



HOBSONVILLE NEWSLETTER

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FEBRUARY 2024 MEETING

Thursday 15th February, 10am

Hobsonville Bowling Club, Memorial Park Lane, off Hobsonville Road

Morning Tea: News & Views

Hosting: Computer Group

Mini Speaker: Adventure Walking



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and hopefully all your Xmas celebrations went to plan. Somehow 6 weeks have already disappeared of 2024 – if anyone knows who stole them, please let me know!!

We enjoyed a delicious Xmas Lunch at McHughes, Cheltenham - what a beautiful setting. Where else in Auckland can you find a restaurant almost on the high tide mark? Lots of jollification, food and lucky prizes for some. Our thanks to New World, Hobsonville for 2 of our Lucky Draw prizes.

Some of our Special Interest Groups have hardly paused over the break whilst others are getting ready to spring into action. Many thanks to our hard working convenors. Without them, the SIG's just would not happen. The SIG's really are the heart of our U3A and where the special connections are made so once more thank you to our Convenors.

Our monthly meetings start again on February 15th at the Hobsonville Bowling Club at 10am.

Thereafter on the 3rd Thursday of each month through until November. Don't forget our monthly meetings are an important part of our U3A culture and the expectation is that members attend at least 2 or 3 meetings a year. Please remember we do have a waiting list with people who are keen to join Hobsonville U3A and attend our meetings.

Our financial year is coming to an end (31st March) and with it our AGM and election of committee members. Please think about suitable people for your committee, perhaps you would like to stand yourself, just let us know. It really is not very onerous and will give you an insight into the inner workings, such as they are.

Bronwen King, President

Again, parking will be at premium at our monthly meeting. If you can car pool please do so.

Nigel & Rob will be out in the carpark to help with the parking, so please follow their instructions including double parking when asked to do so.

GUEST SPEAKER



Jessica Phuang was born in Singapore and immigrated to New Zealand in 1988. She joined the NZ Police in 2003 and is a non-constabulary employee and one of the first police ethnic liaison officers to be appointed in New Zealand. Her involvement includes; initiating the first ever Ethnic Advisory Board, and National Ethnic Strategy for the NZ Police, programmes for the recruiting of ethnic police officers, establishing the Auckland Safety Patrol Group setting up the Community Safety Ambassadors Group and other community initiatives. In 2008, Jessica was invested with the Queen Service Medal for her work. Her commitment and dedication has earned her several accolades. In 2020, she was promoted to Ethnic Responsiveness Manager – Tāmaki Makaurau and has 16 ethnic liaison members in her team.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS


ADVENTURE WALKING Convenor: Graeme Johnston

For our final outing of 2023, we took advantage of the motorway now extending to the outskirts of Warkworth and based our walk on Kowhai Reserve, adjacent to the infamous Hill Street Junction. The reserve offers a superb loop bush walk, with wonderful specimens of forest trees. Across Matakana Road we took another path down a long flight of steps to the riverside, then onto the Sesquicentennial Walkway, a short, shaded walk alongside the tranquil river. Retracing our steps to the start at Bridge House, we next explored part of the riverfront walk as far as Lucy Moore Park where a Flying Fox proved an irresistible attraction for some. The Emmanuels café was a more-than-adequate venue for our lunch. **Next Walk:** 3rd Monday **Time:** 10am. **Venue:** TBA. **VACANCY**



Lime Kiln

BOOK GROUP Convenor: Nettie Smith

 November meeting was lunch at The Landing, books not discussed. Instead reviewing books read this month. Books I rated 4 stars: *All the Dangerous Things* by Stacy Willingham, young son kidnapped; *The Clockmakers Daughter* by Kate Morton, 1862 murder solved 150 years later and *Weyward* by Emilia Hart, three witches, three timelines. Books rated 5 stars: *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese, an epic of love, faith and medicine set in Sth India, following 3 generations of a family; *None of This is True* by Lisa Jewell, a woman becomes the subject of her own true crime podcast and *The Sisters Brothers* by Patrick deWitt, a western and dark comedy about 2 brothers. **Meetings:** 3rd Thursday **Time:** 1.30pm. **FULL**

BREATHING & RELAXATION Convenor: Val Baker

Due to the fact that many group members had other commitments on our last day, and there were only a few available to attend, we decided we would relax and take in the air and a coffee at Fabric, a restaurant at Catalina Bay. By sitting beside the water in this beautiful spot with the sun shining and watching the passing parade of people, we felt we had a meditation and relaxation all in one. We agreed it was a perfect way to end the year. Looking forward to beginning again in February 2024. **Next Meeting:** 22nd February. **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**



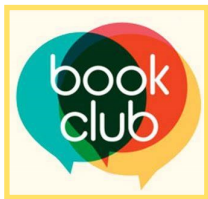
ARTS & THEATRE Convenor: Anne Denton

Our theatre goes gladly started the year with the Shoreside Players at Pumphouse in Takapuna - 2 great Shakespeare performances preceded by dinner at the French Rendezvous Restaurant next door. Measure for Measure was not familiar but the theme rang a modern bell - men in power demanding sexual favours of women!! The outdoor amphitheatre is a great setting: the acting was very good. Midsummer's Night Dream had to relocate inside due to the weather, but was still a fun performance. Still to come this month for the music aficionados - Cliff Richard, Opera Studio picnic concert, APO Passion & Mystery and more.

Next Meeting: Last Thursday. **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**



BOOK CLUB II Convenor: Liz Van Brink



We discussed the titles we had read around the theme of "New Zealand". We covered a good range: Hibiscus Coast by Paula Morris 5/5; The Scornful Moon: A Moralists Tale by Maurice Gee 4/5; The Denniston Rose by Jenny Patrick 4.5/5; Wearing the Poppy by AJ Toledo 5/5; A Blonde in the Bazaar by Jill Worrall 4/5; The Wish Child by Catherine Chidgey 4/5; No White Lies by Dan Eaton 4.5/5; Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton 5/5; Lessons from Ducks by Tammy Robinson 4/5; Gabriel's Bay by Catherine Robertson 4/5; PS Come to Italy by Nicky Pellegrino 4/5. We've decided to continue to read around the world for a while longer. Our theme for February is "Australia". We are a group of 5 and would welcome up to 3 new members. **Next Meeting:** 1st Thursday. **Time:** 10.30am. **Venue:** Hobsonville Point. **VACANCY**

COMPUTER GROUP Convenor: Nigel Dempster

At our last meeting for 2023 we discussed the roles files and folders play in organizing and managing files efficiently and locating information swiftly. As we venture into the new year, our group is looking forward to what new things in technology will come about. With that in mind, February's meeting was about the world's biggest Consumer Electronics Show where the companies wheel out all that is new and wonderful coming to the market place. Also, we saw a documentary about one of the biggest scandals involving the UK post office. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Thursday. See you there or be square. **Time:** 1.30pm. **Venue:** Summerset Cinema, Hobsonville. **VACANCY**



CURRENT AFFAIRS Convenor: Judy Lewins



The Current Affairs discussion group is in its fourth year. The group shares views on the news of the world. We explore and discuss in-depth articles, investigative journalism and opinion across politics, news, business, and culture. Let's face it, there are crises and potential crises popping up in many parts of the world and for the most we rely on New Zealand newspapers and Television reporting. Members sharing their additional research gives us more informed views. It's a bit like a dinner party with informed respectful friends. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Thursday.

EXERCISE TO MUSIC Convenor: Colleen Soljan

Happy New Year everyone. The Exercise to Music group will be starting on the 8th February at the bowling club 9.30 am We have a small change to our days they will now be the 2nd Thursday & 4th Thursday in the month, giving our members the opportunity to also join Val's Breathing & Relaxation class which will follow our E2M session depending on vacancies in either group. Please let Val know if you are interested.

Next Meetings: 2nd & 4th Thursdays. **Time:** 9.30am. **VACANCY**



EAT AROUND THE WORLD: Convenor: Jan Edmonds



Our first outing for 2024 was sunny and warm. Six of us made our way to El Greco in Campbells Bay, a restaurant offering Italian and Greek cuisine. The owner, Kostas Grigoraks, was welcoming and happy to advise about the dishes. We ordered a selection of the traditional fare; dolmades, cabbage leaves stuffed with rice and lamb, soutzoukakia, beef & lamb meatballs, Greek haloumi, semi soft goat and sheep cheeses. We ordered from the starter menu and found the meals very generous, however, there was still room for dessert. We were there to eat Greek food and again chose traditional dishes: baklavas, gelato and tiramisu. This was a lovely venue, and definitely one we will visit again. **Next Meeting:** 1st Thursday. **Time:** 1.00pm. **VACANCY**

FAMILY HISTORY Convenor: Shared by all members



Our last meeting for the year had the group sharing their best genealogy find for the year. As each member is at a different stage on their genealogical journey, the answers were varied from discovering more information by ordering a birth certificate to wondering how far do you go on adding descendants to your family tree. We also looked at taking a traffic light approach to research. **RED** – think about what your big research goal will be. **AMBER** – pause, what do you have already that might inform your question. **GREEN** – make a list of sources you want to examine and off you go! Hopefully you will answer your original research question! **Next Meeting:** 2nd Tuesday. **Time:** 1.30pm. **VACANCY**

FOOD FOR FUN Convenor: Marilyn Page

Members celebrated an Italian Christmas for our last meeting of the year. Antipasto, Chicken and Pork dishes were followed by delicious Tiramisu. Prosecco cocktails accompanied the meal and the final touch was Limoncello chocolates from Italy completing a happy and festive occasion. We began 2024 with a visit to Fabric Cafe at Hobsonville Point. Everyone was able to come along and we enjoyed lunch under a shady umbrella on the deck while we planned our programme for 2024. **Next Meeting:** Last Tuesday. **Time:** 11.30am **VACANCY**



iPAD-iPHONE Convenor: Kay Hamilton



We decided to have a meeting on Waitangi Day at Sandra's home in Hobsonville as most of us weren't off to join the celebrations up North. It was only a small group, but we did discuss age of phones, batteries, FaceTime, scams, cleaning iPad or iPhone of old emails, photos and sites we had looked at and weather sites. We also touched on the health of our King and who may follow him and talked about food and places to eat. Talk about food, as a group we had a lovely lunch in January at The Malt. Maybe we should go back to Puriri cafe, this was my pick for 2023. **Next Meeting:** First Tuesday. **Venue:** Greenhithe. **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**

GOLD CARD TRIPS Convenor: Tiina Delacey

Our last trip 2023 was to Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Temple at Flat Bush. Peace and tranquility greatly welcomed before the rush of Christmas and New Year began. As usual, our first bus was late which put our schedule out, in that we could not have our morning coffee before we got there. But luckily tea and coffee were available at the temple before starting our self-guided tour. The temple is designed in the architectural style of the Tang Dynasty. We saw some great art in the Art Salon, an exhibition held annually which this year had 609 artworks by 101 artists. Some cherry blossoms still flowering in the gardens. Large Buddha and bare feet in the main hall. Lunch was vegetarian at Water Drop Teahouse. **Next meeting:** 4th Wednesday. **Time:** TBA.



VACANCY

GOURMET Convenor: Val Baker



What another superb year we have had. The people in the attached photo have cooked their way around the world twice, cooked with different herbs and spices and visited the cuisine of favourite countries. We had our Christmas lunch at Soljans Winery at Kumeu where the food was deemed excellent by everyone. We realised we have all been cooking together for 11 years. Sadly though, due to various circumstances, we find we are having to put away our aprons and close the pantry door.

We decided to finish on a high. As convenor, I want to say a huge thanks to this group. We have become special friends over the time we have cooked and eaten together and will remain so for times to come. **GROUP NOW CLOSED**

ITALIAN COOKERY FOR MEN Convenor: Alessandro Laryn



Romagna Tortellini piatto

In November, the featured Italian region was **Emilia Romagna**. We prepared two traditional dishes: handmade Tortellini and fried French cutlets of lamb (the latter shown at the pre-fried stage – once fried they disappeared quickly). We also had Panettone, the traditional Italian Christmas cake. (Photos courtesy Bryan King.) We welcome newcomers. **Next Meeting:** 3rd Wednesday **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**



Romagna cotolette impanate

MAHJONG Convenor: Bronwen King



Happy New Year to everyone. As per our last report we did continue our Mahjong sessions through to December 11th. We then broke until January 22nd when 9 of us got back together to try and prompt our brain cells back into action - some of us found it quite challenging! However, we are on a roll now and Mahjong will continue with 2 sessions each month. Venue to be notified. **Next Meetings:** 2nd & 4th Monday. **Time:** 12.30pm. **FULL**

MUSIC SEEKERS Convenor: Jan Bickerton

The last music seekers' user group for 2023, was as usual in Summerset Cinema, featuring performances by Simon & Garfunkel, Etta James, and Fats Domino, among others and was a captivating and diverse musical experience.

Simon & Garfunkel's timeless harmonies and poetic lyrics transported the audience through an era of folk excellence. Etta James' soulful renditions added a powerful and emotive dimension, showcasing her vocal prowess. Fats Domino's energetic and infectious tunes brought a lively atmosphere. The eclectic mix of artists contributed to a well-rounded session, appealing to a broad range of musical tastes. The meeting successfully offered a rich and enjoyable exploration of musical treasures.

Next Meeting: 2nd Friday. **Time:** 10am. **Venue:** Summerset Cinema, Hobsonville. **VACANCY**



QUIZ GROUP Convenor: Bill Kittelty




Friday 1st Feb, dawned fine and warm for the first quiz meeting for 2024. Lenise and Colin hosted the 19 members attending, with the questions requiring an intense team effort at times. The later starting time of 2pm was well received with a majority of members retiring to the Hobsonville RSA afterwards for the Friday night dinner of fish and chips. **Next Meeting:** 1st Friday. **Time:** 2pm. **VACANCY**

SCIENCE Convenor: Geoff Beresford

There is a lot of hot steam in New Zealand. For our November meeting we had friend, geologist and geothermal expert, Jim Lawless, talk to us about geothermal energy. It turns out not all geothermal sources are created equal. We have many sources some of them very good and it is these that have been used to generate electricity. New Zealand is something of a pioneer in this field and we have learnt a lot since the Wairakei power station was built in the 1950s. There are now 20 geothermal stations in NZ and this resource is considered the most reliable renewable energy source in the country. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Wednesday. **Time & Venue:** TBA. **VACANCY**



SUNDAY BRUNCHERS Convenor: Bronwen King


 We Brunchers decided not to be held back by a small matter of Xmas close-downs. We had brunch in November at Willow in Tawa Drive, a lovely little café with no parking on Sundays. December saw us gathering at Delicious Café on the Te Atatu Peninsula – last time we were there it rained and blew and they closed the Harbour Bridge but not this time – very pleasant and plenty of room. Come January, there was no holding us back, off we went to Foundation on George in Parnell. It was a hot day but beautifully cool in this venue, again very spacious. All 3 venues had excellent food and it was great to keep in touch with everyone over the break. Now we are up to February already and on the 11th we will be heading for Kings Garden Café in Asquith Ave. New members are welcome. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Sunday. **Time:** 9.30am. **VACANCY**

WEEKLY WALKING Convenors: Neville Olsen and Gill Stephens

We have continued our walks every Monday morning throughout the holiday period and have been getting an average of 13 people turn up every time, so it has been obvious that there was no need to close down for those two months. We even had 18 people turn up on a Monday just before Christmas. We have enjoyed walks at Westgate, Hobsonville, Greenhithe and Albany. On one of the Albany walks we found a new track through the bush and a lovely waterfall on the stream just below the Albany pub. On a Greenhithe walk, we went to the lookout at the end of Marae Rd and enjoyed the spectacular view over Herald Island and the Upper Harbour. **Next Walk:** 1, 2, 4 & 5th Mondays. **Time:** 9.30am. **Venue:** TBA. **FULL**



WORLD WARS I & II Convenor: David Thompson

 We were spoiled at our last meeting for the year, when Margaret Raby shared the story of her husband Ron's escape from a German POW camp in Sulmona Italy. Several years later, accompanied by her son Simon, she retraced Ron's route using his notes written shortly after his escape. They took photos of the mountainous terrain including the towns and villages he traversed and presented these to us accompanied with the appropriate narration. Simon ably assisted with the presentation. We completed the meeting with a video of the 'Flying Truck' the DC-3 or Dakota. An enduring workhorse, used throughout the war and of course in the D-Day landings. **Next Meeting:** 3rd Wednesday. **Time:** 2pm. **Venue:** Summerset Cinema. **VACANCY**



Uke'n PLAY

CONVENOR WANTED...for the Ukulele Group,

This group now has no convenor and will sadly close if there is no one to take over. Please contact Val if you are able to help.