

# HIBISCUS COAST U3A



## HIBISCUS COAST U3A NEWSLETTER

May/June 2017

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

President	Christine Curtis	4284866
Vice President	Kay McLean	0273287363
Secretary	<i>Vacant Position</i>	
Treasurer	John Tucker	4279127
Membership Secretary	Elizabeth Ingram	4265074
Newsletter Editor	Rewa Selmecci	4279194
Speakers' Secretary	Maureen Jansen	4261154
Webmaster Editor	Gerard Straka	-
Committee Member	Judy Lilley	424 3080

**Next meeting:** Monday, 15 May 2017

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

**Tea duties:** Groups: *Writing your Memoirs* and *Ancient History*  
Convenors, please contact each other to arrange kitchen duties

### President's Report

It has been a quiet two months since our last newsletter. Our new Vice President, Kay McLean is settling in and I have asked her, and our new Speaker's secretary, Maureen Jansen to write a short bio about themselves. It was commented after our last meeting that it would have been nice to hear about them. It is not always practical to do this, especially at the AGM when time is limited.

I was also told I missed introducing a new member as I did not see his or her hand when I asked. So 'sorry' to that person and if you come to our next meeting, please make yourself known. I know some people are a little shy, but if you stand up, I am less likely to miss you!

We still do not have a secretary, and in the interim, I have taken on some of the duties, with the help of other members to take the minutes of meetings (thank you, Judy for those at the recent Convenors' meeting.)

At that meeting I expressed a little concern that we now have only 18 groups, although those are well attended. **If anyone is interested in starting a new group, please do not be daunted. Just let us know what you are interested in and I am sure one of us will support and help you.**

I mentioned in the last newsletter, the interesting **U3A in Action Day at St Chads Church Hall, Meadowbank on September 29**. The application form for this event was in that newsletter, but if you have lost it and would like to join our party, please get in touch with me: [cedcurtis@gmail.com](mailto:cedcurtis@gmail.com).

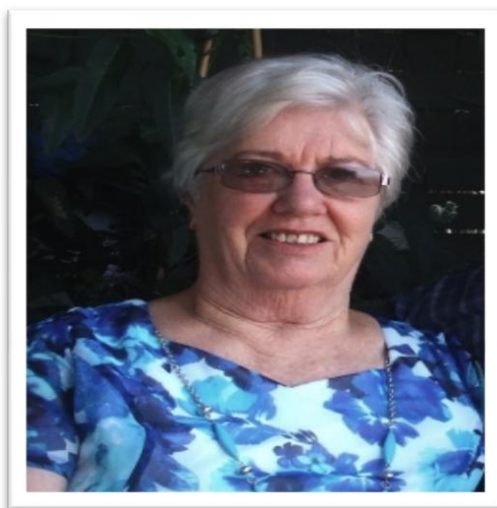
## Getting to know our new Committee members:

### ***Kay McLean, Vice President***

My childhood home was a rural township in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, where I attended the local academy. I studied at and graduated from Aberdeen University and completed my teacher training at the local Training College.

In 1991 my sister-in-law encouraged my husband, Ian, and me to join her in New Zealand, a move we have never regretted. We began our careers in Kaikoura and subsequently at various colleges from Waiau College in the far south to Bay of Islands College in the north. We have three daughters, each born in a different part of New Zealand, and seven grandchildren.

About a year and a half ago we came to Red Beach and the reason I agreed to be your vice-president was mainly to get to know more people. It is much harder to do that in a city unless one is prepared to make an effort. Last year we joined the Ancient History Group and recently I joined the Travel Group and the Cinematique Group. Apart from U3A, I enjoy genealogy, reading – mainly non-fiction and have just begun learning to draw.



### ***Maureen Jansen, Speaker Secretary***

Maureen is a retired English teacher with an interest in literature, writing, world affairs and the outdoors. She moved to the Hibiscus Coast in 2012, lost her husband to dementia in 2016 and is herself a survivor of several cancers. She put up her hand to carry out the Speakers' Secretary role to help Chris find speakers who will stimulate our group of bright, engaged seniors.



**Guest Speaker  
Professor Bill Wilson**



**The Cancer Revolution  
Hope or Hype?**

Slash, burn or poison; these are how people see classic cancer treatments. In recent years researchers have looked for more targeted therapies with fewer side effects. This is where immunotherapy comes in and also some of the targeted treatments being researched at the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre.

Do these breakthroughs represent real hope or are they surrounded by too much hype?

**Professor Bill Wilson** is a Co-Director of the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre and leader of its Experimental Therapeutics Group.

After completion of his PhD at the University of Auckland in 1978 he undertook postdoctoral training in at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto where he developed a longstanding interest in the poor blood supply in tumours as a potential Achilles heel.

Since 1980 he has led a research group at the University of Auckland, with that objective, resulting in development of new research tools and new drugs for clinical trial. He has published over 250 peer-reviewed research papers and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of NZ in 2001.

**Club Speaker:**

Ian Miller will show the latest film from the Short Film Group.

**Report on Guest Speaker - March 2017:**

Dr Lindsay Diggelmann from the University of Auckland History Department gave a thoroughly relevant and thought-provoking talk at the March meeting. Titled "fighting for God", it was about the Crusades and how those medieval military expeditions still resonate today. We can understand the ISIS phenomenon better if we can look at the history of Christian/Muslim conflict. The word "crusade" has positive connotations to us but to Muslims it harkens back to when they were attacked by the Christian West in the 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Even the Crusaders rugby team with its horses and riders in mock armour and swords, is somewhat offensive because of the associations "crusader" has for Muslims. George W. Bush fell into this trap when he called the fight against terrorism and Al Qaeda a "crusade" after 9/11. The use of that word alienated militant Muslims further.

Dr Diggelmann was by no means making excuses for terrorism but simply trying to throw some historical light on the mysteries of Al Qaeda and ISIS.

## Special Notice

### ELEGANT GLASS PUNCH BOWL AND MATCHING GLASS CUPS

Some members may be unaware that a number of years ago a former U3A member donated the above for use by any member. They are now currently held by Joan Butcher 09 426 3113 Email: [joanb@ihug.co.nz](mailto:joanb@ihug.co.nz)

## News from the Groups

*Contact details for all groups and general meetings  
may be found on the groups' schedule page.*

### Art Appreciation (1)

During our last meeting we discussed Early New Zealand paintings. This session was wonderfully presented by Diana Pipski who shared her findings of paintings by William Hodges, John Webber, Augustas Earl and Charles Heaphy. We saw many copies of their work and had meaningful and educational discussion.

Some of our members visited the exhibition from the Tate gallery " Body Laid Bare", a very memorable experience of world-famous art, some never seen out of Europe before. The centrepiece being the magnificent sculpture by Auguste Rodin "The Kiss".

We meet in the Peninsula Retirement Village media room, on the third Thursday afternoon of each month at 1.45 pm and we have room for more members.

### Art Appreciation (2)

Friends of Women's Refuges Trust recently announced a \$135,000 donation to NZ Women's Refuge from the proceeds of the NZ Sculpture on the Shore 2016 exhibition. The donation will focus on supporting the programmes of NZ Women's Refuge and its mission to help prevent and stop domestic violence.

The Art Appreciation Group and other members of U3A were pleased to be able to make a donation towards this worthy cause.

Convenor: Trish Litherland

### Book Review

There are no set books to read but each member talks about one or more books they have read and a discussion often follows when others in the group have read the same book. It's proving an excellent way of expanding our reading interests.

The group have had an influx of new members this year and our meetings are very stimulating and enjoyable. Sometimes the books reviewed are available for borrowing but otherwise they provide a wish-list for the next trip to the library or for the next Kindle purchase. We meet on the third Friday of the month at members' homes.

Convenor: Cheril Clarke

### Cinematique

Members met earlier in the month during the Hoyts new Hibiscus Coast senior morning. This consists of the selected movie plus a coffee or tea for \$9. We will endeavour to support this event. We saw *Beauty and the Beast* which covered many aspects of very enjoyable movie making, in fact there was clapping at the end! We have 3 new members. Any member wishing to add their names to the list, please contact me.

Convenor: Trish Litherland

### **Discussion**

I have had a bit of down time in hospital and other people have run the meetings for me. The group runs very well without me and I feel that is a healthy sign. There are several ex-teachers who are used to being in front of a group and others who can stand in. Our president has often said that all groups should give others a turn at being leader and it certainly works for us. There is a lovely feeling of friendliness among our members. from the oldest to the newest. We are very lucky.

Convenor: Barry Dale

### **Film Discussion**

We meet on the last Friday of each month, 10 am at the Peninsula Retirement Village to share our viewings over the previous four weeks. We have four new members and we always have a very relaxed enjoyable meeting. If you wish to join us, please contact me.

Convenor: Trish Litherland

### **History Group**

2017 meetings continue to provide members with a fascinating array of well- researched papers covering an eclectic range of topics. Our Tuesday morning meetings can transport us to nineteenth century Italy where politicians and patriots struggle to overthrow foreign domination: we can eavesdrop as the troubled and tragic events of Lady Jane Grey's short reign unfold and walk with her to the executioner's block; we can be intrigued by a sixteenth century English farmer's 500 points of good husbandry expressed with wit and clarity in rhyming couplets.

We generally have between 12 to 14 members in attendance and have had one new member who joined in the last few weeks. A visitor at our last meeting has assured us she too will be signing up.

However, it was with deep sadness that we learned from Nonie Coates, our wonderful 93 year-old foundation member, that she has decided to resign from the group. Nonie explained that her failing hearing has been a significant factor in arriving at her decision. Not having Nonie at our meetings will be a great loss to all our members. Her intellect and institutional knowledge are assets it will be hard to live without and we will all miss her wonderful stories of times gone by. Her memory is a treasure house which has enriched all of us who have been privileged to share in her accounts of past decades. We will, of course, keep in close touch with Nonie who is truly a taonga.

New members are always welcome to join us in the Pohutukawa Room of Whangaparaoa Library on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 10 am.

Convenor: Caryl Haley

### **Regional New Zealand**

Our members have presented most interesting topics on the Hawkes Bay, Poverty Bay and Bay of Plenty Regions. Guide Rangi of Whakarewarewa featured prominently in our 23<sup>rd</sup> March presentation. Also featured, the life and times of Kiri TeKanawa, and Gisborne, the "Chardonnay Capital" of the world. Norma gave a most interesting talk on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

We also learnt of the East Cape Lighthouse in the Gisborne Region and the life and exploits of Jean Batten. Joy gave us a most enjoyable talk concerning the "Wild Duck Patrol" that her Father was part of when he was a young lad, in the early days of New Plymouth. Photos accompanied this talk, which made it all the more interesting!

Our group meets in the Pohutukawa Room of the Whangaparaoa Library on the fourth Thursday of each month at 1 0am. You are most welcome to come and join us, even if it's just for a cuppa!!!!

Convenor: Barbara Tucker

### **Short Film**

We have started to film our web series. We have had to arrange the timetables to accommodate some of our members who are going on holiday. I hope when some of the series are finished, we will be able to show them to our U3A fellow members. Ian and I are also involved in the filming of bringing kiwis to Shakespeare Park.

Convenor: Nancy Miller

**SCHEDULE OF THE CURRENT GROUPS  
as at May 2017**

**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)

**Book Club**

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: Dee Davies

**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 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. The group runs on an ad hoc basis, ie: when there is a movie showing at Hoyts Whangaparaoa that we deem worth viewing, an email will be sent to members who have listed their names.

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 Pohutukawa Room - Whangaparaoa Library      Convenor: Caryl Hayley (428 2971)

## **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)

## **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: Cheri 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 2 - 4 pm

Venue: Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Bev Gomez (424 0573)

## Group Meeting Timetable

as at May 2017

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1<sup>st</sup> week</b> <b>am</b>		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> <b>am</b>	Short Film Making 11am (time varies)	Discussion 10am		The Book Club 10am	
<b>pm</b>	Travel 2pm				Writing Your Memoirs 2 – 4 pm
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> week</b> <b>am</b>	<b>**General** Meeting 9.40am</b>	History 10am		Famous & Infamous / Origins 10am	Book Review 10am
<b>pm</b>		Mahjong 2pm		Art Appreciation. 1.45 pm	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> week</b> <b>am</b>	Cinematique (Venue varies)	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>			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](#)**