

HIBISCUS COAST U3A



HIBISCUS COAST U3A NEWSLETTER

November/December 2017

www.u3ahbc.co.nz

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| President | Christine Curtis | 4284866 |
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| Secretary (interim) | Dee Davies | 428 7525 |
| Treasurer | John Tucker | 4279127 |
| Membership Secretary | Elizabeth Ingram | 4265074 |
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| Speakers' Secretary | Maureen Jansen | 4261154 |
| Webmaster Editor | Gerard Straka | - |
| Committee Member | Judy Lilley | 424 3080 |

Next meeting: Monday, 20 November 2017

Hibiscus Coast RSA, Vipond Road, Stanmore Bay.

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

Morning Tea: We are unsure of the catering system at the RSA. Would "Church History" and "Cinematique" groups please be on stand-by in case we are required to serve and tidy up after.

From the President:

In the last newsletter I gave details of a Christmas lunch at the Hibiscus Coast RSA. Since then you have had details for booking your tickets and I am pleased to say the response has been good. I am sorry if you have not booked already as it is now too late. We have had to give numbers attending to the caterers.

We have also decided to have our **NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING at the RSA as well**. It will begin at the usual time of **9.40 am**. We will just have a cup of tea or coffee and biscuit not the usual special Christmas fare supplied by Shirley and Jim Smith. There will be a bar for anyone wanting to take other refreshment. Our talks will be from U3A members which should be very interesting and diverse. Besides being a pleasant pre-Christmas occasion, we are planning this as a possible alternative to meeting at the Presbyterian Church in the future. We are very grateful to the Church authorities for the previous use of their space, but parking has become an acute problem, along with some sound and visual incompatibilities with modern equipment. Unfortunately the system at RSA may not be compatible either, hence the 'try-out' in November. We would be interested in any feedback about suitability of the venue after the event, please.

On 20 September, I, along with Vice President Kay McLean and member Cynthia Green went to the annual *U3A in Action* meeting at St Chad's Church in Meadowbank. There was an entertaining speaker (see Cynthia's report below), then short presentations from various other U3A groups. We did not give one this year, although Cynthia was on 'standby' for the History Group if required. There were about 300 members attending and it was most interesting to chat with others. Ours is one of the largest groups, some being as small as 20 members.

We are coming to the end of the year and soon it will be the AGM in March. I will be stepping down as President and Kay Mc Lean will, I hope, be taking over. That leaves the position of **Vice President** free. We will also need a **Secretary**; Dee Davies has kindly been standing in, but will not continue after March. So please give some thought to putting your hands up. *We need you!*

Finally, incredibly, this is my last chance this year, in the newsletter, to wish everyone "HAPPY CHRISTMAS".

Chris Curtis, President

Report from U3A in Action Network Meeting (29 September 2017)

Guest Speaker: **Professor Paul Moon, Professor of History at AUT**

His Topic: **Nostalgia and Utopianism in NZ**

History is not something we can prove in the way we can prove (by experiment) that water boils at a certain temperature. Facts can be the same but are seen differently by different people - none of us has a perfectly shared perception. At the age of seven, children begin to have a sense of history. We THINK we have a shared experience - but research shows that only 89% of those surveyed had heard of Helen Clark as a former Prime Minister and only 61% had heard of David Lange. Only 12 ½% had heard of Sir Edmund Hillary. A young NZ journalist was shown a picture of a man she didn't recognize - it was Robert Muldoon. Because of social networking now, increasingly, people are more concerned with what happens NOW.

Nostalgia: This was once seen as a medical condition. "The good old days" - looking back with fondness - forgetting pain can be a coping mechanism - a sort of 'inoculation' from the memory of pain. "We never used to lock our doors" - few had anything worth stealing! Trump: "Let's make USA great again!" Which time? Everyone would have different idea of which time. Brexit vote: some wanting England to be as they remembered years ago. But it was never so wonderful for many - memory can be of a past that never existed. Memory is a prosthetic - we are not born with it but attach it to ourselves. Nostalgia can be choreographed, e.g. Napier Art Deco - highly nostalgic, selective. No recognition of Depression of 1930s/lack of jobs. Nostalgia can have political value in talk about "we never used to have these problems" as if we had a 'golden age' in the past.

Utopianism: Can be revolutionary (Karl Marx/Adolf Hitler) or evolutionary.

Gardening utopia: People dying of the plague, rats everywhere in England but people here planted English cottage gardens as they remembered another England; 1920s people had worked on farms so wanted a quarter-acre section - and planted ferns at their front doors; in 1950s wanting to remember warmer climates planted oleanders and hibiscus.

Utopianism wears out! Karl Popper said, "Utopia would never be achieved because everyone would have to agree." (Except by force - e.g. North Korea).

"History is more influenced by nostalgia than we realize."

(Report supplied by Cynthia Green)

At the U3A in Action Network Meeting



Chris, Kay and Cynthia, representing HBC U3A



Dr Paul Moon, Guest Speaker

To inform and entertain us at the November Meeting ...

November's meeting is mainly social and a wrap up of the year. There won't be an outside speaker but as in 2016, there will be a series of reports from convenors or members of groups.

As well as the normal report of the groups' activities, there will be some re-enactments, explanations and poems. The power of U3A is in the groups and this will be a chance to hear from some about the creativity, culture and intellectual drive that exists in branches of U3A Hibiscus Coast.

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NOTICES

FOR MEMBERS WHO RECEIVE THEIR NEWSLETTER BY POST

We have recently been informed that the subsidised postage-paid envelopes from the Government are no longer available to us.

There are currently about 25 members who receive their newsletters by mail. This will involve costs of materials, postage and printing. So, regrettably, we are going to have to add \$10 per year to the membership fees of those of you who receive your newsletters by mail. This will start when subscriptions are due in January 2018.

If anyone feels strongly about this, please do get in touch with me. However, this is a common practice among other U3A groups: we are fortunate not to have had to do this before.

Chris Curtis, President

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The poster features a decorative border at the top with two golden birds perched on a branch with red berries. The main title 'Christmas Time at Highwic' is written in a large, elegant, cursive font. Below the title, the text describes the event as 'An evening of Victorian Treats - Nostalgia & humour, words & music followed by supper in Mr Buchlands Billiard Room'. The names of the performers, 'Iona Rodgers - Cathie Harrop', 'Hadley Ronayne', and 'Jennie & Dave Khan - Amanda Kirk with surprise guests', are listed in a smaller, elegant font. The event dates and times are 'Sunday 17th December 6:30pm' and 'Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th December 7:30pm'. At the bottom, there is a photograph of a large, white, Victorian-style house with a Christmas tree in front. The ticket information 'Tickets \$49.00 (all incl) from cathieharrop.com or ph.09 4792361' is printed at the very bottom.

Christmas Time at Highwic

*An evening of Victorian Treats -
Nostalgia & humour, words & music
followed by supper in Mr Buchlands Billiard Room*

Iona Rodgers - Cathie Harrop

Hadley Ronayne

*Jennie & Dave Khan - Amanda Kirk
with surprise guests*

Sunday 17th December 6:30pm
Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th December 7:30pm

Tickets \$49.00 (all incl) from cathieharrop.com or ph.09 4792361

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation

We have enjoyed looking at the history of both Australian and Indian art in various forms, taken from a Griff Rhys Jones DVD. The topics were discussed in detail, along with other interesting events that members had attended.

Our last meeting will take place at the Peninsula Village, in the Hibiscus room at 12.30pm when we will enjoy a shared lunch and finish the above DVD by exploring the African culture.

Convenor: Trish Litherland

Book Review Group

We meet on the third Friday of the month at members' homes and first have coffee. The format for the meetings is simple. Each member gives a verbal review of a book or books they have read during the previous month. Often a stimulating discussion develops between members who have also read the same book, or books by the same author. We find the reviews extremely helpful when choosing books from the library or for our Kindle devices. There is no set book to read and all discussion is spontaneous and engaging.

Being an avid reader, I have found this review and discussion system an excellent lead into books that I otherwise might not have discovered. If we have a hard copy of a book, we operate a lending system between members.

This group is small, about seven members, when all can attend, so we would welcome a few more members. For information contact:

Convenor: Cheril Clarke

Church History

We will be studying the emergence of the New Testament - when it was written, by whom and how it came to be accepted as canon scripture.

Convenor: Ian McLean

Cinematique

The in-house movies over the Winter months have been very much enjoyed in the Hibiscus Room at the Peninsula Village. The last film, "Lost for Words" by Deric Longden, featured Dame Thora Hird, Pete Postlethwaite and Penny Downie. It won three awards and two nominations. A heart-warming drama/ comedy of a son's relationship with his eccentric yet unique mother whose health is in decline with the onset of old age. Sound familiar? Anyway, it was extremely funny with great British wit, amazing acting and script.

This month will be our last meeting, so we will be seeing the first showing of "Murder On The Orient Express".

Convenor: Trish Litherland

Discussion

Our group includes a number of people who travel overseas, and it is always pleasant to see them back. Our recent topics have been "work, life balance", "rehabilitating prisoners" and "a person in history who inspires me."

These topics resulted in a lot of good discussion, better than you would expect. A great group of people, that it does you good to be with.

Convenor: Barry Dale

Famous, Infamous and Origins

The group will meet in the home of a member to enjoy an end of year, bring-a-plate lunch, which we do every year. Our group has remained stable throughout the year and will continue into 2018. We have room for a couple of new members who would be willing to join us in meeting in each other's homes on a roster system.

Convenor: Judy Lilley

Film Discussion

Owing to my and other members' absences last month, we postponed our meeting. The last one will be on Friday, 24 November in the Peninsula Village at 10 am when we look forward to another animated morning of sharing our viewings.

Convenor: Trish Litherland

Meditation

While Convenor, Bev, is away a core group of members wish to keep meeting and so the activity will continue in her absence.

Convenor: Bev Gomez

Memoirs

This group is winding up as Convenor, Bev, will be away for quite a bit of next year. Most of the group have completed the writing they wanted to do and some have moved away. Those remaining members who wish to continue writing will do it on their own or get in touch with Bev to get together for coffee, a read and a chat.

Convenor: Bev Gomez

Regional New Zealand



Last month members spoke of their visits to Pirongia – (how many readers knew that Pirongia was previously known as Alexandria?), Bombay, (The Sikh Temple), Mercury Island and the surrounding Coromandel area, Cape Colville, the town, crafts and especially the oyster farming in the area, plus the facts about the farming town of Morrinsville.

23 November – members, please note this date in your diary now – we are meeting at our usual place for a get together with a difference, brunch to follow!

Our first meeting for the New Year will be held on Thursday 25 January. Why not join us and learn some facts that may surprise you!!

Convenor: Barbara Tucker

Small Films

Our group continues rehearsing for our web series and we expect to start filming before the end of the year. We are very pleased that our group is at full strength,

Convenor: Nancy Miller

Convenors' Lunch

held at the Hibiscus Coast RSA

Vipond Road, Stanmore Bay

Checking out the facilities at our proposed new meeting venue!



**SCHEDULE OF THE CURRENT GROUPS
as at November 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 (428 7525)

Book Review

As the title suggests - a group discussion on books which have 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)

Church History

Discussion topics include: interaction between Christianity and other faiths, the influence of other religions and the spread of Christianity into the Gentile world. This may sound rather intellectual and deep but, in fact, is a fascinating subject for anyone, whether belonging to a faith or not.

Meeting on the first Friday at 2 pm

Venue: The Manuka Room – Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Ian Mclean (027 3287363)

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)

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 (424 3080)

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)

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 Haley (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)

Meditation

A group for beginners to learn meditation and for those who already practise. Meditation has many benefits and can be very powerful when done with others. We discuss various techniques, finding the one which suits us best.

Meeting every Wednesday at 11 am.

Venue: In Gulf Harbour.

Convenor: Bev Gomez (027 7331722/4240573)

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.

Group Meeting Timetable as at November 2017

| Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1st week am | | History 10 am | | | The Writers 10 am World Today 10 am |
| Pm | | Mahjong 2 pm Cards, Games and Puzzles, 1 pm | Ukulele 1-3 pm* | | Church History 2 pm |
| 2nd week am | Short Film Making 11 am (time varies) | Discussion 10 am | | Book Club 10 am | |
| pm | Travel 2 pm | | Ukulele 1-2 pm | | |
| 3rd week am | *General* Meeting 9.40 am | History 10 am | | Famous and Infamous Origins 10 am | Book Review 10 am |
| pm | | Mahjong 2 pm | | Art Appreciation. 1.45 pm | |
| 4th week am | Cinematique (Venue varies) | Discussion 10 am Ancient History 10 am | | Regional New Zealand 10 am | Film Discussion 10 am (last Friday whether it be the 4 th or the 5 th Friday) |
| pm | | | Recorded Classical Music 2 pm | | |
| Every Wednesday | | Meditation | | 11 am | |

Can you think of an answer? = Answers!

1. **February**
2. **On a map**
3. **A mushroom**
4. **Just stop imagining!**
5. **The letter 'm')With a 'g'**

