

HIBISCUS COAST U3A



Next meeting: AGM on 20 March, 9.45 am at the Salvation Army Hall in Red Beach.

INTERIM PRESIDENT REPORT

It is with some sadness this will be my last report as one of the three 'acting presidents' as I am stepping down after nearly ten years on the committee. I shall enjoy just attending meetings! It has been a pleasure to 'do my bit, 'and I am not saying I won't step up again at some point, but we have nominations for most of the committee places.

The exception is for the position of president, and so Trish Litherland and Judy Keall are offering to 'hold the fort' for yet another year. It really is not an onerous position, as it involves mainly being the figurehead, but someone needs to be there!



Our meeting on 20th March starts as a short AGM, mainly involving the election of the new committee. There are some new faces in the nominees and it is for you to elect them, so please do come along.

We will of course have our usual 'cuppa' beforehand, and it is always pleasant to catch up with friends. Our thanks go to the members who make sure the refreshments are there for us.

We then will have a most interesting talk, which Maureen has detailed in this newsletter.

While we enjoy our meeting in safety and comfort, I think we need to remember the poor people less fortunate; victims of the recent floods and disasters.

It only remains for me to say....see you on Monday 20th March.

Chris Curtis

Please remember your subscriptions

There are many unpaid subs at this point, understandable as we have not had a general meeting yet, but could you please pay asap or bring cash on March 20? The subs pay for the Salvation Army bookings and many other expenses incurred to keep our wonderful HC U3A going.

In 2023 our subs have returned to \$40 for a couple and \$25 for an individual.

Please pay into our bank account: **ASB 12-3046-0275951-00** and include your initials and full surname as the reference.

Thank you in advance.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	TBC	
Secretary	Christine Curtis	
Membership Secretary	Wendy Hawkins	
Speaker Secretary	Trish Litherland	
Speaker Secretary	Jill Everest	
Treasurer	John Tucker	
Convenors' Coordinator	Judy Keall	
Newsletter Editor	Maureen Jansen	
Technical Assistant	Hugh Griffith	

SPEAKER FOR MARCH MEETING

How better to introduce our speaker than from this lovely article in Hibiscus Matters, 2019

Jenny Hanwell

Birdlife on the Hibiscus Coast has a new champion, with the recent appointment of Jenny Hanwell as coordinator for the Pest Free Hibiscus Coast project.

A love of the outdoors and experience working on community-led conservation projects made Jenny an ideal candidate for the part time position, which is funded by Auckland Council and supported by Forest & Bird.

The Gulf Harbour resident, who has a Masters in Ecology and the Environment, took up the role two weeks ago and is already passionate and knowledgeable about the project.

Five and a half years ago, Hibiscus Coast Forest & Bird began creating choke points of bait stations and traps across Whangaparaoa Peninsula, aiming to stop rats, possums, stoats and hedgehogs in their tracks. There are now 1087 pest control stations maintained by volunteers at various points on the peninsula; Jenny says 900 volunteer hours have been put in already this year.

One of her aims is to get more residents involved in trapping in their own backyards or volunteering to assist in whatever capacity they can.

“Nobody likes to kill stuff – but we have a choice,” Jenny says. “If we don’t deal with rats, stoats and possums, then we are effectively killing our native birds. And nobody wants rats and mice in their house so, whatever your motivation, it makes sense to get rid of those pests.”

“We are looking for people across the community to volunteer their skills, whatever those may be,” she says. “It could be maintaining trap lines, marketing or social media. People with good networks in the community and project ambassadors will be valuable in helping spread our base.”

She also plans to work closely with community groups, residents’ associations, schools and large landholders.

Jenny is convinced that the peninsula has huge potential to become pest free. “It’s very defensible with well defined choke points,” she says. Local Matters, August 6, 2019



Annual Picnic

In the grassy expanse of the Wenderholm sandspit we held our January meeting on a rare fine day for summer 2023.

It was a fortuitous decision because the ground would have been a tad damp if we had waited until February. It was good to see 36 people attend during this busy holiday time.

Thanks to Trish and co for bringing the cake and Buck's Fizz.

The event was held on 16 January.



News from the groups

Mahjong

A new mahjong group is starting. Connie Franklin will run this on the 4th Monday each month from 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm in the Pohutukawa Room. This is a group for beginners with two instructors present to assist with learning.

Come along for fun and friendship.



Poetry Discussion

Now that we have the Pohutukawa Room for the 4th Mondays at 10.30, we can go to town on our poems and poets. We can see the poets, hear them read their poetry, do deep dives into favourite poets and new poets. Still a start up group, still receptive to how the group wishes to proceed.

Poetry pleases our senses and our souls but also our sense of fun with words. We need more members.

Haiku for U3A

Grey heads bending over books
Brains going flat out
Much nourishment for neurons

By Anonymous

World Today

This is a very big group with 24 attending the last session. We are getting a bit too big for our boots but will see how we go this quarter in the Pohutukawa Room. We could do with a bigger room but it is hard to beat the library.

One of our last topics was on AI phenomenon "Chat GPT" and March will see us looking at "sponge cities".



Farewell to Noel Newling



Noel Newling, a long term member of U3A and the previous convenor of the travel group, passed away peacefully at home on 19 February at the age of 90.

“Noel, and his wife Lesley, have been regular and key members of the travel group for many years. We all enjoyed seeing both Noel and Lesley at our Christmas function and none of us will forget his heartrending presentation on the broader topic of travel at our November meeting,” Gavin Whyte, travel group convenor.

Pictured are Noel and Leslie at an anniversary celebration a few years ago.

Our condolences to Lesley and the rest of the Newling family.



This is a screenshot of the Red Cross/Herald campaign to raise money for cyclone victims. You will need to go to the Herald or the Red Cross website to donate.

Meeting and AGM

On March 20 we have a normal general meeting plus the AGM. This is usually a short part of the meeting and will be followed by our speaker.

Chris Curtis, our current secretary, will have sent you nomination forms for the roles: President, Vice President, Secretary, Speaker's Secretary, Assistant Speaker's Secretary, Membership Secretary, Technical Assistant, Newsletter Editor, Convenors' Coordinator. We have people on standby for all these roles apart from President and Vice President.

The Agenda for the AGM

Welcome

Apologies

Previous Minutes

Matters Arising

Financial Statement

President's Address

Election of the Committee (roles listed above)

“By polluting the oceans, not mitigating CO2 emissions and destroying our biodiversity, we are killing our planet. Let us face it, there is no planet B.”

Emmanuel Macron, President of France

SCHEDULE OF GROUPS 26 February 2023

Please check with the convenor before joining a new group. It's hard to keep this ever changing schedule accurate. The Pohutukawa Room is in the Whangaparaoa Library. You need directions from the convenor for locations in the Peninsula Club and Hibiscus Coast Village.

Ancient History	Ayad Hussona	10 am, 4th Tuesday in Peninsula Club
Archaeology		In Recess
Art Appreciation	Trish Litherland	2 pm, 2nd Tuesday in Pohutukawa Room
Book Club	Sheila Hussona	10 am, 2nd Thursday in people's homes
Book Review	Cheril Clarke	10 am, 3rd Friday, in the Peninsula Club
Cards and Games	Cherry Davis	1.30 pm, 1st and 3rd Tuesday in Pohutukawa Room
Cinematique	Trish Litherland	Hoyts Hibiscus Coast when a suitable film is screening
Discussion	Bob and Jenny Kelly	10 am, 2nd and 4th Tuesday at Hibiscus Coast Village
Film Discussion	Trish Litherland	10.30 am, last Friday, in the Pohutukawa Room
History	Jeannetta Dearsley	10 am, 1st and 3rd Tuesday in Pohutukawa Room
Mahjong	Connie Franklin	1.30 pm to 4.30 pm 4 th Monday in the Pohutukawa Room
Poetry Discussion	Maureen Jansen	10.30 am, 4th Monday 10.30 in Pohutukawa Room
Play Reading	Barbara Tucker	10.00 am, 4th Thursday in Pohutukawa Room
Short Film Making	Ian and Nancy Miller	At various times during film making and filming
The World Today	Maureen Jansen Jill Everest	9.45 1st Friday in Pohutukawa Room
Travel	Gavin Whyte	2 pm, 2nd Monday in Pohutukawa Room
U3A Writers	Cheril Clark	10 am, 1st Friday, at the Peninsula Club