



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

[www.u3ahamilton.org.nz](http://www.u3ahamilton.org.nz)

Post PO Box 1103, Hamilton

Email [hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com)



## Newsletter November 2023

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

### Meetings

#### Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 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.

#### Speaker

**Harmen Van Weerden** has been involved with St John for over 35 years in both paid and volunteer management roles, lastly as the Property & Facilities Manager for 12 years before retiring in July 2020. I have continued to be involved as a volunteer on the Hamilton & Ngaaruawaahia Area Committee as the chair since September 2020. This has enabled me to have significant experiences and overviews of the organisation as the most trusted charity in New Zealand. St John provides services from operational ambulance services down to Penguins at the entry level of St John at 5-6 years of age, with a range of community and commercial services supporting the emergency and health needs of our communities. I have also worked at the St John Eye Hospital in East Jerusalem in 2012 where the foundation of the Order of St John was established some 1,000 years ago. Our modern day Order re-established in the mid 1800's with Queen Victoria and continues as a Royal Order to this day.

#### Meet and Greet Roster

November Wine Appreciation Group

#### Morning Tea Helpers

November Alison Stringer and U3A Committee

## Christmas Cheer



The Committee invites you to bring along an item or two for the local Foodbank this Christmas. The resources of the Foodbank are always under pressure at this time of year, and we would like to help if we can. Almost anything will do – canned (not ancient!) goods, toiletries, cereals, goodies such as biscuits, or cash if you prefer which allows the Foodbank to purchase of perishable goods such as meat and dairy products at the time of delivery. Every little helps. Look out for the box at the door as you come in please.

## President's report

Tēna koutou – greetings to you all.

Our October speaker was Dr Ann McEwan of Heritage Consultancy Services who spoke passionately about heritage buildings and the way they are so little valued that they can be destroyed without consideration for their historical or architectural importance. She used examples of buildings in Hamilton which included the demolition of Euphrasie House, St John's Methodist Church, developments at Temple View, The Waikato Regional Theatre using the façade but not the building behind it which held the history, through to ongoing issues at the Founder's Theatre and the Court House. Her challenge to us was, "What buildings do you want to show your grandchildren?"

Finally, a word of thanks for those who make our monthly meetings run smoothly, specifically Neil Curvengen, our Health and Safety officer; Gorham Milbank and his team who arrange the tables and chairs at meetings; Carol Carr and the audio-visual team (Brett and Wayne), Alison Ringer and her team who oversee the morning teas, our 'duty' interest groups who act as greeters at our meetings, and Beverley Bell who edits the monthly newsletters. Many others help out from time to time and we thank them too.

This is the final newsletter for 2023, and the Committee extends best wishes for the festive season to all our members. We hope to see many of you at our November meeting and invite you to join us afterwards for tea/coffee and a few festive treats.

Bob Wilcock

## Treasurer

### **SUBS for 2024**

Just a heads up for you all - our new year will start on 1 January 2024, and as some of you are pretty quick off the mark to pay your annual subs, the committee want you to know nice and early that the subs for next year will be only \$20. Yes that's right - we are actually asking for less in 2024, as we have accumulated funds behind us. Thank you, as always, for your support,

Chrissie Williams, Treasurer

## Groups

### **A Reminder about Group membership**

1. If your group is an official U3A group, the members must be financial members of U3A.
2. From time to time, a group member may take along a visitor on a non-permanent basis: For example,
  - they may be interested in joining the group
  - they may be a visiting guest of the member.

Group Convenors may need to have a conversation with some members of their group.

Graham Harrison  
855 6217  
Gfharrison26@gmail.com

## Interest group news

### **Book discussion group 2**

It has been another most enjoyable year of monthly book discussion meetings for the members of the U3A Book Discussion group 2. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at historic Hockin House, Selwyn Street (near Waikato hospital) at 1.30pm. We spend about two hours discussing books we have recently read – any genre, any topic. The group is limited to eight members and at present we have our full complement, but if you enjoy reading and would like to join us when a vacancy arises please give your details to Graham Harrison to go onto the waiting list.

Sheila Emslie

### **Hiking Group**

For our October outing, the Hiking Group did the Te Tapui Loop Track in the Mangakawa Reserve between Morrinsville and Matamata. Some of the group did the walk last year after some bad weather so the track was in better condition this time. In November we will be walking along the Waihou Stream from Whites Road to the Blue Springs near Putaruru.

Des Johnston

Phone: 027 702 0247

Email: [desnviv@xtra.co.nz](mailto:desnviv@xtra.co.nz)

### **Shakespeare Interest Group**

The S.I.G. has had a successful and enjoyable year in getting better acquainted with Shakespeare. We have read some plays together, and watched some films, including Henry V and Julius Caesar. The highlight for some of us was our trip to Auckland in June to see King Lear, performed by the Auckland Theatre Company. We stayed overnight in Auckland and travelled each way on Te Huia, (which we would thoroughly recommend). We also saw a First Folio at Auckland Public Library, a very special experience.

We would love to welcome two more committed participants. If interested please contact U3A Hamilton's groups' co-ordinator.

Alison Ringer

### **Antiques and Collectibles**

Medals and Badges focused our attention for the October meeting.

The items brought gave an insight into our social history with Red Cross medals and brooches from the 1930's/40's, Dunedin Technical HS badge from between the wars, Otago GHS and Christchurch BHS. There was a British Home Guard badge and a nursing buckle (1899). We learnt about the work involved in searching for war medal entitlements. Ecclesiastical medals for Lay Readers and Choristers were also shown. More recent examples – Ban the Bomb and Stop the 1981 Tour rubbed shoulders with Coronation medals 1953 and the 1911 medal for 'their Majesties' coronation. Embroiderers, Girl and Guides, Sporting, Blood Donors, Federation of Graduate Women all appeared amidst others and we ended on the happy quote:

'I finally got it together but then forgot where I put it!'

Raeburne Bourke

## The Play Reading Group

The Play Reading group met on Thursday morning 26th October, (luckily the plays arrived about an hour before we were due to start). We all thoroughly enjoyed a longer play, "Twas the Fight Before Christmas" by Devon Williamson. It had local references, and was both current and very funny. We now look forward to reading Act Two next month, and also a pot luck Christmas lunch in early December. If anyone is interested in joining this very friendly group, please get in touch with either Sandra Eaton, [sandraeaton1@gmail.com](mailto:sandraeaton1@gmail.com) or Pat Stannard, 027 2110391.

## History Group

Recent meetings have started with Josie updating us on the USA Primaries Presidential candidates. We will continue this topic in 2024.

Our October meeting saw Maureen, recently returned from Europe, describing a highlight of staying in a villa on Crete overlooking the area where the German paratroopers landed in their attempt to secure Maleme airport. She gave us a brief resume of the 1941 Greek campaign and the Battle of Crete. This led to a discussion of books connected with the Battle of Crete and onto the theme of Historical Fiction that occupied the bulk of the meeting and is to be continued in the November meeting.

Paul introduced *The Earl and the Pharaoh* by Fiona Aitken, the 8<sup>th</sup> Countess of Carnarvon. This is a non-fiction account of the life of 'Porchey' the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl and linked with an earlier discussion on the life and times of Edward VII.

Barbara covered the novels of Dorothy Dunnett's series, *The House of Niccolo* (eight titles set in 1460 – 1480's Europe and the Near East) and the *Lymond Chronicles* (six titles, England 1547 – 1558). Dunnett also wrote *King Hereafter* (Thorfinn/Macbeth) early to mid-11<sup>th</sup> century AD.

Georgette Heyer, who established the historical romance genre and the subgenre Regency romance, is one of the topics for our November meeting.

A book list for our October meeting is now in the online learning blog to give some suggestions for holiday reading.

Paul Etheredge

## Coffee Companions Group



On **Friday 8 December** we will meet at Botannix Cafe at Palmers Garden Centre, Frankton for our final gathering in 2023. If you'd like to join us for coffee (or tea) in 2024, please contact me. There is no limit on membership and you can be assured of a warm welcome and the chance to get to know a few people if you're new to U3A.

Judith Hickman 027 664 6712

## Ukulele Groups - Uke3A Jam and Beginner Group



The Uke3A Jam play many songs from yester-year which we really enjoy both playing and singing. If you would like to learn to play this simple instrument and join our happy group, do join us. We provide individual or group tuition to anyone who would like to learn, or upgrade their skills. Uke3A Jam will meet on **Tuesdays 14 and 28 November** from 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 027 664 6712 (Uke3A Jam)

Janet Pope 824 8079 (Beginner Ukes)

## Membership

Our total membership is currently 268 with 54 new folk having joined us so far this year.

During October we welcomed Evelyn van Ommen, Judy Thomas, Robyn Taylor, Dale Lethbridge, Marie Macdonald, Anne Neville and Judy Bougher.

Please contact me either on [hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com) or text/call 027 664 6712 if your phone, email or address changes, or if you are leaving U3A, so that I may keep our membership database current.

Judith Hickman