

# HIBISCUS COAST U3A



## HIBISCUS COAST U3A NEWSLETTER

September/October 2016

[www.u3ahbc.co.nz](http://www.u3ahbc.co.nz)

President	Christine Curtis	4284266
Vice President	Vacant Position	
Secretary	Dee Davies	4287525
Treasurer	John Tucker	4279127
Membership Sec	Elizabeth Ingram	4265074
Newsletter Editor	Rewa Selmecei	4279194
Webmaster Editor	Gerard Straka	-
Committee Member	Judy Lilley	424 3080

Next meeting: Monday, 19 September 2016

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, 32 Waiora Road, Stanmore Bay  
Doors open 9.40 am for a 10 am start; meeting ends at approx 11.45 am

Tea duties: History and Humour Groups

Convenors, please contact each other to arrange kitchen duties.

(Take note of the instructions for the new dish washer.)

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

In my last newsletter I announced that I was going to send a 'personal letter' to all members, asking for offers from those of you who have interesting stories to tell to come forward. I also asked for anyone with a view to becoming our much-needed Vice President to contact me. I HAD NOT ONE REPLY! This makes me very sad. I know it is daunting to stand up there with all those expectant eyes looking at you, but you know, we are all friends. If you think you have some interesting stories to tell, do contact Judy Lilley, 424 3080 ... thank you in advance.

We now also need a **Membership Secretary**, as Elizabeth wishes to stand down after many years in the position.

We recently had a meeting to discuss various subjects and one concerns our safety at the General Meeting. You will have noticed we stopped 'signing in' as not everyone did so. However it has been pointed out that in case of fire or other disasters, it is essential to know who is in the hall. So in future we are going back to 'signing in' on arrival. So, for your own safety ... **please make sure your name is ticked off the list on arrival.**

It would be helpful, especially for new members' knowledge, if everyone wore their name badges so that we get to know each other better. If you have lost yours, let us know.

Last General Meeting we had an interesting talk by Loren O'Sullivan about her involvement in the NPH (*Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos: Our Little Brothers and Sisters*). She enlivened it with anecdotes and pictures of the many children, and some older people, who are benefiting from this much needed charity. It was humbling to realise how fortunate we are in this country.

The talk was preceded by a fascinating short talk by member John Clapperton.

Next General meeting we have a returning speaker, Phil Sai-Louie who entertained you, I understand, in 2013 regarding NZ place names. This time he talks on Surnames of the British Isles.

I look forward to seeing you on September 19th. I hope we will be enjoying Spring weather by then.

Chris Curtis  
President

### **This Month's Speaker:**

Phil Sai-Louie



Phil is a third generation New Zealander of Chinese descent, growing up in Onehunga. With a strong interest in history and geology, he leads walks in Auckland and is actively involved in historical societies. Phil is the Network Representative for Manurewa U3A.

#### **Phil's Topic – Surnames of the British Isles**

How, why and when people in the middle Ages acquired surnames; the different types of surnames and a look at the names which we find amusing or embarrassing and what they really mean.

#### **Club Speaker - September**

**Cynthia Green**

**Cynthia has agreed to read a poem she wrote which was inspired by one of her many tramping trips.**

**Club Speakers:** To make the bi-monthly general meetings varied and interesting, we like to have a club speaker as well as a guest speaker. The club speaker's role is a 10 - 15 minute slot and could cover anything from a hobby, life / work experience...even a story you may have written.

Your input into these meetings is invaluable, yet so many refuse the request to be a club speaker.

Please don't be shy! If you would to contribute to our general meetings in this way, contact:  
Judy 424 3080 [bojudy46@gmail.com](mailto:bojudy46@gmail.com) She will be thrilled to hear from you.

## Report on the “U3A IN ACTION” Meeting on 29 July

Network U3A, which is our Central body, and to whom we are responsible, hold an occasion every two years, called ‘U3A in Action.’ This showcases other U3A units throughout Auckland at a general meeting.

Each unit was asked, several months ago, to offer a seven minute presentation. Our Short Film Unit presented the film they had made for their entry for the 2015 National Rialto 48 hour contest. There were fourteen entries in all, and maybe I am biased, but I thought ours was the best! It certainly generated a lot of laughter.

I was disappointed that only four of our U3A group attended, Cynthia Green, myself and Nancy and Ian Miller. In the event, it was a diabolical trip into the city, with lashing rain and gridlocked roads: however it was worth the effort.

The event started with a very interesting talk by Dr Paul Buchanan, and Cynthia has written a short précis which is included here.

**Below is the event programme:**

<b>The Auckland U3A Network now comprises 27 U3As</b>				<b>Programme</b>		<b>Presentations</b>		
<b>U3A</b>	<b>Year Set up</b>	<b>Membership</b>		10 00 am	Welcome	U3A's point of difference from other organisations for Seniors is our Study Group [Special Interest Group] structure. This enables us to carry out our stated aim: We therefore proudly present this section of our program – a series of “mini talks” which have been delivered to a Study Group at the “home” U3A.  We note that the people delivering these little talks are not necessarily experts in the field concerned but have done the research so the talk is a success.		
		2014	2016	10 10 am	Speaker – Dr Paul Buchanan			
Beachlands/Maraetai	2016		29	10 50 am	Questions			
Birkenhead	1997	114	115	11 00 am	Morning tea			
Browns Bay	2000	230	245	11 30 am	Presentations			
Devonport	1997	151	158	12 15 pm	Lunch			
Epsom	1991	140	153	1 00 pm	Presentations			
Franklin	1997	110	100	2 30 pm	Finish.			
Hibiscus Coast	1995	225	215	<b>Our speaker</b>   <b>Dr Paul Buchanan</b> has provided advice to senior US military, intelligence and diplomatic decision-makers in the area of political risk and intelligence analysis				
Hobsonville	2012	68	114					
Howick	1995	169	176					
Manurewa	1995	42	49					
Meadowbank	2000	265	265					
Mt Albert	2001	145	142					
North West	1994	200	206					
Ormiston	2016		19					
Pakuranga	1996	185	239					
Papakura	2002	60	65					
Papatoetoe	1996	65	60					
Parnell	1998	95	107					
Pt Chevalier	2014	35	32					
Ponsonby	1994	72	88					
Remuera	1989	184	179					
South Kaipara	2013	26	25					
St Heliers	1992	160	170					
Takapuna	1991	267	274					
Tamaki-Eastern Bays	2002	139	140					
Titirangi	2015		43					
Warkworth	1996	142	155					
<b>Total</b>		<b>3289</b>	<b>3563</b>					

**The Aim of U3A**  
 Those who teach shall also learn and those who learn shall also teach.  
 Peter Laslett, founder of U3A UK, 1981

<b>Presentations</b>		
Carole Watson	Papatoetoe	A Brief History of Blood Transfusion
George Mandow	Mt Albert	Short story "The Dress"
Roy Boston	Browns Bay	Advances in Medical Science
Barbara Wedde	Remuera	"Nothing changes" Juvenal's satire 111
Lunch		
Ian and Nancy Miller	Hibiscus Coast	Short film
Simon James	Manurewa	Ship Salvage
Piers Davis	Remuera	Access to Justice: lawyers Pro Bono
Rod Baldwin	Papakura	"1960 Presidential Debates: Kennedy vs Nixon"
Peter Meehan	Hobsonville	Walking History Group
Graham Alcock	Takapuna	Down with Sea Level rise.
Mark Leys	Franklin	A Right Royal Picnic
Mike Lowe	Ormiston	The men in Grey and the Woman in Gold
Heather Tanguay	Titirangi	You can Back-pack at 70
Tony Devitt	North West	N.W. Digital Photographs

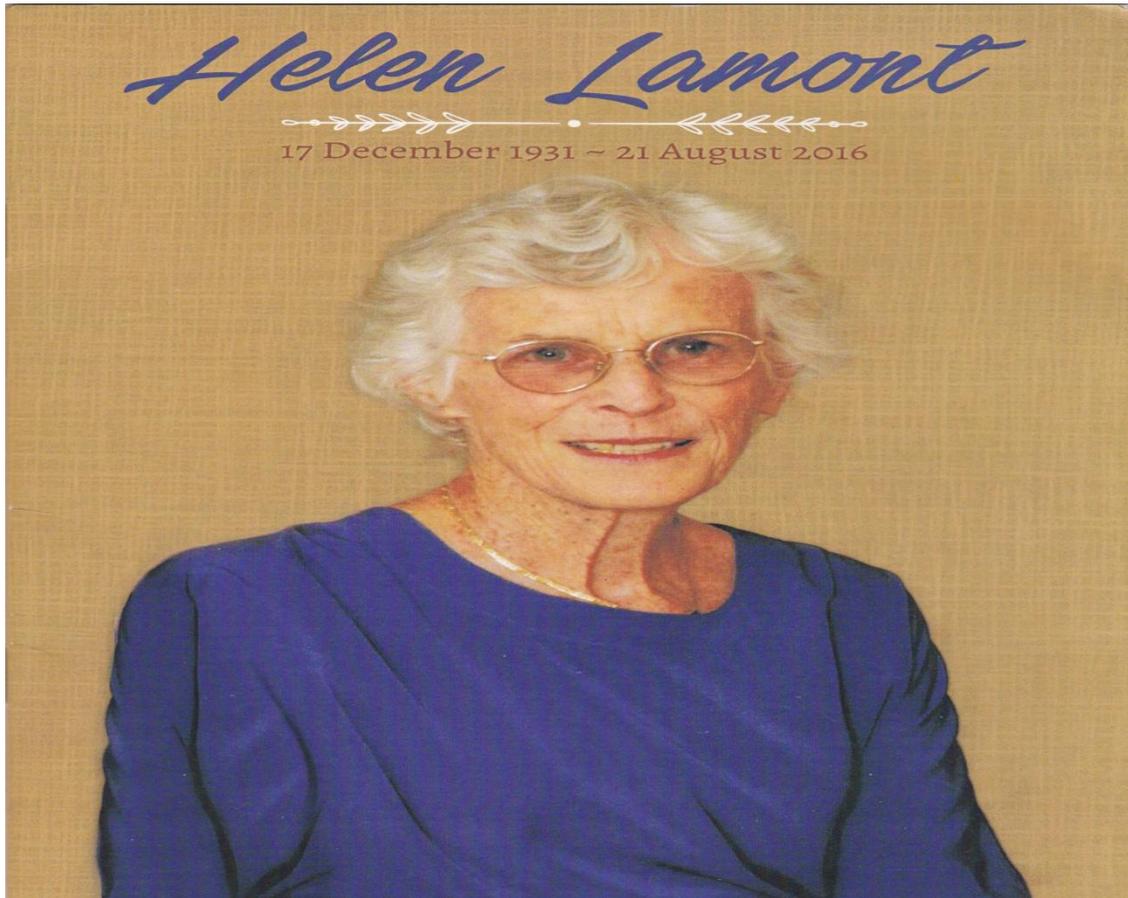
**Excerpts from Dr Buchanan’s talk:** Dr Buchanan believes the USA is heading for a collapse but, as has happened with other countries, will reinvent itself in a different way. It will remain a great power, along with China and Russia.

He forecasts that the Republican Party and Donald Trump are heading for a landslide loss which may lead to the formation of a third major party. He believes that the US military are petrified at the thought of Trump as President and they say they would be justified in refusing orders from ‘President Trump’. Ted Cruz is a ‘nutter’ and even worse than Trump!

Hilary Clinton will be given a coronation by the Democrats but will need to consider Bernie Sanders’ policies and his supporters whom she needs to support her. The email controversy – this has been the standard practice of former Secretaries of State as it is the most secure method of communication.

For those Americans who cannot bring themselves to vote for Hilary Clinton they will be urged: “Don’t vote at all”.

HELEN LAMONT



A service to celebrate the life of Helen Lamont was held on Saturday, 27th August at St Stephen's Anglican Church, Stanmore Bay Road, Whangaparaoa

Helen and her husband, Graham, have been members of Hibiscus Coast U3A for many years.

Several of our members attended the service and Joan Butcher, representing us, gave a short address and also referred to her long friendship with Helen, especially in the field of writing.

Our sympathies go to Graham and his family. Anyone wishing to donate in Helen's memory, please direct your donation to: Alzheimer's Auckland Charitable Trust, PO Box 5132, Wellesley Street, Auckland 1141 - or via internet banking: 12 3061 0389965 00.

*Chris Curtis, President*



**Helen and Graham**

## **News from the groups ...**

### **Contact details for all groups and meeting times are on the attached Groups' Schedule page**

#### **Art Appreciation**

This group studies various forms of Fine Art which always leads to invigorating and interesting discussion. Our August meeting was led by a new member John Hoby, an ex art teacher who produced his favourite art throughout the ages which he showed on the screen. After afternoon tea, we discussed the techniques and thinking behind some of these amazing and sometimes controversial works.

In September we hope to tour the many pictures hung in the corridors of the Peninsula Village where we meet, on the third Thursday of each month at 1.30 pm. We have room for more members; if you are interested please contact:

Trish Litherland, Convenor (426 4400)

#### **Cinematique**

We are enjoying the movies which we show at the Peninsula Village on the fourth Monday of each month, starting at 9.45 am for a shared morning tea, then the film at 10.15 am.

During August we watched "x + y" - an excellent movie about an autistic boy who, through using his extraordinary powers of maths, is able to compete in a World Olympiad. Here he learns, through meeting new people, to discover his emotions. Thank you, Lorna Robinson, for selecting and sourcing this film. Our October meeting will be the last formal occasion in the above venue until next Winter, as we have decided to visit Hoyts Cinema as a group when something deemed suitable is showing. If you wish to join us, please contact –

Trish Litherland, Convenor (426 4400)

#### **Book Groups - East and West**

We still have enjoyable and interesting meetings even though for both groups our numbers are down for various reasons. People have moved out of the district or have other pressing things to do and sadly can't do both. We have talked about joining the two groups together again as it used to be but nothing has been decided yet.

Two of the books we have been reading and enjoying lately are " The Girl on the Train" by Pamela Hawkins, a best seller and a different style of thriller. Another interesting book, "The Good Doctor", by Lance O'Sullivan who has won the NZ Order of Merit. A self-made doctor who has done wonders for poor families up North, in spite of coming from a bad beginning himself .

Lesley Newling, Convenor (421 0961)

#### **Discussion**

Our group is going well. We have two new members, both of whom take part in discussion, with good thoughts. Our coffee breaks usually provoke more discussion than the formal part of the meeting, but that is the strength of the group. We really enjoy being together. Meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month.

Barry Dale, Convenor (426 0919)

#### **Film Discussion**

We meet on the last Friday ( some months may have five Fridays) of each month, in the Kowhai room at the Peninsula Club to discuss the movie viewed at Cinematique and any other material we have seen and want to talk about. We are a very informal lot and there is usually lots of hilarity at these sessions. We have room for more members; if you are interested, please contact –

Trish Litherland, Convenor (426 4400)

#### **Music Appreciation**

Last month we were treated to the works of some of the little known composers and we were left wondering why they were not better known.

Next month Neil Burgham will present a programme of music from the Romantic Era, vocal and instrumental. This will comprise both CD recordings and possibly some video clips from YouTube.

We will be happy to have visitors from any of the other groups for Neil's presentation.

Jack Wolfe, Convenor (426 9871)

### **Short Film**

We have just finished another short film. We are still very short of MALE ACTORS. Please, if you know a gentleman interested in film making and willing to join us, (must be a member of U3A) ask him to get in touch with us. In our group we also learn how to make videos, do editing etc. We do not have a fixed date or time for our meetings, due to the nature of our activities. The venue is also variable. At the moment one of our members is in hospital; we wish him well and a speedy recovery.

Nancy Miller, Convenor (424 0388)

### **Travel**

Group meetings are well attended even though some members are busy travelling and collecting more memories. Usual meetings have one or more members sharing their memories, accompanied by slide shows of their recent or past trips. At our last meeting one member spoke about a wonderful safari in Botswana and another member about an enjoyable trip as a passenger on a freighter - not like a luxurious cruise ship! Membership is near the limit of the Pohutukawa Room at the Library, especially if all members attend.

Noel Newling, Convenor (421 0961)

### **World Today**

For our September meeting, Ian presented data on the subject of current and, maybe, future changes in the traditional media from which we obtain both news and entertainment. This generated plenty of discussion, particularly on the uncertain future of printed newspapers and the potential demise of the role of the journalist. The first part of the meeting, as usual, provided time for members to introduce matters of interest and possible topics for future discussion.

Ria Kamerbeek, Convenor (424 0486)

### **Writing Your Memoirs**

Our group is friendly and fun. Each month we share our stories over a cuppa and encourage each other. Help is available if needed but mostly each member writes in their own voice, sharing their experiences, leaving their stories for future descendants. Numbers are limited.

Beverley Gomez, Convenor (424 0573)

Attending the U3A in Action event on 29 July are:

Ian Miller, Cynthia Green, Nancy Miller and President Chris Curtis



## And ..... just for fun!

*A glimpse of the past (food in the 50s and 60s)*

Pasta was not eaten in Australia or New Zealand

‘Curry’ was a surname

A takeaway was a mathematical problem

A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower

A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining

‘Kebab’ was not even a word, never mind a food  
Prunes were medicinal

Surprisingly, muesli was readily available; it was called ‘cattle feed’

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock

Oil was for lubricating; fat was for cooking

Brown bread was eaten only by poor people

Fish did not have fingers

Healthy food consisted of anything edible

People who didn’t peel potatoes were regarded as lazy

Indian restaurants were found only in India

Cooking outside was called camping

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and was never green

Rice was eaten only as a milk pudding

Sugar enjoyed a good press and was regarded as being white gold; cubed sugar was regarded as posh

But the one thing that we never ever had on our table in the sixties – elbows and phones

*A glimpse of a possible future\* (or Sci-Fi?)*

### **Welcome to the Fourth Industrial Revolution**

Software and operating platforms will disrupt most traditional industries in the next 5-10 years. Consider – Uber is just a software tool; they do not own any cars but they are the biggest taxi company in the world. Airbnb is the biggest hotel company in the world although they do not own any properties.

**Rise and Fall:** In 1998, Kodak Ltd had 170,000 employees and sold 85% of all photo paper worldwide. The company has disappeared, courtesy of the digital camera. What happened to Kodak will likely happen to many industries.

**Artificial Intelligence:** Computers become exponentially better in understanding the world. This year a computer beat the world’s best Go player, 10 years earlier than expected. IBM *Watson* provides legal and financial advice (basic, at the moment) in seconds, with 90% accuracy compared with 70% accuracy when done by humans. *Watson* already helps diagnose cancer, apparently 4 times more accurately than doctors. It is predicted that by 2030, computers will possess more intelligence than humans.

**Cars:** in 2018 the first self-driving cars will be offered to the public. In a short time, no-one will need to own a car. You will call a car on your phone; it will arrive at your location and take you to your destination; no need to park it. Our great grandchildren will not learn to drive nor need a driver’s licence.

**Education:** Smartphones already sell at \$10 in Africa and Asia. By 2020, 70% of all humans will own one. All will have access to world class education. Every child can use Khan Academy (non-profit, free education for ‘anyone, anywhere’), currently serving more than 15m users.

**Apps:** There is already an app called ‘moodies’ which can tell which mood you are in. By 2020 there may be apps that can tell by your facial expressions if you are lying. Imagine political debates where the viewer can tell who’s lying and who’s telling the truth!

*\*Summary of findings at a futurist conference in Germany (courtesy Udo Gollub, Messe, Berlin).*

## **SCHEDULE OF THE CURRENT GROUPS**

**as at September 2016**

### **Ancient History**

As its name suggest, this group studies ancient civilizations.

Meeting on the fourth Tuesday at 10.00 am

Venue: The Peninsula Club (call convenor for directions).

Convenor: Ayad Hussona (981 0000)

### **Art Appreciation**

We meet to discuss various artists, genres and history in selected countries. It is not required that you are an artist, just have an appreciation of excellence and a love of learning and sharing.

Meeting on the third Thursday at 1.45 pm (for a 2 pm start) to 4 pm.

Venue: The Peninsula Club

Convenor: Trish Litherland (426 4400)

### **Books, East and West**

We each read the same two selected books every month and then we have good discussions about them. Some of us like the book and others don't – makes for a lively and interesting morning.

Meeting on the second Thursday at 10.00 am

Venue: In each other's homes.

Convenor: Lesley Newling (426 0961)

### **Book Review**

As the title suggests - a group discussion on books which has been read by the members.

Meeting on the third Friday at 10.00 am.

Venue: In each other's homes.

Convenor: Cheril Clarke (426 9567)

### **Cards, Games and Puzzles:** (formerly "Card Playing for Fun")

This is a cheerful, fun loving group.

Meeting on the first and third Tuesday at 12.45 pm for a prompt 1 pm start.

Venue: The Pohutukawa Room – Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Isobel Naish (428 2552)

### **Cinematique**

This group visits a cinema together. We try to choose a movie with a good story which will lead to interesting discussion.

Meeting in the morning of the fourth Monday.

Venue: The Kowhai Room – The Peninsula Club

Convenor: Trish Litherland (426 4400)

### **Film Discussion**

We discuss any films we have viewed together, plus any others deemed suitable.

Meeting on the last Friday of the month at 10.00 am.

Venue: The Kowhai Room – The Peninsula Club

Convenor: Trish Litherland (426 4400)

### **Discussion**

Topics discussed by this group are chosen on an ad hoc basis, based on whatever its members currently find of interest or concern.

Meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 10.00 am.

Venue: Hibiscus Coast Retirement village (call convenor for directions).

Convenor: Barry Dale (426 0919)

### **Famous and Infamous Origins**

This combined group covers a wide range of topics, whether it is famous or infamous people, places, items, cars, sport – you name it, we can make a topical meeting from it.

Meeting on the third Thursday at 10.00 am.

Venue: In each other's homes.

Convenor: Judy Lilley (626 3080)

### **History**

This group is for anyone who has a keen interest in history. It covers all aspects and members read interesting papers on a wide variety of topics.

Meeting on the first and third Tuesday at 10.00 am.

Venue: The Peninsula Club (call Convenor for directions)

Convenor: Nonie Coates (424 0730)

### **Humour**

We share jokes, humorous poems and stories, as well as testing our brains on various set written tasks. If laughter is the best medicine then, surely, this is the healthiest group around.

Meeting on the second Wednesday at 10.00 am.

Venue: In each other's homes.

Convenor: Jacqui Driscoll (427 0426)

### **Mah-jong**

Our group is a friendly group who strive to achieve as many different hands of the seventy seven available to us. It can be a frustrating game but offers plenty of challenges in order to work out which of the many hands you could try at each stage of the game. It certainly keeps the brain alive!

Convenor: Geoff or Sheila Taylor (427 4662)

### **Music**

For members who have a love of music from classical, opera, jazz and easy listening. The first hour is spent listening, tea break follows and then lively discussion.

Meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month

Venue: The Hibiscus Room – The Peninsula Club

Convenor: Jack Wolfe (426 9871)

### **Out and About**

This group organises 'outings' to places of interest, new and old, in and around Auckland.

Meeting on the second Tuesday.

Venue: Times and locations vary.

Convenor: Sheila Hussona (981 0000)

### **Regional New Zealand**

This group takes specific regions of New Zealand and studies each from an historical, economic and demographic perspective. Members with a special relationship to a region often provide insightful or humorous aspects about the area under study – a learning experience about our own country.

Meeting on the fourth Thursday at 10.00 am.                      Convenor: Barbara Tucker (427 9127)

### **Short Film Making**

This group is comprised of members with an interest in the art and craft of making short films. The group has, of necessity, no set time or venue for its meetings. Meeting times and locations vary.

Convenors: Ian and Nancy Miller (424 0388)

### **The World Today:**

The group's aim is to help members gain an understanding of the background and implications of what is happening on the world stage. Members are asked to research particular aspects of a topic and to then share what they learn with other members.

Meeting on the first Friday at 9.45 am.

Contact:            Neil Burgham

Venue:              Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Ria Kamerbeek (424 0486)

### **The Writers (formerly Scribbles)**

A group for people who enjoy writing. We are now trialling a set but optional theme for the month and positively critiquing those who want to improve their writing.

Meeting on the first Friday at 10.00 am

Venue:              In members' homes

Convenor: Cheril Clarke (426 9567)

### **Travel**

The travel group meets every month to discuss aspects of travel. At most meetings a member gives a talk, usually accompanied by a slide presentation, on a trip they have been on. The range of amazing places people have visited makes this a very interesting group and promotes lots of questions from other members.

Meeting on the second Monday at 2.00 pm

Venue:              Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Noel Newling (421 0961)

### **Writing your Memoirs**

This group encourages members to write down the stories from their lives. The changes we have seen, the experiences we have had, told in our own voices. Writing our memoirs is also helpful in understanding our lives - looking back, reminiscing. We can share and reflect and provide a pathway for our descendants to understand us and their roots.

Meeting on the second Friday at 12.30 pm

Venue:              Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Bev Gomez (424 0573)

### **World Mythology**

Looking at all aspects of world mythology, each member presents the results of their homework.

Meeting the fourth Monday at 10 am

Venue:              The Pohutukawa Room – Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Judy Lilley (424 3080)

## Group Meeting Timetable

as at September 2016

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1<sup>st</sup> week</b> am		History 10am			The writers 10am World today 10am
<b>Pm</b>		Mahjong 2pm  Cards, games & Puzzles, 1 pm			
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> week</b> am	Short film making 11am (time varies)	Discussion 10am  Out & about (times vary)	Humour 10am	Books east/west 10am	
<b>pm</b>	Travel 2pm				Writing your memoirs 12.30pm
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> week</b> am	<b>**General** meeting 9.40am</b>	History 10am		Famous & infamous / Origins 10am	Book review 10am
<b>pm</b>		Mahjong 2pm  Card, games & Puzzles 1 pm		Art appreciation. 1.45 pm	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> week</b> am	Cinematique (Venue varies)  World Mythology 10am	Discussion 10am  Ancient history 10am		Regional New Zealand 10am	Film discussion 10am (last Friday whether it be the 4 <sup>th</sup> or the 5 <sup>th</sup> Friday)
<b>pm</b>			Recorded classical music 2 pm		

**General meetings are held bi-monthly, on the third Monday of January, March, May, July, September and November, at 9.40 am at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, 32 Waiora Road, Stanmore Bay**

**Doors open 9.40 am for a 10 am start; meeting ends at approx 11.45 am**

