



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter April 2024

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

Meetings

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 24 April (not the 17th) 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 speaker for April is **Ken Millwood**

Ken is the Education Team Leader at Hamilton Zoo. He has been in this role for 18 years, making him the longest serving zoo staff member on site. During this time he has seen many changes. He still enjoys working with the wide range of students / adults visiting Hamilton Zoo. Ken's talk will be on the Zoo over the years, and what's currently happening on the animal side – new arrival, babies, etc. and what keepers do.

Meet and Greet Roster

April Environment Group
May: Ukulele Group

Morning Tea Helpers

Several more names have been added to the Roster – thank you very much everyone who has agreed to help. Anyone else who wishes to volunteer will be very welcome – just talk to Alison Ringer.

April Gina Aitken Jackie Brougham

President's message

Tēnā koutou – greetings to you all.

We had another large turnout to our monthly talk. The March speaker was Trish Bright of Summerset Group Holdings who advised us about useful ways of 'downsizing and decluttering'. A few selected tips were: don't do it yourself; one room at a time perhaps starting with the easiest one, and take your time. The meeting concluded with a raffle for supermarket vouchers. Because of a conflict with the Chartwell Cooperating Parish school holiday programme our next meeting is a week later than normal and will be on Wednesday April 24.

AGM

The next AGM will be held at 10:00 am just before our monthly meeting, on the 24 April. This a change from previous years when it has been held at the June meeting and is in line with our new financial year of 1 January to 31 December. Here are some key points:

- Please consider being nominated for the Committee. We would especially appreciate anyone with skills in website development.
- Traditionally our committee has comprised a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer plus seven other committee members. Nominations for the committee may be emailed to our secretary, Mary Arvidson at km_arvidson@xtra.co.nz or delivered to her prior to the meeting on April 24.
- An AGM pack was emailed to members in April.

See you at our next meeting, on the 24 April.

Bob Wilcock, President

Groups

History Group

In our **March** meeting Sonia Wells covered the commissioning, design and production of the **Bayeux Tapestry** and its subsequent history. Our guest, Kath Des Forges, complemented Sonia's presentation with two embroideries of scenes from the tapestry and additional information. Other members who have seen the tapestry gave their impressions. Several books and illustrations were circulated.

We learned that the Bayeux Tapestry is a band of linen cloth with embroidered scenes and text. To the purist it is an embroidery and not a tapestry which is woven on a loom. The story of its creation is mired in controversy fanned by English and French partisans anxious to claim it as part of their heritage. An internet search will provide many sites that discuss the information Sonia and Kath provided. We did not discuss the story told on the tapestry. That is for another time.

A list of **Books** connected to **Women's History Month** recommended by members and some other titles are on the [Hamilton U3A blog](#).

We started our study of the **Indian Subcontinent** with Bev Dickinson and Ruth Rhodes covering topography, climate and geopolitics and Barbara Rosenberg starting discussion on religions with Hinduism.

In **April** we continue religion with Jainism and Buddhism

Mah-jongg Group

Our group was originally set up by Murray Belchamber, who taught the game to many of us - quite a few years ago now. We play the Hong Kong version of the game and are currently focussing on building higher scoring hands across a session.

The group now meets at the Cossie Club on the second and fourth Wednesday* of the month from 1 to 3 pm. This venue is free, with easy parking. There is a bar which also serves coffee, and lunches can be ordered from 1pm, although for people who want to do this, it would mean you would have to start playing a little later. We have lots of fun, chatting, coffee, and increasing (slowly!) our ability to strategize.

*Members are also more than welcome to play on the other Wednesdays from 1 to 3 at the Cossie club as well. It was decided that people who wanted to go along on those days should contact each other via our e-mail list to make sure there are enough (at least 3 players) for a session.

There is now no limit on numbers (well, within reason), provided people are members of U3A. If you want to join and are familiar with the Hong Kong version of the game, just contact me and I will add your name to our mailing list, and make sure our group knows to expect and welcome you.

If you have not played before or are only familiar with the American version of the game, please e-mail the Groups Convenor to go onto the waiting list - and I'll arrange for an introductory session or two to get you started.

Lesley Dunn, Convenor

021371314. lesley.dunn19@gmail.com

Shakespeare Interest Group

The Shakespeare Interest Group has met twice since the summer break, welcomed three new members and shared our summer experiences of Shakespeare. At our March meeting we enjoyed half of "The Merchant of Venice". We decided not to meet in April, and we'll finish reading about Antonio, Portia and Shylock on the first Friday in May.

Alison Ringer

Hiking group

For our March hike we walked the Karakariki Track near Whatawhata. This took us on a nice flat walk beside a stream to a small waterfall then a good climb through a bush reserve. While there was no view at the top apart from a fence and some gorse, seeing rata flowering on the climb through the bush was great.



For April's hike, we will cover some of the tracks on Maungatautari.

Des Johnston

Phone: 027 702 0247

Email: desnviv@xtra.co.nz

Playreaders group

In March we read the first act of a clever and witty piece of writing "Absent Friends" by Alan Ayckbourne, a highly regarded and prolific playwright. We will do the second act next month, and are looking forward to another stimulating session. If you think this appeals to you, don't hesitate to join us, we're very friendly - experience is not necessary, we don't learn lines, we really do read our parts from individual copies of plays, and it's always a lot of fun. We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10am. Contact Pat Stannard normandpat.stannard@gmail.com

Coffee Companions Group



On Friday 19 April we will meet **Cafe Agora, 13 Kent Road, Frankton** at 10.30 am. Please note the changed date. Our May gathering will be at **JAM cafe, Queenwood** shopping centre on Friday 10 May 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

Ukulele Group – Uke3A

If you are interested in learning to play this friendly little instrument, want to upgrade your current skills, or just want to sing and play with friends, come along and join us.

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. Koha - \$2 at each session for the use of the hall.

Our next meetings will be on Tuesday 23 April, then Tuesdays 14th and 28th May.

Judith Hickman 027 664 6712
Janet Pope 824 8079



Environment Group

Visit to Annie Perkins' sustainable garden.

Hidden down a long driveway in Claudelands is the beautiful, productive garden of Annie Perkins and Dave Campbell. On a very wet Wednesday in late March our group gathered at Annie's who spoke to us about sustainable living not just in the garden but also in the way they have renovated and future-proofed their home, their third house renovation. Annie and friends (the 'soil sisters') have turned her quarter acre section into a communal food forest having got rid of the lawn. The produce is shared with neighbours, family and friends. She spoke of the importance of soil health and planting closely to discourage weeds. There is even a great spot for the chickens under the olive tree, one of the original trees left standing when Annie and Dave took over the property.

Go to TV on demand to see "A New Zealand Food Story", Season 3 episode 3 to see the soil sisters at work getting the garden planted last spring.

Annie also invited us to have a look around their home and their previous home across the driveway (currently for sale!) showcasing their quality restoration of both. Thanks to Barbara Brook and Jackie Larsen for organising this inspiring and fascinating visit, and special thanks to Annie for sharing not just her home and garden with us but also her impressive knowledge of sustainable living.

Gloria Edwards

Membership

Six people enrolled during March, and three more came back to us after a break. We are pleased to welcome Chris Hiscock, Henrietta Darwick, Julia Hazlett, Susan Ngariki, Frany and Sam Edwards.

Our total membership is currently 273, of whom 171 have paid their subscription for 2024. If you are one of the 96 people who have yet to organise payment, please try to do this prior to the AGM on 24 April. If you are doing this online, don't forget to identify yourself with your name.

FYA, our bank account number is 03 1559 0030 619 00.

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 leaving U3A so that I may keep our database current.

Name Badges

If you haven't yet picked up your name badge, please do so. We have a high number waiting, and it is helpful if you remember to wear them to meetings. If you have lost yours, come and see me and I'll make you a new one.

Judith Hickman