

This month's featured groups.

The memoirs group (Writing your memoirs)

All around the world, age after age since we don't know when, elders have told their stories to younger people and, through this telling of stories, the gathered shapes and shadows of human experience have been handed down and gradually added to, little by little, generation after generation. Only very recently, in busy towns and cities where generations usually live apart, have older people been so widely denied opportunities to hand on their stories. The extended family no longer sits around the fire.

But a lovingly prepared and well-presented collection of personal writing will inevitably have a value of its own and is probably the best way to hand on stories that might otherwise never be told. Sooner or later, a collection of stories like that will be read. And, as the years pass by, its value is certain to grow.

The hope, then, is to produce a set of stories that will reach down through the generations and help at least some of our children's children to know a bit more about who they are, where they have come from and what's gone on before."

There are around 12 of us who meet and we don't actually wish to have too many more because of time restraints reading our stories, but I do like to encourage people to record at least some of their stories.



Out and About group





Out & About meets on the second Tuesday of the month when part of the fun is driving ourselves and finding our way to new places of interest. In April 25 members of the group enjoyed a visit to Gibbs Farm on one of their rare open days. We drove there under our own steam, car-pooling as much as possible. Gibbs Farm is a unique place with rolling landscapes overlooking the magnificent Kaipara Harbour. The amazing views are enhanced by Alan Gibbs collection of outstanding large-scale works of art, most of which have been specially commissioned to enrich the contours of the land. There are about 20 works by New Zealand and international artists. There were also fascinating groups of animals to see and get close to, and we all had a go at feeding the giraffes. We took a packed lunch and wandered around at our own pace. Future outings planned for this year include: taking the ferry from Gulf Harbour to the city and visiting the Maritime Museum, a visit to the Polish Museum at Howick, a visit to Glenbrook Steel Mill. With 46 members, the group is one of the largest in U3A but new members are always welcome.