

HIBISCUS COAST U3A



HIBISCUS COAST U3A NEWSLETTER May/June 2018

www.u3ahbc.co.nz

President	Kay McLean	027 3287363
Vice President	Vacant Position	
Secretary	Dee Davies	428 7525
Treasurer	John Tucker	427 9127
Membership Secretary	Kaye Bennetts	424 5855
Newsletter Editor	Rewa Selmecei	427 9194
Speakers Secretary (shared position)	Graham Lamont and Trish Litherland	424 4599 426 4400
Webmaster Editor	Gerard Straka	-
Committee Member	Judy Lilley	424 3080

Next meeting: Monday, 21 May 2018
at

Salvation Army Hall, 32 Greenview Lane, Red Beach

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

Morning Tea Duty: *Mahjong and Music Groups*

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you all for the support I have been receiving. It is much appreciated.

I hope you are all enjoying your groups and that you have managed to sort out the problems that have arisen because of various alterations to venues. The charge for rooms at the Library from June this year certainly caused considerable anxiety for some of us. There are also problems with other venues that we presently use. It is a difficult time. I believe most groups have made their decisions now, according to the number of members that they have. Regrettably, it means that some members have incurred more costs and some groups having to limit their numbers. I guess it is a sign of the times.

My spell as president has not started as easily as I would have wished. I did say at the members' meeting that I would not be able to please everyone and so it is. The management committee and the convenors have spent a great deal of time and thought on the question of charging members, who are not online, for a printed copy of the newsletter which is mailed to them. Various suggestions were made but none without raising other problems. So I have decided that the status quo of a \$10 charge per annum will remain.

We still do not have a vice-president. When I step down next year I would like to think that HBCU3A is in good heart and able to continue. I know that retired people are busier than ever. Contrary to common opinion we do not all sit back and take things easy! If you enjoy your groups and meeting new people, please give some thought to keeping continuity.

I suggested at the convenors' meeting that some of them might like to invite me to one of their meetings so that people who do not or cannot attend a members' meeting can put a face to my name. I am delighted that I have received my first invitation.

Now here is something for free. It is very strange where a train of thought or a conversation can lead you. Ian and I were talking about the Iron Age for our Ancient History meeting and somehow or other got on to the subject of shaving in ancient times!! So I looked on Google and we came across an extremely interesting article on www.moderngent.com. If you are as curious as I am, you may like to read it. It is too long for me to add here.

Kay McLean (President)

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GUEST SPEAKER : HEATHER BAIGENT



Heather Baigent is a former teacher, diplomat, corporate manager and international consultant. She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1977 and had overseas postings in Samoa, Indonesia and China. In 1993, she moved to Auckland as International Manager for New Zealand's Technical Accreditation Authority and, in 1999, set up her own business, consulting internationally in trade facilitation. She has also served on export-related Business Councils. In 2017, she was President of U3A St Heliers and, in December, was elected as President of the Auckland U3A Network.

Reminiscences of a Diplomat

Heather was fortunate in having three fascinating diplomatic postings, all in developing countries in our part of the world – Asia Pacific. She was in Samoa during a period of tension in relations with New Zealand, in Indonesia as President Soeharto sought to develop that vast nation and was Deputy Head of Mission in China during “interesting times”,

following the tragic events in Tiananmen Square. She will share personal anecdotes of her experiences in the service of New Zealand overseas.

Report on last meeting's speaker:

**Janice Chandler – (Guest Speaker – March 2018)
And John Simons (brave U3A member)**



Janice is a very talented lady as she reminisces over the extensive travels she and her husband have enjoyed. She is a remarkable lady in that she never uses notes; her recollections roll off the tongue almost "parrot" fashion.

For such a small lady she has a very strong voice, so she waves the microphone to one side. She embellishes her presentation by changing from one outfit to another, all in keeping with the place and topic of her presentation. Janice includes humour and intrigue in her informative talk and is a very interesting and entertaining speaker.

And our thanks go to John, the only member at the meeting brave enough to accept the invitation to assist Janice.

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Advance notice of an upcoming event.

Below is a letter from U3A Auckland Network, inviting branches to participate in this annual event. Read it with your groups, discuss it and – possibly – accept the invitation. At this point John Hoby (World Today Group) has offered to participate as a ‘mini speaker’. We may have others who would like to do the same.

Our *Small Film Making* Group has successfully represented Hibiscus Coast U3A at past events.

If you are planning to attend this event, the Registration Form accompanies this newsletter.

“CELEBRATING U3A 2018”

Dear Kay

Your U3A Auckland Network committee is busy planning for another successful U3A Event to take place on Friday 31 August 2018 at St Chad's Auditorium Meadowbank.

At our last three Events one of the most successful and entertaining parts of the programme has been the Mini-talk presentations given by our own members. These Mini-talks have covered a multitude of topics and most have been previously presented to the speaker's own U3A.

Because they have been so successful, we are again seeking 9 speakers to both enlighten and entertain us.

- Here are some guidelines for the presentations:
- Presentation time for each Mini-talk is 11 minutes
- The talk should already have been presented to the member's own U3A, even if some time ago.
- A Power Point Presentation can be used to enhance the talk. If using Power Point, any text should be brief and in large font so it can be read easily from a distance
- At this stage we are looking for volunteers to be part of our programme. Once we have a suitable list of speakers, a more comprehensive set of advice and instructions will be available.

As the representative for your U3A, could we ask that you talk to your members and encourage any who have given interesting mini-talks in the past to volunteer as a Mini Speaker for the *Celebrating U3A* event. It is worth noting that speakers will receive complimentary registration to the event.

Should anyone require further information please contact Don Chambers on 09 416 2213 or at andochambers@xtra.co.nz (Reminder: the Registration Form for this event accompanies this newsletter.)

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UP, UP AND AWAY!

I have always wondered what it would be like to fly a plane. So when a friend bought me a flying lesson for a Christmas present, I promptly presented myself at the North Shore Flying Club. After some initial tuition, off we went and the instructor had me in charge right away steering us, somewhat erratically, down the runway. Fortunately, he negotiated the take-off and then handed control back to me.

“Where are we going?” asked I. “Wherever you want,” was the reply. So up we went along the Peninsula, over Orewa and beyond. I even managed a few turns.

I thought I might be a bit scared, but I loved it. I am saving up for another lesson soon, I hope.

Chris (Biggles) Curtis



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

ART APPRECIATION

Using the Whangaparaoa Library, we enjoyed a DVD on Vivian Mair - a world renowned street photographer. Vivian had an interesting history. She worked for most of her life as a live-in nanny in various parts of the USA, a very private person who also used her outings with the children to take photos of anything interesting, never developing most of her work. After she died, her hundreds of negatives were bought at an auction by a young photographer who exhibited some of her work which caused a phenomenon, resulting in Vivian receiving fame posthumously.

We said farewell to three members, two returning to England for six months and one leaving the area, unfortunately, we do not as yet have a meeting place, (the Library is booked for both the Wednesday and Thursday for the rest of the year,) so we cannot take any new members; this does have a plus as we are back to meeting in members' homes intermittently.

Convenor: Trish Litherland

BOOK CLUB

Into May already and we are going strong and continuing to enjoy our two specified books per month. Membership being eight at the end of last year, we are now excited to welcome a new member to replace one who had to leave and, pleasingly, a gentleman – the first one to join whilst I have been a member. This immediately added a new dimension to our choice of books, as at our initial meeting of 2018, he came armed with a most interesting list of possible reads.

In March we read one of these books – “This Bloody Project” – the story of a 17 year old crofter’s memoir, written while awaiting trial in Inverness in 1869 for three brutal murders. Alongside this was another book - “Moon over Martinborough” – a most delightful and refreshing true story of two American ‘city boys’ learning to become olive farmers on a lifestyle block in New Zealand. We access most of our books through on-line ordering at Whangaparaoa Library, just occasionally having to reorganise our order of reading due to a long waiting list.

Our monthly meetings are always lively with interesting discussion. Come and join us.

Convenor: Dee Davis

CARDS

Our players meet on the first Wednesday of every month in the Pohutukawa Room of the Whangaparaoa Library at 12.45 pm for a 1 pm start. Depending on how many members come on the day, we play “Quiddler”, “Rummikub”, “Scrabble” and “Phase 10”. Members are welcome to bring their favourite game to share. This is a great way to exercise your grey matter’.

We have space for new members – we look forward to you joining us!

Convenor: Diane Pipke

CINEMATIQUE

We visited Hoyts Cinema as a group, fourteen in total, to watch " The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society " - a must see - as it is extremely well cast and the editing is superb. Any members not receiving notification of our cinema visits, please, contact me on pat.roy@xtra.co.nz

Convenor: Trish Litherland

DISCUSSION

Recent topics that generated much discussion were:

- End-of-life choice
- A person who had a strong influence on my life
- How to choose a retirement village
- What is child poverty

I have been unable to attend some meetings and they run just as well without me. It is a very strong, enthusiastic group.

Convenor: Barry Dale

FAMOUS AND INFAMOUS ORIGINS

The group continues to rotate these topics each month. This month we are under the '*Origins*' label and are covering origins of anyone or anything beginning with the letter S.

We still meet in each other's homes on the third Thursday morning of each month and there is space to take more members on board. Please join us.

Convenor: Judy Lilley

FILM APPRECIATION

We met on the last Friday of April for another humorous and interesting morning of films, television and Netflix discussion. As we have lost our meeting place for this group, I asked if we can use a room at Hoyts. This is being explored; it would result in every member buying coffee or similar. The Library is fully booked for Fridays. I will keep in touch through our mailing list as new members have shown an interest in joining us.

Convenor: Trish Litherland

HISTORY GROUP

Before commenting on the activities of the History Group, it seems timely to include a paean of praise for the men and women who staff the Whangaparaoa Library. We meet, and will continue to meet, in the Pohutukawa Room at the library and are deeply grateful to the librarians for all the help which is always given generously and with a cheerful spirit. Members of our group have benefited from the book-a-librarian service so that now we are able to employ with confidence the available multi-media technology to enhance our presentations. The library staff has no responsibility for the charges for room hire (which for those of us who booked ahead will not come into effect until after the end of July) and the imposition of these charges has added to their workload and left them liable to face disgruntled and resentful library users.

Membership of our group remains stable and we are fortunate to have registration of interest from new members of U3A. Our resident 'snowbird' has departed to enjoy an English summer and the imminent arrival of a first grandchild but we know that he will return as the Northern Hemisphere winter takes a firm hold!

Papers continue to provide the group with fascinating glimpses into known and unknown lives. Places that before may have been relatively obscure and our understanding of the origin of great issues in world history may well be enhanced by the painstaking research which underpins every paper. As always, I am humbled by the scholarship and the passion for every aspect of History that our members bring to the table and continue to maintain that the study of History is vital to our comprehension of the world we live in. As Karl Marx so aptly observed:

"History repeats itself, first as a tragedy, second as a farce."

Convenor: Caryl Haley

REGIONAL NEW ZEALAND

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, 24 May, at 10 am in the Pohutukawa Room of the Whangaparaoa Library. Our discussions will include the Waikato and Counties South Auckland regions. I look forward to seeing you all.

At our last meeting in March, discussion covered a wide range of topics. Here is a sample.

Barbara talked about Kingitanga – the Maori King Movement. It is one of New Zealand's longest-standing political institutions, being founded in 1858. As Maori lacked political power, some Maori wanted to unify the tribes under a Sovereign. Discussions continued on this topic.

Marie spoke of the first flax mill which started commercial operation in 1863 at Waitangi Falls, Waiuku. The flax stripping machine took a tonne of leaves a day and produced about 200 kg of fibre. At the time, a burgeoning flax industry was developing with the fibres being used for rope, twine, matting, carpet underfelt and wool packs. There were over 40 mills built in the Franklin district and one of the earliest was in Waitangi Falls Road, just above the waterfall which was a popular picnic spot in Waiuku's early days and is still a popular tourist spot today.

Mary gave a hugely entertaining account of the Battle of Rangiriri during the Waikato War. This took place in 1863, involved 1400 British Troops and 500 warriors of the Maori King Movement. The Battle cost both sides more than any other engagement of the land wars.

Pam showed us a book on Early NZ houses. We looked at the two oldest houses on the Coromandel Peninsula. The first, "Rings" house was built in 1854 for Charles Ring and remained in his family until 1968. The original fireplace has gone and Barry Brickell installed the current fireplace into the kitchen in the late 1960s. "Calloway House" was built in 1842, owned by John Calloway. He was a Cornish born cabinet maker who arrived in Auckland from Adelaide. The house has magnificent views of Kikowhakaere Bay, Coromandel.

Jean introduced us to the township of Whitford, thought to be named after Richard Whitford, a man who operated a flax mill on the Waikopua, near Housons Creek. The Nathan's "Whitford Park" estate provided feathers from its ostriches for use in the fashion trade from 1869 to 1920. Today Ayrli's Garden is one of NZ's best known gardens and is located in Whitford.

Elizabeth presented an item on Te Aroha Spa Baths which have a proud history, beginning with Maori tribes using the Springs for their healing properties. In the 1880s, the land was gifted to New Zealand by Maori Chief, Mokena Hoa, as a public domain for development as a health resort. These baths are well maintained and are a good place for relaxing and getting away from it all today!

Norma spoke about the Rangiaowhia Region, including the flour mill which started grinding flour in 1847. Rangiaowhia flour was sold in Auckland in later years. In fact, in 1849 Governor Grey was given two bags of flour to present to Queen Victoria. Vera passed on information about the trip she went on earlier this year to the Miranda Bird Sanctuary.

We welcome new members - we have a lot of fun - it is not all serious. Please contact:

Convenor: Barbara Tucker



Regional NZ Members:
Elizabeth, Pam and John.

*(A mischievous sprite
lurks behind two studious
ladies!)*

UKELELE FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

We are still continuing with our small group and a few members have also ventured along to other groups or folk clubs which they have enjoyed. This tended to be the objective for the classes i.e.

- to introduce people to the ukulele who thought they might like to have a go at playing an instrument, and
- for those who enjoyed it and wished to move on; it introduced them to other people of similar mind and alternative groups that they could join once they had enough confidence to do so. The people who have come along have seemed to welcome the opportunity for both these goals and for the chance to socialize with and enter into discussions regarding the songs, music and playing of the ukulele generally. So in that sense it has been quite successful.

We will, however, be winding up with the final session on 20 June - mainly because of the situation with the venue but also for other reasons. We did, initially, see it as a trial situation for a limited period of time which has extended beyond our original idea. We hope that those members who joined us and now enjoy their playing will continue to do so well into the future.

Convenor: Lorna Robinson

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SCHEDULE OF THE CURRENT GROUPS as at May 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 Wednesday at 12.45 pm for a prompt 1 pm start.

Venue: The Pohutukawa Room – Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Diana Pipke

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 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

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

Mahjong

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)

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 then to 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

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: Cheril Clarke

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

Ukulele

This group is for beginners – no prior experience required. Once five simple chords have been mastered, approximately 100 well-known songs can be played. We also welcome members who would just like to come along to listen and sing along.

Meeting on the first and second Wednesday at 1 pm **(Until 20 June 2018)**

Venue: First Wednesday at Whangaparaoa Library: Second Wednesday at 6A Roberts Road, Matakatia

Convenor: Lorna Robinson

Writing your Memoirs (This group will not be meeting during 2018)

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Group Meeting Timetable

as at May 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 & 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 This group will not meet during 2018		*Up until 20 June 2018 *This group 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