

# HIBISCUS COAST U3A



## NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2001

Next Meeting - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August 10 a.m.

Presbyterian Church Hall

32 Waiora Rd. – Parking down driveway to left of church

**Speaker - Graham Lamont**

Discovering that some of those “ordinary oldies”  
were good and heroic

### ***A WORD FROM YOUR new PRESIDENT***

Welcome from an “old teacher” to all our enthusiastic students. I hope to be a worthy successor to my various predecessors.

One of my avowed tasks will be to bring the very existence of U3A to the attention of more eligible people in our area. I am often quite appalled by this ignorance. A sub-committee is at present planning a concerted drive in that direction. However, it is also up to all of you, the members of U3A, to talk about it to friends and acquaintances, about its objectives and its general structure, especially its study groups, both existing and potential.

I am delighted with the response to the appeal for posters for the Takapuna Branch Gathering later this month. What talents there are at HBC U3A!

Since the last Newsletter a new study group has been formed, this time Food for Thought. Details about this group are given overleaf.

At our last Convenors’ meeting comments were made about the lack of volunteers to organise both existing as well as new groups. More about this necessary but not too onerous task at our next general meeting. Meanwhile happy and prosperous studying! -

*Gerald*

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*A group of senior citizens were discussing their ailments: “My arms are so weak I can hardly hold this cup of tea” said one. “Yes, I know,” said another, “I can’t even see my coffee, what with my cataracts.” Said a third “I can’t turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck” Another went on “My blood pressure pills make me dizzy” Yet another “I guess that’s the price we pay for getting old”. The conversation stopped for a moment until another oldie added “It’s not that bad – at least we can still drive”.*

**Committee –** President Gerald Warner: Vice President Graham Lamont  
Treasurer Nonie Coates: Secretary Pat Varney



**Tea Duty – Play Reading and Books (together)**

Please arrange for some members to be at the Hall at least 20 minutes before the meeting.

**\*\* If you find a little red dot attached here, you may have still forgotten to pay your subscription - it is now overdue! If we don’t hear from you we will guess that you are resigning and will stop posting you Newsletters.**

**Ancient History**

A small group met on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June and decided to find out all we could about the earliest civilisations known to have existed. For anyone interested, the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July. Further meetings will be on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10a.m. Ph. Barbara Thatcher 4248281

**Antiques and Collectables**

Jugs and Fairings were two themes of recent meetings. We learnt much of the origins and interesting history of both from the knowledgeable owners of these excellent collections. Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month, now at the **new time** of 2p.m. Ph Joyce Chapman 4264772

**Books**

The group will meet 10a.m. August 9<sup>th</sup> at Rhoda Cashmans – Presently discussing *The Accidental Tourist* by Anne Tyler, *Baby No Eyes* by Patricia Grace. 13<sup>th</sup> Sept meeting at Joan Moxons – *The Whistler* by Stephanie Johnson and *The Uncles Story* by Witi Ihemaera. New members very welcome, Ph. Doreen Sawyer 4268187

**Cinematique**

We are a very relaxed group and really enjoy each other's comments. We attend provocative, non-mainstream films (individually, or as a group, whichever is convenient) and then meet at one of our group's homes to discuss and critique the film. At the past (July) meeting we were privileged to have Mr. Bill Johnson visit with us and share his experiences as an actor in TV, radio and stage productions. Our August meeting is planned to visit the Bridgeway for an early evening "movie & meal" get-together. The group usually meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month 10am at 71 Maygrove Dr. Orewa We invite all interested to join us to share in the discussion. For details on the films and dates, Ph. Ray Marino 4266615

**Conversational French**

Meetings every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> **Thursday** (new day) of the month, afternoons. Easy conversational level. Contact Ph. Gerald Warner 4265744 or Marie Doig 4242503

**Discussion**

Members consider a wide range of topics from global to local. Mary described the distribution of population and resources as if the world were a village of a hundred people to start the discussion last time. Next time we are thinking about the background and implications of the Rankin affair. Meetings are 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 10am in the activities room at Hibiscus Coast Village, Red Beach. Contact Ph. Anne Lennon 4265040

**Food for Thought \*\* (New Group)**

We recently held our first meeting to discuss the format for our new group. We will learn about all aspects of food from Cultures to Countries, Origins to the Art of food. For instance, did you know in 800BC the Olympians had the first cheesecake?

We would welcome new members to our next meeting where we will find out everything we ever wanted to know about **bread**. Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month at 10a.m.

Contact Ph. Jenny Trezise 4247192

**Geology**

Our last two meetings have again been favoured by perfect weather & a good turn out of members. At North Head (Devonport) we explored the tunnels and enjoyed a talk by a member of the DOC staff on the history of the defence installation. The theme of our Cornwallis-Huia ones embraced settlement, timber extraction and water supply as well as Geology. We thank the Huia Settlers museum for opening for our visit. Future meetings involve visits to Rangitoto and Kawau Contact Ph. Phil Sheldon 4247456

**History**

Some of our members have returned from overseas holidays with great stories of their adventures and discoveries of historical interest to the stay-at-homes. We are still hearing about the Tudor and Stuart periods and the effects on Scotland and Ireland. Meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays in the Craft Room at the Peninsula Club, 10a.m. New members always welcome. Ph. Nonie Coates 4240730

**Humour**

The group continues to bubble along quietly and, with the recent infusion of new members, has been strengthened as we pursue the felicitous phrase and the appropriate pun. Members have recently been responsible for furnishing posters for the Takapuna Gathering. Eileen Pickett produced artistic posters for Theatre Group and World of Art, and Peggy Ransom provided an appropriate and colourful one for the Humour Group. Be assured that the welcome is always warm at our meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at members homes. Contact; Ph John Walker 4278007

**Musical Appreciation**

The group continues to be well supported. In May the sometimes feisty partnership of Gilbert and Sullivan was discussed, and a video of the Mikado and other music of this very talented couple was enjoyed. The prodigy child, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was studied in June with the help of an excellent video. Joannes Chrystostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart as he was christened, composed 626 works, but only 70 were published during his lifetime. This month we were entertained by Russian composers: Glinka, Borodin, and Rimsky-Korsakov. The music ranged from Balalaika to a beautiful old piano recording of Mussorqsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" – complete with coughing from the audience. There were no digital enhancements in those days.

Convenor: Carolyn Williamson 4268355

**Play Reading (see also Theatre Visiting)**

Since the last Newsletter, the group have read three one act comedies; two by Charles Mander, the third by Sue Townsend. Several of us are attending Roger

Hall's "Take a Chance on Me" and we are reading this playwrights "Middle Age Spread" next. As a prelude to seeing "A Streetcar Named Desire" we plan to read this play by Tennessee Williams. A script has been written by one of our members, Pam Ellender, for our contribution to the U3A Christmas party; music has been chosen and we will begin rehearsals soon.

Contact Ph. Cynthia Green 4247941

**Theatre Visiting**

This continues to be successful and tickets have been purchased for the following productions:-

1. "VIVA VERDI" 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug. 7.30pm at Aotea Centre Price \$32.

2. "STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE" - Tennessee Williams - 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. Maidment 6.30pm Price \$35. To come - Copenhagen - Michael Frayn 16th Oct., Hair - 27<sup>th</sup> Nov., and possibly "No.2" Madeleine Sami Please note - A further \$10 is payable on the night for the Bus which leaves approx one and a half hours before starting time.

Contact Marion Corles 4243396 or Nonie Coates 4240730

**Travel A**

At the June meeting Pauline & Eric Salt gave a slide show of their trip to South America some years ago, of particular interest being their visit to Machu Picchu and environs. Pat Mutch hosted the July meeting which featured her video of the Rocky Mountains, supplemented by a video of the Buchart Gardens, courtesy of Mavis Brackebush. Next month we are on safari in South Africa.

Group meets on 1<sup>st</sup> Wed in month 2pm to 4pm Contact Monty or Elizabeth Harris 4282414

**Travel B**

June meeting had photos and videos of worldwide ceremonial events - including Piping the Haggis. In July we heard the interesting thoughts of Manjula Paul on her return from visiting India, she showed us some beautiful saris and jewellery of traditional artwork. Next meeting we will see some "Gardens of the world" and will talk of visits to Australia.

Meetings are 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month at 2p.m. New members welcome. Ph. Pat Varney 4242316

**Winter Jazz**

This group is enjoying some pleasant winter Sunday afternoons listening to and discussing jazz. We have briefly covered the origins of this musical form and have heard some of the great jazz performers. Our July meeting covered a selection of classic and contemporary jazz vocalists.

Contact: Ron Ellender 4257015

**World of Art**

This group studies the wide range of the many art forms. Next on the programme is the art of the Japanese Kimono. Meetings are held 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of month.

Ph. Lois Tuck 4245665

**World Today**

Although losing a few members, we have replacements from a waiting list and numbers now stand at 21 - about our maximum for meeting in our homes. The group continues with the extended study of Israel from 1948 to the present day. Most members are involved in researching aspects of education, the Hebrew language, role of women, defence forces, social welfare, health, art, music, food etc. The hoped for **Current Issues** group did not eventuate for lack of someone to organize and lead such a group.

Ph. Ray Christensen 4274403

**Writing for Grandchildren**

Our group continues to function well with the delightful result of some funny, fascinating and informative stories being written. This group is now closed but anyone interested can be placed on a waiting list so that a further group can soon be formed.

Ph. Judy Brett 4242797

*Old age is merely the fulfilment of the tapestry we ourselves have been weaving during our lifetime*

**TAURANGA CONFERENCE  
March 11th-15<sup>th</sup> 2002**

Well worth planning to go!

Conference Secretary is Dorothy Johnson P.O.Box 14251 Tauranga or email d\_Johnson@clear.net.nz If you want to contact me (Pat) 4242316 I can tell you more

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Week 1, am		History	Food for Thought	World Today	Music
p.m.	Antiques & Collectables	Writing for Grandchildren	Travel A		
Week 2, am		Discussion Geology	Humour	Books	
p.m.	Travel B		Play reading	French	
Week 3, am	Cinematique	History			
p.m.					
Week 4, am		Ancient History Discussion		World of Art	
p.m.			Play Reading	French	