



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter November 2024

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 20 November** 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 **Alison Fagan** and her talk is titled **From Kowhaiwhai to Tivaevae: a cultural journey through mathematics.**

Alison Fagan has been a plant pathologist, an anatomy and physiology lecturer and a maths and science teacher. This led to roles as a mathematics curriculum developer for the Cook Islands and the Solomon Islands. Her great interest is in making maths more accessible to girls and this led to her doing a masters in mathematics education through Massey University. Her thesis was on improving 3-dimensional spatial visualisation as she had found this was a particular difficulty for many girls. Her supervisor was Gordon Knight who had had analysed kowhaiwhai patterns and helped develop a teaching resource using them. This encouraged her interest in cultural mathematics and its use for teaching. When Alison was employed to rewrite the mathematics curriculum for the Cook Islands, she used the local tivaevae as the background for the new curriculum. Alison believes in developing a greater awareness and appreciation of the geometry around us.

Meet and Greet Roster

November Music Appreciation

Morning tea Lesley Lee

President's report

Tēnā koutou – greetings to you all.

Our October guest speaker was Lynne Blake who gave us a fascinating and personal talk on bobbin lace making. Lynne told how an opportune visit to the South Island saw the start of an interest in her family history and her learning the craft and origins of bobbin lace making. The table of lace examples attracted much interest from members.

We adopted the new Constitution and Rules at the October Special General Meeting and are now pressing on with re-registration of U3A-Hamilton as an incorporated charitable society in accordance with the new act. Thank you again for participating in the process and seeing it through to this point. I am enclosing the minutes of that meeting.

Special General Meeting 16 October 2024

Called to present the new Constitution.

Meeting opened at 10:00 am

Present: Over 50 members, constituting a quorum (minimum of 46).

The 2022 Act has new requirements for the constitutions of charitable groups. It is a requirement of being re-registered that we have a new constitution.

Motion: That the new constitution as presented be adopted.

Moved: Robert Wilcock/Seconded Neil Curgenvén

Motion carried by a large majority of those present, plus 6 electronic votes (5 for and 1 opposed) received by the secretary before the meeting.

Members contributing to the new Constitution were thanked, especially Neil Curgenvén.

Meeting closed at 10:07 am.

We are still keen to organise a quiz afternoon or evening 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.

Our last meeting for the year will be held on 20 November and, as in the past, we will have a few extra treats at the morning tea. On behalf of your committee, I wish you a safe and happy festive season and look forward to seeing you back in 2025.

Bob Wilcock, President

Membership

This month we welcome Irene Smith, Mary Booker and Brett Martensen to U3A.

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:

- **2023 Census Summary**
- **Parking in the City**
- **Historical Reading**

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

Interest Groups

New Group

We have a proposed new group and is as follows:

Name: **Social Problem Solvers**

Objective. To identify, address and find solutions to existing and potential situations and issues in our community that may adversely affect its wellbeing.

Potential membership: U3A members who are concerned about social wellbeing and also those who may be able to contribute their talents to meeting these objectives.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Margot Buick 029 294 2216

Play Readers

In October, Play Readers returned to Alan's Ayckbourn's *Body Language* and tackled the second act. The play is set in an up-market cosmetic surgery clinic, and as in the previous month, we suspended disbelief and appreciated the wonderful characters (one of whom hardly spoke English) and of course there was plenty of comedy. A hard act to follow in fact. Pat Stannard 027 2110391

Computer Technology group

Last month the Computer Technology group had a look at the problem of transferring photos, music, documents, videos from old, outdated forms like CDs, DVDs, video tapes etc to a digital form.

A group member plans to work on this as a retirement project, and with a bit of research and collaboration was able to make a presentation of how he has solved the problem of transferring home videos to his computer and then editing them. The November meeting will be our last for 2024, and we plan a show and tell to review how we've learned something new or solved our technological issues during the year. We currently have no room for new members. Carol Carr

History group

At our final formal meeting for 2024 we will wrap up our study of Indian history and begin discussing the international implications of the USA Presidential, Congressional and State elections. Undoubtedly, discussion will continue when we have our informal get-together at the end of November.

Paul Etheredge, Convenor

Coffee Companions Group



Amended Date

Our November gathering will be at **Cafe Fresca** 78 Alison Street on **Friday 15 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

Uke3A Ukulele Group – and Singalong Group

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays 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.

This month we will meet on Tuesdays 12 November and 26 November from 1.00 pm – 2.45 pm.



Our final gathering is planned for Tuesday 10 December at the Lakeside Cafe at Hamilton Gardens. This is an annual event, with lunch at 12.30 pm, then outside on the steps overlooking the lake for an informal playout to entertain our friends and families.

Judith Hickman

027 664 6712, Janet Pope

824 8079

Walking group

These walks are between 3 and 4 km and take approximately an hour. It has been suggested that another walking group be established for members who wish to do slower or shorter walks. If anyone is interested in this group, please contact Margot Buick the groups co-ordinator.

19 November

Tauhara Park walk. (postponed from 17 September)

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. 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.

3 December

Meet at Swarbrick landing, River Road at 10.30 am.

We will walk along the river then through Day's Park, then Donny Park and back to Swarbrick Landing. We can get a coffee from the coffee cart there or bring our own drinks. As this will be the last walk for this year, bring some nibbles to share.

Alison Fagan

Shakespeare Group

The Shakespeare group met on Friday 1 November to finish reading *Troilus and Cressida*, started the previous month. We chose this play because none of us had seen or read it before, and we found it very interesting. It deals with some of the politics around the siege of Troy, as well as a romance. It's quite long, perhaps one reason it's not performed often. We're not sure yet what our programme will be for our final meeting in 2024 early next month.

Alison Ringer



The Hamilton Foodbank needs help to meet the growing needs of families, and to provide special assistance at Christmas. Last year we filled three boxes with goodies and gave a sizable cash donation to assist the Foodbank. Please bring along to the November meeting, either a small something to help families at Christmas again this year or make a contribution in cash.