

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED GROUP

Regional New Zealand

The inspiration for this group came on a beautiful flight home from the South Island. The view from the window brought such a number of sites - and sights, I couldn't identify and I wondered why we do so much study of faraway places and very little of our home country. Each region has so much more than geography and history, there are legends, famous people (writers, actors, sportsmen/women), horrific events (earthquakes, shipwrecks, massacres). There is also commerce, agriculture, inventions - the list goes on.

So our group decided to take it one region at a time and cover all these things plus many more. We started at Stewart Island and have now reached the Far North, and have made the decision that, before returning to re-do things we missed in the South, we will include a number of the Pacific Islands states with whom New Zealand has close ties. Research has been easy and it is amazing how many personal memories our members can come up with. We have about 14 members and, as we meet at the Whangaparaoa library, more would be welcome.

Pat Varney



Pat, photographed at the Waitomo Caves, has been a member since the very first meeting of Hibiscus Coast U3A and at various times has filled roles of Secretary (which used to include membership) and President; while at the same time producing the Newsletter for 12 years - this in the days of snail-mail posting! In addition to Regional New Zealand, she has started and convened a couple of other groups, including her most proud achievement - the unique Humour Group.

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