



January/February 2022

Next Meeting/AGM

Monday, March 21, 9.45 am, at the Salvation Army Hall, 32 Greenvale Lane, Red Beach, Hibiscus Coast.

President's Report

Happy New Year to all our U3A members (all 203 of you). Yes, despite Covid and various comings and goings, our membership has increased! This says a lot about the care that our convenors have taken in keeping in touch with the members of their groups - by phone, text, email and (surprise, surprise) zoom. In fact, more and more of our members are learning about keeping in touch "digitally" with family, friends, and people in their local club etc. So much so, that your Management Committee is seriously considering using zoom for a general meeting if gatherings in person get hit badly by an Ormicon epidemic.

But please don't get worried about your "digitals" meantime. Our preference is to have personal meetings wherever possible. Congratulations to the groups which have already started meeting in person. When it comes to our first general meeting, we are inviting you to come to an informal outside gathering in our beautiful Wenderholm Reserve next month. No pressure! Then our March General Meeting, our AGM, will be back in our usual Salvation Army venue, all being well.

In the meantime, I hope you are remembering to keep your distance and wear your mask when you are in busy public places. It is good to hear that most of our older age group have already had their third vaccination and have a copy of their Covid Certificate ready to hand. A reminder to those who still need to get the booster, we now have our own local Hibiscus Coast Walk-in Vaccination venue at 50 Centreway Road (The old Council building). Pharmacists can also help you, even to the extent of helping you download your Covid Certificate to your phone! Speaking of pharmacists, they are currently restocking the surgical masks which are called P2s. Hopefully they will be available in sets of 10 by the time you get this newsletter. It is worth considering this option if you feel vulnerable.

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon. Don't hesitate to ring if you have any queries in these strange "ormiconical" times. We're all in this together. We are doing very well, compared with other countries, but it is good to know there are supportive people out there.

Best wishes

Judy Keall

STOP PRESS. We are back to Traffic Light RED. No changes for us in the meantime. We'll keep you posted.

Committee

President	Judy Keall	0277825173
Secretary	Christine Curtis	0212318318
Treasurer	John Tucker	09 427 9127
Membership Secretary	Kaye Bennetts	09 424 5855
Newsletter Editor	Maureen Jansen	0220835199
Speakers Secretary	Trish Litherland	0211058793
Webmaster Editor	Gerard Straka	-

Groups and contacts

Ancient History: Ayad Hussona

Art Appreciation: Trish Litherland

Archaeology: Kay McLean

Book Club: Sheila Hussona

Book Review: Cheril Clarke

Cinematique: Trish Litherland

Cards and Games: Cherry Davies

Discussion: Bob and Jenny Kelly

Film Discussion: Trish Litherland

History: Jeanetta Dearsley

Mah-jong: Geoff or Sheila Taylor

Playreading: Barbara Tucker

Short Film Making: Ian and Nancy Miller

The World Today: Diana Pipke

The Writers: Cheril Clarke

Travel: Noel Newling

Important

Please see the schedule of meetings on our website:

<https://www.u3ahbc.co.nz/groups.html>

Meetings held in the Pohutukawa Room at Whangaparaoa Library might not be the same because of Covid restrictions and time changes still to be sorted.

We are looking for alternative venues for groups larger than 10. Please ring the convener if in doubt.

Regional New Zealand has been replaced by Playreading. See below for more information.

Quote about aging from Management Committee Meeting:

"80 is the new 60."

Covid Orange Light Rules for Whangaparaoa Library

- Library entry is currently only able with a valid vaccination pass or exemption letter
- Mask use is required outside the room, once inside you may remove masks at your discretion
- The room capacity is down to 50% being in “orange”, which means a limit of **10 people** at all times
- Please ensure adequate ventilation by opening the sliding doors
- We ask that the group organiser make it their responsibility to ensure these guidelines are kept in place
- Policies may change at any time due to updated government mandates

PS: We are not sure if our move to RED on 24 January will limit numbers further. We think not.

News from the groups

Archaeology

The Archaeology group has had to change the time of meetings as the library uses the old time as a quiet spell. We now meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10am in the Pohutukawa Room at Whangaparaoa Library.

Unfortunately, that time does not suit everyone who used to attend. We need some more members. We can have no more than 10 under the current Covid setting so get in quickly!

We cover an extensive range of articles and to give you some idea, here is a list of some of these:

- Govan Stones - Viking -age Treasures
- 10 Fun Facts about Chichen Itza (Mayan)
- Hieroglyphics
- Royal Palace of Tintagel
- Amazon Rock Art
- Lascaux cave paintings
- Tap o'Noth Hill Fort
- Siberian Ice Maiden.
- The Sark Hoard.

Anyone is welcome to produce an article and there is no shortage of material. If you would like to check us out, please come along or ring me.

Kay McLean 0273287363

Art Appreciation

St Chad's, 117 Centreway Rd Orewa instead of the library for the next meeting at the usual time. A one-off venue only at this stage. Wednesday 9 Feb 2.00-4.00pm.

Film Discussion

St Chad's, 117 Centreway Rd Orewa instead of the library for the next meeting at the usual time. A one-off venue only at this stage. Friday 28 Jan 10.30-noon.

Playreading

This is a new group fast filling up. There is a limit of 10 in the Pohutukawa Room so if you want to join, ring Barbara Tucker soon.

Provisionally the fourth Thursday each month at 10 am. 09 427 9127

Regional New Zealand

This group is now in abeyance as convenor Barbara Tucker is starting a new venture and we haven't had another offer to convene it. It has been a marvellous group over the years, and we thank Barbara for her enthusiastic leadership.

World Today

The first meeting of the year is on 4 February in the "Small Hall" at the Orewa Community Centre in Orewa Square. This is a one-off venue at this stage.

Meetings and Events

Sadly, we couldn't have a general meeting in January. We needed to clarify Covid restrictions and decided to wait until March to sort all the requirements out. They are not too onerous and unless Omicron blows apart our plans we can meet as usual in March.

Outdoor Social Gathering

This is planned for February 21 at Wenderholm at 11 am. Bring your own lunch, drinks, and chairs. (Historically we have never had over 100 at these gatherings so we will be within the Red Traffic Light setting rules.)

General Meeting and AGM in March

The AGM will be at the March meeting on March 21 at 9.45 am at the Salvation Army, Red Beach. We will send out notices, nomination forms and annual accounts well before then.

U3A Network Event in Takapuna

The U3A Network is advertising a series of lectures called Women in Science. They are held throughout the country but there is one close to us at Smales Farm on 17 February.

Auckland: Dr Bronwen Connor and her team

B:HIVE Auditorium, Smales Farm, 74 Taharoto Road, Takapuna, Thursday 17 February, 6.30pm

REGISTER NOW

"This event series is an opportunity to learn more about the brains behind leading research happening right now in New Zealand. "

Nominations for the 2022 Committee

It's that time again when we seek a new president and vice president. You might want to join the committee in another capacity or nominate someone you think suitable.

In March, when Judy Keall steps down after two years as president, she will remain on the committee. That means we will have three former presidents in our management team: Judy, Christine Curtis and Trish Litherland. Whoever takes over as president or vice president will be well supported.

Being part of U3A is social, stimulating and fun. You get even more out of it if you step up to a helping role as a convener or committee member. Ring Judy, Christine or Trish if you want to know more!



From the Irish Times. Finding that balance between being prepared and hoarding.

How we protect each other at Red

- Wear a face covering wherever you go.
- **With a My Vaccine Pass, you can visit cafes and bars, attend gatherings and events, and visit close contact businesses like hairdressers. Some limits like capacity and distancing requirements will apply.**
- Workplaces and schools are open — public health measures will be in place
- Keep scanning QR codes and recordkeeping wherever you go
- Keep physically distanced wherever possible
- If you have cold or flu symptoms, isolate immediately and call Healthline for advice about a test

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE IN MARCH



Your subscriptions will be reduced to \$15 per member this year because of the Covid conditions we are working under. We will send out payment instructions with the other information for the March AGM.

It is going to be an expensive time for U3A with free library bookings impossible for the larger groups but because we can't offer full services under Covid we have reduced the fee for membership.

Let's hope 2023 sees a return to normal.