



Supporting
Lifelong Learning

Howick Inc.

PO Box 39035

Howick 2145

February 2021



COMMITTEE

2020-2021

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ROSEMARY OVENS *Almoner/Welcomer*

WARREN YARDLEY *Ten-minute Speakers*

Next General Meeting:

Monday 8 February 2021: 9.30 at Howick Bowling Club

Speaker: Sally Barclay

Ten-minute speaker: short story

Tea Group: Movies

Editorial:

Welcome back and Happy New Year. Many of us have been taking the opportunity of getting to know the country, and others have spent time with family and friends. The new strains of the virus are a source of anxiety, and many of us are wondering when we will next see our loved ones who live overseas. The advent of a vaccine gives us hope, while we continue to appreciate the freedom, for now, of our isolated but safe environment. The long, hot days of summer continue, but we now look to the return of work and school for our families and a return to our usual routines including our U3A groups and friendships.

Christmas Speaker: Te Radar (Andrew Lumsden)

We were treated to a most enjoyable and inspiring talk highlighting some of the more amusing and memorable tales from our history. Te Radar pointed out that some of the stories of our early settlers would rival those of the Wild West in America and Ned Kelly in Australia. In 1866, four businessmen from Nelson and Marlborough were robbed and murdered by a gang of thugs led by Richard Burgess. After the police offered a reward for information, one of the gang, Joseph Sullivan, told police that Burgess, along with two others, Kelly and Levi, had killed the men. Burgess pleaded guilty, saying Kelly and Levi were innocent, but that Sullivan was not. The jury convicted Burgess, Kelly and Levi, but Sullivan, as an informant, was protected. (He was eventually convicted for another murder.) Burgess attempted to escape from jail using the handle of a frying pan, but was unsuccessful, and all three men were hanged. The hangmen rather botched the hanging, and one of them had to jump down and pull on Kelly's legs to finish the job. Afterwards the heads were made into death masks so that phrenologists could study them.

Te Radar told some amusing stories of prison escapes. In remote areas, prisoners were chained to a log, and one day in Arrowtown several prisoners were found in the local pub, still tied to their log. In another event, the prisoners "escaped" by detaching the prison hut from the ground and dragging it away while still inside, like snails in a shell. According to Government statistics, the most common form of prison escape in New Zealand is "walking away"!

We also learnt of a few examples of New Zealand ingenuity. During WW2, political leader Bob Semple, whose catch phrase was "make do with what you've got", designed a tank made out of bulldozers with corrugated iron bolted on for armour. Later, tanks were converted and used as box hedge cutters, which looked eccentric but were apparently effective.

Finally, Te Radar told the story of the building of the tunnels for the Manapouri Dam in Fiordland, which now provides power to the Tiwai Point aluminium smelter. He showed us a famous photo of celebrations in the tunnel where a small amount of explosive was used to commemorate the occasion. Unfortunately, the amount of explosive was over-estimated, and the explosion was so strong it blew the men's safety hats off.

Te Radar's talk was highly amusing and entertaining – and his passion for history really shone through. He made an interesting comment that history is about stories, and he hopes the new history curriculum that is currently being developed in schools does not become so bogged down in political correctness that children's love of story gets lost.



Te Radar at our Christmas meeting: the screen shows the photo by Barry Durant, capturing the moment of the “explosive” celebrations at Manapouri.

February Speaker: Sally Barclay



My childhood was spent in the King Country where the podocarp bush was something taken for granted. After life at boarding school in the Wairarapa I undertook university studies at Canterbury where a field trip to Arthurs Pass introduced me to the South Island beech forests. Leaving university with a BSc I began work for the Ministry of Ag and Fish as a systems programmer (right at the start of the computer era) resigning from this to leave on my big OE. On return to NZ with a young family I trained as a teacher and spent many years in the classroom teaching science, maths and computing. It was while teaching that I was awarded a Teacher Fellowship and spent a year working in the Mangemangeroa. It was this experience that led to the twenty years I have been involved with restoration work.

Mangemangeroa – 20 years on

Along the side of the Maungemaungeroa Estuary, too steep to be milled, exists an area of coastal forest which is protected for the enjoyment of all.

Friends of Mangemangeroa (FOM) is a small group of locals who have worked tirelessly to restore and extend this expanse of bush.

How FOM have achieved this through their restoration work will form the basis of this talk.

(Information supplied)

From the Committee:

From Director of Studies:

I hope that all your groups are running again and you all enjoy getting together to learn and laugh! Several groups will be having new convenors so please let me know your contact details and pick up a "Guide for Convenors" from me at the next general meeting. Thank you again to all convenors for your willingness to support your groups and provide learning opportunities for all our members

Two new groups will be starting this year: Current Events, and Comparative Religion. Details of time and place are included in this month's timetable.

Positions Vacant:

We are urgently looking for at least two people to take responsibility for setting up the microphone and AV equipment in General meetings, as Jim Hine and Bevin Cornwall are wishing to retire. If you are reasonably technologically competent, please consider volunteering for this role. Role could be shared by a small team. Please talk to a committee member if you think you may be able to assist. Geraldine has a "job description" and training will be given!!

We will also be looking for a couple of new committee members for 2021, so if you think you might be interested, please have a chat with a current committee member.

Membership

We welcomed two new members in December: Lorraine McDonald and Leslie Hinson

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

- Bach Musica 2021 Season: Great Hall, Auckland Town hall - 11 April to 5 December. "From Bach to Mozart, Rachmaninov and Rodrigo, there's something for every classical music lover". Book through Auckland Live

- Summer in the Square have a variety of free digital presentation throughout January and February. See the Auckland Live website for details.

Postscript:

For those of you who missed December's meeting, you may like to read an extract from an interesting presentation by the science group. It may seem a little complicated to start with, but please persevere.

The heaviest element known to science was recently discovered at a major research university. The element, tentatively named administratium, has no protons or electrons; however it does have one neutron, 75 vice-neutrons, 125 assistant neutrons, and 111 assistant vice neutrons, which gives it an atomic mass of 312. These particles are held together by a force that involves the continuous exchange of particles called morons. Since it has no electrons, administratium is inert. However, it can be detected chemically as it impedes every reaction it comes into contact with.

Administratium has a normal half-life of three years, at which time it does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganisation in which assistant neutrons, vice-neutrons and assistant vice-neutrons exchange places. It occurs naturally in the atmosphere, but tends to congregate at certain points such as government agencies, large corporations and universities.

Scientists point out that administratium is known to be toxic at any level of concentration and can easily destroy any productive reaction where it is allowed to accumulate. Attempts are being made to determine how administratium can be controlled, but results to date are not promising.

(source: mit.edu)

Groups (yellow= full)	Date - 2021	Venue	Topic	Convenor
Anthropology 1 3 rd Thurs 10 am	February 18	BM Theatre	Pot pourri	J Leyland 534 4034 Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology 2 4 th Mon 10 am	February 22	55 Rodney Street	TBA	Margaret Heatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am	February 5	Museum visit		June Lamborn 5358069
Aviation and Aerospace 1 st Wed 10 am	February 3	BM Theatre	Pot pourri	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Book Discussion 4 th Thurs 1.30	February 25	9a Merino Avenue	Books	Joni Burgess 5374834
Civilisations 3 rd Mon 1 pm	February 15	55 Rodney street	Persian Empire Part 2	Cora Young 534 8623
Comparative Religions 4 th Monday 1.30pm (new)	February 22	55 Rodney Street	The origins of Religion	TBA
Current Affairs 1 st Tuesday 2pm (new)	February 2	11 Shelly Beach Parade Cockle Bay		TBA
Earth and the Universe 4 th Tues 10 am	February 23	BM Theatre	Exoplanets and SETI	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Thurs 10 am	February 4	1 Lodge Lane, Pakuranga Pk Village	Lady Anne Gilmour	Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Famous & Infamous 2 3 rd Thurs 2 pm	Feb 18 2021	4A Paton's Road	Celia Lashlie	Allan Reid 534 9895
French 4 th Fri 1 pm	February 19*	74A Aberfeldy Avenue Hland Pk	<i>*one week early this month</i>	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 rd Tues 10 am	February 16	BM theatre	Gold Rushes of Victoria	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am	February 11	18 Tui Vale Road	Pot pourri	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Literature 3 rd Wed 10 am	February 17	32 Butley Drive	Hamlet	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Movies 2 nd Mon, 12.30 pm	February 8	2/21 Drake Street, Howick	Discussion of movies seen	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Nature Walks and Talks 2nd Fri 9 am	February 12	Mellon's Bay carpark	Walk valley	Warren Yardley 5330057
Opera 1 2 nd Tues 9.30 am	February 9	BM Theatre	Rigoletto - Pavarotti	Jean Denholm 534 6844
Opera 2 4 th Tues 1.15pm	February 23	BM Theatre	TBA	Geraldine Rose 537 1917
Philosophy 1st Mon 10 am	February 1	BM Theatre	Members' enthusiasms	Christopher Nixon 535 5309
Poetry 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm	February 9	Hawthoendene Cafe	2021 plans/bring poems	Beth Voogd 534 7468
Science. 4 th Wed 10 am	February 24	BM Theatre	Potpourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2nd Sun noon	February 14	Kings Plant Barn		Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Te Reo Maori (New group) 1 st Thursday 2pm	February 4	BM Theatre	Te Reo language and culture	Chris Cameron 5338735
Travel 1 st Wed 10 am	February 3	159 Pah Road Cockle Bay	Visit to chateau/pot pourri	David and Adrienne Teape 5336103
World of Art 1 3 rd Mon 10 am	February 15	BM Theatre	Tim Marlowe video	Garry Law 271 6505
World of Art 2 3 rd Tues 1.30 pm	February 16	BM Theatre	TBA	Philippa Wilson 5342558
World of Music 4 th Wed 1.30 pm	February 24	2/21 Drake Street	Pot pourri	Ngaire Taylor 534 8538
World War II 2 nd Thurs 2 pm	February 11	4A Paton's Road	Charles Upham VC and Bar	Allan Reid 534 9895
Writing 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm	February 9	144/795 Chapel Road	"I'll never forget the time that..."	Marian Heywood 534 1159