



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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## Newsletter February 2024

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

### Meetings

#### Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 21 February 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

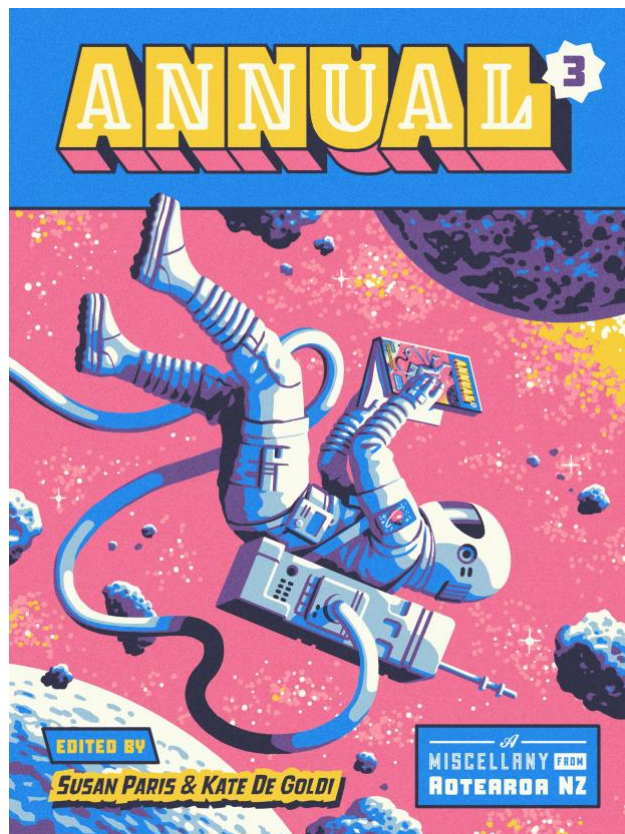
Our first speaker for 2024 is **Susan Paris**, *School Journal* Editor

Remember the old annuals? *Bunty?* *Boy's Own?* *Girls' Crysta?* Well the good news is annuals are back so your grandchildren can enjoy them too. Finally, something to compete with their phones!

Come and hear *School Journal* editor Susan Paris talk about her latest side project: *Annual 3*, a book published with the help of her business partner, Kate De Goldi. The pair's third annual is a New Zealand spin on the much-loved classic, with original content commissioned from some of our best authors and illustrators. Kids will find stories, comics, poetry, essays, recipes, crosswords, games, a song, and even a knitting pattern so they can knit their own brain! There's plenty of fun, but the annual editors are on a serious mission: to satisfy a young audience that's curious, discerning, and up for anything, with content that reflects the diversity of experience across Aotearoa New Zealand so they can reach as many readers as possible.



Kate de Goldi and Susan Paris



## Meet and Greet Roster

February Mah Jong Group

## Morning Tea Helpers

February Kay Garvey Yvonne Amey  
March Lesley Lee Margaret Gault

We need 20 volunteers to assist with morning tea preparation under the able leadership of Alison Ringer. If you volunteer you will only have to assist once during the year. Last year many people had to take two turns so we need some more people to step up.

Please add your name to the roster you'll find at the membership table.

## President's report

Greetings and welcome to the new U3A year. I hope you had a relaxing festive season and are enjoying the warm summer.

Our final meeting for 2023, with Harmen Van Weerden of Hato Hone St John being the guest speaker, was well attended and was informative and enjoyable. We learned that in addition to providing ambulances and medical help at sporting events ('Zambucks'), St John provides a great many other services to the community. These include the provision of first aid training, event medical services, AEDs (defibrillators), first aid kits and supplies, medical alarms, youth groups and a wide range of community programmes. We learned that Harmen 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. The meeting concluded with our special end-of-year morning tea.

Our thanks to those who make our monthly meetings run smoothly. One such person is Gorham Milbank who is 'retiring' after several years of organising the tables and chairs at our meetings, and we are looking for volunteers to help in this regard. I will put a call out at the February meeting.

Our AGM will be held at the April meeting so please give serious consideration to joining the committee.

See you at our next meeting, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February.

Bob Wilcock, President

## Treasurer

### **SUBS for 2024**

I am looking forward to the year ahead, and I hope you all are too. Now is my busy time as the subs for the 2024 calendar year are now due - remember that the subscription will **only be \$20 per member** this year - one of the few things in life not inflating! Thanks to those who have already paid online - some of you have actually paid \$30 - If that is you and you want me to refund the difference please let me know, with your bank number, and I am happy to do so.

I expect to be present at all the next few meetings to assist any members who prefer to pay cash. If you pay online you will receive an email receipt within a few days.

All the best for summer, See you at the meeting,  
Chrissie Williams, Treasurer.

# Groups

## Welcome to U3A Interest Groups 2024

At this time groups are just getting going again for the new year. We trust you all find these times stimulating and pleasant.

I will be handing over the reins as **Groups Coordinator** at the AGM so there is an opportunity for some new fresh ideas. Perhaps you would like to try this role and 'do your bit' for U3A. If you are interested, I'm listing some of the activities involved:

- Keeping an up-to-date record of groups
- Being available at monthly meetings to meet with new group members
- Arranging for new groups to be set up
- Liaise with Group Convenors as needed
- Attend the monthly Committee meeting
- Some computing skills

Working with U3A members is interesting and enjoyable. I would happy to provide initial guidance.

Have a think about it – it might just be a new interest for you.

Graham Harrison, 855 6217, Gfharrison26@gmail.com

## Interest group news

### History Group

Our first meeting for 2024 will be from 1.00 to 3.00pm on Wednesday 14 February, in Meeting Room 3 at The Link Community Centre, Te Aroha St. Having earlier decided to look at the history of China and India, we will decide on which will start in March. The rest of the meeting will discuss some recent history books and some current crises: USA Presidential Election; Gaza and the Middle East; Ukraine/Russia war; anything else that comes to mind.

We welcome a new member, Ruth Rhodes. There is room for one or two further members.

The discussion on The Bayeux Tapestry is postponed to March.

Paul Etheredge, Convenor.

### **Play Reading Group**

Play Readers had their first meeting of the year in late January, and thoroughly enjoyed "Crazy Ladies", a two act play by Devon Williamson, a comedy that was both fun and very funny. We thought we'd need two sessions, but completed the both acts in one go. The author is a kiwi, and we're glad to have discovered this local (Tauranga) author at the end of last year when we read another of his works. You are welcome and come and join our friendly group, we meet 4th Thursday of the month at [10.am](#).

Pat Stannard

### **Computer and Technology group**

The Computer technology group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Convenor's home.

We research and explore a topic each meeting, plus have time to discuss our own technological trials and triumphs.

The topic for this month is looking at Spotify: playlists & podcasts.

The BBC has a range of talking books and Podcasts available on Spotify.

We will look at how to create personal playlists such as a recent project collecting favourite festive music to play on Christmas Day.

Also connecting playlists from your phone via Bluetooth to the car audio system.

- Handy when out of radio range on long summer trips.

Thank you,  
Carol Carr

### **Coffee Companions Group**



IT'S TIME FOR  
COFFEE

On Friday 8 March we will meet at Mavis & Co Cafe 44 Borman Road (Rototuna Shopping Centre) at 10.30 am.

Our group is open to all members, so if you'd like to join a friendly group and chat over coffee (or tea) please contact me.

You can be assured of a warm welcome and the chance to get to know a few people if you are new to U3A.

Judith Hickman 027 664 6712

### **Singalong Group**

This group finished at the end of 2023. We had an interesting year and enjoyed the music, but other interests beckon for members this year.



## Ukulele Groups – Uke3A and Beginners

We have decided to amalgamate the two groups and continue this year as the **Uke3A Group**. We still offer tuition to beginners, but find they quickly fit into the larger group and enjoy the chance to play with more experienced players.

So, if you have a yearning to play this friendly little instrument, or want to upgrade your current skills, or just want to sing and play with friends, come and try us out.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Hukanui Reformed Church 159 Rototuna Road from 1.00 pm – 2.45 pm. Donation - \$2 at each session for the use of the hall. For February we meet on Tuesday 13th and Tuesday 27th.

Judith Hickman      027 664 6712  
Janet Pope            824 8079



## Membership

We are off to a good start with members paying their subscriptions and nine new members joining since we last met in November 2023. Enquiries are coming in steadily, so please keep an eye out for anyone who looks a bit overwhelmed at our February meeting and look after them.

We are pleased to welcome Rosemary Mercer, Jenny Field, Bev Clarkson, Catherine de Seton, Barbara Nomad, Elaine Roe, Barbara Price, Ruth Rhodes and Alistair Calder.

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 database current.

Judith Hickman



the Fairfield project

## Join our propagating group

Are you keen to be involved with the project and use (or learn) propagating skills?

We have seedlings that need potting on and plan to start collecting seed from the gully to use in our nursery.

We are starting a propagating group to meet at the same time as the working bee for gully restoration.

Come along to The Watershed at 9am on the third Saturday of each month.

There will be an opportunity for kai and socialising with other volunteers after the working bee.

*For more information, get in touch at:*

[thefairfieldproject@gmail.com](mailto:thefairfieldproject@gmail.com)