



*Next meeting: AGM on 15 May, 9.45 am at the Salvation Army Hall , Greenview Lane, Red Beach.  
(Going towards Auckland from Orewa, Hibiscus Coast Highway, turn first left after the fire station.)*

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

May finds us in good form but our new president has flown away to Australia for three weeks so it falls on me to report on our progress since the AGM.

First of all we were delighted that Gavin Whyte stepped into the President's role after a whole year of three past presidents having to share the role between them, swapping over every 4 months. Gavin has made a great start with both a committee meeting and convenors' meeting in the first two weeks.

He is visiting all the groups and we were pleased to see him at Book Review on Friday 21 April. He has already seen how strong the special interest groups are in U3A.

We need to promote ourselves more vigorously and with all the former brochures distributed, we have made an A5 leaflet to place around the coast to signal to people that we are here. This is a temporary leaflet and will be replaced by a new brochure soon. We are lucky to have Jenny Casale, a keen Photoshopper and our new newsletter editor, on board. She has already redesigned our logo and banner as you can see above.

Gavin suggested a generic email address for our branch and I have set that up. It will be published in the new brochures and on the website.

At the general meeting on May 15, we will have a presentation to thank Trish Litherland, Chris Curtis and Judy Keall for their sterling efforts from March 2022 to March 2023. They had already served their term as presidents before offering to hold the fort for another year.

See News about the Groups for details on two new groups and one short course.

U3A Hibiscus Coast is thriving and many thanks to all the committee members and convenors and rank and file members who nourish it.

*Maureen Jansen*

## **SPEAKER FOR MAY MEETING**

Mike Maran is a Forensic Handwriting and Document Examiner, one of only two private examiners in New Zealand. He is also a graphologist. He has a Diploma in Advanced Studies in contemporary Graphology (2006), a certificate of completion in Questioned Handwriting and Document Examination (2012), and a Certificate of Proficiency in Signature Examination (2015), issued by the International Association of Document Examiners.

In 2014, he was a guest speaker at the International Association of Document Examiners conference in Hawaii, and undertook 25 hours of continuing education. In 2016 he added a Certificate of Forensic Document Examination, and in 2017, was a guest speaker at the International Association of Document Examiners conference in Denver, USA.

Mike is a professional member of both the Scientific Association of Forensic Examiners (USA) ([www.safe.org](http://www.safe.org)) and the International Association of Document Examiners ([www.iaae.org](http://www.iaae.org)).

Mike has examined hundreds of cases of forgeries due to financial impropriety or malicious intent. He has given court evidence many times in the New Zealand courts, as well as travelling to give evidence in the Fiji courts. Some of these cases he will discuss in his presentation.

Mike's presentation will be audience interactive. Bring a pen! Mike is also a member of U3A, in Mt Albert, and has been a guest speaker to many local Probus and U3A clubs, and business meetings and conferences in Auckland. He has appeared regularly in the media, and has published in professional journals.



## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President	Gavin Whyte
Secretary	Maureen Jansen
Treasurer	David Shaw
Membership Secretary	Wendy Hawkins
Speakers Coordinator	Jill Everest
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Casale
Technician	Hugh Griffiths

The newly elected committee, from left to right:

Wendy Hawkins, Maureen Jansen, Gavin Whyte, Hugh Griffiths, David Shaw, Jenny Casale and Jill Everest.



### Pest Free Hibiscus Coast

New Zealand has high endemism with 71% of our fauna endemic to our country.

Jenny Hanwell, the project manager for Predator Free Hibiscus Coast, impressed this on us when she addressed us at our March 20 meeting.

If we allow our birds to be lost, they will be lost to the world forever.

Rats, stoats, possums and hedgehogs are the introduced predators which we have to eliminate if we want our kiwi, our takahe, our kakapo, our dotterels and many other species to survive.

The role of the organisation is to defend Shakespear Regional Park and its buffer zone and create stepping-stone habitats along the peninsula and as far as Hatfields Beach and Silverdale.

In the park and the buffer zone they have seen no possums for many years. Rats are still a problem, one stoat can do huge damage and hedgehogs are surprisingly dangerous predators. A hedgehog recently destroyed some of the eggs laid by the dotterels at Big Manly.

PFHC contains the pests by trapping. Volunteers manage traps on public land and people are encouraged to use them in their back gardens. There is a surprising array of sophisticated plastic traps as well as the traditional wooden box.

The aim is to kill the predators as humanely as possible.

Imagine birdsong coming back to the coast. Imagine kaka returning as they did in Miramar after a similar successful project.

If you want to help, contact:

[j.hanwell@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:j.hanwell@forestandbird.org.nz)

[HibiscusCoast.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:HibiscusCoast.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz)

## News from the groups

### Play Reading

I started this group, which consists of 13 members this year after having convened Regional NZ for eight years – prior to this, Regional NZ was convened by Pat Varney.

Since the time I have convened this group, we have read plays by esteemed playwrights, Anton Chekov, Roger Hall, Terrence Rattigan, Somerset Maugham, to name but a few, right now we are enjoying “Major Barbara” by George Bernard Shaw.

Play Reading not only enhances ones’ knowledge of excellent plays, but also with practice, participants gain in composure with their portrayal of the characters.

Barbara Tucker

Convenor



### The Short Film Group

As you can see from this screenshot, our short film group has been active. It is all done by role play, so there are no lines to learn. We have lots of fun, planning and shooting.



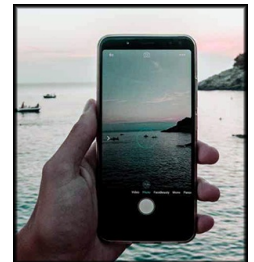
## New Groups!

### Photography

Jeannetta Dearsley and Maureen Jansen would like to start a photography group. We are not experts but like to take photos of nature: landscapes and birds, for example.

We use a small camera or our phones and hope that by getting a group together we can share what we know and learn from each other.

Please contact us if you are interested and we will set up a time and place. Our contact details are above in committee list



### Conservation Group

Jill Everest, David Shaw and Maureen Jansen would like to start a group to assist the various organisations working to make our area pest free. Jill and Maureen have already pulled weeds from around the young trees at Amorino Reserve. We would like more members to come up with a plan for this new group. Nurturing seedlings, supporting the weeders? Contact Jill whose details are on the committee list.

### Short Course: PowerPoint

Two hours over two Thursdays at 2 pm. Thursday 4 May and Thursday 11 May. For beginners and beyond! How to make PowerPoints and how to give them more impact. In the Whangaparaoa Room. Email Maureen - details in the list above. It would be grand if you could let us know beforehand!



## Conveners of groups - times and places

Note: we schedule our groups according to the "1st Friday, 3rd Monday" etc. You need to go to your calendar and see when the 1<sup>st</sup> or last Tuesday of the month is, for example. If in doubt, contact the convener of the group.

Ancient History	Ayad Hussona	10 am, 4th Tuesday in Peninsula Club
Archaeology		In Recess
Art Appreciation	Trish Litherland	2 pm, 2nd Tuesday in the 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	1st and 3rd Tuesday, 10 am in Pohutukawa Room
Mahjong	Connie Franklin	1.30 pm to 4.30 pm 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday in the Pohutukawa Room
Poetry Discussion	Maureen Jansen	10.30 am, 4th Monday 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	Jill Everest, Maureen Jansen	9.45 am 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



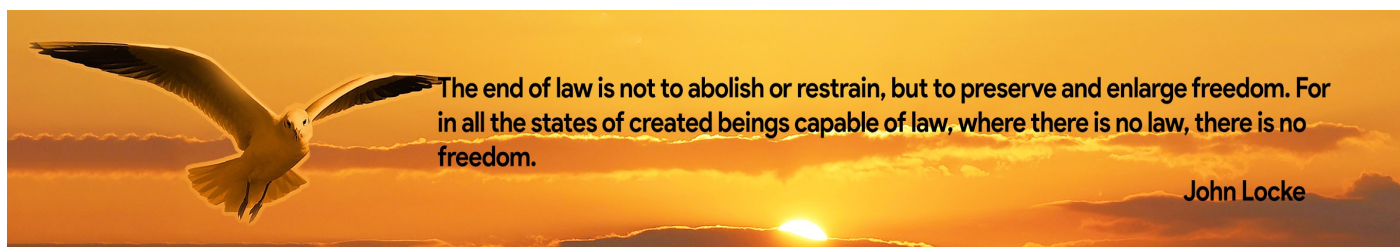
### Noxious weed of the month: Wild Ginger

Glorious in the sunshine, this rampant breeder smothers our native plants.

Small seedlings can be hand pulled. Small clumps can be dug out, but make sure all of the root system is removed. Rhizomes can be placed in a black plastic bag and rotted, or placed in a weak herbicide mix, crushed, dried then burned. Larger clumps should be sprayed.

Small clumps can be dug out, if all of the root system is removed.

and disposed of safely. Rhizomes can be placed in a black plastic bag and rotted, or placed in a weak herbicide mix, crushed, dried then burned. Larger clumps should be sprayed.



The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom. For in all the states of created beings capable of law, where there is no law, there is no freedom.

John Locke