



**NORTH-WEST**

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# NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022

**OUR NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**at Henderson Bowls, 2/20 Alderman Drive, Henderson**

**Programme:**

**9.45 President's welcome and announcements**

**10.00 Presentation by the 'Bloomsbury Plus' Group**

**10.20 Morning tea**

**10.45 Guest Speaker: Lynn Miller from Bird Life Aotearoa**

## **INTRODUCING OUR NEXT SPEAKER**

### **LYNN MILLER**

**Topic: The changing face of wildlife rehabilitation.**

Three years ago, Lynn Miller was recruited by the trustees for NZ Bird Rescue Charitable Trust, to join the team as the general manager, tasked with bringing their facility to a level of professionalism that would meet the challenges birds were facing in this changing world.



Come along and discover what has happened to this special Bird Care Aotearoa facility over these past 3 years, how it is evolving to meet patients' needs, the rebranding and role it now plays in this region. Plus, of course, meet some of the patients, the challenges they

face and how Bird Care Aotearoa is not only meeting them, but also leading the world in their care.

Though born in NZ, Lynn has actually spent the greater part of her life living around the world, mostly based in Canada and the USA. She studied with Gerald Durrell on Jersey Island, and worked at London Zoo under Jaime Samour before moving to Canada to continue her studies in Conservation Biology and Environmental Toxicology.

As a sideline, she cared for wildlife in her home, until it became very obvious that a proper facility was needed. With three other wonderful women, she founded Le Nichoir in Hudson, Quebec. It was opened in the early 90's and is now one of Canada's top avian rehabilitation facilities.

Lynn has worked and taught throughout North America, Europe, UK and Africa, with the 7 years before coming back to NZ spent mostly in the USA. She has also been involved in oil spill response planning and management focused on the St Lawrence Seaway and eastern Canadian region. Along with managing and deploying to catastrophic weather event responses, she also worked on the Deepwater Horizon spill and subsequently, for the Canadian government on the long term health impacts on the northern gannets of Ile Bonaventure, Quebec. These birds migrate south from Canada after the breeding season with 25% ending up in the Gulf of Mexico each year and spending most of their time in the same area as the spill.

Now back in NZ, Lynn is involved in ensuring our avifauna have the best care and options when they are faced with issues ranging from injuries, toxins, illness and orphaning.

A speaker not to be missed!

## **ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR SAFETY**

For your ongoing safety we will continue to ask for proof of vaccinations.

Please wear a mask whenever practicable.

Morning tea will be served in disposable cups. Please note that the arrangements for serving the tea and coffee so that people are not standing in queues will continue. Therefore please stay in your seat until your table or row of seats is called up.

## **SEPTEMBER MEETING'S EXCITING SPEAKER**

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 12 September. Our guest speaker will be Bob Narev. Bob is a Holocaust survivor who is a former director, chairman and lawyer. He has used his experiences to teach many New Zealanders about the dangers of racism, prejudice and bigotry and the importance of respecting people of all races and religions. He chairs the Auckland Holocaust Memorial Trust which is working with Auckland Council to identify a site for the creation of a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

We are pleased to welcome Paul Robertson and Laraine Allen as new members of U3A North-West. We hope you settle quickly into your chosen study group and enjoy meeting new people.

## **CONFERENCE REPORT**

The Network Conference on 30<sup>th</sup> July delivered excellent speakers, plenty of food and ample parking. Along with four informative speeches from different branch members Judge Andrew Becroft QSO, the former Children's Commissioner, discussed present day issues resulting from the reforms of the 1990s which continue to disproportionately affect families. His message was a quote from Alexander Den Heijer – "When a flower doesn't bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows. Not the flower." He also issued a challenge to the government to move the 10% of underachieving families to the 70% of successful families in New Zealand today. Dame Patsy Reddy was the second main speaker. Employing an interview format she spoke about her experiences, challenges and patronages encountered whilst in her former position as New Zealand's Governor General. Overall it was an enjoyable day, spent in good company, and an event to look forward to next year.

**Alexis Langhorne**

## **USING OUR BRAINS – THE CRITICAL THINKING GROUP**

The Critical Thinking Group examines issues in a wide range of areas. 'Critical examination' here means considering evidence for or against positions advanced by the proponents of a particular view. Members present a topic to the group, including their own conclusion about that topic. We then debate the matter without any resort to ad hominem (i.e. attacking the person *rather than* the argument).

Unsurprisingly, members of the group often differ markedly on an issue but by being willing to listen to and consider alternative views we can all expand our horizons.

Topics considered have included:

- 'Did God make Man or did Man make God?'
- 'How to use Critical Thinking to Identify Fake News'
- 'Are Vaccine mandates justified in New Zealand?'
- 'Can democracy coexist with co-governance?'
- 'Russia's invasion of Ukraine'
- 'Nature or Nurture or maybe both?'

**Robert Woolf - Convenor**

## **SEEKING NEW MEMBERS**

In our communities are people who may be lonely, may be new to our area, may be newly retired and therefore might like to meet new people and be stimulated by joining a group and learning new things. Encourage them to join us. Information brochures are always available on the table at the main meeting and can be found at libraries, Community Advice Bureaus, etc. You can also ask a committee member for help.

Remember that new people are very welcome to attend the monthly meeting or a study group meeting before committing to join U3A so do encourage friends to come along with you.

There may be people out there who are new to the area or newly retired and don't know about us. You may have noticed we are publishing regular U3A updates in many of the local Facebook Community Groups. Please help spread the word.

## **SHORTHANDED COMMITTEE**

Currently, a number of our committee are away overseas. This continues to leave our committee shorthanded. It would be greatly appreciated if our members would help, for instance, setting up the room before our meetings and putting furniture away at the ends, setting out or putting away labels, looking after visitors, etc. If arrangements don't go as smoothly as usual, please be considerate. Just step up on the day or contact Alexis our Secretary 835-2237, email [alexis@value.net.nz](mailto:alexis@value.net.nz) as she will know who is away and when.

## **TEMPORARY STUDY GROUP CONVENOR**

In Peter's absence until the 11<sup>th</sup> September, Martine McGregor-Reid has kindly offered to cover his Study Group Coordinator role. If any of our Study Groups need support during this time, Martine can be reached on phone 021-2113548, email [martinem@xtra.co.nz](mailto:martinem@xtra.co.nz). Peter will still be contactable by email.

## **TEMPORARY NEWSLETTER EDITORS**

While our newsletter editor, Jude, is away, a big thank you to Rosemary Stagg who is producing this August newsletter and to Alexis Langhorne who will produce the September newsletter. If you have items to go into the September newsletter, please contact [alexis@value.net.nz](mailto:alexis@value.net.nz).

## **ALMONER**

Jenny Wilcox is our almoner. If you are aware of anyone who is ill or should be contacted for any reason please let Jenny know. Her email address is [jennywilcox@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jennywilcox@xtra.co.nz) and her phone number is 0275382641.

## **STUDY GROUPS**

### **Study Group Coordinator**

If you are the kind of person who relishes ensuring good lines of communication between groups of people, we would appreciate some help. It is not an onerous job but it is an important role as u3a is about ensuring that study groups are encouraged so that they can thrive.

Peter Wright's contact details are: phone 837 0042, Mobile 021 0825 1083, and email [wrightpm2@gmail.com](mailto:wrightpm2@gmail.com).

## COMMITTEE 2022/2023

The members of our committee and their responsibilities are listed below:

**President:** Mike Smith, phone 021-1720737, email [mike.s@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mike.s@xtra.co.nz).

**Vice-President and Editor of the Newsletter:** Jude Black, phone 832-4037 and 021-02453347, email: [juderblack@gmail.com](mailto:juderblack@gmail.com).

**Treasurer:** John Stagg, 027-2405520, email [johnstaggnz@gmail.com](mailto:johnstaggnz@gmail.com).

**Secretary:** Alexis Langhorne, 835-2237, email [alexis@value.net.nz](mailto:alexis@value.net.nz).

**Study Group Coordinator (Interim):** Peter Wright, phone 837-0042 and 021-08251083, email [wrightpm2@gmail.com](mailto:wrightpm2@gmail.com).

**Speaker Coordinator and Manager of Archives:** Robert Woolf, phone 816-8899, email: [robert.woolf@gmail.com](mailto:robert.woolf@gmail.com)

**Almoner and Greeting Coordinator:** Jenny Wilcox, phone, 0275382641, email [jennywilcox@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jennywilcox@xtra.co.nz).

**Data and IT:** to be shared by Mike Smith and Peter Wright.

**Morning Tea Roster:** Peter Wright, phone 837-0042 and 021-08251083, email [wrightpm2@gmail.com](mailto:wrightpm2@gmail.com).

**Facebook pages and Publicity:** John Stagg and Jude Black

**U3A Network Representative:** Peter Wright, phone 837-0042 and 021-08251083, email [wrightpm2@gmail.com](mailto:wrightpm2@gmail.com)

Supporters of the Committee are:

Bill Whittome (morning teas)

Alison Kittelty (greeter)

## COMMITTEE SUPPORTERS NEEDED

If you would like to support the Committee by offering to perform a task regularly, we would appreciate the help, with no obligation to attend Committee meetings. Contact President Mike Smith.

## U3A MESSAGE BOARD

There is a new feature on the national U3A website which is a Message Board which will make it more straightforward to pass on ideas for making running a U3A branch easier. It will be similar to a blog but under editorial control. It is a chance for all members of U3A to share their expertise on subjects beneficial to nearly every U3A in New Zealand so all branches can benefit.