



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter June 2024

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 19 June 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 Brian Findsen**, an emeritus professor (adult education; lifelong learning) from the University of Waikato, and his talk is titled:

Learning in later life and age friendliness

This presentation is in two related parts: Part 1- In the framework of lifelong learning, the main ideas related to later life learning will be discussed for both local and overseas contexts. How are learning and ageing connected? Who gets what forms of learning/education in late adulthood? How is later life learning regarded by various stakeholders? Part 2 – What is meant by an age friendly community or city? Who is involved in this work and what guides their thinking and action? The situation of Hamilton city is analyzed in terms of age friendliness.

Biography

Dr Brian Findsen is an emeritus professor (adult education; lifelong learning) from the University of Waikato. Brian has worked at several universities in New Zealand, but mainly here in the Waikato. He studied for a doctorate in adult education in Raleigh, North Carolina, in the mid 1980s and has worked at the University of Glasgow, 2004-2008, as Chair of the Department of Adult & Continuing Education. After 'retirement' in mid 2019, he worked as a visiting scholar in Taiwan, acts as an advisor to UNESCO's Lifelong Learning unit in Hamburg and he is the current chair of the Age Friendly Hamilton Steering Group.

Meet and greet

June: Hiking Group July: Ukulele Group August: Gardening Group

Morning tea

June Lesley Lee, Tania Snowdon

President's report

Tēnā koutou katoa – greetings to you all.

Our May speaker was Dr Michael Gurnsey, talking about 'Naval records and related sources, 1944-1945 of interest to the family historian'. Michael focused on the WWII landings at Westkapelle (Operation Infatuate II), using official documents, film, photographs and books. He also drew on unofficial source, such as newspaper articles. The talk was a fascinating insight into the degree of planning for such invasions, and the unforeseen problems encountered. Michael provided interesting information about what life was like aboard a landing craft tank, as well as the rationing of cigarettes, gin and other 'essentials' for the troops. All very relevant on the 80th anniversary of D-Day and well received by members.

Lesley Lee is the new coordinator for our morning tea and coffee and is assisted by Tania Snowdon. Our thanks to Alison Ringer for organising the morning teas so efficiently over the years, and to Graham Harrison who did a splendid job as coordinator of the special interest groups. Anyone with queries about these groups or wishing to start a new one should speak to Margot Buick, who has taken over from Graham.

Colin Williams is the committee member responsible for organising outings. He has several ideas in the pipelines and further information about these will coming soon.

Thanks to those who responded to Neil and Graeme's request for comments on the revised Constitution and Rules. We hope to have a completed draft version for you all to look at soon.

Bob Wilcock, President

Interest Groups

Interest group news

Walkers group.

Eight members met for our first walk around Hamilton lake in glorious weather. A great variety of wildfowl were gathered on the lakeside and in the shallows. Our next walk is on 18th June: meet at front of the Verandah café at 10.30 for a clockwise (!) walk around the lake.

Other walks planned are:

2nd July. Meet at the Flagstaff shops where there is plenty of parking at 10.30. We can walk along the river and across the pedestrian bridge and take a longer or shorter walk through Braitthwaite Park and come back over the Wairere Bridge. The Olive coffee bar is at the parking lot if people want to stay for coffee.

16th July Meet at the bus stop on Huntington drive between Montrose and Keswick Crescents, at 10.30. We will walk through the Mangaiti gully (on a good path) to the Mangaiti reserve and back via streets. If you have grandkids for the holidays there is a playground at the reserve. Any queries contact Alison on 027 233 9218.

Computer Technology Group

The Computer Technology group meets monthly to explore a topic, followed by a more general discussion on our technology experiences.

This month we shared the pros and cons of the various communication Apps that we have used: from Viber and Skype to Face Book Messenger, FaceTime, WhatsApp, Microsoft Team, Google Meets, Zoom etc. - Grandchildren suggest Snapchat & TikTok. Unfortunately the group is full at present.

Carol Carr Convenor

Recreational Mathematics Group

We look for and find the wonder, the fascination, the fun, the charm and the thrill inside the vast world of mathematics. We view video presentations; we discuss quirky and intriguing 'puzzles & problems'; We are more discoverers than teachers/students; we share our experiences while struggling with and/or understanding 'x'.

The group meetings are held each Friday at 1.00pm. For weekly venue details please contact the Convenor Murray Belchamber 07 850 8279 - 027 229 7883.'

Mah Jong Group

The Mah Jong group has a few vacancies. If interested please contact Convenor Carol O'Meagher on 027 733 3210.

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 (021371314) 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 Margot Buick, margot.buick@snap.net.nz, to go onto the waiting list - and I'll arrange for an introductory session or two to get you started.
Lesley Dunn, Convenor

Plantaholics

Our small group of enthusiastic gardeners meets once month on a Monday morning. Our numbers are limited to 10, as we have found this number to be the easiest to cater for in our homes, but we do welcome others to join us on our outings. We combine meeting in each other's homes over morning tea with a garden walk and talk. We also visit nurseries and the Hamilton Gardens. The Hamilton Gardens have so many areas to interest us, both the themed gardens, and the other surrounds. We have even visited some of the newer Retirement Villages to inspect their plantings, given that we are at that age and stage. If you would like to join us please the convenor Marilyn Hopkins at this email marilyn_hopkins@hotmail.com

The U3A Book Discussion Group 2

The U3A Book Discussion Group 2 meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Hockin House, Selwyn Street (near Waikato hospital) at 1.30pm. We spend about two hours discussing books we have recently read. The group has a wide range of interests, so the books read cover many genres and topics – some engendering interesting debate and discussion. We currently have our full complement of eight members.
Convenor Sheila Emslie

The History Group

The History group will resume our investigation into the Indian Subcontinent's history at our June meeting starting on the period since 1500 AD with the roles played by the Jain, Parsee, Sikh and Christian communities during the Mughal, British Raj periods and the Republic of India to the present day.

During the coming meetings we will also discuss the elections in India and elsewhere, as well as the wars in Palestine and Ukraine.

It is difficult to keep up to date with what is going on in the world, but the following sites provide good coverage: aljazeera.com; politico.com.

Those of you who have an interest in women's sport may wish to see the documentary COPA71, currently showing in local cinemas, and listen to the interview on RNZ Saturday Morning, 1 June 2024, 'The forgotten women's world cup.' It was held in Mexico where recently Claudia Sheinbaum has been elected the first woman President which would have been fantasy in the macho Mexico of 1971. It is interesting to note that Mexican women obtained the vote in 1952.

Paul Etheredge
Convenor



Coffee Companions Group

Our July gathering will be at Ethos cafe at Te Ara Hou, 100 Morrinsville Road, 10.30am on Friday 12 July.

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 sessions will be on Tuesday 25 June, then Tuesdays 9 and 23 July.

Judith Hickman

027 664 6712

Janet Pope

824 8079

Membership

This month we welcome Jocelyne Wallace, Julia Hazlitt and Diane Busshell. Our membership remains steady at 270.

We have posters available, so if anyone would like to take one to display in a public place, eg library, Church, lifestyle village, please see me. There are also plenty of brochures available for sharing with friends.

Judith Hickman