



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

[www.u3ahamilton.org.nz](http://www.u3ahamilton.org.nz)

Email [hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com)



## Newsletter September 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 17 September** 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.

#### 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.

September Music Appreciation Group  
October Book Discussion Group 2  
November Natural Environs Group

#### Speaker

##### **Sam Edwards – Confessions of a Sometime Film Critic**

"A lifetime of film – it started with visits to Gene Autry and Johnny Weissmuller when I was six has – led me through a remarkable exposure to the biggest con job in human history and Hollywood's ongoing determination to make audiences believe that what they were seeing was the truth."

Sam Edwards is a retired University of Waikato academic, arts critic and Patron of the Friends of the Museum. He is a co-author of New Zealand Film 1912 – 1996 and has been a frequent columnist in the Waikato Times.

## **Dame Peggy Koopman-Boyden**

Former Committee member of U3A Hamilton, Dame Peggy Koopman-Boyden, died at Waikato hospital on 27 August.

Peggy's long academic career focused on the study of ageing and the social well-being and connectedness of seniors. Her work was influential in the development of health services policies for older people. Peggy joined the University of Waikato in 1995 as Dean of Social Sciences. She became Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic between 2001 and 2005 and later continued to work as a researcher in the University's National Institute for Demographic and Economic Analysis. In retirement she chaired the Hamilton City Council's Age-Friendly group until 2022 and oversaw the development of the Council's Age Friendly Plan. She was instrumental in paving the way for Hamilton to become the first New Zealand city to join the World Health Organisation Age Friendly Global Network of Cities and Communities in 2018. Her tenure also saw the development and monitoring of the Council's Age-Friendly Plan.

Dame Peggy was named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 1997, and a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2017 for services to the elderly. She also received the New Zealand Commemorative Medal for services to the community in 1990 and the Hamilton City Council's civic award for services to people and wellbeing in 2015. She was awarded the title of Emeritus Professor of the University of Waikato in 2016.



*Dame Peggy (R) at her DNZM investiture with then Governor-General Dame Patsy Reddy (Thanks to Noeline Alcorn for the article and the photograph)*

## President's report

Hi everyone. Yes, another successful meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August. Michael Gurnsey spoke on, "Naval Records & Related Sources (1944 - 1945): Their Accuracy and Resolving Conflicting Evidence". He also discussed official and unofficial sources relating to naval operations, particularly, the landings at Westkapelle. Thank you Michael.

By the time you are reading this newsletter the trip to Raglan on Wednesday 4 September will have taken place. A report about this is included later in this newsletter to come. This was another good initiative, and I hope there will be more trips and events to enjoy. Keep the ideas coming.

Details about the upcoming trip to the Observatory are given in this newsletter. Because of the large amount of interest, we may offer another trip on a future date.

Keep up all the good work and enjoy the warmer Spring weather

Keith

## 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.

## AV Team

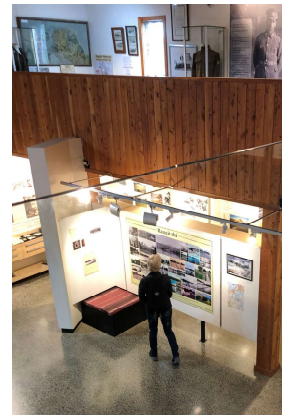
A new member is still being sought by the AV team who run the speakers' presentations each month, to assist as backup.

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.

## Events

### Trip to Raglan

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September six members ventured to Raglan on the bus for a day of history and quirky culture! We were met at the Raglan Museum by volunteer Robyn who introduced us to the many interesting areas, from early Maori chief Te Awaitaia (given the name "William Naylor"), and missionary Rev. James Wallis, through the days of settlement, wars, and early postal services through to activist Eva Rickard, and surfing! I think the most fascinating pieces for me were the tiny statue of the Egyptian goddess 'Bes' brought back to Raglan by a soldier from the sands in Egypt in WW2, and the information about Mr Ernest Moon, postmaster at Te Uku from 1894 to 1925, who despite having no use of his arms and legs performed a sterling service using his feet to write, sell stamps etc, while shuffling on his backside on specially upholstered trousers. The new museum is a beautiful and well stocked building which opened in 2011, and is well worth a visit. It also has a wonderful range of locally produced crafts for sale in the attached shop.



From there we went to lunch at The Shack before spending our remaining hour wandering the eclectic shops. Met some lovely people making unique products, including the glazier turned artist who was making things out of glass scrap such as old TV screens, and melted bottles, (and also had an impressive range of plant seedlings for sale). Did you know that Raglan sand doesn't really make glass, as its high iron content stops it from going transparent? Thank you U3A for supporting this trip. We look forward to more Waikato exploration trips – (*maybe Te Awamutu next time?*).

Chrissie

**Hamilton Observatory** We had 72 members expressing interest in a night visit to the Hamilton Observatory. When asked, most (62) preferred Tuesday 14 October, or didn't mind either Tuesday or Thursday night. The numbers are now closed at 62 and the visit will take place at **7:30 pm on Tuesday 14 October**. The entry fee will be paid by U3A. We may organise a second visit to the Observatory for those who missed out. The Hamilton Observatory is located at 183 Brymer Road, next to the zoo. There is plenty of parking, but car-pooling is encouraged. You are requested to please dip your headlights on the road and in the carpark to preserve night vision of the observers.

Bob

**Hear the candidates for Hamilton Mayor & East Ward  
Sunday 21 September at 3.00pm**

All candidates for Mayor, along with all people standing for the East Ward of Hamilton, have been invited to a public meeting. Almost all have confirmed their participation. Short speeches will be given from each (on subjects of their choice), with plenty of time for your questions. This will be followed by afternoon tea at 4.30pm with opportunity for informal chat.

Everyone is welcome at The Link: St Andrew's Church Community Centre, 4 Te Aroha St, Claudelands (corner of River Rd and Te Aroha St). Overflow parking is available on both Church lawns, Myrtle St, and Sonning Carpark slightly northwards on River Rd. There is a poster advertising this event is at end of the newsletter.

## Membership

Our current membership is 249, with 25 new members having joined us during 2025. This month we are pleased to welcome Bill Rosoman to U3A Hamilton. It is disappointing to report that, at this late stage in the year, 40 of our 249 members are currently not financial. We sent out an invoice in February, and have reminded people since in this Newsletter, but we acknowledge that it's easy to overlook a small payment, such as ours, from time to time. If you are in this group, please pay online to **U3A Hamilton Ac No. 03 1559 0030 619 00**.

Our annual subscription is \$20 for the full year or \$10 if you joined during the second half year (ie from July onwards). Alternatively, you may pay in cash at a monthly meeting. If you are uncertain about your status, please email [hamiltonu3a@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonu3a@gmail.com)

for confirmation. If you have decided to leave U3A, and we hope this isn't the case, please advise and I'll amend our records accordingly.

Judith Hickman (Membership)

## Interest Groups

### **Coffee Companions Group**

On 10 October we're going to meet at 10.30 am at the Lakeside Cafe at Hamilton Gardens. We're hoping there will be lots of spring flowers out for us to see. 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

### **History Group**

In our 10 September meeting we will cover The People's Republic of China from 1949 to the present day with Brent leading on the Mao years and Barry on the post Mao years. This will lead into discussion on the very recent meetings hosted by President Xi with Putin, Modi and Kim Jong Un and earlier with Southeast Asian and African leaders.

Paul Etheredge

### **Shakespeare for Everyone Group**

The Shakespeare Interest Group went to Auckland to watch the penultimate performance of Romeo and Juliet, by the Auckland Theatre Company. What a great day this was! Apart from the ease of travelling both ways on Te Huia at convenient times on a Saturday, the play was wonderful. Somewhat different from a traditional rendering of R & J, and set in the 1960s in Verona, the acting and words and action all pretty well made sense. At our next meeting we're going to watch the 1970s film version.

New members are welcome. We usually meet on the first Friday morning of each month but are changing the day and time this month because of a film at the film festival some of us want to see.

Alison Ringer

### **Mah Jong**

The Mah Jong group is still playing at the Waikato Bridge Club in Hamilton East. We have had new members joining and the long-time players are only too happy to share their knowledge. We meet every 2nd and 4th Wed of the month and play until the end of November. If you would like to give it a try, feel free to pop in. You do not need a Mah Jong set.

Carol O'Meagher

### **Play Reading Group**

In August the play readers tackled a play entitled: "Mr A's Amazing Maze Play" that we discovered, rather late in the day, was for an audience considerably younger than us, in fact meant for children. One role was a dog who did nothing but bark regularly which wasn't a role any of us (i.e. me) had attempted before. However, as the author is Alan Ayckbourn it was always going to be worth the effort indulging ourselves. As it's a 2 act play we are looking forward to completing this gently humorous, original work next month.

Pat Stannard

### **Environment Group**

In August the Environment Group visited the Mangakotukutuku Gully Maintenance track which starts in Waterford Road, goes behind the houses there and comes out in Dixon Road opposite Summerset Down the Lane (where there is a very nice cafe to enjoy a cuppa and cake after the walk)! This is another area which is being restored and replanted with appropriate native plants. Mangakotukutuku means "stream of the native tree fuschia" but we didn't see any of the distinctive reddish trunks of these trees in this part of the gully system! This gully is one of four major gully systems in Kirikiriroa/Hamilton so perhaps the tree fuschias are located more the Glenview/Melville parts of the gully.



Cheers,  
Gloria

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

The Uke3A group has now entertained four groups of retirees, with another two outings booked in October and November. The audiences enjoyed all the old time songs, and sang along lustily. We encourage anyone from U3A who just likes to sing, to come along to our Tuesday practice sessions at any time.



We continue to welcome new members to Uke3A Ukulele and Singalong Group, and we'll be pleased to welcome you at any session. We teach those who are new to this friendly little instrument as required, and all enjoy singing and playing a variety of songs together.

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 on Tuesday 23 September.

Next month we will meet on Tuesdays 14 and 28 October.

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

### **Computer Technology Group**

The Computer Technology group meets at 10:00 am on the first Wednesday of each month, and we research and explore a topic each time. Then there is time to look at our own technology challenges and brainstorm solutions. The good news is that recent research reported by RNZ, shows the use of digital technologies delays brain deterioration in older adults. Not sure about the frustration generated when things don't work!

This month we continued to look at the pervasiveness of A.I. in everyday life, and as it is a rapidly accelerating phenomenon, we will follow this topic until the end of the year. We noted that every Google search now results in an 'A.I overview' of findings and discussed how much credibility these summaries have.

We currently have room for one new member - if interested contact Carol at: [carcarr04@yahoo.com](mailto:carcarr04@yahoo.com)

Carol Carr

## Hiking Group

A small group of 7 travelled to Putaruru and walked the Te Waihou walkway to the Blue Springs. This was the third time we had done this walk but had not covered the short section between the spring and the Lesley Road entry point. Last time we were there this section was closed because of a land slip but they have cleared that, rerouted the path away from the hillside and built an extensive car park at Lesley Road.

The weather was fine and the walkway was being well used by other walkers even though it was a week day. We met artist Christopher Dews from Tauranga on the walkway who had spent 3 hours the previous day, was spending 3 hours that day and was probably coming back for another few hours next day to finish the painting, all at the same time of the day so he could get consistent light. He is showing his art at the Poynton Studios in Auckland between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October and has issued an invitation to any of our friends to attend the opening at 5:30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. You can see the invitation at the end of this newsletter.



The signwriter and fence builder did not coordinate!



Beautiful clear water



Christopher Dews and his painting



The group at the spring

Walks lined up for the remainder of the year include Killarney Lakes (near Te Aroha), Aongatete Loop Track (near Katikati) and another attempt at Daly's Clearing in Karangahake Gorge (depending on weather). We will try to fit in a longer day trip to scale Karioi at Raglan over the summer.

Des Johnston  
Phone: 027 702 0247

## **Wine Appreciation Group**

The group meets each month in a member's home where we taste four wines on a particular theme, either a grape variety, wines from a wine region of New Zealand or from other major wine producing countries. The members take it in turns to provide the wines or cheese. We compare, evaluate and discuss the wines and also food matches for the particular wine.

In August we tasted the following wines from Portugal and Spain:

Pluma Vinho Verde 2023, Northeast Portugal. Grapes were picked very early so were young and small. A sense of gas, bubbles appeared and faded. An aromatic wine with young, fresh, red fruits. A lovely summer wine.

Casa Santos Lima Alvarinho 2021, Lisbon, Portugal. Blend of several Portuguese grapes. A 'quiet' wine, fine blend ripe red fruits. Lovely soft and easy drinking.

La Innocencia Tempranillo 2024, Spanish Manda - Lupana Region (Hence the Red Riding Hood motif with the big bad wolf on label). Beautiful, smooth juicy, strawberry, raspberry flavours, soft, red fruit.

Milenio Dao Nationale 2020, DOC Duoro region, Portugal. Blend of Tourigo and Aragone grapes. Rich, ruby red, 'irreverent tannins'! Soft red berries and dark fruit, loved this wine, full of character. This was our favourite of the tasting. Brilliant red. Food matches would be typically sardines, oysters, seafood salads for the whites, tomato-based pastas and large juicy steaks for the reds. We enjoyed all the wines. Easy drinking and we enjoyed the flavours of Portugal and Spain.

Gay Main

The logo for 'chillscapes by Christopher Dews' is centered at the top. The word 'chillscapes' is in a large, bold, white font with a black outline, and 'by Christopher Dews' is in a smaller, black font below it. The text is enclosed in a black oval shape with several small white stars scattered around it. The background of the entire page is a textured, painterly landscape with a cloudy sky and a figure in the distance.

# chillscapes

by Christopher Dews

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to the official opening evening of our Chillscapes exhibition.

5:30pm, Thursday 2nd October 2025  
11a Poynton Terrace, Auckland

*The show will feature large plein air paintings from across the whenua, capturing and preserving its essence and wairua.*

The exhibition is hosted by our friends at Poynton Studios, nestled alongside St Kevin's Arcade at the top of Myers Park. The official opening begins at 5:30pm and will run until around 8:30pm, with drinks and a silent auction to celebrate this body of work.

### Opening Times

Wednesday 1st - Preview  
Thursday 2nd - Official Opening  
Friday 3rd - Open 12-7pm  
Saturday & Sunday - 11am-5pm

Parking is available on Pitt Street or in various spots around Karangahape Road.

You are warmly welcome to share this invitation with family, friends, or anyone who enjoys our landscapes and the sense of belonging to what lies beneath our feet.

I look forward to seeing you there!

*Christopher Dews*

# Hear the candidates for Hamilton Mayor & East General Ward



**Sunday 21 September at 3.00 pm**

Very short speeches from each (on subjects of their choice), with plenty of time for your questions. Followed at 4.30 pm by afternoon tea with opportunity for informal chat.

All candidates for Mayor have been invited, along with all candidates for the East General Ward. Most candidates have confirmed their participation.

Everyone is welcome at

[The Link: St Andrew's Church Community Centre](#)

4 Te Aroha Street, Claudelands (corner of River Road and Te Aroha Street)

Overflow parking is available on both Church lawns, Myrtle St, and Sonning Carpark slightly northwards on River Road

*Organised as a public service by St Andrew's Presbyterian Church*

Enquiries:

Lance Kendrick ph 027 265 7521 or Peter Gault ph 856 3923