

HIBISCUS COAST U3A



HIBISCUS COAST U3A NEWSLETTER

March/April 2018

www.u3ahbc.co.nz

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Christine Curtis | 428 4866 |
| Vice President | Kay McLean | 027 3287363 |
| Secretary (interim) | Dee Davies | 428 7525 |
| Treasurer | John Tucker | 427 9127 |
| Membership Secretary | Sheila Hussona (Acting) | 981 0000 |
| Newsletter Editor | Rewa Selmecei | 427 9194 |
| Speakers' Secretary | Maureen Jansen | 426 1154 |
| Webmaster Editor | Gerard Straka | - |
| Committee Member | Judy Lilley | 424 3080 |

Annual General Meeting and Guest Speaker - Monday, 19 March 2018

Salvation Army Hall, Silverdale

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

Morning Tea Roster: *Film Discussion and History Groups*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with some regret that I will step down as President at the Annual General Meeting on 19 March. I have really enjoyed getting to know so many interesting people, particularly Management Committee members and the Convenors of our various groups. I thank them all for their support over the past two years.

Time moves on and other people are needed to take their places. Unfortunately, few new hands are put up to help run our HCU3A. **We need fresh blood!** This is a wonderful way for new members to make friends. So, please, I would ask everyone to think about how you can help this great 'club' to survive. **If we do not have a Vice President, next year could see the end of HCU3A.**

At the AGM we need to elect all committee members as a matter of course. Some members are standing again and some are not. We do have some candidates ... Vice President, Kay McLean is standing for President. We do need a **Membership Secretary** and as already stated, a **Vice President**. Nominations may be made at the annual general meeting.

The position of Membership Secretary, sadly, has become vacant due to the illness of Elizabeth Ingram. We thank Elizabeth for her excellent job over the years and wish her a speedy recovery. Member Sheila Hussona has stepped in to carry out the responsibilities of Membership Secretary in the meantime. Thank you, Sheila, this is much appreciated.

Our last meeting was held at the new venue of the Salvation Army Events Centre and will continue there for the foreseeable future. I think all those who attended appreciated the easy parking and the bright, attractive room. If you did not attend last meeting, please do come along on 19 March. We will have an entertaining speaker and the AGM is brief!

It just remains for me to wish everyone continued pleasure in their various U3A activities. Although I shall no longer be your President, I shall still be around ... just not sure doing what yet.

Chris Curtis, President

U.3.A. HIBISCUS COAST.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

| | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| Balance in A.S.B. bank as at January 1st 2017 | | 2,514.08 |
| <u>Add Income</u> | | |
| Subscriptions Received | 4032.00 | |
| Functions - Christmas lunch | 1840.00 | |
| Council Grant - Film Group | <u>1960.00</u> | |
| | | <u>7,832.00</u> |
| | | 10,346.08 |
| <u>Less Expenditure</u> | | |
| Badges and Labels | 31.98 | |
| Bank Charges | 15.00 | |
| Convenor meeting costs | 359.50 | |
| Functions - Christmas lunch | 2700.00 | |
| Group Expenses | 174.79 | |
| Hall Hire | 575.00 | |
| Picnic costs | 228.50 | |
| Printing, Stationery & Stamps | 1464.06 | |
| Presentations & Donations | 16.00 | |
| Refreshments | 376.95 | |
| Repairs Computer | 30.00 | |
| Speakers remuneration | 500.00 | |
| Webb Design U3A Hibiscus Coast | 149.50 | |
| Welfare | <u>13.50</u> | |
| <u>Total Expenses</u> | | <u>6,634.78</u> |
| Cash Book Balance in A.S.B. as at Dec. 31st 2017 | | <u>3,711.30</u> |
| Add Unpresented Cheques | | <u>2002.05</u> |
| Balances as per Bank Statement Dec. 31st 2017 | | <u>5713.35</u> |
| Balances as per Cash Book - ASB | - Number 1 Account | 1751.30 |
| | Number 2 Film Gr. | <u>1960.00</u> |
| | | <u>3711.30</u> |

John Tucker - Treasurer

Audit Report

I have checked the treasurers records, and certify that the above Receipts & Payments account provides a true and correct record of the financial position of the group as at December 31st 2017

Jean Holt - Auditor

23 January 2018

PROPOSED COUNCIL CHARGES FOR USE OF LIBRARY SPACES

Many thanks to member Ayad Hussona who has taken up with Auckland Council the matter of increased charges for use of the Pohutukawa Room at Whangaparaoa Library – a venue used by many of our groups. We appreciate your efforts, Ayad.
(President Chris)

(Below - Copies of correspondence between HBC U3A member Ayad Hussona and Auckland Council and Ayad and Julia Parfitt)

Dear Mr Goff

CHARGES FOR USE OF LIBRARY FACILITIES

I am writing to you on behalf of the Hibiscus Coast U3A (University of the Third Age) www.u3ahbc.co.nz with regard to the proposed hourly Council charges for use of its facilities, namely the use of the meeting room at our local library in Whangaparaoa.

For your information, the U3A is a world-wide movement started by academics in France in the 1970s as a source of continued learning for retired people age 55 and over, aiming to give members the opportunities to keep their minds active, and to expand their knowledge. There are dozens of U3A branches throughout New Zealand. The Hibiscus Coast U3A has over 200 members with over 20 groups meeting on a monthly basis covering wide-ranging areas of subjects, (current affairs, history, music appreciation, travel, etc) The smaller groups meet in members' homes. While the larger groups, for many years, have been using the excellent facilities of the Pohutukawa Room at the library free of charge. In token of our appreciation of this service, HBC U3A has from time to time presented the library with valuable reference books of their choice.

Therefore it came as a shock to learn that from July 2018 the use of the library meeting room will come at a cost of \$12 per hour. This means that each group will have to pay \$24 for their usual two-hour meetings. This would have an adverse effect on the viability of some of the groups and will impact on our activities. Obviously Hibiscus Coast U3A is unable to subsidise its groups for the use of the room for the meetings, leaving the members to pay for this out of their own pockets for this charge. We feel that it is quite unfair for the retired section of the rate-payers to be treated in this manner as we pay proportionally more in rates than the rest of the population, and yet receive less services than the general public due to the nature of their age.

Auckland Council providing this service to its retired segment of the rate-payers is highly appreciated in contributing to the well-being and improved outlook at this stage of our lives, and we would ask you and the Council to re-consider this new charge.

Yours sincerely

Ayad Hussona

To: Mr Ayad Hussona

CC: The Mayor, Phil Goff

Dear Mr Hussona

Thank you for your letter to the Mayor regarding charges for the use of some library facilities.

As the Head of Community Libraries, North and West, the Mayor has asked me to respond to you on his behalf. I am aware of the important and excellent work that is done by U3A and its members and volunteers at Whangaparaoa and indeed throughout Auckland and the world.

By way of explanation, the rates for Auckland libraries room bookings fall under local board funding responsibilities and are approved on an annual basis for periods July to June, in this case by the Hibiscus and Bays Local Boards. Charges in general go some way towards acknowledging the ongoing cost to Council of providing facilities.

Prior to amalgamation hireage rates across these bookable rooms in different libraries were inconsistent, between similar rooms, between different Local Boards and between Council facilities in the same Local Board area.

The difference in room hireage rates were confusing for customers and in July 2017, Libraries aligned its rates structure with other similar Council rooms and this was approved and adopted by the various Local Boards who have delegated responsibility for libraries in their Local Board area. This rate structure also provided for a 50% discount on published rates for Community Groups. Additionally, for some existing users including your branch and a number of U3A groups throughout Auckland, a free 'grand-parented' of 11 months was put in place to provide for a period to adjust.

Community groups can request for their Local Board to provide further rebates on room hire rates using their Locally Delivered Initiatives (LDI) funds and this may be the solution for your U3A to enjoy free room hire.

You may also wish to raise your concerns directly with the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board particularly as we move into the annual planning round for July 2018 – June 2019 during which time they will be considering room charges alongside many other aspects relating to the provision of community facilities

I will contact the Council team that supports your Hibiscus and Bays Local Board as they will be best able to assist you in a request for funding.

Kind regards

Darryl Soljan, Head of Community Libraries North and West, Auckland Council

From: Sheila and Ayad Hussona
To: Julia Parfitt (Hibiscus & Bays Local Board)
Subject: proposed charge for use of library rooms

Good afternoon Julia

I have written to Phil Goff on behalf of Hibiscus Coast U3A www.u3ahbc.co.nz regarding the proposed charges for the use of the Pohutukawa Room at Whangaparaoa Library, and I have received a reply from the Council (please see attachments).

As you will see, my letter was passed to Darryl Soljan, Head of Community Libraries North and West. He advised that we contact Hibiscus and Bays Local Board for your consideration in this matter, and he also intends to raise the subject with you.

We hope that you will be able to help us resolve this issue. I cannot over-emphasise the importance of a positive outcome for some of our groups to continue to function. Your help has been much appreciated in the past dealing with other concerns in the community.

Yours sincerely

Ayad Hussona

From: Julia Parfitt (Hibiscus & Bays Local Board)
Subject: RE: proposed charge for use of library rooms

Dear Ayad
You can address this in a number of ways still.

Firstly by submission to Council's various plans (March April). I will ask Judy Waugh who organised our engagement to send you the link when submissions are called.

The Draft Whangaparaoa Centre Plan is about to go out for discussion. You could raise this as an issue through that process. You could for example mention that the availability of affordable or free community meeting space at the heart of the community is essential or whatever point you might like to say.

As Daryll said he's visiting us in the next fortnight and we will discuss the matter with him.

I will let you know more when we have spoken to him.

Kind regards
Julia Parfitt

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES

(1) Hibiscus Men's Shed Coffee Club

For the men amongst us! The Hibiscus Men's Shed Coffee Club has asked us to advise that their Shed is now up and running and they welcome new members. Meetings feature information about the workshop and its amazing new machinery, plus morning tea - all for \$5, at the RSA, Vipond Road, Stanmore Bay, Contact Gordon: 0274732000, Wayne: 09 4414526, Ray: 09 4244690.

(2) Lifelong Learning Summer School – Cambridge, UK.

I'm pleased to say that we have been able to make some additional places available on this year's lifelong learning summer school at Girton College, Cambridge. Going into its sixth year, this summer school enables participants to take academic courses for the love of learning; live and take meals in the College (including traditional Formal Halls and Afternoon Teas); have a pretty full and exciting social programme to get the most out of being in Cambridge; and go on visits to the National Gallery in London and to the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk, the Queen's much-loved country retreat. In sum it is a fantastic opportunity to spend one or two weeks experiencing the highlights of Cambridge college life in the company of other lifelong learners from around the world!

More information is available on our website at: <http://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/lifelonglearning> and I'd be most grateful if you could let your U3A members know about this wonderful opportunity.
From: Dr Nick Godfrey, Director of Summer Programmes, Girton College, Cambridge, CB30JG, UK

(3) The Seniors Panel Community Forum - "Focus on the Future" - is just two weeks away.

If your group would like to send a number of people, or if you have contacts that would be interested in attending, please RSVP to the email address on the invitation as soon as possible:

replyseniorsforum@gmail.com

This Forum is sure to be a very informative day, starting with introductions from Mayor Phil Goff on Auckland Council's initiatives in support of positive ageing: Auckland Plan and LTP priorities, along with Minister Hon Tracey Martin, who will talk about Government initiatives and priorities for seniors and Government thinking about age-friendly approaches.

The afternoon will provide you with thought-provoking discussions, plus you will hear from Diane Turner - Office for Seniors, who will talk to you about age-friendly communities in the future, John Tamihere and Sir Bob Harvey.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

We encourage you to come along to listen and share your thoughts and ideas with like-minded people. Your valuable workshop contributions on the day will help the Advisory Panel to confirm its advice to Council at a critical time when it must be ready to cater for a rapidly rising number of older people living in our City.

Please find below the invitation and an information sheet attached, to attend the Focus on the Future Forum.

Please email your RSVP to: [replyseniorsforum@gmail.c](mailto:replyseniorsforum@gmail.com)

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Ancient History

We started off 2018 with our first meeting in January when we researched and discussed the Chalcolithic period from 5,000 BC (the copper age). We did not concentrate on one particular region or country but we looked at various locations within the same timeframe. Remarkably we found that many processes and discoveries were made, in far flung locations, at a similar time. Last year we scheduled two meetings to discuss various Chinese dynasties from the Xia in 2100 BC to the Tang dynasty in 906 AD, we ended up spending five months on this very interesting and extensive topic. We finished the year looking into mythical creatures in the ancient world.

We mostly meet in the Peninsula Club, but other times, when we have a recording to watch, we meet in our homes.

Convenor: Ayad Hussona

Art Appreciation

We met at the Peninsula Club on the third Wednesday of February for a presentation – “Psychotic Art” – by member John Hoby. This lasted the whole two hours as there was so much interesting discussion from the group. We commenced with unknown art, completed by people with problems, through to Picasso and Rembrandt. John is very knowledgeable, coming from an Art lecturer position. It was a thoroughly inspiring and uplifting session.

We meet again on THURSDAY from now until we no longer can, as the Peninsula Club’s Hibiscus Room on the third floor is soon to undergo renovations. We need to find a new home with media facilities.

At our next meeting on Thursday, 21 March, we are looking forward to a presentation of “Art from the Renaissance Period” by Joy and Malcolm Garrett, two recent members, who are very well travelled. New members are welcome.

Convenor: Trish Litherland

Church History

We began this year with good numbers present and some excellent discussions. Following on from last year with the origins of the Bible, we discussed the first Christian martyrs and a little on how life under the Roman Empire affected the early Christians. We also discussed how life today has its faith martyrs, sometimes seen in different ways and attitudes. Future topics include how the entrance of other faiths into society affected the Christian Church, and the spread of Christianity into the Gentile world.

We welcome new members and meet at 2 pm on the first Friday of each month, in the Whangaparaoa Library.

Convenor: Ian McLean

Cinematique

Our first cinema visit for the year was to Hoyts, Whangaparaoa, to see *Finding Your Feet* – a humorous look at a group of middle aged/elderly people going through a crisis. A ‘feel good’ movie.

We are seeking a new venue to show our choice of movies on a monthly basis as our current venue at the Peninsula Club is about to undergo renovations. If anyone knows of a suitable venue, please let me know.

Convenor: Trish Litherland

Famous, Infamous and Origins

The group started the year off very well, still alternating between the two groups which has been tried and tested for a couple of years now and provides a diverse range of topic. We welcomed a new member last month and still have room for a couple more. We meet in our homes, taking turns to host.

Convenor: Judy Lilley

History

We had a late start to 2018 as the usual date for our first meeting of the year fell on Waitangi Day. We continue to meet every first and third Tuesday of each month at 10 am in the Pohutukawa Room, situated in Whangaparaoa Library. New members are always welcome; however, we currently have 15 people on our list who attend regularly.

Our first meeting opened with some time spent discussing changes we may need to make to address the payment, which comes into force after July, for use of the room. Our members voiced their appreciation for the approach by U3A to Auckland Council expressing serious concern that charges are being introduced. The History Group members present at our meeting strongly supported the course of action whereby the issue of fees is taken to the Local Community Board at the appropriate time.

Mongol expansion across Asia, after an excursion to 19th Century Bay of Plenty, then focused our minds on things historical!

It may be significant for people who are considering joining the History Group that after a short discussion those present at our meeting arrived at the decision to discontinue the practice of making 1914 the cut-off date for the choice of topics to be presented.

Convenor: Caryl Haley

Music

Unfortunately this group is in recession until a suitable venue can be found.

Short Film Making

Filming for the web series continues. So we have been very busy and we are hoping to finish by September.

Convenor: Nancy Miller

World Today

This group now has space for a couple of new members. The first hour of our meetings is taken up with group members taking the opportunity, if they choose, to present a current event which has captured their interest. The second part of the meeting is dedicated to one topic, presented by one or more members, followed by a Q & A session. There is morning tea provided, of course. To whet your appetite, here is a list of topics lined up for future discussion.

Immigration

The Surveillance Society

Artificial Intelligence

Time

MMP

Filter Bubbles

Gender and Identity

Chile (the current politics and the move back to the right)

The Role of the USA in International Political Situations (e.g. Venezuela)

Nostalgia (a powerful political movement at the present time - implications/results)

Conservation in NZ - the role of DOC

Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide

Convenor: Ria Kamerbeek

**SCHEDULE OF THE CURRENT GROUPS
as at March 2018**

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

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

Book Club

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: Dee Davies

Book Review

As the title suggests – the group discuss books which have been read by the members.

Meeting on the third Friday at 10.00 am.

Venue: In each other's homes.

Convenor: Cheril Clarke

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

Church History

Discussion topics include: interaction between Christianity and other faiths, the influence of other religions and the spread of Christianity into the Gentile world. This may sound rather intellectual and deep but, in fact, is a fascinating subject for anyone, whether belonging to a faith or not.

Meeting on the first Friday at 2 pm

Venue: The Manuka Room – Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Ian Mclean

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

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

Famous, Infamous and 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

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

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 Pohutukawa Room - Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Caryl Haley

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

Meditation (This group will not be meeting during 2018)

Music

This group is in recession until a suitable location can be found.

Convenor: Jack Wolfe

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

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

Group Meeting Timetable

as at March 2018

| Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1st week am | | History 10 am | | | The Writers 10 am World Today 10 am |
| Pm | | Mahjong 2 pm Cards, Games and Puzzles, 1 pm | Ukulele 1-3 pm* | | Church History 2 pm |
| 2nd week am | Short Film Making 11 am (time varies) | Discussion 10 am | | Book Club 10 am | |
| pm | Travel 2 pm | | Ukulele 1-2 pm | | Memoirs* 2 – 4 pm |
| 3rd week am | *General* Meeting 9.40 am | History 10 am | | Famous and Infamous Origins 10 am | Book Review 10 am |
| pm | | Mahjong 2 pm | | Art Appreciation. 1.45 pm | |
| 4th week am | Cinematique (Venue varies) | Discussion 10 am Ancient History 10 am | | Regional New Zealand 10 am | Film Discussion 10 am (last Friday whether it be the 4 th or the 5 th Friday) |
| pm | | | Recorded Classical Music 2 pm | | |
| Every Wednesday | | Meditation* | | *These groups will not meet during 2018 | |

**General meetings are held bi-monthly, on the third Monday of
January, March, May, July, September and November, at 9.40 am
at the Salvation Army Hall, Silverdale**