

## **This month's featured groups..**

### **Famous & infamous plus Origins**

In my role as newsletter Editor, over the past 2 years, I've focused so much on presenting other groups as the feature group that I've never used the groups that I myself convene. When Bob and I joined the HBC U3A in 2004 'Famous & infamous' was the first group we joined. At the time Maureen Gresty was the convenor and she did an excellent job until family commitments took over. I

offered to relieve Maureen of the role and have done so ever since. The members have remained pretty static over the years, enjoying topics as diverse as Famous & infamous Rivers, Serial killers, Fetishes, department stores, Poets, musicians...just to name a few.

The 'Origins' group replaced 'Customs & cultures' and became a challenge for all in that the general rule of thumb was to go through the alphabet. We covered the letter A over a period of three or four months. Automobile, Auckland, Avocado, Androids, Anaesthetics are just a few topics that the group presented. We finished 2015 having reached the dizzy height of the letter i with topics such as insulin, isometrics, illuminations, the Inca's....as an example.

The 2 groups have maintained healthy numbers and with the exception of 2 have the same members in both groups. We've become a good friendly bunch over the years. Our end of year lunch was a combination of both groups when we discussed the coming year. Moving on into 2016 we're making a change in that 'Famous & infamous' and 'Origins' will combine, still meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday morning of the month, and still in our own homes. We'll structure the meeting to perhaps cover one topic one month and the other the following month. Nothing is set in concrete so we can swap and change as much as we wish. Our numbers are very healthy.

This leaves us with the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday morning of the month free (when 'origins' would usually meet) so we're going to try using that as a new topic covering 'World mythology'. I've booked the room at the Pohutakawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library for this group. The first meeting will be Monday January 25<sup>th</sup>. We're looking forward to a new challenge. Our numbers are healthy but we can take extra if anyone is interested.