



FRANKLIN
U3A

"Where Learning is Fun"

NEWSLETTER – April 2022

2022 OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

President: Angela Dold

Vice President:

Past President: Wayne Buckingham

Secretary: Anne Leys

Treasurer: Gerry Whittaker

Course Convenor/Membership: Linda Cass

Newsletter Editor/Publicity: David Cass

Committee

Wendy Goad

Mark Leys

Donn Sharp

PRESIDENT'S PANEL from Angela Dold

Hello, U3A members.

April is upon us (nearly) and I expect many of you are asking the question "Where have January, February, March gone?" I don't know. It's a question hard to answer. Our Executive Committee has had a few changes, with resignations from Dawn Hutson (illness) and Paul Radley, and our thanks go to both of them for their service to U3A, with a special Get Well thought to Dawn. Shirley Tatler has now stepped down from the committee, though her service to the club continues as organiser of morning tea - an essential job! Perhaps someone from the membership could volunteer to replace her on the committee. We still need a Vice-president, and would welcome a volunteer to help out as Club Almoner, as Anne Leys has resigned from that role, which involves keeping track of member misfortunes (illnesses, operations, deaths, close relatives passing etc.) A note or a card is sent to the person just reassuring them that we are thinking of them. All information comes from members.

At the end of April, we will have Anzac Day. A time to remember what war can do to us all, particularly relevant now with war in Europe. Despite many people still suffering with the virus, New Zealand is coming out of its cocoon and joining the rest of the world again. Our borders are opening, people are starting to travel away, using the jet plane as their proverbial wings. We must hope if we're lucky that we might see an end to this horrible pandemic.

Please come to our Chapter meeting on the 19 April, 9.45 am (for 10 am start) at the Cosmopolitan Club, 78 Nelson Street. As your new president, I have to get to know your names so it would be appreciated if you could try to remember to wear your name tags at meetings to jog awake my shrinking brain. Thank you in advance.

Angela Dold

U3A CALENDAR – Thankfully we can report that March sees our regular programme of interest group meetings returning to normality, and convenors will be in touch with you as arrangements are made. There are some changes of convenor and location to report, so if in doubt please contact your convenors - a complete list follows later in the newsletter.

1 April	1 st Friday	Mah Jong
5 April	1 st Tuesday	Environmental Studies - check with convenor
5 April	1 st Tuesday	Book Club
6 April	1 st Wednesday	Art Appreciation
7 April	1 st Thursday	Music Appreciation
8 April	2 nd Friday	Transport - Navy Museum visit
12 April	2 nd Tuesday	Literature Appreciation
13 April	2 nd Wednesday	World Geography
15 April	3 rd Friday	Current Affairs
18 April	3 rd Monday	Travellers Tales
19 April	3 rd Tuesday	Chapter Meeting
19 April	3 rd Tuesday	Lunching Group after Chapter Mtg - in recess
20 April	3 rd Wednesday	History
21 April	3 rd Thursday	Biographies (Famous & Infamous)
25 Apr Anzac Day	4 th Monday	Aspects of New Zealand - postponed, next meeting May
26 April	4 th Tuesday	Gallivanting
27 April	4 th Wednesday	Digital Devices

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

19 April	3 rd Tuesday	CHAPTER MEETING
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U3A NETWORK MEETING

U3A Auckland Network's Annual Meeting takes place on 30 July, with featured speakers Sir Peter Gluckman and Dame Patsy Reddy. Full details of this event can be found on U3A Auckland's website. Registration is required to attend, and it is open to current U3A members - and most years a small contingent of U3A Franklin members have attended and enjoyed the meeting.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Linda Cass

Most of last year's members have now rejoined bringing the total number to about 103.

If any members decide to resign from U3A could they please let me know so I can update our records and remove their names from the mailing list. Thank you

GROUP ANNUAL AND MEETING REPORTS

Convenor's Report - Linda Cass

Biographies has a new convenor, Mary Roberts, meeting as before at Doreen's house, so thanks to Mary for stepping up into this role.

If anyone has suggestions for new interest groups, please let me know.

It's helpful if convenors can send in their reports promptly after their meeting for inclusion in the newsletter published in the last week of the month.

Here is the current list of groups and convenors with contact details, and updated reports that we have received as of 30 March.

ART APPRECIATION - Convenor: Fiona Congdon,

On 2nd March 15 of us met at the Pukekohe Cinema to see the movie 'Hitler versus Picasso and the others.'

What a powerful and moving documentary on the Nazi's regime of the terrible looting of art in Europe during WW2. I definitely recommend seeing it if you get the opportunity.

Next month I'm away but Ann Anderson will be organising the meeting for Wednesday 6th April.

ASPECTS OF NEW ZEALAND - Convenor: Linda Cass

Nine members attended this month's meeting at the new venue, the Wesley Methodist Church, where we heard a varied programme. Annette spoke about Temuka Potteries and Geraldine-based Barker's Foods. Suzanne told us about the 1868 Chilean earthquake and tsunami and its impact on eastern NZ, particularly Banks Peninsula and Lyttelton port.

Linda then spoke about White Island and its geology and early sulphur mining industry, accompanied by a short film clip and photos.

Next month's meeting has been cancelled because of a clash with Anzac Day, so the group's next meeting will be in May, Monday 23 May at 9.45, Wesley Methodist Church Hall, cnr Wesley and Queen Sts when we hope to hear Edna's presentation on the history of Lion Breweries.

BIOGRAPHIES - (Famous & Infamous People). Convenor: Mary Roberts

Mary Roberts is restarting Biographies, still at its previous venue at Doreen's house.

BOOK CLUB - Convenor: Anne Leys

We had a good meeting with 8 members attending. We covered our usual amazing range of topics and discussed all sorts of things. Our next meeting will be on April 5, 1330 at the usual venue.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - Convenor: Mark Leys,

Mark reports that March's meeting took place at Donn and Rachel's house, and that the April meeting at the same venue is scheduled for April 15.

DIGITAL DEVICES - Conveners: Gerry Whittaker, and Paul Radley,

Paul Radley followed up last month's presentation with more examples of helpful apps for your smartphone, including Gasp - which gives you up-to-the-minute information on where the cheapest fuel is in your area. He also pointed out a collection of interesting podcasts, audio programmes from Radio NZ, media reports from newspapers and helpful apps such as calendars.

Gerry Whittaker showed a short video on LiDAR or 3D scanning technology and its wide application, especially its impact on self-driving cars. That was followed by another video tutorial on how to convert old VHS tapes into a digital format. The session was wrapped up with a hands-on, practical demonstration of how to convert an 8mm Sony Handycam tape to a digital format, which allows you to then save the file to a hard drive, DVD or USB flash drive.

Next month Glynn Heppleston is going to demonstrate how to convert and add YouTube music videos to your music library. The next meeting is Wednesday April 27 at St James Church hall at 9.45

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES - Convener: Ray Reynolds, & Ian Boyd

No March meeting held - Covid worries - but we should be operative for April meeting on 5 April. Convener will be in touch.

GALLIVANTING GROUP - Convener: Janet Barry

7 members enjoyed the Sculpture Exhibition at the Botanic Gardens followed by a cafe lunch.

Next outing April 26th with nothing planned as yet. Please watch your emails.

HISTORY - Convener: Ian Barton,

On 16th March we studied the history of Latvia diverting to nearby Ukraine on occasion. Because the Baltic States have been associated with Russia in varying degree for several hundred years and hardly ever by choice, understanding the history of the region is very topical given the current activities in Ukraine of that megalomaniac idiot Putin. For, if Putin's army is successful in subjugating Ukraine, the three small Baltic States may not be safe, despite their membership of NATO. In April the topic will be the last of the three Baltic States, Lithuania.

We meet in the Presbyterian Church hall, West Street, on the third Wednesday of the month, commencing 9.45 am. New members welcome. Don't forget your mask and vaccination pass.

LITERATURE - Convener: Derek Hodson,

At Doreen Massey's house on March 8, a small but lively group met to discuss our subject for the month, "Stories with a Cinderella or David and Goliath theme"

We covered a wide range of stories, some from real life and some from fiction and had a very animated and thoughtful session. Our next meeting will be on April 12 when the topic will be: "Animal stories highlighting human/animal relationships - can be fact or fiction."

LUNCHING GROUP TUESDAY - Convener: Anne and Mark Leys

With Covid overshadowing arrangements, the Lunching Group is at present in recess. We hope to be back before long.

MAH JONG - Conveners: Helen Buckingham and Shirley Tatler

Our Mahjong group meets on the 1st Friday of each month at the Pukekohe Library at 9.30. We will also meet mid-month for those who are keen - we will sort this out amongst ourselves after our official meeting.

We had our first game of Mahjong on 18th March after a shaky start to the year due to Covid. Six of us met at the library and enjoyed a morning brushing up on our knowledge of the game.

Our next meeting is on Friday 1st April at 9.30 at the library.

MUSIC APPRECIATION - Convener: Sandra Langton,

David presented some lovely, relaxing cello music this morning to a very small select group. Jacqueline du Pre, the acclaimed British cellist, played much of the music David selected, with featured composers Offenbach, Bruch, Mendelssohn, Schubert and Dvorak. Julian Lloyd Webber featured also, playing "*Love Changes Everything*" from Aspects of Love. Just to lighten things a little we heard, and watched, a very young Paul McCartney sing *Yesterday*, with cello accompaniment. We heard John Barry, renowned for composing music for films, play *Rockin' Already*, dating from his first career in late fifties pop music. For the first time David used the Smart TV so we were able to both watch and hear some of the music being played. Great new technology you mastered for us, David. Thank you so much for a lovely programme.

Next meeting April 7, 9.45 a.m at St James Church hall lounge.

TRANSPORT GROUP - Conveners: Paul Radley & David Cass

The Transport Group was treated to an interesting talk by Donn on the development of large piston engines for aircraft from the 1920s through to the 1960s. These were mainly in-line V12s from Rolls-Royce and Mercedes, then radials.

We then discussed other variations in engine types including the Napier Sabre 24 cylinder sleeve valve engine. A very interesting presentation followed by a good deal of discussion.

Our April meeting will be a trip to visit the NZ Navy Museum. We will travel by train and ferry to Devonport.

TRAVELLERS TALES - Convener Margaret Wilson

Because of the high numbers of Covid infections, I have decided to not have a meeting in March and hope we will be more normal next month. It seems as though those with heart or breathing problems are the most susceptible and Alan is one of those so we are being extra careful.

I will do my presentation next month but am wanting to hear from anyone who is happy to assist in the future please.
Many thanks in advance.

Venue: St Patrick's Catholic Church, Seddon St, upstairs meeting room, 18 April, 9.45a.m

WORLD GEOGRAPHY - Convenor Wendy Goad

Our March meeting was another Zoom – we are getting good at it now! Continuing with our theme of the ex-Soviet Republics, Annette gave us an overview of Belarus. Around 40% of Belarus is covered by forest. The country is home to one of the last and largest remaining parts of the huge primeval forest that once covered the European Plain – the Białowieża Forest. The green stripe on the Belarusian flag represents its forests.

This interesting talk was followed by Madeline talking to us about the central Asian country of Kazakhstan. The Kazakh flag consists of a sky-blue background with a gold ornamental pattern on the left (horns of the ram) with a sun and soaring eagle in the centre. These images represent the sky, freedom, and the importance of grain. Kazakhstan has the largest proven oil reserves in the Caspian Sea region and the money from this is used to adorn the capital of Almaty (and line the pockets of the dictator and his supporters).

We finished our session with an overview of the history (yes history, not geography!) of the eastern European region. Starting in 859AD with the state of Novgorod we moved quickly through Kievan Rus, the Mongol invasions of the 13thC and The Grand Duchy of Muscovy and Ivan the Terrible who completed the subjugation of the 'Russian Lands' including Ukraine and Belarus, and also touched on the Cossacks. This was followed by the era of Imperial Russia and Tsar Peter the First who expanded an already vast empire into a major European power. He moved the capital from Moscow to the new model city of Saint Petersburg. From here we touched on the Soviet Era (1922-2991), finishing with the 15 independent states that we know today (perhaps to become 14 states in the near future). Our next meeting, on April 13 will also be a Zoom and we will finish off our overview of the ex-Soviet Republics. Hopefully this will be our last Zoom and then we can meet in person (when we have found a suitable venue).

WRITING GROUP - Convener: Angela Dold

Tailpieces

