

HIBISCUS COAST U3A



HIBISCUS COAST U3A NEWSLETTER

January/February 2017

www.u3ahbc.co.nz

President	Christine Curtis	4284866
Vice President	Vacant Position	
Secretary	Dee Davies	4287525
Treasurer	John Tucker	4279127
Membership Sec	Elizabeth Ingram	4265074
Newsletter Editor	Rewa Selmecei	4279194
Webmaster Editor	Gerard Straka	-
Committee Member	Judy Lilley	424 3080

Next meeting: Monday, 16 January 2017

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, 32 Waiora Road, Stanmore Bay.
Doors open 9.40 am for a 10 am start; meeting ends at approx 11.45 am

Tea duties: Out and About and Regional New Zealand Groups
Convenors, please contact each other to arrange kitchen duties

From the President:

2016 has been an interesting year, if not always a pleasant one on the personal front as I have developed a health issue.

We have met on alternate months by way of the general meetings and listened to speakers on subjects as varied as World War 1 soldiers, children's homes in South America, the origin of British surnames and last meeting's speaker Kathleen Hansen's graphic description of life in the early settlements in the Bay of Islands. It is always a challenge to find speakers who will whet the appetite of members. It is a true saying that '*you can't please all of the people all of the time*' and I do occasionally have feedback ... but would welcome much more, please.

I have mentioned before our committee's concern at the low numbers of attendees at the general meetings, but have had no comments from you on that either. It is rather embarrassing when a speaker has travelled some distance and all we have is about 50 to 70 people in the audience.

Just before Christmas your committee had a special meeting to decide on the future of the Hibiscus Coast U3A. We have decided that some changes may be necessary as we still do not have a vice president and if I am unable to put my name forward for another year for the President's role, we may have to reduce the frequency of general meetings. There will be a special announcement soon after the circulation of this newsletter regarding our way forward. Make sure you are at the meeting on 16 January to voice your viewpoint.

On a separate note, our groups are running well. Some have grown, some reduced and the convenors are to be congratulated on the work (often quite extensive) they do ... notably for the 'Out and About' group. They have been faithfully managing their groups for years and now want to retire.

Let's make 2017 better than ever. We have the old problem of no volunteers. However, we are really a strong and friendly group, so let's put our heads together

Chris Curtis, President



FROM YOUR COMMITTEE AND CONVENORS

SUMMER PICNIC AT WENDERHOLM

IT IS PLANNED TO HOLD OUR ANNUAL PICNIC AT WENDERHOLM ON THE MORNING OF MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY

Trish Litherland has kindly agreed to organise a picnic in the Wenderholm Park, as she has done for the past two years. For those who attended the last two, it is something to look forward to and for those who missed this enjoyable social occasion, do come along.

FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE CLOSER TO THE DATE

2017 Subscriptions

These are due and payable in January - for the financial year: January to December 2017

Single \$25 : Couples \$40

3 Payment options are available - as shown below

1. To the treasurer at the January General Meeting (cash or cheques only)
2. By mail to the Treasurer. John Tucker, HBC U3A, PO Box 314, Orewa 0946.
3. Online to the HBC U3A account at ... ASB 12-3046-0275951-00
(Include your initials and full surname **as the reference**)

TERRY GOODING



Sadly, Terry passed away on 26 December 2016. Terry will be greatly missed, especially by members of the **Small Film Group** where he had been leading man in several productions. Terry was also part of the **Play Reading Group** which operated from 2000 to 2008. One of this group's plays at an HBC U3A Christmas party and at an Annual General Meeting will be remembered by many. Terry also participated in theatre visits and acted as a driver as well. Terry was generous with both his talent and his time. We offer our condolences to his family.

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER



TOM FAYE

Tom has built a career as a top sales person with some of New Zealand's leading household brands. His tenacity and negotiation skills, honed over half a decade of direct sales, have seen Tom establish a life-long career as a Top Property Broker.

His East African roots make Tom no stranger to adversity and he clearly understands that "where there is a will, there is a way". His accomplishments to date are a clear indicator of what he is capable of achieving for his clients when it comes to providing five star service, seven days a week. He is bilingual and fluent in both French and English which gives him access to the otherwise untapped francophone buyer pool.

Recently returned from a property showcase in Shanghai, China; Tom is eager to share his findings on the Chinese property market, their buyers and what this means for us here in New Zealand.

Tom will present:

Auckland Property Market Education Seminars

These cover in brief:

- Where the property market is at and how it has arrived at this point and what this means for your members and their extended families.
- What we can expect to happen in the property market over the coming years.
- Are we in a bubble and what is that?
- Is buying off the plans as lucrative as people have made it out to sound?
- Is foreign ownership really as big an issue as we had thought it was?

These are the key topics, with an opportunity for Q & A at the end of the talk.

This Month's Club Speaker

BARRY DALE

Barry will give a short history of Flock House - a farm training school with which he has a long connection, both as a trainee and later as an instructor

News from the groups ...

**Contact details for all groups and meeting times
are on the attached Groups' Schedule page**

Art Appreciation

We finished our year by enjoying an outing to the North Shore Sculpture Trail at Narrowneck Beach, in aid of Women's Refuge. There we saw various pieces of art, taking many forms. The winner of the event was a sculpture made of hundreds of white plastic windmills blowing which made a loud sound as the wind was strong. It depicted the number of people who had required help through the Refuge during the past year, so enforced an event very worth supporting.

We have two new members joining in 2017. Our first meeting will be on Thursday 19 January, the third Thursday of the month, at 1.30 pm, place to be arranged and we will plan our year. The positive results we have attained during 2016 have been achieved through the group members sharing their expertise in their chosen fields. If you would like to join us, ring:

Convenor: Trish Litherland (426 4400)

Book Review

This group began during 2016 and has continued with a small group of keen readers.

There are no set books to read. Instead we each talk about whatever books have impressed or interested us in the previous month and share titles and authors with the group. In this way we end up with an excellent list of recommendations for our next library visit or for our Kindle purchases. Where possible, we lend out books to other members.

This is a friendly, stimulating group and we would welcome new members in 2017. We meet on the third Friday of each month and our first meeting for 2017 will be on Friday 17 February at Cheril's home at 17 Edgewater Grove, Orewa.

Convenor: Cheril Clarke (426 9567)

Books, East and West

Books, East and West combined for our Christmas party which was held at our place and everyone thought it went off so much better than having it in a noisy cafe. Some books read and enjoyed this year are:

- *Girl on the Train* by Pamela Hawkins, a good popular thriller
- *Chappy* by our own Patricia Grace, an interesting and unusual novel
- *Stalin's Daughter* by Rosemary Sullivan. What an interesting and amazing life she had and it was even more amazing after she defected to the USA.

Both groups would welcome new members in 2017 because, for various reasons, our numbers have dwindled a little. If you are interested in joining one of our happy groups, please call:

Convenor: Lesley Newling (4210961)

Cards, Games and Puzzles

In early December, we had a most enjoyable luncheon at my home. It was a lovely gathering. In 2017 our meetings will be held once a month, on the first Tuesday of the month as some members had other commitments on the second Tuesday. Our first meeting for the year will be on Tuesday 7 February.

Convenor: Isobel Naish (428 2552)

Cinematique

We finished our year with a lunch, then a viewing of "A United Kingdom", which was thoroughly enjoyed by twenty three members, at Hoyts Whangaparaoa.

Next year this group will run on an ad hoc basis, ie: when there is a movie showing at Hoyts Whangaparaoa that we deem worth viewing, an email will be sent to members who have listed their names.

Any members wanting to add their names to the list, ring:

Convenor: Trish Litherland (426 4400)

Discussion

Our last meeting for the year was on Tuesday, 13 December. It was combined with our Christmas lunch which was over supplied, as would be expected from this group. In place of a topic, members were asked to bring a poem. Several poems were read and enjoyed - one even sung. The comradeship in our group is such a precious thing and was especially evident at the end-of-year meeting. I am very grateful that our group is made up of such beautiful people.

We start again on the second Tuesday in February.

Convenor: Barry Dale (426 0919)

Film Discussion

We meet on the last Friday of each month at the Peninsula Retirement Village at 10.00am to discuss any movies or TV series that we have seen. We have room for more members who enjoy the media.

Convenor: Trish Litherland (426 4400)

Famous and Infamous

The combined groups Origins / Famous & Infamous enjoyed an end of year bring-a-plate lunch. This is always a good time to summarize our year as to what worked well for the group and what we would like to incorporate in our new year's meetings. Our group are very pro active and we look forward to a year of diverse topics

We are extending our meetings by 15 minutes, plan on holding a mid-year lunch and being mindful of our presentation time as far as sharing the time equally between the members. For those of you who watch the Graham Norton TV show, you will enjoy the idea one of our members had of having a 'red chair' as a means of cutting short any long, drawn out presentations.

We are very healthy in numbers and still meet in our homes ... this is the best of groups

Convenor: Judy Lilley (424 3080)

Mahjong

We had an excellent meal at the Suwaan Thai Restaurant in Orewa and then had an afternoon of Mahjong to round off 2016. We have had a very enjoyable year with good attendance. Since April last year we have been meeting at the Convenor's home and members have been taking it in turn to bring afternoon tea. This has worked well as now we do not have to transport tables and, in some cases, chairs around. We start back on 17 January and look forward to getting that hand that we did not quite get last year.

Convenor: Sheila or Geoff Taylor (427 0426)

Memoirs

We had a superb Christmas lunch at Ewa Kordonski's house where she presented us with delicious food and spoiled us with fresh produce from her garden. Far better than any restaurant we have previously visited.

Our group lost a few members last year and we are at peak numbers. We read our stories each month and have extended our hours to accommodate everyone. We really cannot take any more members at this stage. We enjoy the discussion and memories each story generates and as the stories can be very personal, we have formed close friendships.

All the best for the New Year and may 2017 bring you more than you wish.

Convenor: Beverley Gomez (424 0573)

Music Appreciation

Eight of us enjoyed a very social afternoon in late November. We all brought Christmas music of our choice for the first half and then finished off with a real treat of live music from Audrey Hendon and Eva Kordonska. Audrey played the guitar and she and Eva sang us a selection of Christmas music with all of us joining in for parts of the songs. We then enjoyed a festive afternoon tea which was followed by a DVD supplied by Tom Henwood. It consisted of a Christmas concert filmed in the magnificent Elay Cathedral with Jesse Norman singing, accompanied by the boys' choir. All in all a fitting end to our musical year.

In February, Tom Henman will be the presenter and the work will be a DVD of the Opera Gala held in Baden-Baden in July 2007. The artists appearing are:- Soprano Anna Netrebo, Mezzo Elina Garanca, Tenor Ramon Vargas and Baritone Ludovic Tezierr, with the Baden-Baden and Freiburg Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Marco Armiliato

Convenor: Jack Wolfe (426 9871)

Regional New Zealand

We had a successful end-of-year luncheon at our home. Our get-together commenced with an "exam" to see what members recalled of facts about regions we had covered during the year. Everybody did fairly well, the one with the highest correct percentage was awarded the annual prize!!

Our first meeting for 2017 will be held on Thursday 26 January at 10 a.m. in the Pohutukawa Room of the Whangaparaoa Library. We will be continuing to discuss the Hawkes Bay and Taranaki Regions.

Convenor: Barbara Tucker (427 9127)

Writers

Time to dust off those keyboards – remember back to our November meeting when we did a five minute writing exercised based on these words: *refugee, forest, baby*.

By general consensus we agreed to continue these short pieces of writing into something more substantial, a novel perhaps? If you were not at the November meeting, see what you can make of the three evocative words. Please, all bring your efforts to our first meeting of 2017 which will be on Friday 3 February at Cheril's home, 17 Edgewater Grove, Orewa.

Convenor: Cheril Clarke (426 9567)

World Today

We have had a very interesting 2016, discussing various topics. At the beginning of last year we discussed the debt crisis in Europe (mostly Greece but also Italy and Spain). We talked about income inequality, the disappearance of jobs for the middle classes and listened to a speech by Noam Chomsky.

And, of course, the American election politics featured (at the time not even dreaming that Trump would be the next president). We then had sessions on Neo-Liberalism and the power of the media. Now we are embarking on "New Zealand Culture" and look forward to another interesting year ahead.

Convenor: Ria Kamerbeek (424 0486)

SCHEDULE OF THE CURRENT GROUPS

as at January 2017

Ancient History

As its name suggest, this group studies ancient civilizations.

Meeting on the fourth Tuesday at 10.00 am

Venue: The Peninsula Club (call convenor for directions).

Convenor: Ayad Hussona (981 0000)

Art Appreciation

We meet to discuss various artists, genres and history in selected countries. It is not required that you are an artist, just have an appreciation of excellence and a love of learning and sharing.

Meeting on the third Thursday at 1.45 pm (for a 2 pm start) to 4 pm.

Venue: The Peninsula Club

Convenor: Trish Litherland (426 4400)

Books, East and West

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 at 10.00 am

Venue: In each other's homes.

Convenor: Lesley Newling (426 0961)

Book Review

As the title suggests - a group discussion on books which has been read by the members.

Meeting on the third Friday at 10.00 am.

Venue: In each other's homes.

Convenor: Cheril Clarke (426 9567)

Cards, Games and Puzzles: (formerly "Card Playing for Fun")

This is a cheerful, fun loving group.

Meeting on the first Tuesday at 12.45 pm for a prompt 1 pm start.

Venue: The Pohutukawa Room – Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Isobel Naish (428 2552)

Cinematique

This group visits a cinema together. We try to choose a movie with a good story which will lead to interesting discussion. The group runs on an ad hoc basis, ie: when there is a movie showing at Hoyts Whangaparaoa that we deem worth viewing, an email will be sent to members who have listed their names.

Convenor: Trish Litherland (426 4400)

Film Discussion

We discuss any films we have viewed together, plus any others deemed suitable.

Meeting on the last Friday of the month at 10.00 am.

Venue: The Kowhai Room – The Peninsula Club

Convenor: Trish Litherland (426 4400)

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 Tuesdays at 10.00 am.

Venue: Hibiscus Coast Retirement village (call convenor for directions).

Convenor: Barry Dale (426 0919)

Famous and Infamous Origins

This combined group covers a wide range of topics, whether it is famous or infamous people, places, items, cars, sport – you name it, we can make a topical meeting from it.

Meeting on the third Thursday at 10.00 am.

Venue: In each other's homes.

Convenor: Judy Lilley (626 3080)

History

This group is for anyone who has a keen interest in history. It covers all aspects and members read interesting papers on a wide variety of topics.

Meeting on the first and third Tuesday at 10.00 am.

Venue: The Peninsula Club (call Convenor for directions)

Convenor: Nonie Coates (424 0730)

Humour

We share jokes, humorous poems and stories, as well as testing our brains on various set written tasks. If laughter is the best medicine then, surely, this is the healthiest group around.

Meeting on the second Wednesday at 10.00 am.

Venue: In each other's homes.

Convenor: Jacqui Driscoll (427 0426)

Mah-jong

Our group is a friendly group who strive to achieve as many different hands of the seventy seven available to us. It can be a frustrating game but offers plenty of challenges in order to work out which of the many hands you could try at each stage of the game. It certainly keeps the brain alive!

Convenor: Geoff or Sheila Taylor (427 4662)

Music

For members who have a love of music from classical, opera, jazz and easy listening. The first hour is spent listening, tea break follows and then lively discussion.

Meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month

Venue: The Hibiscus Room – The Peninsula Club

Convenor: Jack Wolfe (426 9871)

Out and About

This group organises 'outings' to places of interest, new and old, in and around Auckland.

Meeting on the second Tuesday.

Venue: Times and locations vary.

Convenor: Sheila Hussona (981 0000)

Regional New Zealand

This group takes specific regions of New Zealand and studies each from an historical, economic and demographic perspective. Members with a special relationship to a region often provide insightful or humorous aspects about the area under study – a learning experience about our own country.

Meeting on the fourth Thursday at 10.00 am.

Convenor: Barbara Tucker (427 9127)

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.

Convenors: Ian and Nancy Miller (424 0388)

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 particular aspects of a topic and to then share what they learn with other members.

Meeting on the first Friday at 9.45 am.

Contact: Neil Burgham

Venue: Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Ria Kamerbeek (424 0486)

The Writers (formerly Scribbles)

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 at 10.00 am

Venue: In members' homes

Convenor: Cheri Clarke (426 9567)

Travel

The travel group meets every month to discuss aspects of travel. At most meetings a member gives a talk, usually accompanied by a slide presentation, on a trip they have been on. The range of amazing places people have visited makes this a very interesting group and promotes lots of questions from other members.

Meeting on the second Monday at 2.00 pm

Venue: Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Noel Newling (421 0961)

Writing your Memoirs

This group encourages members to write down the stories from their lives. The changes we have seen, the experiences we have had, told in our own voices. Writing our memoirs is also helpful in understanding our lives - looking back, reminiscing. We can share and reflect and provide a pathway for our descendants to understand us and their roots.

Meeting on the second Friday at 2 - 4 pm

Venue: Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Bev Gomez (424 0573)

Group Meeting Timetable

as at January 2017

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st week am		History 10am			The Writers 10am World today 10am
Pm		Mahjong 2pm Cards, Games & Puzzles, 1 pm			
2nd week am	Short Film Making 11am (time varies)	Discussion 10am Out & About (times vary)	Humour 10am	Books East/West 10am	
pm	Travel 2pm				Writing Your Memoirs 2 – 4 pm
3rd week am	**General** Meeting 9.40am	History 10am		Famous & Infamous / Origins 10am	Book Review 10am
pm		Mahjong 2pm		Art Appreciation. 1.45 pm	
4th week am	Cinematique (Venue varies)	Discussion 10am Ancient History 10am		Regional New Zealand 10am	Film Discussion 10am (last Friday whether it be the 4 th or the 5 th Friday)
pm			Recorded Classical Music 2 pm		

General meetings are held bi-monthly, on the third Monday of January, March, May, July, September and November, at 9.40 am at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, 32 Waiora Road, Stanmore Bay

Doors open 9.40 am for a 10 am start; meeting ends at approx 11.45 am