



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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

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## Newsletter March 2024

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

### Meetings

#### Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 20 March 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 **Jenny Peploe**

Jenny Peploe gives specialist talks on downsizing and decluttering. Often people can find making a start on a downsizing project quite overwhelming and because of that many people just don't make a start. Others want to make a start, but struggle on where to start and how to tackle it.

So Jenny shares some tips and tricks to motivate you to get started. This is an interesting and informative talk with lots of practical advice which we know you will enjoy.

If there is a particular thing that you are struggling with in terms of downsizing, please bring your issue/question along to the meeting for Jenny to assist you with.

#### Meet and Greet Roster

March: Reading Group – The Page Turners

April: Natural Environs Group

## Morning Tea Helpers

We are still seeking volunteers to assist with morning tea preparation under the able leadership of Alison Ringer. Being on duty doesn't mean you have to miss out on hearing the guest Speaker's address, so please volunteer to take a turn.

March	Lesley Lee	Margaret Gault
April	Gina Aitken	Jackie Brougham

## President's message

Tēnā koutou – greetings to you all.

The speaker at our February meeting was School Journal editor Susan Paris, who talked 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. 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. We were treated to excerpts from past issues and delighted to see this noble undertaking continuing. Susan's talk was well attended and enthusiastically received.

### AGM

The next AGM will be held at 10:00 am just before our monthly meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of 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<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December. Here are some key points:

- Any items for the AGM must be submitted to the Secretary before the 20<sup>th</sup> of March.
- Please consider being nominated for the Committee. We would especially appreciate anyone with skills in website development, and/or are willing to take on the role of Groups organiser.
- Traditionally our committee has comprised a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer plus seven other committee members. Nominations for the committee need to be either handed to our secretary, Mary Arvidson at the meeting on March 20 or emailed to [km\\_arvidson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:km_arvidson@xtra.co.nz) or delivered to her by April 17<sup>th</sup> prior to the meeting. A supply of nomination forms will be available at the meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- An AGM 'pack' will be sent to members in April.  
See you at our next meeting, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March.

Bob Wilcock, President

## Treasurer

### **SUBS for 2024**

Thanks to all of you who have been paying your subscriptions for the year. Remember it is \$20 this year. For internet banking our bank account is 03-1559-0030619-00, and alternatively there is an easy pay option on our website U3ahamilton.org.nz.

If you want to pay cash I can accept that at the meeting.

Chrissie Williams, Treasurer

## Groups

### **U3A Interest Groups 2024**

With the interest groups well underway for the 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 be 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

At our February meeting it was decided that India would be the theme for our next meetings with members having undertaken to lead discussion on individual topics. We will begin with topography, climate and geopolitics of the Indian Subcontinent and move onto the development of the various religions of India. We expect our chronological study to move quickly from the early Indus Valley Civilization, about 5300 BP to 1500 AD and more emphasis will then be placed on discussions regarding the Mughal Empire, British India and the Republic of India.

Our March meeting, however, will start with our delayed presentation on the Bayeux Tapestry.

March is also ***Women's History Month*** and members will have the opportunity to introduce books they recommend.

Paul Etheredge

### Environs group

We had a great turnout for our first outing of the year to the new Magical Playground in Claudelands Park followed by a walk through adjoining Jubilee Bush/Te Papanui. Welcome to new members of U3A who joined us!

The 8000m<sup>2</sup> fully accessible playground which only opened in December 2023 is divided into themed zones, including a slide zone, balance and bounce zone and spin zone. It also includes retreat huts, waterplay, a playhouse and stage. There is plenty of shade and a sensory area. Fundraising continues to further develop more features including New Zealand's first Musical Laser Harp. It is a playground enjoyed by "big kids" (as evidenced by the attached photos) as well as children of all ages and abilities.

Jubilee Park/Te Papanui is a circular boardwalk trail through mature kahikatea, tawa, mahoe and pukatea. Stop and look up! It is the largest remnant of indigenous forest in the city and was a renowned native bird hunting ground for local Maori Ngati Wairere. Te Papanui is a bird snarer's seat or large flat area of land. We went in at the Brooklyn Road entrance, took the detour exit to the playground then reentered by the Migrant centre. You come out briefly onto Boundary Road and head towards Five Cross Roads and re-enter the bush and come out again at Brooklyn Road. Dogs on leash welcomed!



Thanks to Janet Hanfling who sent us some reading on Claudelands Bush/Jubilee Park, information on the kahikatea tree and gave us copies of a short waiata 'E Kahikatea' though we didn't get a chance to sing as we were competing with the Chinese Lion dance group and their drums practicing nearby!  
Gloria Edward.

## Hiking group

In February a small group climbed Mount Kakepuku, south of Te Awamutu. At 460m elevation and just under 4Km from the road to the summit it was a pleasant but invigorating 1 hour 45 minute climb.



Our next hike will be the Karakariki Track near Whatawhata. This takes approximately 1 hour 15 minutes each way with about 20 minutes flat walking through farmland beside a stream to a waterfall then a good climb through a bush reserve. Des Johnston. Phone: 027 702 0247. Email: [desnviv@xtra.co.nz](mailto:desnviv@xtra.co.nz)

## Plantaholics

The Garden Group Plantaholics, had the first meeting for this year at the end of February. We walked around the Wairere Nursery Gardens which are open to everyone. A very pleasant time with our own plant experts discussing and identifying everything we saw. After a visit, or at our in home meetings, we enjoy coffee and cake. The group is presently full, but if anyone would like to join us for a nursery or public garden visit they are welcome. When not meeting at a nursery or garden we meet in each other's homes on the fourth Monday of the month at 10 am.

Marilyn Hopkins

## Computer technology group

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

We research and explore a topic each time, then share our technology trials & triumphs.

While we use a variety of devices & systems, we can usually find solutions to issues. The topic this month is once again looking at Cyber security, and how to deal with ever increasing scam communications.

There is room for 1 more member – contact Carol Carr, [carcarr49@yahoo.com](mailto:carcarr49@yahoo.com)

## Playreaders group

The Play Readers had a great morning in February reading "The Old People are Revolting", again we all laughed a lot and thoroughly enjoyed this excellent piece of writing. If you would like to come along and see us in action (and hopefully participate), you will be very welcome. Laughter is the best medicine, don't forget. We meet 10am on the 4th Thursday of the month.

Pat Stannard: [normandpat.stannard@gmail.com](mailto:normandpat.stannard@gmail.com)

## Coffee Companions Group



On Friday 12 April we will meet **Cafe Agora, 13 Kent Road, Frankton** 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 26th March then Tuesdays 9th and 23rd April



Judith Hickman      027 664 6712  
Janet Pope            824 8079

## **Membership**

We've had six new members joining this year and many enquiries, which is good news.

We are pleased to welcome Awa Callaghan, Moira O'Shea, Barbara Hill, Margaret Langdon, Helen Martin and Malcolm Carr.

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.

### **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. If you just keep misplacing yours, try my technique – I keep it in the car!

Judith Hickman

### **Request**

Catherine de Seton is a new member who lives in Hillcrest. She is currently reliant on public transport and would be grateful for a ride to our monthly meetings from someone living nearby. You can contact Catherine by phone on 021 073 5519  
Bob Wilcox

# Notices

## **Public Lecture at the University of Waikato**

**'Beyond the Buzz: The Sobering Economics of Alcohol'**

**with Professor Michael Cameron**

### **Date**

**26 March 2024**

### **Time**

Bar open from 5.00pm

**Lecture starts at 5.45pm, for 45 minutes**

### **Venue**

**Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts**

Gate 2B, Knighton Road, Hamilton ([map](#))

Free parking available after 4.30pm

For further information, click on <https://events.waikato.ac.nz/events/professorial-lecture-by-professor-michael-cameron>