



Hibiscus Coast U3A September/October 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Maybe spring has arrived after last week's cold snap? Certainly the veges are shooting away. During this winter I built a Tui feeder, and on the coldest day at least 23 birds were feeding - fighting and flying like jet fighters. 1 1/2 litres of sugary water disappears in less than 2 hours! I hope they don't get diabetes.

Recently the U3A Committee met and approved a recommendation from our treasurer John that subscriptions for the next financial year be reduced to \$20 for a single member and \$30 for couples.

On the subject of funds, group convenors are reminded, that there is money available for costs, printing, paper, ink etc. for example.

The DVD "Paradise Found" is available and groups may want to show the full version in one sitting, or use the different sections, over a number of studies. Thanks to Ron Ellender for burning a second copy.

South Kaipara is the latest U3A branch to be launched in the Auckland region.

A reminder for all groups preparing morning tea for our General Meetings. The church is opened at 9.30 am . Morning tea is served at 9.40 am. (the wall zip heater provides a permanent supply of boiling water). The meeting to begin at 10.10 am.; no cups of tea or coffee in the church, please!

I look forward to seeing you on the 16th when Dr Stephen Hoadley will speak about " America's tilt towards Asia and its implications for NZ". I look forward to seeing you on the 16th.

Greetings, Keith Hanning.

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER

This month we have invited Professor Stephen Hoadley to speak to us again, this time on the subject of the United States and their role in Asia. Prof. Hoadley was our guest speaker as recently as June this year when his presentation on Taiwan and the rise of the People's Republic of China was enthusiastically received.

Stephen Hoadley's work is Foreign Policy analysis within the broader field of International Relations – focussing on why governments pursue particular foreign policies and how domestic institutions can influence the shaping of these policies. He has a particular interest in East Asia and the Pacific rim and will speak this time on the renewed focus of US foreign policy in this area.

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED GROUP

The Travel Group

The Travel group has been established for a number of years and has seen a number of members come and go. Noel Newling has been convenor for the last four years and here is what he has to say about what the group is, and how it operates.

"I have been approached in the past by club members asking if we arrange travel groups. I have explained that we are enthusiastic travellers who like to talk about their travel experiences. Within our group we have members who have visited many exotic parts of the world, places like Peru, Russia, China, Morocco, The Cinque Terra, The Galapagos, Africa, Namibia, Qatar, and many more including such favourites as USA and Europe. For those who haven't been to these places, it is exciting to hear about them first hand. Our usual format is for one member to give a talk about their adventures, where they have been, and to show their colourful photos on the screen. However we do vary this at some meetings when we all give a short talk about a specific subject, such as train travel, best and worst hotels, souvenirs we have collected. We have had photo competitions where we try to identify where in the world someone has been. Great fun and makes you realise that it is a great big world out there!

For the last four years we have actually organised an overseas trip together. We go to Waiheke! Lunch at the beach at Onetangi, a wander around, and coffee in Oneroa is an enjoyable day out for all.

Current membership is 17 but can vary as members are often away travelling! Due to some resignations from U3A, we can take a few new members. We meet in the Rangitoto Room at the Whangaparoa Library on the second Monday of the month at 2 pm.

OTHER GROUP NEWS

Please note that this space is provided for convenors to publish news and views about their groups. Photos are always welcome

SCRIBBLES & SHORT FILM GROUP U3A ARCHIVES

At a recent convenor's meeting the subject of the Group's archives was raised, and it became apparent that the whereabouts of these records is something of a mystery. If you hold, or know who does or might hold, these records, please contact a member of the committee, or a convenor. For posterity's sake, it is important that we locate them.

BOOK PRESENTATION

Members may or may not be aware that in appreciation of the Whangaparaoa Library's continuing, generous use of their meeting rooms by Hibiscus Coast U3A, your management committee, led by Vice-President Sarah Henshaw, made a donation of the four excellent reference books listed below.

Each book has a note inside the cover recording the donation from Hibiscus Coast U3A and will be available to the public shortly.

240 PAINTINGS OF NEW ZEALAND – a history and the stories of various New Zealand painters

THE POWER OF US by CAMERON BENNETT - black & white photos and a written background of prominent New Zealanders

COMPLETE NEW ZEALAND NATIVE TREES - winner, 2012 Book of the Year Awards

EVEREST, 60 YEARS CELEBRATION : 1953-2013 - black & white photos not previously published

Please make sure you look for these copies in the Whangaparaoa Library. They are well worth reading.

Our President, Keith Hanning, presenting the books to Head Librarian Julie Hesketh of the Whangaparaoa Library on Friday 16 August. Also present were committee members Sheila Hussona, Patricia Litherland Judy Lilley and V.P. Sarah Henshaw.

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