

HIBISCUS COAST U3A



U3A Hibiscus Coast Newsletter for September/October 2019

Next Meeting

Monday, 16 September, **9.40 am**,
at the Salvation Army Hall, 32 Greenview Lane,
Red Beach, Hibiscus Coast.

Tea duty: Discussion group and Famous, Infamous and Origins

From our president

An exciting two months have passed since the last newsletter including the Winter Warmer lunch which was a huge success. We required ninety members to attend and we sold ninety-two tickets, so very well done and much appreciation to all you people who purchased tickets and gave positive feedback about the event. The writers' group did us proud stepping up to entertain us, so a big thank you to you who participated.

What I learned from the experience was how helpful and efficient the Silverdale RSA catering was (with a high level of food) and how much easier it is with seniors to be served food as with the desert rather than having a buffet - and how much more effective a venue can be if we take our own microphone.

We always hold a convenors' meeting during the months without a general meeting so that we can learn and support each other plus inform convenors about management decisions. All that I can evaluate from the lack of attendance by some convenors is that their groups are all enjoying what they are doing and are without problems. We did discuss holding these meetings once per quarter with an afternoon tea, a proposal still on the table. Whatever works.

The U3A Celebration held on Friday the 30th August was attended by 310 Auckland members from 26 Districts. Hibiscus Coast had 12 members attend and we managed to seat most of us together. Mike King was the main speaker being both informative and humorous. Talking about self-esteem, suicide, bullying and relationships, he was in fine form and ran 15 mins overtime. The club speakers were also excellent covering many subjects. The only negative was the luncheon facility which was noted by the organising committee. No other event over the years has catered for such a large number. Thank you to the members who did attend. A good time was had, and we all learned something.



This month's general meeting has been advertised through the churches, retirement villages and apartment buildings as the committee decided that Sir Richard Faull was such a noted speaker, we can invite non-members. Please invite anyone you think would benefit and enjoy Sir Richard especially if they are considering joining U3A.

We will open the doors at 9.40am and have morning tea until 10.20am. There will be no club speaker. This will give us plenty of time for questions from the main speech. Below is a more informed brief on what to expect.

The first day of spring was yesterday and today as I write this it is Father's Day. We had a family luncheon sharing lots of memories. As Mike King pointed out, the most important thing we can give to anyone is to listen unconditionally and to love them. It's really not rocket science.

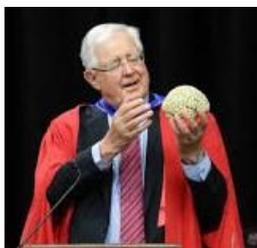
Trish Litherland

President

Committee 2019

President	Trish Litherland
Vice President	Judy Keall
Secretary	Judy Lilley
Treasurer	John Tucker
Membership Secretary	Kaye Bennetts
Newsletter Editor	Maureen Jansen
Speakers Secretary (shared position)	Graham Lamont Pauline Wetton
Webmaster Editor	Gerard Straka

This month's speaker: Sir Richard Faull



Topic: The magic and excitement of the human brain

Sir Richard Faull is a neuroscientist and is highly regarded internationally for his research into the workings of the human brain.

He is founder and director of the University of Auckland's Centre for Brain Research (CBR), director of the Neurological Foundation Human Brain Bank at the CBR, and instigated the annual Brain Day that invites the community to the campus to learn more about neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases.

He was made a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the New Year Honours list 2017 for services to brain research.

Because Sir Richard's talk is so important, we have invited members of local organisations to attend the talk along with U3A members.

Winter Warmer Lunch



Treasurer John Tucker introduces the writers who read their work.

Emphasising the point?

A constant irritation

When it comes to punctuation

Is the use of exclamations

As a means of indication

That you're filled with indignation!!!

Maybe seething with frustration!!!!

Or aglow with exultation!!!!!

In a silly situation where a single one will do!

By Kaye Bennetts

Network Celebration 30 August



Mike King, wearing a hoodie with the words, "I am hope", talks to the Network Celebration attendees. Pictured also are 9 of the 12 of our members who were there on the day.

News from the groups

New Archaeology group

There will be an initial meeting for members interested in studying archaeology on Wednesday 18th September at 2.p.m. at 13 Panorama Court Red Beach. The subject for this session will be St Nicholas East church dig.

Please ring Kay McLean on 0273287363 first if you are interested.

Ancient History

We research and discuss ancient civilisations dating from pre-history up to the Roman era, and also the early pre-Columbian history of The Americas.

We have recently been discussing written language, in particular Cuneiform script, Egyptian hieroglyphics and other pictorial scripts.

At the next meeting we will look at the rise of the first city state in Sumer in Mesopotamia. We are a strong, enthusiastic group, but recently our numbers have dwindled, and we would welcome new members with an interest in the ancient world. We meet fourth Tuesday of the month mainly in The Peninsula Club and occasionally in our homes. Convenor Ayad Hussona

Book Review: the group is now including the discussion of one poem a month, chosen from the Spinoff website's "Friday Poem" selection. Very stimulating discussions, a letter to one of the poets, a heartfelt reply, and some communication with the Spinoff poetry editor.

"We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive at where we started
And know the place for the first time."

T.S. Elliot, "Little Gidding"



SCHEDULE OF THE CURRENT GROUPS

as at July 2019



Ancient History

As its name suggests, this group studies ancient civilizations.

Meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10.00 am

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

Convenor: Ayad Hussona

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 of the month at 10.00 am

Venue: In our own homes, taking turns to host.

Convenor: Sheila Hussona

Book Review

As the title suggests – the group discuss books which have been read by the members.

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

Venue: In our own homes, taking turns to host.

Convenor: Cheril Clarke

Cards and Games

This is a cheerful, fun loving group where we exercise our brains at the same time. We are happy to teach you any games that are new to you. New members welcome

Meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 1.30.

Venue: Pohutakawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library

And on the third Thursday of the month at 1.30 pm

Venue: the convenor's home.

Convenor: Diana Pipke

Cinematique

Ad hoc depending on what is showing locally. We now work in with Hoyts Senior Mornings usually on a Tuesday at 10am for free coffee and morning tastes. If you are a Hoyts member the charge is only \$8 00, if not it is \$8.50. We are supporting this kind venture. During April we enjoyed *Red Joan* and discussed this in full during film discussion

Any members who wish to be notified of the cinema mornings, contact Trish Litherland,

Convenor: Trish Litherland

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 Tuesday of the month at 10.00 am.

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

Convenor: Barry Dale

Famous, Infamous and Origins

The group alternate between Famous and Infamous and Origins, both of which provide a varied choice of topics.

Meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 10.00 am.

Venue: In our own homes, taking turns to host.

Convenor: Judy Lilley

Art Appreciation

This group is in recess.

Film Discussion

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

Meeting 10.30. last Friday of the month. New members welcome.

Venue: Pohutukawa Room - Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Trish Litherland

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 of the month at 10.00 am.

Venue: Pohutukawa Room - Whangaparaoa

Convenor: John Hoby

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!

Meeting first and third Tuesday of the month at 2pm.

Venue: Convenors' Home

Convenor: Geoff or Sheila Taylor

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 of the month at 10.00 am.

Venue: Pohutukawa Room - Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Barbara Tucker

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

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 then to share what they learn with other members.

Meeting on the first Friday of the month at 9.45 am.

Contact: Pauline Wetton

Venue: Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Ria Kamerbeek

The Writers

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 of the month at 10.00 am

Venue: In our own homes, taking turns to host

Convenor: Cheril Clarke

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 taken. 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 of the month at 2.00 pm Venue: Pohutukawa Room – Whangaparaoa Library.

Convenor: Noel Newling

Growing old with a smile

Lately, I've noticed that people my age are so much older than me.

“The more sand that has escaped from the hourglass of our life, the clearer we should see through it.”

— Jean-Paul Sartre

SCHEDULE OF GROUP MEETING TIMES

As at May 2019

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>1st week am</u>		History 10 am			The Writers 10 am World Today: 9.45am
pm		Cards and Games 1 pm Mahjong 2 pm			
<u>2nd week am</u>	Short Film Making (time and venue varies)	Discussion 10 am		Book Club 10 am	
pm	Travel 2 pm				
<u>3rd week am</u>	*General* Meeting 9.40 am	History 10 am		Famous and Infamous/ Origins 10 am Cards and Games, 1.30	Book Review 10 am
pm		Mahjong 2 pm	Archeology 2pm		
<u>4th week am</u>	Cinematique (Days, Times and Venues vary)	Discussion 10 am Ancient History 10 am		Regional New Zealand 10 am	Film Discussion 10.30 am (last Friday whether it be the 4 th or the 5 th Friday)

**General meetings are held bi-monthly, on the third Monday of
January, March, May, July, September and November, at 9.40 am
at the Salvation Army Hall, Red Beach.**