically bought for others and others bought because that was a collection being built at the time. Other items were because of their immediate appeal.

Makers included Royal Albert, Johnson Bros Pareek Ware, Woods and Sons, Wedgwood Lustre Ware, Royal Dalton, H&K Tunstall Ware and Carlton Ware in the Lustre range of Royale and the Australian Pattern.

Sources of information were discussed. Subsequent investigation has shown that all of these makers had at some time been at Stoke-on-Trent in Staffordshire. Many had also started by producing bricks and sanitary ware including drains.

Catherine Gurnsey

Membership

It is very pleasing to see the hall filling up for our monthly meetings. We really don't mind getting out extra chairs, so please continue to bring along your friends as visitors to see if they are interested in U3A.

Our total membership is currently 267. 191 are now financial, 70 (37%) are not, and 10 people resigned. During May we welcomed Alan Kenny, Yuri and Hein Laaper, Andrea Corbett, Jennifer Smith and Wendy Boyce.

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

Committee's Annual Report July 2022 – June 2023

" U3A shall consist of a body of persons who undertake to learn and help others to learn. Those who teach shall also learn, and those who learn shall also teach." Peter Laslett (Founder of U3A in UK 1981)

The goal of U3A Hamilton is Life is for Learning - Learn for life.

After two years of disruption due to the pandemic and associated restrictions on meetings, we were able to have monthly meetings and sustain interest groups throughout the past year. Newsletters provided regular information to members, supported by our website with learning opportunities highlighted. Interest groups continue to be an important feature of U3A Hamilton with a steadily increase in the variety available.

Committee Membership and roles

The following members were elected to the committee in 2022:

Mary Arvidson	Secretary
Carol Carr	IT and AV Coordinator
Anne Devlin	Newsletter
Sandra Eaton	Speakers
Graham Harrison	Interest Groups
Judith Hickman	Membership, database
Gavin Muckle	Almoner, Archives
Robert Wilcock	Meeting organisation
Christine Williams	Treasurer

The committee has met monthly throughout the year. As no nominations were received for President or Vice-President, the roles and responsibilities throughout the year were shared by committee members.

Secretary – Mary Arvidson

As minute secretary, I enjoy the cheerful, positive attitude of committee members. Meetings can be entertaining as well as purposeful. We meet monthly in the foyer of the Chartwell Cooperating Church and things have gone very smoothly even though we've been without a president for the last year.

Membership – Judith Hickman

Our membership currently is 267 and at the same time last year was also 267. Enrolments are steady; for comparison, there were 18 new members in the second half of 2022. During the first half of 2023 25 people have joined. It has been pleasing to note the increasing number of visitors attending monthly meetings, many of whom have then joined U3A.

Finance – Christine Williams

I enjoy my position as Treasurer keeping our payments on track and producing a monthly report for our wonderful committee. With all our members able to get out and about again this year we are back to full strength, and thanks to all your support our finances are very healthy. This year we spent money replacing our computer, but we still have plenty of funds to support any initiatives that might arise. For instance if anyone is interested in organising a trip to somewhere interesting we can give confidence that you would not be out of pocket with any unforeseen expenses.

Monthly Programme – July 2022 – May 2023

Month	Speaker	Topic
July	Bruce Clarkson	Bringing indigenous nature back into New Zealand towns and cities
August	Amber Hammill	The impact of radio on older people
September	Sarah Thomson	Impact of climate change on Hamilton
October	Sarah Summerfield	Fairfield College philosophy for meeting students' needs.
November	Dr Kirstine Moffat	Jane Austen, musician and writer
February	Ross Hargood	Hamilton's regional theatre.
March	Sandra & Barry Payne	'Life on a Wing' BAZFlyers
April	Ellie Wilkinson	Hamilton Multicultural Centre
May	Fiona George	Red Cross – NZ and International
June	Richard Vipond	Covid response and recovery - Waikato

Interest Groups – Graham Harrison

This has been a year of picking up the pieces following Covid. An additional difficulty for some groups has been the need to find a new venue. However, most groups have just soldiered on and continued to provide stimulation and companionship for their members.

We have lost a few groups – Current Affairs, Philosophy, Dining Together and NZ History have gone into recess and Memoir writing has had a resurgence.

We also have nearly enough interested members to form another group in Gardening, Mah Jong, Book Discussion, Photography, Scrabble and Wine Appreciation. Some other groups also have a healthy waiting list.

While at times it has been tricky to find Convenors, currently we are well served. Following the Convenor's Coffee Get-Together and the annual survey of groups, the database has been brought up to date, but it must be appreciated that this is an ever-changing situation.

Outings

On 31 August a bus trip was organised to visit the Greek Vase exhibition at Auckland Museum and the exhibition "Heavenly Creatures" at Auckland Art Gallery.

Website and Database – Judith Hickman

Mike Forret of IConcept Enterprises provides support to those managing and supporting and using our website and database.

The database has proved invaluable to the committee, allowing us to monitor the membership, finances, interest groups etc. It has simplified our systems, and allows email and newsletter contact with the majority of our members.

The website provides easy access for members and the public to learn more about U3A, contact us, or join and pay subscriptions online.

AV – Carol Carr This year we have purchased a new HP laptop as the old Lenovo was becoming terminally slow and possibly about to fail.

I've continued to update the pre-meeting slideshow advertising speakers and interest groups etc. I've added more colour & graphics, which has been easier with the latest version of PowerPoint on the new laptop.

Ex-Officio Assistance We are grateful to these people for their essential help at our monthly meetings. Please accept the committee's thanks for the assistance given by those who were involved in various capacities throughout the year.

Interest groups Without our convenors we wouldn't have had the range of interest groups we now have available to us. Thank you one and all for your dedication and leadership over the past year.

Health and Safety Thank you to Neil Curgenvan who has this responsibility and ensures all present are reminded of safety procedures at each meeting. He also identifies the first aider on duty should there be an emergency.

Audio-Visual Thank you to Brett Robinson, Gordon Fitzroy-Kelly, Carol Carr and Wayne Wright for managing the audio-visual equipment and needs of the speakers for our meetings.

Catering Thank you to Sandra Eaton who does the shopping and Janet Hanfling (2022) and Alison Ringer (2023) and their team of helpers who work in the kitchen at each meeting.

Website Learning

Thank you to Beverley Bell who sources and uploads information to the online learning page of our website.

Hall Setup

Thank you to Gorham Milbank and his team who arrange the furniture for our meetings, and then collect and stack the chairs afterwards.

Almoner & Archives – Gavin Muckle

The role of the Almoner is to acknowledge and send messages of support to members who might appreciate such acknowledgement. Over the past year while some contacts have been made the number has been relatively small. Please remember that the almoner is dependent on receiving information from other members about those who might appreciate acknowledgement.

Archives – Gavin Muckle

During the year there has been continuing work on collating and organising the U3A Hamilton Archives. Some information from the archives has been written for Newsletters.

Guest Speakers – Sandra Eaton

This year we've had an interesting series of guest speakers on a range of topics. If any members have suggestions either for topics or speakers for the coming year, please contact me.

Acknowledgements

Anne Devlin and Gavin Muckle, who have both served for several years on the committee in their roles as Newsletter Editor and Almoner/Archivist respectively, have resigned from the committee. Both have been dedicated and hardworking committee members, and we are sorry to lose them. Thank you Anne and Gavin, please accept our best wishes for the future.

This past year has been a challenge for the committee but, with all members' commitment to multi-tasking, we managed to keep U3A functioning and viable. However, if our organisation is to continue to prosper and thrive, it is essential that members are more willing to participate in its management and come forward to take a turn in leadership roles.

Hamilton U3A Committee 2022 - 2023

U3A Hamilton Incorporated
Financial Report for the Year to 31/5/2023

Previous Year Actual 2021-2022		Actual 2022-2023	Budget
Income			
3,725.00	Subscriptions 22/23 *	8,400.00	7,500.00
0.00	Outings / Trips	560.00	
5.68	Other (incl bank interest)	142.37	
3,730.68	Total Income	9,102.37	7,500.00
Expenditure			
0.00	Advert/publicity	0.00	500.00
57.45	Hospitality	543.76	500.00
619.00	Venue Hire	1,160.00	1,300.00
300.00	Speakers/Travel	400.00	1,500.00
548.89	Badges/Print/Stationery	253.04	800.00
736.00	PO Box / Web	736.00	2,200.00
0.00	Outings / Trips	920.00	0.00
0.00	Computer	1,329.48	0.00
85.00	Other/ bank fees	0.76	250.00
2,346.34	Total Expenditure	5,343.04	7,050.00
1,384.34	Operating Deficit/Surplus	3,759.33	<u>450.00</u>
Bank Reconciliation			
	Balance as per Westpac B/S 31/5/22		12,844.64
	Plus deposits		9,102.37
	<i>Less withdrawals</i>		<u>5,343.04</u>
	Funds available		16,603.97
	Balance as per Westpac B/S 31/5/23		16,603.97

* Subscriptions in the 2023 year include late payments for the previous year
(ie those paid after 1 June 2022)

**If you have any questions about the figures in this report,
please come and ask them at the AGM.**