



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter May 2024

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15 May 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 will be **Dr Michael Gurnsey**, and his talk is titled:

Naval Records and Related Sources, 1944 – 1945, of Interest to the Family Historian

Michael has an interest in both genealogy and military history research and will discuss official and unofficial sources relating to naval operations that may be used in family history research. In particular, he will explore the landings at Westkapelle (Operation Infatuate II)) which was the code name given to an Anglo-Canadian operation in November 1944 during the Second World War to open the port of Antwerp in the Netherlands. Official sources include documents, film, photographs and books. Unofficial sources include newspaper articles, photographs, books and personal stories. He will discuss the reliability of these sources and traps for the unwary. He will provide some examples of how to resolve inconsistencies between sources. Michael will also discuss some uncommon documents relating to a particular Landing Craft Tank (LCT 996) which provide interesting information about what life was like aboard an LCT.

Meet and greet

May: Ukulele Group

June: Hiking Group

July: Ukulele Group

Morning tea helpers

May Mary Arvidson

President's report

Tēnā koutou katoa – greetings to you all.

Last month we held our AGM and elected the following people for the 2024/25 committee: Bob Wilcock (President), Mary Arvidson (Secretary), Christine Williams (Treasurer), Margot Buick, Carol Carr, Catherine Gurnsey, Judith Hickman, and Colin Williams. We welcome Margot Buick to our committee as the new Groups Coordinator. Margot takes over from Graham Harrison who did a splendid job in that capacity, and we thank him for that,

The speaker at our April meeting was Ken Milwood, 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. Ken talked about the development and history of the Zoo, as well as what's currently happening (new arrivals, babies, etc.) and what keepers do. We were treated to a fascinating account of the collaboration between zoos for exchanging animals and playing their part in the protection of endangered species. The talk was well attended and enthusiastically received.

In the year ahead we will aim to have the Constitution and Rules amended and put into the new format required by the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, and then reregister U3A Hamilton as an incorporated society. You will all have an opportunity to see the amended Constitution and Rules and comment where you see fit. We will have a short special meeting to ratify the changes and get registration underway.

Bob Wilcock, President

Treasurer's report

We are now more than four months into the year, and it's time for a reminder to any members who have not yet paid their subscriptions. It's only \$20 and of course it helps us to pay for costs such as our venue, refreshments and speakers costs, so we do need you to stay "financial".

If you have not paid yet, please pop your payment into the bank account 03-1559-0030619-00. Alternatively you can pay in cash at any meeting.

If you are unsure if you have paid, just send me an email at treasurerhamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com and I am happy to check for you.

Thanks in advance, Chrissie Williams, Treasurer.

Interest Groups

Interest group news

New Walking group.

Noeline Alcorn and Alison Fagan are starting a new walking group to meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 10.30 am. You are welcome to come on one or both walks.

The walks will be three to five km on flat to easy routes. Once established we will keep a contact list of potential walkers to be advised of venues. The first two walks on 4 and 18 June will be around Lake Rotoroa (Hamilton Lake.) Meet in front of the Verandah café deck. Stay for a coffee afterwards if you wish.

Any queries contact Alison on 027 233 9218.

Shakespeare Interest Group

We met on 3 May to finish "The Merchant of Venice", the favourite play of two of our group. The usual day we meet is the first Friday at 10 am at members' homes. There is currently space for one or two committed new members.

Contact Alison by text on 0273463691.

Computer Technology Group

The Computer Technology Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the convenor's home.

We have a topic to research and explore each meeting, and this month we shared some instances of Artificial Intelligence that we have encountered. Then we have time to examine issues with our own technology.

We use a wide range of computer programmes and devices, and there is always something new to learn in order to keep up with developments in technology.

We have room for one more member: contact the convenor

at: carcarr04@yahoo.com

Hiking Group

In April we walked for just over an hour on the main track that crosses Maungatautari then returned for lunch and a hot drink at the visitor centre. While on the walk we met one of the staff who was collecting a kiwi for resettling in Taranaki. While we did not get to see the bird (it was safely enclosed in its box) we were able to have a nice chat to the staff member about the kiwi resettling programme and help load some empty boxes on his 4x4 motorbike.

For May we were hoping to walk over some of the Wairangomai Valley tracks but due to various reasons we did not make it. Instead, Jackie Larsen led a group on a flat walk along the river paths from her house. Thanks Jackie.

In June I am hoping we will be able to do a Wairangomai Valley track walk.

Des Johnston

Environment Group

Our outing to the new Peacocke Subdivision was a week earlier than usual as the AGM had to be held on 24 April. We had hoped to walk around the wetland area and then along the newly formed Southern Links Road, which is not yet open to traffic, to get a good view of the new bridge. Alas because it was a weekday it was a construction site so we were not able (allowed)! We were walking through the wetland area where staff were busy finishing off the planting up when a member of the construction team turned up to inform us that the area was not yet open to the public! However, he proved to be very informative and helpful in answering our questions and we considered ourselves duly told off in the nicest possible way! We could see how close to completion the roading in this part of the subdivision was, and indeed it is hoped that the bridge will be open around the end of June. Foiled in our attempts to explore this area, most of us retreated for a hot drink at the cafe at Hamilton Gardens!

Gloria Edwards

U3A Self-publishing Group.

This group went into recess a couple of years ago but I have decided to reconvene it for at least two sessions.

Monday 10 June 1pm – 2.30pm

Monday 8 July 1pm - 2.30pm

In the Lounge at Chartwell Cooperating Church Comries Rd.

Cost: \$5 - to cover the cost of room hire.

All U3A members are welcome

You may be interested in self-publishing your work now or in the future – For example, memoirs, a biography, a collection of stories or poems, a children's story, historical articles etc. It could be anything from a short pamphlet to a bound book.

In the first session we will have a look at and discuss any publications members have recently self-published and I will invite an expert on proof-reading to talk to us. The second session will cover getting your work ready for printing, choosing a style etc. I will invite a speaker from one of the local printers to show us different types of publications and to answer your questions, for example, costs.

I need to know how many people will be attending so that I can be sure of covering the cost of room hire.

Please phone Janet Hanfling. 855 3551 or 021 043 1692

Or email: janet.hanfling@xtra.co.nz



Coffee Companions Group

Our June gathering will be at **The District Cafe**, Home Straight, Te Rapa (opposite Bunnings) on Friday 14 June 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.

Singalong: If you don't want to strum a ukulele, but just like to sing, you are welcome to come along to sing with our group at any time.



Our next meetings will be on Tuesday 28 May, then Tuesdays 11 and 25 June.

Judith Hickman 027 664 6712
Janet Pope 824 8079