



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings and best wishes for a healthy and interesting 2021. Welcome to new members and to our three new committee members – Linda Beckett, Special Interest Groups Coordinator, Judith Nathan, Newsletter Coordinator, and John Rutherford, Treasurer.

We ended the past year with most of our scheduled lectures being presented despite the interruptions of Covid-19. For 2021 we have an exciting lineup of presenters and topics for our largest ever number of Embassy and mid-winter lunch lectures. The first of the planned **59** lectures begins on **Tuesday 23 February**. Once again our three Programme Coordinators (Robin Halliday, Rae Julian and Doug Helps) have done an excellent job of organising lecture presenters. Details of the first few months of the scheduled lectures are provided in this newsletter and on our website. Check the website for the most updated programme.

At our last meeting the committee considered the possibility of replacing some Embassy lectures with online Zoom presentations. Points noted included the social nature of meeting in person, the suitability of the Embassy as a venue, privacy and copyright implications of recording outside of the controlled environment of Zoom and the variation in skills of lecturers able to present via Zoom. We agreed that our lectures would continue to be delivered at the Embassy but that if a lock-down situation reoccurs (or the Embassy becomes unavailable) we would once again deliver via Zoom.

Such a situation occurs after Term 2 lectures finish on 9 July followed by a lengthy break of five weeks. This period includes our normal break for the school holidays and the NZ International Film Festival which the Embassy hosts. During the Festival period we plan to use Zoom to deliver an *additional* four online lectures (3, 6, 10 and 13 August). This decision is for this year only and will be reviewed for any future years. The Programming Coordinators believe it provides an opportunity to invite lecturers from other parts of New Zealand and possibly overseas – depending on time zones.

The contract with the Embassy has been finalised and agreed for 2021 and 2022 at an increased rental. The change to our Rules that defines platform and delivery mode of all U3A meetings (including the Annual General Meeting) has been approved by the NZ Companies Office and Charities Services. The Rules are publicly accessible from the websites. At the 2019 AGM members were advised that subscriptions would be increased in June 2020 but the decision was reversed as a result of lower lecture costs with Zoom replacing the Embassy venue during Covid-19 restrictions. The Committee has decided that the 2021-22 subscription be increased to \$40. This increase is to pay for the extra lectures and the increased cost of hiring the Embassy.

Many of our Special Interest Groups have begun to meet already. Linda Beckett, Special Interest Groups Coordinator has already met most of the leaders of the groups. If you have any questions about the groups please contact Linda. Dougal Congalton and Aidan Kay have organised the design and printing of a U3A business card. The cards provide contact details and U3A activities. Please feel free to give them to anyone who may be interested in joining. Cards are available at the Embassy desk where you scan your membership card and also will be available on the balustrade as you enter the lecture theatre. Aidan Kay has been planning holiday activities that include visits to Stonehenge, Wellington City Council Archives, and others to be confirmed. Keep an eye on our website for updates to the visits.

I look forward to meeting with many of you and enjoying another stimulating U3A year.

Barbara Crump
President

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our membership continues to grow while many other organisations are experiencing a decline. This is a welcome sign that we are catering for the needs of our members through the stimulating lecture programme, varied special interest groups and interesting activities. We welcome the following new members who have joined since the August newsletter was published: Phillipa Newton, Donald Laing, David Miller, Jennifer Torr, Bill and Joan Richardson, Roger Butland, Karen Harris, Judith Ingram, Andrew and Janice Laing, Dianne Small, Marie Kearney, Ann Walker, Janice Shramka, Vera Green-Bargiacchi, Kay Martin, Patsie Barltrop, Jill Matthews, Shirley Crump, Prue Purser, Dalice Sim, Sandy Douglas, Helene Ritchie, Diane Lowther, Louise Munro, Bryony Hales, Louise Bray-Burns, Christine Farley, Jane Benefield, Vera Egermayer, Spiros Kappatos, Judith Harris, Dan Feder, Michael Parker, Paul and Maureen Drury, Nicole Lee, Josie Campbell, Philip Harrison, Jennie Darby, Geoff Cuthell, Richard Whitney, Betty Jeanne Eydt, Clare Fussell, Alberta Wood, Richard Brodie, Peter McGhie, Vicki Bamford, Judith Shearer, John Morgan, Crispin and Elizabeth Kay, Kathryn Brown, Annette Brown, Susan Millar, Rowanne James and Dianne Tredger.

Members who have joined recently are reminded that they will need to renew their membership at the end of our financial year in June 2021, as we do not have reduced rates for part-year membership.

Average attendance for the last term of the calendar year was 199 compared to 227 for the whole year. The use of Zoom during lockdown saw a sudden spike in numbers which gradually tailed off, but still resulted in a 15% increase over attendance in 2019. Dougal Congalton, who analyses our attendance statistics, notes that actual attendees during the Zoom lectures would have been higher than the connection numbers used in the analysis.

Do keep encouraging potential new members to join U3A Wellington City as we strive to realise our mission of *providing opportunities for continuing education that promotes the ongoing development and wellbeing of our members.*

Gwen Levick
Membership Secretary

NOTICES

Subscriptions

The banks that still use cheques have advised that they will be ceasing to do so in June when the U3A 2021-22 subscriptions of \$40 will be due. This means all subscriptions will need to be paid on line. Members who do not have internet access can do this by phone banking or visiting a branch. The U3A account number is 03-1540-0009019-01

Request for people over 70 to take part in a documentary

Pallas McTaggart, a broadcast media researcher in Auckland, is researching for an overseas production company who are producing an international documentary series which tells stories about people over 70. The story is about Love. He is looking for one couple who have an interesting, amazing back story but there also needs to be something current we can follow. E.g. Perhaps a wedding coming up, or it is a long life together love story, thwarted love, interracial couple. This is his linked in page with his work history: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/pallas-mctaggart-99840838/?originalSubdomain=nz>
Email pallasm@xtra.co.nz if you are interested in pursuing this.

U3A LECTURE PROGRAMME

Lectures are usually held at the Embassy Theatre, 10 Kent Terrace

from 10.30 am until 11.45 am

TERM 1 Tuesday 23 February to Friday 30 March

TERM 2 Tuesday 20 April to Friday 9 July (lectures up to June 11 are in this newsletter)

TERM 3 Tuesday 17 August to Friday 1 October (Zoom planned for lectures early August)

TERM 4 Tuesday 19 October to Friday 5 November

Sometimes our advertised lectures may change, and if so, an update will be made under "Lecture Programmes" on our U3A website.

TERM 1 LECTURES

Tuesday 23 February

James R. Lynch QSM

Zealandia: The valley that changed a nation

James (Jim) and Eve Lynch arrived in Wellington in 1981 and founded a successful management system design business. In 1990 Jim conceived the idea of urban conservation through a plan, entitled *Natural Wellington*, an ambitious vision to bring the Birds back to Wellington City. His visionary 1992 proposal for the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary (Zealandia) imagined a predator fenced, community driven eco-sanctuary, populated with engendered species and located 2 km from the Wellington CBD. 30 years later both *Natural Wellington* and Zealandia are resounding successes and Wellington has been transformed into an international showcase of urban conservation. This is Jim's "inside story" of how Zealandia became a reality and changed a city and a nation. An uplifting account of daring innovation, and of the determination of an ever-expanding community that built a jewel that will be treasured by generations yet to be born.

Friday 26 February

Anna Fifield

Reflections on Experience as a foreign correspondent and hopes for the future of the Dominion Post.

Anna is the Editor of The Dominion Post and has previously worked as a foreign correspondent for the Washington Post and the Financial Times with postings in Asia and the Middle East. She will discuss her experiences in those roles as well as the future of The Dominion Post.

Tuesday 2 March

Dr Chris Litten

Towards a Zero Emission Efficient and Sustainable Built Environment

Chris is the general manager of research at BRANZ (Building Research Association of NZ) where he leads a group of 35 researchers and knowledge dissemination professionals. A research chemist by training, Chris has led a number of research teams both in Europe and New Zealand. He has worked widely across the New Zealand science sector in both government and research organisations. Chris sees huge potential for research and evidence to challenge the building system to improve outcomes for all New Zealanders. The contribution of the built environment to Climate Change is not often discussed. Or realised. Globally emissions from construction and then operating buildings over their life span account for 38% energy related carbon emissions. This talk will explore global trends in the built environment and what is happening in New Zealand. It will also cover how research findings can be used to help meet New Zealand's Climate Change and sustainability aspirations and the Government's commitment to achieving the targets from the Paris Agreement.

Friday 5 March

Professor Charlotte Macdonald

Two appeals in 1869: for the women's vote and for London's money – and why do they matter in 2021

Charlotte is Professor of History at Victoria University of Wellington – Te Herenga Waka. She has particular interests in the history of women and gender, colonies and empire, with a focus on the 19th Century. In 1869 Mary Ann Muller published her 'Appeal to the men of New Zealand', which made a case for women to have the right to vote. In the same year a series of delegations of NZ politicians and businessmen made appeals to the Secretary of State for Colonies in London for imperial troops to be retained in the colony. Both were denied but both have much to tell us about liberty, freedom, government and the legacies of arguably the most crucial decade in our history.

Tuesday 9 March

Dr Ganesh Nana

The economy, economics, productivity, and wellbeing

Ganesh is a first-generation New Zealander, born and bred in Wellington. His interest in economics was originally founded on his fundamental love of numbers, which in turn derives from his passion for cricket. However, his lack of talent (which he puts down to his poor eyesight) cruelly cut short his stellar cricket career that prematurely peaked with a top score of 17 runs and best bowling figures of one for 35 off two overs. Ganesh has been recently appointed Chair of the Productivity Commission Te Komihana Whai Hua o Aotearoa, after 22 years at Business and Economics Research Limited (BERL). Ganesh believes economics is fundamentally about people (not money). Economics is a concept that is much maligned and at times mischievously misrepresented. Similarly, productivity gets a bad rap in many quarters. And now there is the relatively recent terminology of wellbeing used by some. What to make of all this? Moreover, what lessons does the COVID experience provide?

Friday 12 March

Rhys Richards

The first pakeha around Wellington and the Cook Strait 1803-1839

Since 1982, following and during a diplomatic career, Rhys has published many books and articles on early NZ, the Chatham Islands and various Pacific Islands before 1850. The settlers of the New Zealand Company arrived in 1839, decades after the first foreign visitors to the Cook Strait and Wellington. The 'Nobs and Snobs' of the new colony, planned as a pure, unsullied replica of English society preferred to ignore their predecessors – a motley lot of whalers, sealers and traders – who should not be denied their rightful place as the first pakeha settlers to the region.

Tuesday 16 March

Detective Inspector Blair Macdonald

NZ drug scene

Blair is currently Manager of the National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NZIB) in the NZ Police Force. He joined the Force in 2001 and has worked in many high-profile roles including Wellington Family Harm Team, Covert Ops and the Crime Squad. Blair will talk on how NZ continues to be targeted by transnational organised crime groups. He will outline a number of drug seizures and how methamphetamine is NZ's most widely abused drug. He will also outline NZ Wastewater Testing Programme that measures drug consumption over 80% of our population. If time allows he will talk on the impact of Covid-19 on NZ's illicit drug market and what is anticipated in the future.

Friday 19 March

Dr Matthew Castle

Brexit: Why did it happen, where are we now and what comes next?

Matthew is a lecturer in International Relations at Victoria University of Wellington and was previously Trade Officer at the Delegation of the European Union to New Zealand. His research focuses on how negotiators make new global rules and institutions and how these institutions shape domestic politics and international cooperation. The lecture will explore some of the politics and processes of Brexit, concluding with its implications for the UK's position in the world, with a particular focus on trade policy.

Tuesday 23 March

Nicoletta Mancuso

Growing Community and nurturing the Arts at the Vogelmorn Precinct

Originally from Sydney and with an Italian heritage, Nicoletta Mancuso is a young woman with a passion for community and the arts. Having begun a job working as the community venue Coordinator for the Vogelmorn Community group, she now oversees the running of the former Bowling Club, now humming as the Vogelmorn Precinct. Nicoletta will begin by talking about the history of the Bowling Club and formation of the Vogelmorn Community Group. She will then delve into the broad goals and values upheld by the Community Group and how these are instilled in the day to day functioning of the community hub. Lastly Nicoletta will discuss the longer term plans of the Bowling Club, and speak to the way that Vogelmorn can be used as a template for others to resurrect and breathe new life into existing buildings and spaces.

Friday 26 March

Anna Cottrell

Stories from the First World War

Anna has worked as a TV news reporter and as a current affairs producer. As AC Productions, she has made many documentaries covering a wide range of national and international topics. This presentation will be based on a series of 'Haiku' documentaries included with the commemoration of the centenary of World War 1, 35 stories from the invasion of Samoa to the New Zealand liberation of Le Quesnoy in France in 2018. They will also cover Te Puea's stand against conscription, conscientious objectors, nurses, doctors and even NZ's first West Indian All Black playing for the 'Trench Blacks' in Paris.

Tuesday 30 March

Dawn Sanders ONZM, QSM

Educating Shakespeare

Dawn Sanders began her "love affair" with Shakespeare at the age of 7. As a member of Wellington Shakespeare Society from her mid-teens, in 1963 Dawn became involved in the Globe Theatre Hangings Project, touring the Hangings nationally and internationally. In 1991 she founded Shakespeare Globe Centre of which she is CEO. A "cornerstone" activity is the annual University of Otago Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival and its flow on activities, now having involved over 122,000 teenagers. Under SGCNZ's *Primary Playing with Shakespeare*, 7 productions to date have already involved over 1000 primary age students in the Wellington region. How can anyone expect to have such an incredible presence over 400 years after they died? Their words used freely daily, performed on stages and screens every day somewhere in the world, used for tertiary and school exams, relished by not only secondary students, but primary school ones as well. She will share some glimpses – through their eyes, and hers, and offer some answers – and lots more questions.

END OF TERM 1

TERM 2 LECTURES to June 11

(The remainder will be in the May newsletter and the entire Term 2 programme will be on the website when confirmed)

Tuesday 20 April

Associate Professor Dr Ocean Mercier

Tangata Whenua Connections to Place

Ocean Mercier is head of School for Te Kawa a Maui (the School of Maori Studies) at Victoria University of Wellington - Te Herenga Waka. Her teaching and research explore how science and matauranga Maori enhance our understanding of te Taiao/the natural world. She is a presenter for TVNZ's *Coast* and Maori Television *Project Matauranga*. Ocean will discuss how Maori connections to place are expressed in contemporary settings and in relation to the ongoing constraints of colonisation. To illustrate, she will present mapping work carried out at Te Kawa a Maui – the School of Maori Studies. She will also present research that investigates how environment work in Tangata whenua communities expresses and deepens connections to place.

Friday 23 April

Dr Judith Davey

Starting a business in later life: The rise and significance of senior entrepreneurship

Judith was Director of the New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing from 2002-2007 and has maintained her research focus on the ageing of the population and its policy implications since that time. Entrepreneurship is increasing among older people in many developed countries, raising many questions. Why is this growth happening? What are the motivations to take up entrepreneurship later in life? What are the benefits and what are the barriers? What are the personal attributes and environmental factors that may contribute to success in this area?

Tuesday 27 April

Professor John Psathas

The Process of Music Composition

John is now a freelance composer but was Professor of Composition at the New Zealand School of Music at Victoria University for over 20 years. His music has achieved a level of international success unprecedented in New Zealand history, and his concert works are performed constantly on the international stage by many of the world's top musicians. Of Greek heritage, John is also now considered one of the three most important living composers of the Greek Diaspora. He has so far composed over 30 pieces of music, had over 12 performances of his work internationally and received over 10 awards. John's talk will be on his epic WW1 commemorative work "No Man's Land" and the process of its composition.

Friday 30 April

Dr Andrew Munkacsi

Precision medicine for all ages

Andrew is a translational research scientist at the interface of fundamental science and medicine, current based at Victoria University of Wellington. His overall objective is to identify novel drugs and drug targets to prevent and treat human diseases, using a combination of unbiased, high throughput systems biology approaches in model organisms and genome sequencing of human patients. Precision medicine is a major goal of modern medicine where diagnosis, prevention and treatment of disease can be tailored to each person on a case by case basis. While not yet in New Zealand, it is likely to be here in the near future.

Tuesday 4 May

Professor Philippa Howden-Chapman

Housing in Sustainable Cities

Philippa Howden-Chapman is a Wellington-based University of Otago professor who through "Healthy Homes" has had legislation passed to implement, where possible, insulation of homes. She is now, as Director of the New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities, working with Councils to increase our stock of sustainable and affordable housing.

Friday 7 May

Associate Professor Dolores Janiewski

Why the cull of books at the National Library is a cultural crime

Dolores is an Associate Professor of History at Victoria University of Wellington, teaching topics in the history of the Americas, the Cold War and the 1960s. Nga kaitiaki o nga pukapuka/Book guardians Aotearoa was formed in 2020 in response to the National Library's proposal to dispose of 625,000 books from its overseas publications that were published before 2000. They speak "for New Zealand readers and researchers who believe that the cultural and economic life of NZ and its interchanges with other nations will be damaged by the proposed cull".

Tuesday May 11

Rob Thorne

Anthropology and Indigenous Music

Māori composer, performer, improviser, collaborator, anthropologist and specialist Rob Thorne M.A. (Ngāti Tumutumu) is a diverse and original explorer in the evolving journey of Taonga Puoro (traditional Māori instruments), fusing these ancient voices with modern sounds and technology. His journey of identity has seen him travel the country to research museum collections, teach and lecture, present as keynote, demonstrate, collaborate and perform, working academically and musically with both traditional and sonic masters. His Post Graduate Diploma research became a museum exhibition "Kōauau: The Music Within", which successfully toured New Zealand for 5 years. Throughout 2019 Rob delivered over 50 free concerts with Orchestra Wellington ensemble Concerts for Schools programme that was experienced by nearly 10,000 school children in the greater Wellington area. He has travelled as a guest of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra to perform in the US of He Putorino He Makutu with Celeste Oram. Rob will illustrate the beauty and music of taonga puoro.

Friday 14 May

Chris Hawley

Freedom behind bars: Teaching meditation in New Zealand prisons

Chris has had a varied career in NZ and overseas, working for NZ Volunteer Service Abroad in Southeast Asia, as a teacher in China and Thailand and then as lecturer and adviser at AUT University. For the past 10 years he has been a mediation practitioner, teaching in NZ prisons for the past 4 years. He will reflect on factors in NZ prisons and illustrate the impact of meditation on the lives of people behind bars.

Tuesday 18 May

Colin Keating

Time for serious reform of the UN system

Colin Keating is a former NZ Ambassador to the UN in New York and senior NZ diplomat and international lawyer. He was also Secretary for Justice. From 2005-2011 he was the founding Executive Director of a think tank based at Columbia University which monitors and issues monthly reports on the work of the UN Security Council. From 2012 to 2016 he was a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister and Special Adviser to MFAT in connection with the NZ term on the Security Council. Even before Covid-19 it was clear that the international organisations set up in 1945, and the related proliferation of over 200 intergovernmental multilateral bodies and their secretariats, were proving increasingly ineffective in resolving the global challenges of the modern world. The 2020 pandemic has graphically underlined these concerns. In late 2019 the United Nations Association of New Zealand and the NZ Centre for Global Studies commissioned Colin Keating and Dr Kennedy Graham to undertake a study of these issues. In December 2020, a discussion paper was completed. It concludes that restoring the mana of multilateral institutions is well overdue. Revitalisation requires looking at the UN system as a whole. The 1945 model has failed to adapt sufficiently as the world has changed. The paper has detailed proposals covering nine specific areas.

Friday 21 May

Professor Marie Estcourt

Vaccines and clinical trial tests

Marie completed her PhD in Medical Science at John Curtin School of Medical Research at Australian National University Canberra. She has worked in vaccine and viral immunology research at Oxford University, McMaster University Canada and University of Western Australia. Marie also completed a Masters of Philosophy in Population Health while working at the Telethon Kids Institute in Perth on the epidemiology of vaccines and protection against allergies. Marie now works as a Clinical Research Consultant here in Wellington and is a member of the recently formed New Zealand COVID-19 Expert Advisory Network. Due to Covid-19 never has the public attention been more focused on science, viruses and vaccines. But what do the results from clinical trials mean? How do you design a clinical trial? Can clinical trials answer the questions we have? Why are some types of evidence better than others? Marie will answer these and other questions and why clinical trial results are just the starting point for effective public health measures.

Tuesday 25 May

Tahir Nawaz

Diversity and Inclusion

As an Adjunct Fellow in the Faculty of Education at Victoria University, Tahir Nawar works on partnerships to connect Islamic students and the Islamic Community with the faculty. He provides chaplaincy services to all Islamic students in the university. He has been President of the International Muslim Associations of New Zealand (IMAN). Since 2010, he has been referenced and interviewed by national and international media on Muslim affairs. This role has been supported by his traditional training of Islamic studies in New Zealand, Malaysia, Pakistan and Indonesia. Tahir has designed and supervised the curriculum of Islamic education applied in various institutions. His research interests include Muslim affairs in New Zealand and the Pacific, Muslim education, interfaith dialogue, halal, community service and Islamic organisations.

Friday 28 May

Professor Michael Bunce

Using DNA in research

Mike is currently Chief Scientist at the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in New Zealand. He completed his undergraduate degree at Lincoln University in biochemistry and molecular biology and his PhD at the Australian National University in genetics of HIV-1. He undertook post-doctoral training at Oxford and McMaster (Canada) Universities before moving to Perth, Western Australia in 2006 to start his own Laboratory. Throughout his research career Mike has developed and applied DNA techniques to characterise biological communities within a wide variety of biological samples from viruses and fossil bones to seawater and ice cores. Mike's Lecture will be on- from Palaeontology to Pandemics-a journey of DNA and what it can tell us about our world in the past and the present.

Tuesday 1 June

Shona Riddell

Lighthouse Keepers, remote islands and a war tortoise: how family history shaped my writing.

Shona has written three history books. *The Tale of the Anzac Tortoise (2014)*. *Trial of Strength: Adventures and Misadventures on the Wild and Remote Subantarctic Islands (2018)* and *Guiding Lights: The Extraordinary lives of Lighthouse Women (2020)*. All available from Exisle Publishing. Shona's books were inspired by her family history which included a war nurse who brought a Gallipoli tortoise to NZ, a young couple who sailed from England in 1849 with their three children as part of a tiny, ill-fated settlement on the subantarctic Auckland islands, and lighthouse families who lived on wild windswept coasts. In 2016 Shona sailed south to visit her great-great-grandmother's remote birthplace on the Auckland Islands – a 465 km voyage from Bluff. Copies of Shona's latest book, *Guiding Lights; the extraordinary Lives of Lighthouse Women*, will be available for purchase.

Friday 4 June

Marilyn Garson

The reality behind the Gaza blockade; how do law and human rights lead to solutions?

Marilyn was based in Gaza from 2011-2014 with a large non-government programme, then with the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA). As a Jew, Gaza made her re-examine her beliefs about conflict and aid, in the context of human rights and law. She will describe the situation in Gaza, then invite us to consider our responsibility under law – should it be our issue as individuals or as a country?

Tuesday 8 June

Richard Wagstaff NZCTU

Covid and Employment

Richard Wagstaff was elected NZCTU President in 2015. Richard began working as a full time paid union official in 1988 as a researcher. Later, during the introduction of the Employment Contracts Act he became a full-time union organiser working in the Auckland region with union members in the health and disability sectors. He eventually took up the position of national secretary of the PSA in 2000 which he held until becoming CTU President in 2015. As national secretary Richard was responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Union's industrial and political strategies and operations for NZ's largest trade union. The CTU consistently speaks out about the need to create workplaces that are friendly and appropriate and is especially connected to the issue of the Future of Work which forms an integral part of its programme.

Friday 11 June

Dr Hera Cook

Firearms in New Zealand: What are the issues?

Hera is a senior lecturer in the Otago Wellington Medical School Department of Public Health and a founding member of Gun Control NZ. Despite the rapid government response to the Christchurch massacre and subsequent improvement to firearms control the problems of regulation and control have not been solved. Why has the continuing resistance to the necessary tightening of the law, including a gun register, still have such undue influence?

U3A EVENTS

Confirmed visits (details will be notified in March):

Saturday 10 April Stonehenge (Wairarapa)

Tuesday 13 April Wellington City Council Archives

Visits under investigation:

NIWA, Malaghan Institute, Behind the scenes at Te Papa.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS FOR MEMBERS

All Interest Group Members must be current financial members of Wellington City U3A

It has been a real pleasure (and is a work in progress) to have met with most of the conveners of the 17 Special Interest Groups and to become more informed about their groups' activities. There have been a few changes: Wellington City U3A no longer has its Performing Music Group, but its two new groups, Smart Phone Photography and Cryptic Crosswords are well underway with 11 and 6 members respectively. Book Groups 1 and 2 have new conveners with, respectively, Jane Ireland and Jenny Mainwaring succeeding Elizabeth Moles and Sheila Williams in these roles. Thanks to all the new leaders and to Elizabeth and Sheila for their considerable contributions.

Linda Beckett.

Two new U3A interest groups

Cryptic Crosswords

The Cryptic Crosswords Special Interest Group has made a solid start, having found their tutor and recruited five other members to date. While ongoing activities and the frequency of meetings are yet to be finalized, if other U3A members would like to join this group please contact Lynda Young at rby@actrix.co.nz or phone 04 386 2642.

Smart Phone Photography

Would you be interested in taking better pictures with your Smart Phone? As a photographic enthusiast, Roger Urlwin has established a Smart Phone Photography special interest group of 11 U3A members which meets weekly and also connects on line. This is a great way to discover what else your phone can do, expand your skills and (re)discover your local indoor and outdoor environment. New members are welcome. Please indicate your interest to Roger: roger.urlwin@gmail.com or phone 027 435 5638.

Current Groups

Antiques Roadshow Type Group

This group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10 am, mainly at Gaynor Stewart's home on The Terrace Central Wellington. We share an interest in old things, often family heirlooms and do this on a semi rotation basis. We often visit places such as Te Papa's back of house collections and other places of interest. **You are very welcome to join our group**, even if you wish to come along on a "one off" basis to check us out you would be made very welcome.

Contact: Doug Helps, Group Convenor, 232-4881 or dougyvonne1@gmail.com

Art History Group

Meets on alternate Thursdays from 10.30 am to 12 noon at St Andrews Church, The Terrace, in the Common Room. This group is currently full.

Contact: Peter Stupples 021 059 4164 or pams@actrix.co.nz

Book Group 1

Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month, on The Terrace at 10.30 am. Membership of the group is limited to 10 and the group is currently full. However, if you would like to go on a waiting list, please contact Jane.

Contact: Jane Ireland 0212617080 jane.ireland06@gmail.com

Book Group 2 Northern and Western Suburbs

Meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10 am – 12 noon at members' homes. The members are mainly from the Northern and Western suburbs. This group is currently full.

Contact: Jenny Mainwaring 021 0234 1636 jemain@xtra.co.nz

Book Group 3 Eastern Suburbs

Meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 2.00 pm in Oriental Bay. This group is currently full. Please contact Pamela if you wish to go on the waiting list or start another group in the Eastern suburbs.

Contact: Pamela Jefferies 801-6620 or pamelaaj@xtra.co.nz

Book Group 4 Northern Suburbs

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 10 am – 12 noon at members' homes. Members are mainly from the Northern Suburbs. Format: The host for the next meeting chooses a genre for that meeting. Each member reads any book they like in that genre, and reviews their book at the meeting for the other members. **There are vacancies in the group** so if you're interested in joining, please get in touch with Sue.

Contact: Sue Fish. Mobile: 027 327 3633 Email: suef365@gmail.com

Current Issues

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 10.00 am in the Burma Lounge, Malvina Major Village, 134 Burma Road, Johnsonville.

Contact: Michael Hodgen 478 6303 or michael.hodgen@xtra.co.nz

Film Group - Saturday

Meets on the third Saturday of the month (daytime) at the Penthouse cinema, with the film followed by a discussion at the café. **New members welcome.**

Contact Colleen McClymont 027 5277202 or Bob McClymont, 027 5277203 or mcclymont1@xtra.co.nz

Film Group - Mid-Week

Catches a film on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, usually at Lighthouse Cuba, but will go further afield to Penthouse or Roxy to catch a better film. Times vary but aim at early afternoon after the Tuesday lecture and with opportunity for discussion after each film. Members are notified before each, and are free to attend as many or few films as they wish.

Contacts: for the first Tuesday, Suzanne Blumhardt on 3847046 or hatblum@xtra.co.nz

and for the third Tuesday, Aidan Kay on aidankaynz@gmail.com or 021 0282 2082.

German Conversation

This friendly group will meet at 10.30 am on the second and fourth Mondays of the month in members' homes. **New members welcome.**

Contact: Diana Barnes 479-2947 or dgbarnes@xtra.co.nz

Music Appreciation Group

We meet on alternate Thursdays from 10 am until 12 noon at St Ninians Church, Karori. **All welcome** and morning tea/coffee/biscuits provided. Each meeting a member presents music on a topic chosen by them. The music is mostly classical, but does not have to be. Doing a presentation is entirely voluntary, and it is not necessary to know lots about music, just to enjoy it. Meeting dates for the first half of 2021: Feb 11 and 25; March 11 and 25; April 15 and 29; May 13 and 27; June 10 and 24

Contact: David Barker, 021 376 660 or u3a.wlg.musicapp@gmail.com

Philosophy Group

Meets in the Common Room, St Andrew's Church, The Terrace (outside ramp), twice a month on first and third Mondays at 2.30 pm. We are currently full.

Contact: Mark MacCallum 0225823916 or markmaccalm@gmail.com

Shakespeare Studies

Meets on alternate Wednesdays at St Andrew's Centre, 30 The Terrace from 10.30 am until 12 noon. Numbers are limited to 12, and there is a short waiting list, but please contact Roger if you are interested in joining this group.

Contact: Roger Chapman 021 037 5622 or chaplaw42@gmail.com

Walking Group One

Meets at the Wharewaka (beside the lagoon on the waterfront) at 9.45 am every Monday morning. **All U3A members welcome**, no need to call - we'd welcome you for a social walk and talk and, of course, coffee at the end. We explore historic, nature and cultural places around the city.

Contact: David Cropp 027 657 0666 or cropp.david@gmail.com

Walking Group Two

Longer walks (Mondays 9.30 am to 12 noon approx.), around and about Wellington. Walks usually end at a café for an optional coffee. On the second Monday of each month a longer walk of up to four hours is scheduled. As our members are all reasonably fit a good degree of fitness is expected. Transport is usually based around Gold Card times with carpooling when necessary. This group is currently full.

Contact: Paul Armstrong 476 6965 or paul.armstrong9@gmail.com

New Groups

Anyone interested in leading/forming a new group please contact Linda Beckett 027 417 5838 or lbecketto106@gmail.com

U3A WELLINGTON CITY INC - COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020/2021

Barbara Crump President	bjcrumpnz@gmail.com	977 7385 022 301 6309
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Robin Halliday Programme Coordinator Tuesday	rhalliday001@gmail.com	938 5162
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