



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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## Newsletter August 2025

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

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on the third Wednesday of the month, i.e.

**Wednesday 20 August** 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.

### Membership

This month our membership is 247. Five new members joined during June and July. We were saddened to hear that a long-time member, Pamela Le Vallant has recently passed away.

This month we are pleased to welcome Janet Free, Trish Walton, Mavis McNaughton, Johnny Collier and Warren Lee to U3A Hamilton.

### Meet and Greet Roster:

Convenors - please organise two or three of your group members to meet and greet folk as they arrive, particularly visitors or potentially new members.

August        Walking  
September   Music Appreciation

### Morning tea

If anyone is interested in helping out with the morning teas once or twice a year, please contact Lesley on 0225 121945 or at a monthly meeting.

## Speaker

Michael Gurnsey: "Naval Records & Related Sources (1944 - 1945): Their Accuracy & Resolving Conflicting Evidence".

Michael will discuss official and unofficial sources relating to naval operations, in particular, the landings at Westkapelle (Operation Infatuate II). Official sources include documents (The National Archives, Kew), film and photographs (Imperial War Museum, London) 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 was born in Scotland in early 1945 and came to NZ in 1946. In 1970 he joined the Applied Biochemistry Division of DSIR in Palmerston North and completed his PhD at Massey University in 1985. He worked for AgResearch at Ruakura and then a consultancy group where he designed health and safety systems and provided audit services to ACC for about 10 years. His interests include antiques, genealogy and military history.

16 September      Kate Darrow talking about working with Art at Waikato Hospital.

## President's report

Greetings to you all. I was disappointed that I was unable to attend the meeting on Wednesday 16th, my health condition was not serious, and I am now well recovered.

I have been informed that the talk on Wednesday by Anny Dentener on food safety for U3Agers was well attended; 70+. She was very engaging and mixed a lot of humour with the grisly facts. There seems to be an interest in more talks on food related topics so maybe more from the New Zealand Institute of Food Science and Technology could eventuate.

There is a lot of interest in a night at the Hamilton Observatory. More information in this Newsletter. Look out for more information about events and trips at our next meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August.

I look forward to hearing our next speaker, Michael Gurnsey, talking about making sense of naval records.

Once again, I would like to thank all those who do all the work to make the meetings happen.

Keith

## Website Upgrade

Re-designing our website has been a learning experience - but we are ready to “go live” in the next couple of weeks. As we said before there is a page available for each interest group to talk about yourselves and your activities - you are welcome to use this as much, or as little, as your members are motivated to do. If you don't want to use it, we will just leave a basic “placeholder” page-link and that is not a problem. Convenors will be approached to see if they want to provide some content for their group page - some news or info, perhaps photos if appropriate. Anything you give us will be added to the website in a pdf page (can be more than a page) for your group.

To start the pages off we have grabbed some info from the last two newsletters for some groups. We will let you know as soon as the site is up - we hope you like our new fresh look.

Website committee

## Events & Outings

### **Observatory Visit**

We have tentatively booked Tuesday 14 October for our group visit to the Hamilton Observatory, with Thursday 16 October as a second choice. Note that this will be subsidised out of our U3A funds. Would those interested in going please let us know their preference by email ([hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com)) as soon as possible. We will also raise this at the next monthly meeting on 20 August.

### **Raglan**

Several members have expressed interest in our trip to Raglan, and we have suggested a date of Wednesday 10 September. This will entail taking the bus at 8:30 am from the Transport Centre in Anglesea Street, arriving in Raglan town about an hour later and meeting a volunteer at the museum for an introduction before we browse by ourselves. Afterwards, there are some historic sites or beach walks to explore, many shops to browse, and many nice cafes in the town for lunch. The bus returns about 1:45 pm, arriving back at the Transport Centre about 3 pm. Of course, people can carpool if they prefer. The bus is free with a Bee Card and U3A will pay for your admission to the Museum (\$5) as well as lunch.

If you are interested, then please sign up on the form at the membership desk and we will be in touch.

The Committee

## AV Team

A new member is still being sought by the AV team who run the speakers' presentations each month, to assist as backup.

Experience with PowerPoint slideshows is essential, and training can be provided about the AV setup in the church hall. We have our own U3A laptop and equipment. Speakers provide us with their presentation sent as an attachment or bring it on a data stick. If interested, please contact Carol at: [carcarr04@yahoo.com](mailto:carcarr04@yahoo.com) for further information.

## Online learning Blog

Suggestions for new postings are always welcome.

## Interest Groups

### **Proposal for a special interest group – 'Growing Old in New Zealand'**

Given the membership age profile of U3A, it seems there could be interest in forming a special interest group to discuss aspects of the situation regarding the availability of information as well as gaps in the provision of facilities and services for older citizens.

The special interest group could have the nature of a study group and take some actions arising out of that study. The actual topics to be studied and discussed by the group might include NZ demographics, the needs of older citizens (for housing, medical care, dementia, rest home care etc) for current provisions (e.g. in-home help) and studying selected titles from the literature on aging.

This study and discussion might lead to several outcomes. One worth considering could be a proposal for a government sponsored website covering the availability of aged-care services and how to access them nation-wide. Australia currently has such a website, which is better presented, more comprehensive and better funded than what we have here in New Zealand (<https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/>).

Anyone interested in being in such a group should contact Margot Buick either by email (at [margot.buick@snap.net.nz](mailto:margot.buick@snap.net.nz)), or at the next meeting on 20 August.

Jackie Broughan

### **History Group**

July's meeting was held in our new venue the Worship Centre Foyer at the Chartwell Cooperating Church. Members welcomed the change, especially the easy parking on a quiet afternoon. In August, Ruth will cover water management in China from pre-dynastic times and Brent will start discussion on China from the Boxer Rebellion to the death of Mao. He will wind up the topic on 10 September.

Paul Etheredge

### **Shakespeare for Everyone Group**

The Shakespeare for Everyone group is having a busy month. On our regular meeting day we watched a film of King John, recorded at the Stratford on Avon Festival in 2015. Although seldom performed in NZ and not well known, we enjoyed it and found it very interesting and well acted.

Yet to occur at the time of writing, on August 9th we are going to Auckland to see Romeo and Juliet at an afternoon performance. Travel to and from Auckland will be on the train.

Alison Ringer

### **Computer Technology Group**

The Computer Technology group meets monthly, and we set and research a topic to explore each time. In addition, we share our current technological concerns and can usually problem solve using expertise within the group (& Dr Google).

This month we looked at options for Account recovery which include nominating a trusted friend or family member to hold a security code on our behalf. We also looked at various e-Waste services in Hamilton. The University is having a free drop-off day for e-waste on 9 August (see the note at the end of this newsletter). Finally, we shared personal and reported experiences of hacking & scams, which are continually evolving. (The group is currently full)

Carol Carr

### **Play Reading Group**

In July we read a less demanding play this time after our more demanding experience the month before. "Alarm Call" was light hearted, the dialogue clever and it even had a twist at the end, which we all enjoyed, as we did the accompanying conversation and laughter.

Pat Stannard

## Environment Group

July's excursion was the previously postponed trip to Te Otamanui walkway and lagoon at Te Kowhai. Wednesday morning dawned crisp and clear, and a keen group of 12 plus two dogs, Roz and Rafa, turned up at the carpark at Te Kowhai Hall. The track is a well-formed gravel path along the Te Otamanui Stream and its lagoons. It is well-maintained with native plantings of several species of kowhai and other species lining the track. The wider area is being carefully restored, with recent clearings of invasive trees, particularly crack willow and grey willow, which had previously dominated the lagoon. Most of the work is being carried out by the Te Kowhai Community Group, in conjunction with the Waikato District Council. There was much debate over the appropriateness of the local name 'lagoon' for the water body, so I contacted Emeritus Professor David Lowe, an expert on geology and lake formation in the Waikato, who together with John Green wrote a recently published chapter on Waikato lake formation. He indicated they classified it as a cut-off riverine lake, cut-off by channel abandonment (type 'e' of Fig 2.11 in their chapter Lowe D. J., Green J. D., 2025: Origins and ages. In Ozkundakei, D., Grainger N., Dean-Speirs, T. eds. Hidden Gems of the Waikato: The History, Ecology and Management of the Waikato Lakes. Waikato Regional Council and The University of Waikato). The track was still partially closed due to a washout; however, we had a very enjoyable morning walk. A highlight was the presence of two kereru perched high up in a tree at the turnaround point. Thanks to Gloria and Jackie for organising.



Bev Clarkson

## Coffee Companions Group

On 12 September we're going to meet at 10.30 am at **Mixture Cafe** at 70b Tamahere Drive, Tamahere.

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



### **Recreational Mathematics Group**

The Recreational Mathematics Group continues to meet on Friday mornings when the day of the month is a prime number. [Contact the convenor on 07 850 8279 for detail]. We have room for a few more Members.

A feather in our cap - Dr Yossi Elran who recently wrote the book "Archimedes' Stomach and Other Puzzles You'll Love to Digest" has looked at something our Group developed and expressed his wish that he had seen it before writing chapter five of the book. However, our discussions are usually not anywhere near as technical as that. Our aim is firmly recreational, viz. the interesting and the amusing side of numbers.

Murray Belchamber

### **Uke3A Ukulele and Singalong Group**

The Uke3A group entertained a large group of residents at Forest Lake Gardens last month. The audience enjoyed all the old time singing, and sang along lustily.



We continue to welcome new members to Uke3A Ukulele and Singalong Group, so if you'd like to play with us or learn to play, or prefer to come and sing, or even if you just like to listen, we'll be pleased to welcome you at any session.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at Hukanui Reformed Church 159 Rototuna Road from 1.00 pm – 2.45 pm. Koha - \$2 for the use of the hall.

This month we meet again on Tuesday 26 August

Next month we will meet on Tuesdays 9 and 23 September.

Judith Hickman      027 664 6712 .....Janet Pope      824 8079

### **Hiking Group**

The Hiking Group's July event was a walk along the Te Awa River Trail from the BP Service Station at Horotiu to the end of Meadow View Lane by Fonterra's dairyfactory and return. At the conclusion we had a coffee at the Coffee Club.

Our August walk scheduled for Thursday 14th August will be checking out the work that has been done on the Waihou Stream Track to the Blue Springs near Putaruru (weather permitting).

Des Johnston

Phone: 027 702 0247

Email: [desnviv@xtra.co.nz](mailto:desnviv@xtra.co.nz)

## **Wine Appreciation Group**

### July Wine Tasting Notes

This was a Malbec tasting with 4 wines being tasted:

Château du Cèdre, 2018 Malbec. Cahors Region, south of Bordeaux, France. This is THE region for Malbecs in France as the grape originated here. However, Malbec is now most famously associated with the Mendoza Region of Argentina. Flavours of plum and blackberry. We thought this had a thinness about it. High tannins. High acidity that balanced the fruit and tannins. Very drinkable and quite different to the Argentinian Malbecs.

Invivo, Graham Norton "He-Devil" Malbec, 2021. Crafted from Malbec grapes from the warm, sunny region of Northern Mendoza, Argentina. Invivo have collaborated with Graham Norton to produce this gorgeous blend. Intense, juicy characters with blackberry and black cherry flavours, and subtle spicy notes. We loved this beautiful blend. The wine's name 'He-Devil' is inspired by the wines intense and bold flavours.

Casarena, "505", 2020 Malbec, Mendoza Region, Argentina. An elegant, more fruit forward wine with a violet-red colour. The nose is intense with aromas of fresh red fruits. Full, sweet palate with round tannins and long finish. 13.5% Alc/vol. We absolutely loved this delicious wine. A true example of what Argentina can produce. No wonder it is so renowned in the world for Malbec production.

Abbey Estate, "Temptation", 2021 Malbec, Hawkes Bay, New Zealand. Aromatic, layers of dark fruit, ripe cherries, chocolate, violet flavours. We all loved this very fruit-forward wine. It is so typical of New Zealand wines in flavour and texture and because we mostly drink local wines was very familiar to us. A worthy, fresh, lively and stunning Malbec. Plush. Ideal drinking these winter evenings with a large grilled meat dish or a meaty casserole!

We loved all the different Malbecs and decided of course it is all about the terroir - the grape produces a subtle difference for the natural environment in which it is grown, including topography, climate and soils. A great wine wherever it is produced.

Food Pairing: Malbec's robust flavours and tannins are well suited to grilled meats (those juicy Argentinian steaks), and rustic, earthy dishes, mushrooms and even tomato-based pastas.

Next Meeting: We are tasting wines from the Iberian Peninsula.

Gay Main

## Notices

The University of Waikato is having a free drop-off for e-waste on Saturday 9 August from 10 am to – 1:00 pm, at gate 2B. Drop off your old electronics for free and help reduce e-waste. Open to the public—personal items only. Go to the following web page for more information:

<https://www.waikato.ac.nz/news-events/events/find-event/community-e-waste-drop-off-day/>

A worthwhile opportunity for some of us perhaps.

