



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter October 2024

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 16 October** 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 will be **Lynne Blake** and her talk is titled **Bobbin Lace Making**

Lynne's interest in her genealogy or family history, and bobbin lace making started more than 40 years ago.

Today she will be talking about how an opportune visit to the South Island saw the start of an interest in her family history and her learning the craft of bobbin lace making.

She will describe the development of bobbin-lace making in general, and for herself, as well her family history.

Meet and Greet Roster

October	History Group
November	Music Appreciation

Morning tea Lesley Lee, Mary Arvidson, Helen Thomas, Gina Aitken

President's report

Tēnā koutou – greetings to you all.

Our September quest speaker was Celine Kearney, talking about “Southern Celts: A lived and told story”. Celine introduced her book of interviews, “Southern Celts: Stories from people of Irish and Scottish descent in Aotearoa” that was developed from her PhD thesis. We heard fascinating accounts from some New Zealanders of how their Gaelic origins shaped their culture and identities. I am sure the stories resonated with many of our members.

Special General Meeting at 10:00 am 16 October – I remind members that just before the meeting on 16 October we will hold a Special General Meeting to vote on accepting the revised Constitution and Rules. It has been a lengthy process that was begun in July 2023 and has entailed reviewing members’ submissions and aligning the new Constitution and Rules document with the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. Once this is done, we can re-register as an incorporated charitable society. There is still time for members who won’t be attending the meeting to cast a vote supporting (Yes) or opposing (No) adoption of the new Constitution and Rules, either by email or postal vote to the secretary. I thank all of those who made submissions or were otherwise involved in the process. Special thanks go to Neil Curgenvin and to Graeme Kitto for their major efforts in getting the ball rolling.

At our last meeting several members supported the idea of having a quiz afternoon – next year. If any members have experience in the organisation of quizzes or are willing to help, we would be most grateful. Please approach Colin Williams or any other committee member at one of our monthly meetings, or alternatively, email the Secretary.

Bob Wilcock, President

Online Blog

These posts were recently made to our online learning blog <https://u3ahamilton.org.nz/online-learning/>. Click on the link to open up a posting:

- **Piarere Roundabout**
- **Te Ara Pekapeka bridge**
- **Obtaining a Pass for Free Entry into Hamilton Gardens**

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome.
Beverley Bell hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com

Interest Groups

Plantaholics

We have come out of the winter months reinvigorated with plenty of ideas to get out and about to various gardens, nurseries and our own home gardens. We are a small group of 10, the number that easily fits in everyone's lounge for coffee and the maximum number for the group. Our last get together was at Woodlands Estate and Gardens, Whitiakahu Road, Taupiri. After a walk around their park area, we had coffee at the café.



Play Readers

In September the group had hoped to complete "A Bunch of Amateurs" but will have to wait until the new year to re-order, as the copies were wanted by others. So instead we tackled an Alan Ayckbourn play, "Body Language". It was described as a farce, and turned out to be a good choice, as well as a thoroughly enjoyable challenge, entertaining and very funny. We look forward to reading Act 2 next month. Pat Stannard. 027 2110391

Book Discussion Group 2

This group meets at 1.30pm at Hockin House on Selwyn Street (near Waikato hospital) on the fourth Tuesday of each month. At each meeting we each give a donation of \$2 towards the upkeep of historic Hockin House.

The format is to discuss any book or books that we have read recently – any genre, any topic. It is a relaxed meeting of book discussion and matters arising from that. We generally finish about 3pm.

The group is limited to eight members. We have recently welcomed two new members so are currently at our full complement of members.

Sheila Emslie

Walking group

15 October

This walk will be around Lake Kainui in Horsham Downs and is approximately 3.2 km long. To get there turn right off Horsham Downs Road onto Lake road, the access to the lake reserve is about 1km along on the left. We will meet at the lake reserve at 10.30. Led by Rae Hooper.

5 November

We will meet at the lawn in front of the Verandah café at 10.30 for a walk around Hamilton lake. Self guided!

19 November

Tauhara Park walk. (postponed from 17th September). We will meet at Callum Brae golf course car park, Callum Brae Drive, Rototuna at 10.30 am.

We will walk through Tauhara park and along the walkway by Kirikiriroa stream.

Then we will pass under Wairere drive twice before returning to Callum Brae via a small section of the Mangaiti gully. There is a café at the car park.

Alison Fagan

Hiking Group

The Hiking Group had an enjoyable walk from the Hamilton Gardens around the small bush area behind Bader Street, across to Peacockes Road then under and over the new Te Ara Pekapeka Bridge. Some members of the group took the opportunity to get their Hamilton Gardens passes prior to the walk then we had coffee afterwards at the café.

Our October hike on Thursday 10th October will be the Pukemokemoke Reserve again as there are options in the reserve that we have not yet explored as a group. Anyone interested in joining our group please contact me.

Des Johnston, Ph: 027 702 0247, Email: desnviv@xtra.co.nz

Environment Group - the last three months exploring Hamilton gullies!

September's excursion was to the new Te Ara Pekapeka ("the pathway of the bat") bridge which completes the 1.6km extension of Wairere Drive and joins the Peacocke neighbourhood with Hamilton East. A single Y-shaped pillar on the south bank of the river supports the flat bridge deck spanning more than 200 metres (see attached photo). There is ample room for pedestrians and cyclists on separate paths in addition to four lanes of traffic. The bridge was designed to minimise its impact on 54 rest sites of the critically endangered long-tailed bat (pekapeka-touroa). This includes the use of warm LED lighting at night. The Wairere Drive cycling and pedestrian bridge, Taupara, at the northern end, ensures a round trip route is now available to cyclists and walkers to explore the Peacocke area which includes newly created wetlands, and has lots of seating to invite users to enjoy this new recreational area.



In August Leo Koppens gave us a fascinating talk and tour of the restoration/rehabilitation work taking place in beautiful Mangaharakeke Gully by the Tamahere Gully Restoration group. This group of volunteers has been going for 14 years now and have done a **huge** amount of work clearing blackberry, willows and pampas grass in the gully and re-planting the area with a large number of appropriate native plants. There is no loop walk available to explore the gully currently though it is hoped in time there will be. There is still so much to be done! Part of Mangaharakeke Gully can also be accessed from the end of Fuschia Lane (off Matangi Road) across the Alan Turner Bridge to Woodcock Road (off Tauwhare Road) or vice versa. Opposite the entrance to Woodcock Road the southern end of the gully can also be accessed but there is a short, steep path going down to the flat wetland walk so care is needed if exploring this area.

We had a clear winter's day in July for our trip to Hammond Park starting at Geoffrey Place and walking through to Riverglade Drive (off Newell Road). This is part of the Te Awa walk and cycleway. The 2km section between the Mangaonua Stream and Hammond Park was completed in 2021 and includes an impressive 32m long bridge over the stream. Hammond Park is one of the last remnants of native bush left in the Hamilton Basin and contains a small population of evergreen swamp maire, with its distinctive pink bark, once common but now almost gone from the city. The long-tailed bat (pekapeka) is regularly sighted within the park which had two pā previously occupying the site prior to European settlement.

Gloria Edwards

Recreational Mathematics = Sum fun with numbers.

We are a small group that has already attracted far-reaching attention. On learning of the group's emergence, Dr Yossi Elran* of the Weizmann Institute in Israel, emailed us with a proposal to zoom into one of our meetings and give further help for the new group. Potentially a great triumph for Hamilton U3A. Our roll is not quite large enough to make this project viable so we have put this on-hold until we have a few more Members.

You don't need to be "good at maths". You don't even need to like maths. There is room for you. But what can we offer you? No "tests"; No "times tables.

Just for fun: Look at this number – 142857. Watch how it cycles when it is multiplied by:

$$X 2 = 285714$$

$$X 3 = 428571$$

$$X 4 = 571428$$

$$X 5 = 714285$$

$$X 6 = 857142$$

$$X 7 = ??????$$

If you are a financial Member of U3A Hamilton...you qualify to see the fun side of maths; Murray Belchamber: 07 850 8279

*You can meet Dr Yossi Elran on www.futurelearn → Courses → Recreational Mathematics.

Coffee Companions Group



Our October gathering will be at **Cinnamon Cafe**, 201 Sandwich Road, St Andrews on Friday 11 October at 10.30 am.

Our November gathering will be at **Cafe Fresca** 78 Alison Street on Friday 8 November 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. If you haven't played before, don't let that be an issue. Janet offers individual tuition and will have you playing with the group in an amazingly short time.



We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Hukanui Reformed Church 159 Rototuna Road from 1.00 – 2.45 pm.

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

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 22 October, then Tuesdays 12 and 26 November from 1.00 pm – 2.45 pm.

Judith Hickman 027 664 6712

Janet Pope 824 8079