



U3A Hibiscus Coast Newsletter for May 2022

Next Meeting

Monday, 16 May, **9.45 am**,
at the Salvation Army Hall, 32 Greenview Lane,
Red Beach, Hibiscus Coast.

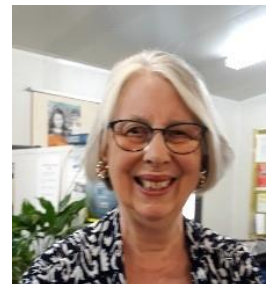


Our beautiful estuary at high tide

President's Report

It's all go for our May General Meeting. U3A enthusiasts meeting together again in one place with minimal restriction. Good news after all this time. Fortunately, we have had our interest groups to keep our love of learning alive. There have been some changes in time and venue because of the epidemic, but in the main we are back to our old haunts and enjoying meeting in person again. See the rest of the newsletter for further information about current groups.

We have two new groups in the offing. Thanks to convenor Barbara Tucker, the Play Reading Group has been successfully launched. Later in the newsletter you will see that Maureen Jansen is seeking a response from fellow poetry lovers to join a group. Groups come and go as time moves on and we are fortunate to have new convenors offering their services.



Time to say goodbye to Sheila and Geoff Taylor who have been involved with U3A for 20 years and held a *Mah Jong* group in their home for a good part of that time. Shirley was also a keen member of the *Famous and Infamous* group which ran in earlier years with Maureen Gresty as Convenor. We thank you both for your long involvement and wish you all the best for the future.

We will start our May meeting with morning tea as usual. If you arrive at 9.45, you will have time to catch up with old friends. Then about 10.20am. we will have a short AGM. Nothing to fear! The nominations are in for all the committee positions – except President! If no-one volunteers beforehand, we can always cope by sharing the chairing of meetings amongst our three past presidents who have volunteered to stay on the committee. Just let our secretary know if have a better idea. No pressure!

This month’s guest speaker comes with high recommendation. Not only does he come to us as Director of Auckland University’s new *Centre for Heart Research, Manaaki Manawa* with strong academic qualifications, but has been described as a wonderfully engaging and accessible speaker who was brought up on a farm in the UK.

Please take note of the Auckland Network special event for this year as you need to book early if you want to make sure of attending. Last year we had 22 members of our branch attend and it was most enjoyable to hear speakers from other U3As as well as the guest speaker and meet people from all over the Auckland Isthmus who are keen on the friendship and life learning opportunities that U3A provides. And they say there will be lunch provided in boxes this time round!

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday 16 May

Judy Keall

Committee

President	Judy Keall
Secretary	Christine Curtis
Treasurer	John Tucker
Membership Secretary	Kaye Bennetts
Newsletter Editor	Maureen Jansen
Speakers Secretary	Trish Litherland
Technical Assistant	Hugh Griffiths



Some groups had to move to St Chad’s in Centreway Road when the library room was not viable during the red traffic light setting. Look at how well spaced we were at Art Appreciation at St Chad’s during the April meeting.

OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS



Thank you to everyone who has paid this year's \$15 subscription. Unfortunately, we have over 70 overdue. Covid, the cancellation of the March AGM, and the end of bank cheques are probably the reasons for this situation, but the good news is that you can pay straight into our bank account or pay by cash at the upcoming May AGM. If you pay via bank account, please include your initial and surname as the reference. A/c 12-3046-0275951-000

If you haven't paid by the end of May, we will have to assume that you are no longer interested in being a member of U3A. That would be sad because we pride ourselves on being a large, inclusive group!

U3A has paid for alternative venues since the Whangaparaoa Library reduced Pohutukawa Room numbers to 10. We need that money in the bank for emergencies like Covid!

May Speaker

Professor Julian F.R. Paton PhD FRSNZ

Novel ideas from a new heart research centre for combatting cardiovascular disease

Cardiovascular disease is Aotearoa New Zealand's biggest killer and responsible for the shorter life span of Māori and Pacific People.



I will present how we have built a new centre for heart research at the University of Auckland called Manaaki Mānawa (preserving the life force of the heart).

For the first time we have united a fully inter-disciplinary workforce focused on improving treatment for cardiovascular disease and preventing stroke, heart attacks, sleep apnoea and renal failure.

I will describe some of the most exciting ongoing research projects including how we are using bionics to reverse heart failure, introduce a new implantable and re-chargeable pacemaker, how we may have discovered the first new drug for treating high blood pressure for nearly 20 years, and how 3D printing could be used to grow new heart valves.

NETWORK MEETING IN JULY

Auckland Network



LIFELONG LEARNING - SHARING KNOWLEDGE - FRIENDSHIP - LEADING EDGE INFORMATION

Celebrating U3A in Action - 2022

Auckland 30 July 2022

**Salvation Army Church, 18 Allright Place, Mt Wellington
Saturday 30 July 2022 - 9:30am (for 10:00am) to 2:30pm**

Speakers:

Sir Peter Gluckman, Scientist and Former Science Advisor to the NZ Prime Minister; Director of 'Centre for Informed Futures'

Dame Patsy Reddy (Former Governor General of NZ)

They will be interviewed by media personality Catherine Saunders.

Includes presentations by U3A Members and lunch - \$40

You can register online through the following link, or ring David Thompson, 0210319045

<https://www.u3aauckland.net/event>

Highlights from the Groups

The World Today

We have had two successful Zoom meetings so far this year with the main presentations being on the James Webb Space Telescope and Disinformation. May's main topic is Three Waters while there will always be time to discuss burning issues like the Ukraine War.

To our great disappointment, our time honoured 10 am slot in the Whangaparaoa Library is no longer available so we are now going to meet each first Friday from 2 pm to 4 pm in the Pohutukawa Room. Same place but a more inconvenient time!

Poetry Group?

This is a possible new group if enough people are interested. My idea is to use a book like Anna Jackson's *Actions and Travels, How Poetry Works*: <https://aucklanduniversitypress.co.nz/actions-travels-how-poetry-works/> as a source of great poems, old and new to be discussed at monthly meetings.

All other ideas gratefully accepted. This could be a four-week course or a regular group

Contact Maureen Jansen if interested. 0220835199 or mjansener@gmail.com

Short Film Group

The SFG being Covid cautious has been mostly paused for the last couple years. We did finish one project. However, during this quiet sabbatical, numbers of our members have drifted from 10 to 6. We want to re-start and we are open to maybe 6 new members joining us.

Things we do might suit someone:

Who can tell a good story and write it

And or, can act a bit, perform a bit or is even really good

And or, is technical and knows how filming gear works and how films are constructed or wants to learn

Please send your expressions of interest to

ian@iseevideo.co.nz

Or approach Nancy or Ian Miller at the U3A Annual General Meeting. We will arrange a seminar or maybe two, where we will show what the SFG does. Then interested folk can see if it's for them.

The group really needs to limit itself to 12.

Nancy and Ian Miller, Conveners

(You can see Short Film Group's previous films on our website: <https://www.u3ahbc.co.nz/notices.html>)

Group Conveners

Ancient History: Ayad Hussona

Archaeology: Kay McLean

Art Appreciation: Trish Litherland

Book Club: Sheila Hussona

Book Review: Cheril Clarke

Cards and Games: Cherry Davies

Cinematique: Trish Litherland

Discussion: Bob and Jenny Kelly

Film Discussion: Trish Litherland

History: Jeannetta Dearsley

Playreading: Barbara Tucker

Short Film Making: Ian and Nancy Miller

The World Today: Diana Pipke

The Writers: Cheril Clarke

Travel: Gavin Whyte

Group Descriptors

This list has existed for years with only minor changes but was turned upside down for larger groups when Covid arrived on our doorstep. We couldn't use the library under the red traffic light and when it was safe to return to the Pohutukawa Room some of our bookings had changed. Once things have settled down, we will publish the table of group times once again. Meanwhile, please ring or email the convener if in doubt. See above.

Ancient History

As its name suggests, this group studies ancient civilizations and meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10.00 am. Venue: The Peninsula Club (call convener for directions).

Archaeology

Discoveries in Archaeology around the world are happening thick and fast. There's so much to read about that I sometimes can't keep up. It all adds to the interest in the subject. Come along and find out for yourself.

Venue: Pohutukawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library, 10 am, 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Art Appreciation

We discuss and share all aspects of art. We have experienced members and learners. Anyone with an interest in art is very welcome to join us. Currently 21 members attending. 2nd Wednesday each month at St Chad's Centreway Rd / Florence Ave, 2pm - 4pm

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.

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.

Cards and Games

This is a cheerful, fun-loving group where we like to exercise our brains learning and teaching new games or playing old favourites. We meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm. Venue: The Pohutukawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library. Attending one or both Tuesdays is optional.

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. Any members who wish to be notified of the cinema mornings, contact 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 convener for directions).

Film Discussion

Very relaxed group sharing their views on movies and TV programmes. More members very welcome
Last Friday of each month St Chad's 10.30am - 12pm

History

We are a lively, friendly group with a common interest in world history. Individual members share whatever they have found interesting about a particular historical event or someone's life. This can be either by presenting a paper they have written or by reading an article they have found.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, from 10 am to mid-day in the Whangaparaoa Library's Pohutukawa Room. New members are always welcome.

Play Reading

We are fortunate to have many interesting plays which we will be reading this year. The object of the exercise is to expose members to an appreciation and enjoyment of the playwrights' works. We have already completed "Charley's Aunt" by Brandon Thomas, and a melodrama by Roger Hall. Currently we are reading "Arcadia" a play by Tom Stoppard. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 10am in the Pohutukawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library.

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.

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 aspects of a topic and then to share what they learn with other members. Meeting on the first Friday of the month at 2 pm. Venue: Whangaparaoa Library

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.

Travel

Meeting description: Two members discuss a trip they have made. Usually these are accompanied by a slide presentation. Come along and hear about amazing places you would like to visit or have visited in years past. Members do not need to present. Recent presentations have been about Italy, Mongolia, Japan, and Kenya with the next being about Antarctica and PNG. The travel group meets on the second Monday of each month. New members are very welcome. Venue: Pohutukawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library. Time: 2pm to 4pm at the latest including a cup of tea.

**General meetings are held bi-monthly, on the third Monday of
January, March, May, July, September, and November, at 9.45 am
at the Salvation Army Hall, Red Beach.**