



Supporting
Lifelong Learning

Howick Inc.
PO Box 39035 Howick 2145
www.howick.u3a.nz
Facebook: U3A Howick
howicknewsletter@gmail.com
April 2023



COMMITTEE 2021/2023

COLLEEN RIGBY *President.*
GRAEME DIVER *Vice-president, Almoner*
gadiver@xtra.co.nz (0274728033)
JAN NAISH-WALLIS *Secretary(0272203777)*
JONI BURGESS *Treasurer*
GERALDINE ROSE *Past president,*
U3A Network representative
JUDITH NEL *Director of Studies*
MARY KENNEDY *Newsletter Editor*
JUNE POOLE *Membership*
JOHN SAVORY *Speaker Convenor*

Next General Meeting:
Monday 3 April 9.00am to 1pm
Howick Bowling Club
AGM and Anniversary Celebrations



For new members: Annual \$25.00 subscription is payable to U3A Howick bank account: 12 3040 0556154 00, using your surname as a reference.

Editorial:

The 30th anniversary is almost upon us and coming up on 3rd April 2023 – which is this Monday. This meeting will be from 9am-1pm, so set your alarm clocks! Mind you, daylight saving finishes on Sunday, so the early start won't be too much of a shock. A huge amount of work has gone into the preparation of this gathering, so thanks to the event committee, Colleen, Judy Wilson, Margaret Nicholls, Warren Yardley and Jan Naish-Wallis, also to those who agreed to be interviewed and those who wrote the interviews, and finally to the main committee. A special mention needs to go to Colleen who has spear-headed this event – thank you, Colleen for your super -organised style and unflagging energy which has really got us all going! Also, thanks to Judy Wilson for using her considerable talent to create a fantastic anniversary booklet. So don't forget to bring your gold coin donation to procure a copy. The AGM will also be held on Monday, so we will have a new Committee. Joni and Geraldine are not standing this year and they will be missed. See you on Monday, folks!

From the committee:

Website: Garry Law has set up a website where interesting power points etc will be available to members. Click on the link to see what's there. [U3A Papers \(lawas.co.nz\)](http://U3A Papers (lawas.co.nz))
We would like to set up a library of talks, so if you are prepared to provide copies of talks that you have presented to your interest groups, please send them to Garry on this email address, so that he can add to this library.

Interest Groups: A book for proposing new interest groups will be on the front table at general meetings. *Writing2/memoirs* and *gardening* have been proposed so far.

Network Report: U3A Network Event '23, confirmed for Saturday 29th July 9.30 a.m. – 3 pm. Asking for volunteers for Parking Wardens and Fire Wardens. High Viz vests are provided and equipment in the form of clear notices and stakes are provided for the parking wardens. The committee really appreciates members who step up to do these jobs as our Event depends on their presence.

U3A talk: Keith Woodley - Summary by David Bates



Did you know that the world's longest, non-stop airline flight is 15,349kms by an Airbus A350 from Singapore to New York? And that Bar-tailed Godwits travel 11,680kms non-stop at 55km/h from Alaska to New Zealand in each year? Thus we were informed by Keith Woodley, the Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre Manager. The Centre was founded in 1975 to promote awareness of coastal ecology and the migratory behaviour of the Bar-tailed Godwit/Kuaka (*Limosa lapponica baueri*), Great Knot and Ruddy Turnstone. Since 2014, the Centre has received funding from the NZ government, but has always been supported by various local institutions and volunteers.

The Centre studies bird migration patterns from coastal mud-flat sites in New Zealand (with Manukau harbour the number 1 site and Farewell Spit at number 3) where some 80,000 birds leave annually for Alaska via a feeding/resting stopover at Yalu Jiang (Manchuria) in the north-east region of China, and, increasingly important, to unspoilt mud-flats in North Korea. They are heading for their breeding grounds in the Alaskan Tundra region which their hormonal instincts regard as "home"; where insect food is plentiful and the climate favourable for the short time they need to breed. After 4 months of actively pursuing a mate, the male sitting quietly on their 4 eggs to hatching; moulting; they gorge themselves to twice their normal weight for the long flight back to New Zealand (to feed) so avoiding the inhospitable Tundra winter climate.

During their non-stop flight, they feed on insects. They navigate to avoid bad weather, and change altitude to take advantage of any prevailing winds. They cannot land on water. These patterns have been analysed using modern tracking technology to supplement the metal banding technique. In 2004 a major breakthrough was the introduction of colour-banding whereby each bird was banded with unique coloured banding thus enabling it to be identified individually and counted by sight alone. Keith told the story of how during a visit to a school in the Yalu river area, a group of excited primary school children identified a known, individual Godwit from amongst a large flock. Modern telemetry methods using satellite links, and even some Quantum Theory techniques seem to be areas for future, tracking developments.

The then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Winston Peters in a 2007 visit to North Korea, obtained agreement for the Miranda Centre accompanied by Korean scientists, to undertake a study of shorebirds migrating between NZ and Sindo at the mouth of the Yalu river (N. Korea). Clearance only came through in 2009 when the Centre and Korean scientists were able to survey a 30kms stretch of coast providing much valued information particularly on the migratory habits of about 30 colour-banded Bar-Tailed Godwits that had previously been caught in NZ. The relationship between the NZ and N. Korean bird centres continues but restrictions to the N. Korean shoreline areas remains difficult.

Keith ended his fascinating talk by informing us that the number of birds was decreasing year after year, and unless something is done to safeguard their mud-flat sites from the human activities of capturing, building and the increasing rate of climate change, then their future is bleak and they remain at risk of extinction. He suggested that we might find a You Tube video "Frequent Stopover" of interest.

Out and about:

- The Ten tenors are coming to Auckland in December – book early with ticketec to secure a seat
- Auckland Writers' Festival – 16 to 21 May – the booklet giving details is available from the library
- Uxbridge Centre will be exhibiting entries for the Estuary Art Competition from July 1

Groups	Date 2023	Venue	Topic	Convenor
Anthropology 1 3 rd Thurs 10 am	April 20	4A Paton Road	How Iran was born	Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology 2 4 th Mon 10 am	TBC	55 Rodney St		Margaret Hieatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am	Cancelled			June Lamborn 535 8069
Book Discussion 4 th Thurs 1.30	April 27	129 Pah Road, Cockle Bay	Books	Brigid Bates 022 0323 866
Civilisations 3 rd Mon 1 pm	April 17	55 Rodney Street	China Qing and Han dynasties	Cora Young 534 8623
Comparative Religions 4 th Monday 1.30pm	April 24	55 Rodney Street	Judaism	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Current Affairs 2 nd Wed 1.30pm	April 12	11 Shelly Beach Parade	The Putin effect	Jan Naish-Wallis 027 220 3777
Earth and the Universe 4 th Tues 10 am	Cancelled	BM Theatre		Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Thurs 10 am	April 6	Bar area PPV	Dick Smith	Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Famous & Infamous 2 3 rd Thurs 1.30 pm	April 20	4A Patons Road	Antoni Gaudi and Sagrada Familia	Margaret Nicholls 536 6079
French Circle 4 th Fri 1 pm	April 28	74 Aberfeldy Avenue	Charles De Gaulle by Kaisu	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 rd Tues 10 am	April 18	BM Theatre	Isaac Newton and his rivals, by Lyn	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am	April 13	31 Lansell Drive, Dannemora	Pot pourri	Alan La Roche 534 7366
History of New Zealand 2 3 rd Tuesday 2pm (new)	April 18	9 Tranquility Rise, Mellons bay	Te Kooti and Karl Volkner	Graeme Diver 0274728033
Literature 3 rd Wed 10 am	April 19	32 Butley Drive, Pakuranga	Ernest Hemingway by Dene McConnochie	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Military History 2 nd Thursday 2pm	April 13	2/21 Drake Street	Pot pourri	Allan Reid 5349895
Mobile photography 3 rd Wednesday 2pm	April 19	1/19 Butley Drive Farm Cove	Key Composition Principles – Thirds, symmetry, leading lines etc	Colleen Rigby 0272916781
Movies 2 nd Mon, 12.30 pm	TBC	2/21 Drake Street, Howick	Discussion of movies seen BYO Lunch	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Opera 1 2 nd Tues 9.30 am	Cancelled			Rosemary Ovens 5343429
Opera 2 4 th Tues 1.15pm	April 26 (Wednesday)	BM Theatre	Eugene Onegin	Geraldine Rose 537 1917
Philosophy 1 st Mon 10 am	April 10	55 Rodney Street	Schopenhaur and information overload	Cora Young 5348623
Science. 4 th Wed 10 am	April 26	BM Theatre	Pot pourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2 nd Sun noon	TBC	Dannemora Gardens Cafe		Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 st Wed 10 am	April 5	159 Pah Road, Cockle Bay	Crossing the Simpson Desert, by Martin Rees	David and Adrienne Teape 5336103
Walks and Talks 2 nd Fri 9.30 am	April 14	TBC	Highbrook Walk	June Poole 021583893 Goeff 0211154560
World of Art 1 3 rd Mon 10 am	In abeyance			Garry Law 0275665764
World of Art 2 3 rd Tues 1.30 pm	April 18	BM Theatre	Hundertwasser by June Barton	Philippa Wilson 5342558
World of Music 4 th Wed 1.30 pm	TBC			Julia Forsyth 021 164 1664
Writing 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm	April 11	TBC	Let sleeping dogs....	Mary Kennedy (temp) 02102250341

