



**Newsletter for May 2020. New Zealand in Level 3 lockdown. No May meeting.**

## President's Report

So now we're in level 3. Has your Lockdown changed? Perhaps your bubble has extended to include another member of your family or a friend who lives alone. For me there is a visit from youngest son and seven-year-old granddaughter to look forward to. They say they are coming, but I have yet to discover when!

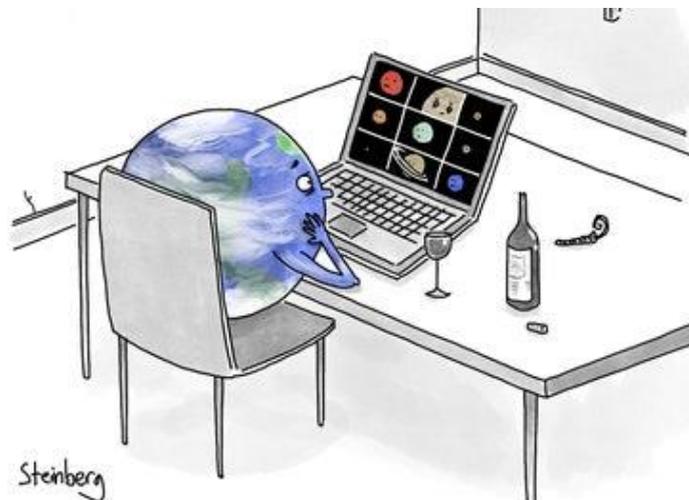


The exciting news for U3A members is that many of you have successfully experimented with new ways of staying in touch. We now have an impressive number of newly qualified ZOOMers in our midst!

A big thank you to all our Convenors who have sent in reports for this newsletter about different and creative ways they are using to keep the U3A spirit alive.

Enjoy reading these reports and stay well.

*Judy Keall*



### Online banking help from Senior Net

Senior Net has tutors for BNZ and ANZ banks who are happy to go through the process with you via Zoom. You may only need to have this personal encouragement to gain confidence in using this asset. For the lockdown period where we have to help using Zoom etc, there will be no accessing any accounts but there is still much to go through on each bank website where we can help you build your confidence.

Call or email me if you are interested so we can arrange your 40-minute session.

Sharron Russell [sharronrussell@hotmail.com](mailto:sharronrussell@hotmail.com) Ph 027 495 7424

## Committee

President	Judy Keall
Secretary	Judy Lilley
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Membership Secretary	Kaye Bennetts
Newsletter Editor	Maureen Jansen
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## Groups and contacts

Ancient History: Ayad Hussona

Archaeology: Kay McLean

Book Club: Sheila Hussona

Book Review: Cheril Clarke

Cards and Games: Diana Pipke

Discussion: Bob and Jenny Kelly

Film Discussion: Trish Litherland

History: John Hoby

Mah-jong: Geoff or Sheila Taylor

Regional New Zealand: Barbara Tucker

Short Film Making: Ian and Nancy Miller

The World Today: Pauline Wetton

The Writers: Cheril Clarke

Travel: Noel Newling

### Editor's Note

This is our second  
cutdown/shutdown  
newsletter.

**Please pay your 2020  
subscriptions if you have  
not already done so.**

Single \$25, Couples \$40

Online to the HBC U3A  
account at: ASB 12-3046-  
0275951-00

*Maureen*

## **Groups in contact during shutdown**

### **Film discussion**

Film Discussion held their first Zoom group meeting on Friday 24th April with 10 participants. Ian Miller organised everyone onto the site and a very successful 40 mins was enjoyed. Every member participated, we all learned of at least 4 movies / programs to watch and what was obvious was the comradeship shared.

The group decided to meet fortnightly instead of monthly using this method. *Trish.*

### **World Today**

"The World Today" group decided to have a Zoom meeting once every fortnight while the lockdowns are continuing. Ian did a sterling job of training us up in Zoom techniques, and we are having around 18 - 20 participants.

We decided to follow the usual pattern of meetings, with some exceptions. One of which was today's meeting, in which Graham Lamont acted as presenter, setting questions for us to debate that was based on an article we circulated about world responses to Covid 19. That structure worked very well, and we enjoyed a lively hour of discussion and debate. *Pauline Wetton (for the Convenor)*

### **Regional New Zealand/Pacific**

Although we held our January and February monthly meetings in the Whangaparaoa Library, we have been unable, due to Covid19, to have a get together in either March or April. We are endeavouring to hold a Video conference on our meeting date – Thursday May 28th at 10.30am.

So far this year we have had contributions about Northland, Mayor Island and Norfolk Island plus a start on the Pacific Islands, featuring Easter, Solomon and Pitcairn Islands. We also had an interesting presentation on Codfish Island. The Islands of Samoa are particularly relevant to New Zealand, having been administered by them from 1914 to 1962 when Western Samoa gained Independence. The history of the archipelago is most interesting and varied, featuring the 1918 Pandemic, and the subsequent long struggle for Independence.

We are looking forward to considering aspects of Island life and how they are affected by say, the recent measles epidemic, and various cyclones which have beset them. Of course, we are much looking forward to getting together again when it is possible. *Barbara Tucker*

### **Book Review Group**

Convenor Cheril Clarke reports that this group is sharing book reviews via email. Too long to include here but remarkably interesting.

### **Writers' Group**

This group is operating via email. Some wonderful stories have resulted from the given prompts and topics. Thanks once again to Cheril Clarke for organising this group. We'll publish stories when we have full printing facilities again.

### **Ancient History**

The Ancient History group has not been able to meet during lockdown. We've kept in touch by emails. If we go to level 2 before the scheduled next meeting at the end of May, we hope to get together and carry on with our discussion of Greek philosophers. We still have eight

members. The group has been meeting at the Peninsula Club, however we may have to review this. *Convenor Ayad Hussona*

### **Book Group**

The Book Club has been curtailed with the closing of the library. We should have been discussing 'This is Going to Hurt' by Adam Kay and 'A Diamond in the Dust' by Frauke Bolten Boshammer in April. In May we read and reviewed 'The Political Years' by Marilyn Waring and 'In Order to Live' by Yeomi Park. Some of us have the books and some were not able to access them before lockdown. We have kept in touch with emails, and we hope to meet on our scheduled date in May if we go into level 2. We are an enthusiastic group, with nine members. Convenor Sheila Hussona

### **Archaeology**

We have had a few hiccups over meetings on Zoom, but with luck we (or should I say I) know what to do now! Our next meeting will be on Zoom on Wednesday 13th May at 2p.m. While we are still in lockdown it was agreed to hold our meetings every fortnight until such time as we get back to the library.

Last time we talked about souterrains including "Scotland's Best Kept Secret" although that was not strictly archaeology, but fitted in nicely, and about excavations at Ipplepen in southern England. Particular thanks go to Gerard who was able to show lots of photographs pertaining to the subjects. *Kay McLean*

*The Discussion Group members are continuing their meetings on Zoom.*

## **Online Resources for lockdown**

To stay informed during the pandemic, there are some useful sites.

- First of all our government's [website](#).
- The Financial Times has an excellent free to read [section](#) on the virus with graphs.
- John Hopkins University has followed the data from the start and has an [interactive map](#)
- If you like data, there is this: <https://ourworldindata.org/>

## **Useful phone numbers**

**Healthline:** 0800 358 5453 - if you have any symptoms or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with COVID-19

**Need to talk?** 1737 is free to call or text from any landline or mobile phone, 24 hours a day 7 days a week. This is a Ministry of Health mental health initiative, a free service for New Zealanders feeling down, anxious, a bit overwhelmed or just needing to chat to someone.

Finally, a quotation contributed by Barbara.

**"May your troubles be less, may your blessings be more, and may nothing but happiness come through your door".** Anon