



NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



TINDALL'S BEACH IN LOCKDOWN

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- **President**, Judy Keall
- **Vice President**, Ireni Esler;
- **Secretary**, Chris Curtis;
- **Membership secretary**, Kaye Bennetts
- **Treasurer**, John Tucker
- **Speakers' secretary**, Trish Litherland ;
- **Newsletter Editor**, Maureen Jansen
- **Webmaster**, Gerard Straka
- **Technical Assistant**, Hugh Griffiths

Shout out to Maureen Jansen

Maureen, on behalf of all of us at U3A this message comes from the heart. There's nothing like putting the U3A newsletter together in your absence to bring home how much we value your design and writing skills! In the meantime, Chris has done a great job keeping your place warm. This comes with all our love and best wishes for a strong recovery from your surgery. Arohanui, kia kaha. Judy K

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all my fellow U3A warriors who have been firmly upholding the bulwarks against Covid. Yes, this long lockdown is a bit like a wartime situation – severe restrictions on daily life, long separations from family and friends, and in the worst case, loss of loved ones in the battle.

Ex Londoners amongst us (90s+) remember harsher restrictions during WW2 – curfews, food rations, many years of lost schooling, to name a few. Those of us in NZ suffered many years of separation from family members who served overseas. When my father returned after serving an extra year of service with the occupation forces in Japan, I did not recognise him and refused to have anything to do with him. He told me later that when he spoke to me, I used to turn to my mother and say, “What’s that man saying?” Many returned soldiers and army corps personnel had to belatedly forge new careers and catch up on loss of education/skills training after they returned home from WW2. And, tragically, huge numbers lost their lives in that war.

Others of us remember loss of a whole year’s schooling during the polio epidemic of the late 1940s. But we did catch up, didn’t we? So, here we are today, as members of U3A, despite any loss of educational opportunities in past times during war or epidemic, now brimming with learning which we have since managed to absorb both from traditional training and from the university of life! Therefore, I continue to be positive about our ability to recover from these tough times. We may not be able to have our General Meeting this November, but as soon as we get the green light, we will be in touch with you about setting up a final meeting for the year. Perhaps an End of Year picnic on the second Monday of December!

Surely the key to our long-term recovery from the war against Covid is vaccination, just as it was with polio epidemic in the past. If you are still not vaccinated, please talk with someone you trust, like your G.P., so that you get accurate medical information.

Finally, a big thank you to all our Convenors for staying in touch with the members of your groups with phone calls, emails, videos and zoom meetings. Good to hear of the Book Club and Book Review groups sharing reviews and thank you to Trish and the film group for recommending some films. The spirit of our Hibiscus Coast U3A is alive and well with learning and friendship continuing in all sorts of wonderful ways.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon. Kia kaha, stay strong.

Judy Keall

CONVENORS

- **Ancient History**; Ayad Hussona ; .
- **Archaeology** ; Kay McLean
- **Film Discussion; Art Appreciation; Cinematique**; ; Trish Litherland
- **Book Club**; Sheila Hussana. .
- **Book Review and Writers**; Cheril Clarke
- **Cards and Games**; Diana Pipke
- **Discussion**; Bob and Jenny Kelley
- **History**; Jeannetta Dearsley;
- **Mah-Jong**; Geoff or Sheila Taylor;
- **Regional NZ**; Barbara Tucker
- **Short Film Making**; Ian and Nancy Miller
- **The World Today**; Diana Pipke and Maureen Jansen
- **Travel**; Noel Newling;

NEWS FROM GROUPS

Archaeology

Kay and other members of the group have been sharing articles that they have found on the internet to keep things ticking over.

Cinematique

We enjoyed a light hearted, enjoyable and fun Film Discussion meeting on the last Friday of October something which we all felt we needed during these trying times
For our members and Cinematique people in particular, I have listed just some of the recommendations

On Demand. <i>Pack of Silence</i>	Netflix; <i>Maid</i>
<i>Angela Black</i>	<i>A Suitable Boy</i>
<i>Judge John Deed</i>	<i>Dress Maker</i>
(Old but still intelligent watching)	
<i>Road Kill</i>	<i>Midway (True Story)</i>
<i>Spirit of 45</i> (Documentary)	<i>Jungle</i>
<i>Downton Abbey</i>	
(Every episode ever made)	

If any other members would like to join our Zoom meetings, please email.
Trish Litherland; pat.roy@xtra.co.nz

History

Thank you, John Hoby

Best wishes to John Hoby as he makes the shift from HBC to Whangarei U3A. He will be very much missed as a valued member of our World Today Discussion group and a committed convenor of the History group. Jeannetta Dearsley, who is taking over the History convenor role, says the History group has been most worthwhile under John's leadership and it is very important for it to continue. Thank you, John, for your artistic, historical, and political contributions over the years, and your strong personal values.



Regional NZ

Unfortunately as we meet in the library each month, we have been unable to get together as a group, due to the library being shut owing to Covid.

I have sent news and emails to my members on a monthly basis, but many have not been brave enough to tackle zoom. I never book the library for November as John and I put on a Christmas function, here, where we live, for group members.

Unfortunately, due to restrictions we will not be able to hold it this year. Our next Regional NZ/Pacific meeting will be held in the Pohutukawa Room of the Whangaparaoa Library on **Thursday 27th January, at 10am.** (providing Covid restrictions allow)

New Members welcome to attend.

Barbara Tucker

The World Today

World Today had 2 Zoom meetings with 14 attending November 5th. Topics on which we had presentations and discussion were

- An education crisis in NZ?
- Covid and the media
- Climate change
- The state of the Hauraki Gulf.

The Writers

Following our usual practice, we have all had 'homework' to keep the brain ticking over. With the introduction of the next step in lockdown, we are planning to meet outside Cheril's home at 17 Edgewater Grove on **Friday 12th November at 10am** (a week later than normal.)

Travel

We have been benefitting from the many and diverse home videos offered by Alex Wilson, from Antarctica to Venice; making us hope one day to visit distant shores once more. Noel and Lesley added a light note when they sent some pictures of a TV production company who decided the front of their home was an ideal location to record a commercial for a loan company.

Just a reminder from our treasurer; 2022 subs are reduced to \$15 per person for existing members