



Supporting
Lifelong Learning

Howick Inc.

PO Box 39035

Howick 2145

May 2021



COMMITTEE 2021/2022

ALAN LA ROCHE

President

GERALDINE ROSE

Past-President/U3A network liaison

JAN NAISH-WALLIS *Secretary*

JEANETTE PRISCOTTE

Director of Studies

DAVID DWERRYHOUSE

Membership

JONI BURGESS *Treasurer*

MARY KENNEDY *Newsletter Editor*

ROSEMARY OVENS *Almoner/Welcomer*

COLLEEN RIGBY *Speaker Convenor*

Next General Meeting:

Monday May 10 2021: 9.30 at Howick Bowling Club*

Speaker: Mick Clout

Ten-minute speaker:

Tea Group: Opera 1

Thanks to all of those who have paid their subscriptions. Please pay by Direct Debit to: U3A Howick Bank account number 12 3040 0556154 00 and put your surname in the reference slot. Fees remain at \$20.00

If you are unable to use Direct Debit, please give your fees in cash to Joni Burgess at a General Meeting.

President's Report - 2021 AGM

This past year has been a very difficult year for all of us due to the extraordinary event of Covid and the restrictions placed upon us. These restrictions resulted in my official Presidency beginning in July 2020 and since then we have been able to enjoy 5 Monthly Meetings. I regret being unable to contribute as much as I would have liked to our Organisation, and also regret not being able to get to know more of you individually. Our Group Meetings have also been curtailed although some groups did communicate on occasion by Zoom. Perhaps we have become a little more 'technically savvy' because of these restrictions.

In spite of our disruptive year we have had some progress in our Study Groups with the naming of 3 new groups - Comparative Religions, Current Affairs and Te Reo Maori, the latter unfortunately now in recess, but the former two enjoying vigorous discussion as and when they could be held. In November our Past President David Dwerryhouse organised a very interesting trip to Ardmore for a guided tour of NZ Warbirds and a visit to the workshop of Warren Denholm where a WW2 Spitfire was being restored.

As you know, an organisation is only as good as its members and although the activity and spirit of Howick U3a has always been at a high level, our membership has fallen to 129, partly due to Covid and some members finding other activities, or even just feeling one doesn't need to be on the go all the time. Other members have moved out of the area. It is important though, to keep in mind that interests, companionship, enjoyment and learning promote a healthy life. Unfortunately the year has taken from us Hazel Hanlon, Dawn Peterson, Jessica Pybus & Heather Watson – our condolences were sent to their respective families.

The smooth running of our U3a is created by many people, some behind the scenes and I would like to thank these willing people: Betty & Alan Reid for organising the Moring Tea ensuring we remain hydrated at our meetings; Jim Hine and Bevin Cornwall who make sure that all the technical needs are met for the us and our guest Speakers. - Both Jim & Bevin wish to retire this year. Phil Williams has volunteered to take over the audio/visual, but would like assistance. Thank you Phil. Thanks also to Jim for preparing the name badges for new members and for the Committee as and when required. Special thanks go to Marian Heywood and the Writing group for providing their entertaining and skilfully written short stories, and to all our members who have offered 10 minute talks.

It is important to remember that we are part of a wider U3A organisation, which has many active groups across Auckland, the rest of New Zealand and internationally. I have had the honour of being invited to join the Auckland Network Committee, which coordinates the activities of all the Auckland groups. One of our activities is organising the annual "Celebrating U3A in Action" Event, which all members have the opportunity to attend. This year's event will be on Thursday 29th July 2021 and you are able to enrol for this event on the 'Celebrating U3a in Action' website.

We are very fortunate to have had in our U3A a strong Committee team and I sincerely thank them for their excellent work and commitment and for the support they have given me personally.

Joni Burgess, our highly professional treasurer:

Mary Kennedy, who, as Newsletter Editor, has made this 'her own' and goes from strength to strength with every publication;

Jan Naish-Wallis, our energetic Secretary, always willing to take a stance and have a good discussion;

Alan La Roche, Speaker Convenor, (and VP), making us aware of our environment so we become more 'flora & Fauna friendly';

Rosemary Ovens, our Almoner/Welcomer; always a smiling face and friendly word to greet you at the door;

David Dwerryhouse, our Membership Secretary; ably kept accurate records and always there when I have needed advice;

Margaret Nicholls, Director of Studies, and Warren Yardley.

Margaret and Warren are retiring today after many years on the Committee, and both have served as President of Howick U3A.

Margaret has served for many years as Director of Studies where she facilitated the formation of a number of new groups.

Warren has been a very conscientious Speaker Convenor for 3 years, editing the Newsletter for 2. In the last year he completely redesigned the Howick U3a brochure.

We wish them continued enjoyment with their interest groups.

We have been fortunate in having two nominations to join our Committee.

And Last, but certainly not Least – to ALL THE CONVENORS and participants of our groups; without YOU , U3A would be non-existent. You bring much time, thought and effort to ensure your groups are interesting and promotional to individual personal growth. Even in our high mature years we can ALL develop, grow, and learn and extend ourselves. A big thank you to you all.

I have been very proud to be your President. Thank you all for your support and encouragement and my best wishes go to the incoming President, Alan La Roche and the new Committee.

*Geraldine Rose
President*



Outgoing President, Geraldine Rose and incoming President, Alan La Roche

April Speaker: Guy Slocum



Guy's talk was most interesting, and we were lucky to have had the opportunity to hear such an interesting speaker, who has led such an exciting life.

Guy began his career in the cold war, flying on spying missions for the British Government. At the end of World War 2, Europe was divided, it was the dawn of the nuclear age, and there was suspicion and fear on both sides of the East-West divide. The Russians had missiles lined up under

the sea and in the air with the ability to launch missiles 450 miles away and Guy's job was to intercept and destroy these missiles. In those days, young men were paid to get their pilot's licences, and Guy was awarded a flying scholarship. On his 17th birthday, he passed a test to join the air force to fly a war bird. It took him 140 flying-hours to learn basic skills and get his wings, and he then went on to be a fighter pilot.

As time went by, he learnt to fly more and more sophisticated planes. In 1966, he was one of five out of thirty trainees who passed the tests to become a fighter pilot. He then went to fighter school to learn to use craft as a weapon. He started by using gunnery training bullets tipped with paint where he shot at targets on the ground or at banners in the sky to prove a score for each plane. After 6 months training he joined his first squadron in a plane designed to intercept Russian bombers. On one occasion, his plane caught fire and he ditched the aircraft into the North Sea. To get to the Finnish border where the Russians kept their planes he had to spend 6 to 7 hours in the air. They had to refuel from flying tankers which required great skill. These missions were secret and no one would admit pilots were flying until later were asked to take photos of enemy planes for information. On one occasion, he flew close to a man in Russian plane who did not attack him but held up a playboy magazine! Later he spent two years for the Royal Navy, flying from warships' decks. The wing had to be at right angle to get off the deck and landing was also tricky. Later he flew a sea-harrier plane which was capable of vertical take-off. It could change the nozzle angle to fly normally or vertically.

During his flying career, he had several accidents or "emergencies". During his early training on the Scottish borders, he experienced his first emergency. His wooden propeller splintered and his engine seized. He landed in a field of cows, much to the displeasure of an irate farmer. Later, in a supersonic plane, his undercarriage, which was used to brake the plane, wouldn't open properly and he landed on doors instead of wheels. In a third emergency, his engine failed in Germany. He ejected and the plane caught on fire, which lifted his parachute into the air and into some trees.

Finally, he retired from the excitement and danger of active flying and went to "command ops" where he worked from behind a desk.

May Speaker:



Mick Clout is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Auckland and has broad interests in the applications of ecological science to conservation. Originally from the UK (where he studied Ecological Science at the University of Edinburgh), Mick gained his PhD from the University of Auckland in 1977, studying the ecology of brushtail possums. He then commenced his science career with DSIR Ecology Division at Nelson, from 1977-1989. In 1989 he joined the NZ Department of Conservation as Research Manager, where he also acted as Director of Protected Species. In 1993 Mick became an academic at the University of Auckland and extended his research interests into areas of biosecurity and invasive species

management. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand (RSNZ) and was awarded the 2007 Sir Peter Scott Medal for Conservation Merit, the 2008 RSNZ Charles Fleming Award for Environmental Achievement and the 2014 Marsden Medal. Mick was the founding Chair of the Invasive Species Specialist Group of IUCN (which he led from 1995-2008), the Chair of the NZ Biosecurity Ministerial Advisory Committee from 2005-2013, and was a member of the NZ Conservation Authority from 2011-2020. He has chaired the Kakapo Recovery Group for the past 25 years.

(information supplied)

From the Committee:

We say good-bye and thank-you to Margaret Nicholls and Warren Yardley and welcome new Committee members, Colleen Rigby and Jeanette Priscotte.



Alan presenting flowers to Warren and Margaret

News from Convenors

Membership

We have two prospective new members who will be joining us at the General Meeting. We are always looking for new members. If you wish to introduce a new member, please invite them to attend a General Meeting as a visitor before submitting their application.

Out and about

- Howick Little Theatre: The Girl on the Train. 8 May. Book through iticket.co.nz
- Jersey Boys: The Civic. Until 16 May. Book through Auckland Live
- Contemporary Maori art: Auckland art gallery until 9 May
- The Sweet Caroline Tour – tribute to Neil Diamond: Sky City Theatre 12 June 8pm. Book through Ticketec
- Van Gogh Alive – Spark arena until May 6. Book through vangoghalive.co.nz
- The Pink Floyd Experience, Bruce Mason Centre 10 – 12 June. Book through ticketmaster
- Auckland Writers' Festival 11 to 16 May. Full details on www.writersfestival.co.nz

Groups (yellow= full)	Date 2021	Venue	Topic	Convenor
Anthropology 1 3 rd Thurs 10 am	April 15	4A Paton Road	The Hallstall Culture	J Leyland 534 4034 Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology 2 4 th Mon 10 am	April 26	55 Rodney Street	“Gossips in the Making” Gill Muggleston	Margaret Heatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am	April 9	98 Beach Road	Royal Albert Dock etc/Margaret Nicholls State Houses/Theo Surynt	June Lamborn 535 8069
Aviation and Aerospace 1 st Wed 10 am	April 7	BM Theatre	Pot Pourri	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Book Discussion 4 th Thurs 1.30	April 22	9a Merino Avenue	Books	Joni Burgess 537 4834
Civilisations 3 rd Mon 1 pm	April 19	55 Rodney street	Egyptian music and dance/Warren	Cora Young 534 8623
Comparative Religions 4 th Monday 1.30pm (new)	April 26	55 Rodney Street	Ancient era 3100 – 2200BC, texts, goddess worship etc /Cora, Gill	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Current Affairs 1st Tuesday 2pm (new)	April 6	11 Shelly Beach Parade Cockle Bay	USA in the Ukraine	Jan Naish-Wallis 534 4438
Earth and the Universe 4 th Tues 10 am	April 27	BM Theatre	Search for extra-terrestrial life and intelligence contd.	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Thurs 10 am	May 6	12 Daria Place	“Your choice”	Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Famous & Infamous 2 3 rd Thurs 2 pm	April 15	4A Patons Road	Amelia Earhart/Allan Reid	Allan Reid 534 9895
French 4 th Fri 1 pm	April 23	74A Aberfeldy Avenue Hland Pk	French history	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 rd Tues 10 am	April 20	BM theatre	James Brooke, White Rajah/Ella	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am	April 8	31 Lansell Drive, Dannemora	Pot Pourri	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Literature 3 rd Wed 10 am	April 21	74A Aberfeldy Ave Highland Park	Oliver Twist/David Dwerryhouse	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Military History 2 nd Thursday 2pm	April 8	2/21 Drake Street	Pot Pourri	Allan Reid 5349895
Movies 2 nd Mon, 12.30 pm	April 12	2/21 Drake Street, Howick	Discussion of movies seen	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Nature Walks and Talks 2nd Fri 9 am	April 9	Meet at carpark south end of beach	Walk Eastern Beach	Warren Yardley 5330057
Opera 1 2 nd Tues 9.30 am	April 13	BM Theatre	Rossini’s Barber of Seville	Jean Denholm 534 6844
Opera 2 4 th Tues 1.15pm	April 27	BM Theatre	Lohengrin Act III	Geraldine Rose 537 1917
Philosophy 1st Mon 10 am	May 3	BM Theatre	Members’ enthusiasms	Christopher Nixon 535 5309
Science. 4 th Wed 10 am	April 28	BM Theatre	Pot Pourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2nd Sun noon	April 11	Dannemora Gardens Cafe		Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 st Wed 10 am	April 7	159 Pah Road Cockle Bay	Art Deco	David and Adrienne Teape 5336103
World of Art 1 3 rd Mon 10 am	April 19	Auckland Art Gallery	Visit	Garry Law 271 6505
World of Art 2 3 rd Tues 1.30 pm	April 20	BM Theatre	Video about Peggy Duggenheim	Philippa Wilson 5342558
World of Music 4 th Wed 1.30 pm	April 28	6 Stevenson Way	Bruckner/Huck	Ngaire Taylor 534 8538
Writing 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm	April 13	9 Kelly Place, Cockle Bay	“When I opened the cupboard”	Marian Heywood 534 1159

