



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter July 2024

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17 July 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

The speaker for on 17 July, is **Graeme Kitto**.

His talk is entitled "**Justices of the Peace for New Zealand**".

In his own words: 'Education was my "business" after graduating from the University of Auckland and Auckland Secondary Teachers' College. I began teaching in Otara before moving to Rarotonga, Te Kaha and Tolaga Bay. I was on a teacher exchange in Ontario, Canada before being a school inspector briefly and then joining the Ministry of Education in Hamilton on its establishment in October 1989, retiring in 2010. For 12 of those years I was on the committee of the NZ chapter of the Australia-New Zealand Education Law Association.



My community involvement has included:

- New Zealand Republic of Korea Friendship Society
- Kirikiriroa Marae including as a kaumatua for
Te Kooti Rangatahi (Youth Court)
- Age Friendly Hamilton Steering Group
- Rotary Club of Fairfield
- St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, currently Parish Clerk
- Justice of the Peace – including being President of the
Royal Federation of NZ Justices' Associations 2014-2016.

Meet and Greet Roster

July: Ukulele Group
August: Gardening Group
September Reading Group 3

Morning tea

June Lesley Lee

Membership

This month we welcome Robin Champion, Linda Downey and Greta Brown. We like to see our membership growing, and have posters available if anyone would like to take one to display in a public place, eg library, Church, lifestyle village. There are also plenty of brochures available for sharing with friends.

Judith Hickman

President's report

Tēnā koutou katoa – greetings to you all.

Our June speaker was Dr Brian Findsen, an emeritus professor at Waikato University who specialises in adult and lifelong education. He first talked about the framework of lifelong learning and the main ideas relating to it, for both local and overseas contexts. The second part of his talk investigated 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 for Hamilton city was analysed in terms of age friendliness and reference was made to an age-friendly plan. This can be viewed at the following link:

<https://storage.googleapis.com/hccproduction-web-assets/public/Uploads/Documents/Plans/D-3912720-Community-Hamilton-Age-Friendly-Plan-2021-24-Final-September-2021.pdf>

Brian's email address for sending feedback to him is: brianfindsen@gmail.com

Thanks to Beverley Bell for tracking down this information. Brian's meeting was exceptionally well attended and judging by the questions, received with great interest.

One of our members, Lesley Dunn, has suggested that we compile a list of recommended age-friendly tradespeople. If you know of someone that you would recommend, please forward the details to our newsletter editor for inclusion in future newsletters.

The updating of our Constitution and Rules is nearly finished, thanks to Neil Curgenvén and Graeme Kitto. A copy has been sent out with this newsletter for your consideration. If you have any comments to make please forward them to the Secretary, Mary Arvidson. We will hold a Special General Meeting to vote for acceptance of the new Constitution and Rules, just before the August meeting. Once that is done, we can re-register U3A Hamilton as an incorporated society as is required by the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Bob Wilcock, President

Interest Groups

Interest group news

Environment Group

In May we explored Mangaonua Gully (recommended by Terry and Kay Garvey) which can be accessed from close to the Silverdale/Morrinsville intersection (small off road parking off Silverdale road) or through Chelmsford Park, Chelmsford Road off Nevada Road. The gully is part of the council's erosion control and restoration efforts as part of its mission to restore Hamilton's native vegetation cover from 2% to 10% by 2050. The gravel track was built to allow on-going maintenance and restoration work, but with the gravel surface and steep slopes the path is unsuitable for wheelchairs, bikes and scooters. Pedestrians and dogs welcomed! In due course it looks like this track may connect to paths being built through the wetlands by the Ruakura Service Centre where we had coffee afterwards at the Robert Harris cafe.

In June we had a tour of the Pā, the impressive new building at the University of Waikato by Gate 8 Hillcrest Road which opened in the middle of 2023. Stuart Challis, Events Operations Manager, showed us around the complex which comprises of the Student Hub Te Āhurutanga (used for the graduation ceremonies earlier this year), restoration and integration of the original 'A Block' which now houses the Faculty of Maori and Indigenous Studies Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao, the university Whareniui Ko Te Tangata, the Vice-Chancellor's office, Council Room, general reception, a staff cafe and general food hall. The public are welcome to visit the Student Hub and food hall, and various parts of the multifunctional spaces can be hired for artistic, community and cultural events.

There was an event on in the stunning Whareniui so we caught glimpses of the artwork and the space within. Unfortunately no tour of the Whareniui is currently available but we enjoyed and appreciated the immense carvings of the waharoa gateway and covered entrance foyer.

We finished with coffee down at Kahurangi, by the Village Green and University Lakes before some of us visited the Performing Arts building where there is a display on 60 years of the University on until 2 August 2024.

The Pā has won two recent awards:

Te Kāhui Whaihanga NZIA Waikato & Bay of Plenty Architecture Award – Education 2024

PCNZ Property Industry Best in Category and Excellence Award – Education Property Award 2024

U3A Walking Group

6th August Tamahere neighbourhood walk. Meet at the children's playground, Tamahere Park next to Four Square Newell Road at 10.30 am. Trevor Hornby is leading this walk.

20th August. Meet at the Flagstaff shops where there is plenty of parking by The Olive coffee bar. We can walk along the river and across the pedestrian bridge and take a longer or shorter walk through Braithwaite Park and come back over the Wairere Bridge. This walk was postponed from 2 July and is led by Noeline Alcorn.

The Mah Jong Group

The Mah Jong group has recently moved to the Cosmopolitan Club and can now accommodate more players. If you would like to give Mah Jong a go or simply want to see what is involved, come along to the Cosmopolitan club. We have several members who are able to show you and teach the game.

We meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm. If you think this is something you would like to try, email or ring carol.omeagher@gmail.com Phone 0277333210

Computer Technology Group

The Computer Technology Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 10.00, in the convenor's home. Members use a range of devices and systems. We investigate a topic each meeting, then have time to resolve our technological issues. In June, we are looking at the number of platforms offering blogs and recommending some that we've enjoyed listening to.

The group is full at the moment. Carol Carr, Convenor

The Play Reading Group

The group in June had a great morning reading the second half of Devon Williamson's "Supermarket Sisters". We've enjoyed this writer before and again he didn't disappoint, his very recognisable characters and scenarios drawn with wit and humour were a delight.

We were also glad to have a new member this time, as we had last month, which brings our number up to eight. We have agreed that this is probably as many as is feasible, so we'll be putting any new enquirers on a wait list for now. It's always possible to form another group if there's a demand of course. For information contact Pat Stannard 027 211 0391

The Shakespeare Group

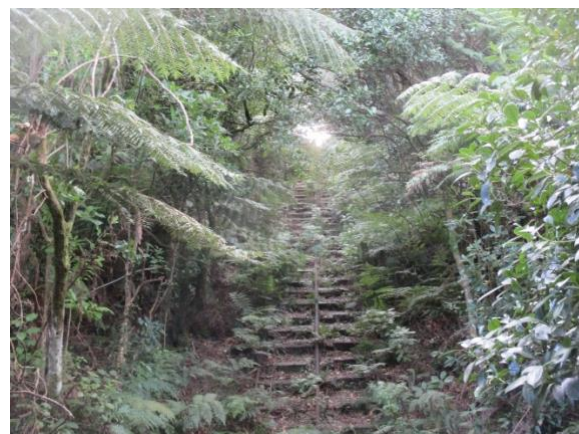
The Shakespeare group has had smaller numbers than usual because of overseas travel by some members and ill health for others. However, at the time of writing this we are planning to meet on Friday 5th July to start reading *Antony and Cleopatra*. I'm hoping to find out why it's not usually studied at school nor often performed. We watched a fabulous 1950s version of *Julius Caesar* some time ago, which is a play often studied at school, so this will provide us with an interesting contrast.

Alison Ringer

Hiking group

In June a group of seven covered some of the Wairongomai Valley tracks in the Kaimai ranges. The area was one of the productive sites for gold mining in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Some relics of the mining operations still remain and there are signs giving interesting glimpses into what life was like at the time. We also tackled "Butlers Incline", an approximately 400m climb at around 45 degrees up an old railway line.

After the walk we had a nice coffee at the Old Forge Kitchen in nearby Manawaru before heading home.



The trip planned for Thursday 11 July is the David Thom Loop Walk south-west of Whatawhata. It is accessed from Old Mountain Road and covers part of the Hillary-Hope Reserve.
Des Johnston



Coffee Companions Group

Our July gathering will be at **Ethos Cafe**, Te Ara Hou, 100 Morrinsville Road, Hillcrest on Friday 12 July at 10.30 am. On Friday 9 August we will visit **Matteblack Cafe** at St Andrews Golf Club

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 the our group at any time.

Our next sessions will be on Tuesday 23 June, then Tuesdays 13 and 27 August.

Judith Hickman 027 664 6712

Janet Pope 824 8079

