



Supporting
Lifelong Learning

Howick Inc.
PO Box 39035
Howick 2145
OCTOBER 2019

FINAL EDITION



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2019-2020**

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OCTOBER 14 MEETING
9.30 am, Howick Bowling Club

GUEST SPEAKER: Sheila Russell: **A Cousin Springs a Daring Wartime Escape**
TEN MINUTES: Jean Denholm: **Growing Up On Golf Courses**
TEA ASSIST: **Civilisations**

**MEDICAL RESEARCH
VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

AUCKLAND University is seeking volunteers to participate in three research projects pertinent to seniors. The first, at the university's Swallowing Research Laboratory conducted by PhD candidate Marie Jardine, is to work out treatments for people with swallowing difficulties. Volunteers should be aged 80-plus and with no history of reflux or swallowing problems. They will undergo an hour-long experiment at the university's Tamaki campus during which a catheter will be passed through the numbed nose into the back of the throat to measure swallowing capability. Volunteers will receive a \$50 supermarket voucher as honorarium. Contact Ms Jardine (m.jardine@auckland.ac.nz, 020 41530995) if you are up to it.

The second one, undertaken by Abin Kuruvilla-Mathew, a post-doctoral fellow at the School of Psychology, seeks to understand how the brain processes sounds and to study the cognitive link to memory and attention. Participants should be aged between 60 and 73 and have either normal hearing or age-related hearing loss. They will be put through hearing and cognitive tests in two sessions of 90 minutes each spread over two days at the Tamaki campus. A \$40 petrol voucher will be offered. Those interested should contact Dr Kuruvilla-Mathew (ak.mathew@auckland.ac.nz) to make arrangements.

The third project is the concluding phase of research by a PhD candidate in psychology, Evatte Tiana Sciberras-Lim, to understand how a person's ability to focus attention on a task at hand changes with age. The goal is to come up with remedies to improve older people's attentiveness. Participants should be above 60 and have normal vision or vision corrected with glasses. They will take a three-hour test at the university's city campus to measure brain activity while doing a computer-based task. A \$40 supermarket voucher will be offered. Please email Ms Sciberras-Lim (esci911@aucklanduni.ac.nz) -- indicate 'Avoiding distraction – EEG study' in the subject line.



NOT THE MOVIE GREAT ESCAPE

Our own Sheila Russell (picture), who last spoke about her mother's strivings working in a factory under Dickensian conditions, brings us another bit of family history – a cousin's breakout from the Stalag Luft 3 POW camp in 1944. He was the last to be recaptured. UK-born Mrs Russell came to New Zealand in 1971. She trained in management in the UK and worked in various capacities in schools there. She had also been a hospital dietician. In NZ she retrained to be a teacher.

NEXT MONTH: North Korea by Peter Wilson

PAST PRESIDENT'S TRIP: MARITIME MUSEUM

IMMEDIATE Past President Margaret Nicholls has organised a visit to the Viaduct Harbour **Maritime Museum** for Nov 20. Meet at the entrance at 11 am. Please register interest with her. A special exhibit is **Te Tuia 250 – Encounters**, about James Cook's arrival in Aotearoa. Members may also take a sail around the harbour on the **Ted Ashby**, a heritage boat. Museum free but the sail costs \$20 for Gold Card holders.

BOOKS GROUP TAKES A BREAK

THE Book Discussion group has decided to go into recess as of October, to reconvene possibly in February next year. The reason is that the group's scheduled October meeting date will coincide with labour weekend, after which the end-of-year wind-down of U3A activities will see diminished attendance owing to family and holiday commitments. Margaret Smith, the Books convenor, reported that members felt the year-end holiday period would be an opportune time for members to take stock and think about future directions.

WELCOME, WELCOME

TWO new members were admitted last month. They were Graeme McDonald, sponsored by Alan La Roche, who is interested in the Anthropology, Books and Movies groups; and Marilyn Kirkup (sponsor David Dwerryhouse), who is looking at the Travel, Walks and History groups.

RESIGNED

JOAN Hoggard and Ian Wallis have resigned their memberships.

PASSING

TONY James passed away on Sept 29.

ANOTHER SCAM ALERT

THE Commission for Financial Capability has alerted seniors to yet another phone scam. Callers purporting to be from Spark or the police will say there is a security breach with your computer or router. For dramatic effect calls are then transferred to a police cyber crime unit which, of course, is fictitious. Money transfers will somehow be insinuated into the conversation. Call 105, the new police reporting number, to help the police put these scammers out of business.

LES MISERABLES SPECIAL VIEWING

WHETHER you enjoy opera, musical theatre or just plain singing, Opera 2 convenor Geraldine Rose invites you to a special screening of Les Miserables in Concert: The 25th Anniversary at the BM Theatre on Oct 22 to mark a milestone of the well-travelled musical. The performance comprises singing with some acting, without scene changes. Ms Rose says this Les Mis concert at the O2 Arena in London on Oct 3, 2010 is a must-see as it features select cast from the 1985 original London West End production, the 2010 production at Queen's Theatre as well as the 25th anniversary special at the Barbican Centre. Call Ms Rose on 5371917 to book a seat and join Opera 2 members for an aural feast. The screening lasts just under 3hr, starting promptly at 1 pm. Now in its 34th year the Victor Hugo-inspired musical set in 19th century France has been performed in 52 countries in 22 languages.

- **Les Miserables returns to the Auckland stage after 20 years for a three-week season at The Civic from Nov 7-30. Ticket range \$30-\$145 from Ticketmaster (ticketmaster.co.nz.). The show lasts 3hr with intermission. Go to lesmisauckland.co.nz for show details.**

REPORT ON LAST MONTH'S TALK

THE HOWICK YOU MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN

GUEST speaker Alan La Roche's talk on the founding of Howick was comprehensive, as one would expect of the Howick Historian, a civic recognition granted him by the city fathers when Howick was a constituent part of the Manukau City administrative region. His treatment of the subject covered the alpha and omega of the town's progression up to the present; from the area's volatile geology and the first Maori arrivals, to the Asian immigration in the 1990s and the consolidation of satellite towns into the so-called Auckland super city. Even Len Brown got a mention. Remember the name?

Mr La Roche served up a stew of anecdote, oral tradition, historical snippets and also folk memories which few Howickians could have known about. If the onslaught of detail in his presentation was overwhelming, the narrative thread was taut. Consider this revelation: There were no trees in Howick when the first Maori hunter-gatherers came to this land aeons ago. It is hard to conceive of any part of verdant New Zealand being treeless, and Mr La Roche did not think the Maori burned off the trees. He had a more plausible explanation: "There is evidence of massive volcanic eruptions (being implicated). There are rows of giant kauri trees off Sanctuary Point in Pakuranga lying parallel out to the mud flats, felled by an eruption about 30,000 years ago of superheated steam and ash."

Or this one: Do many U3A members with past or current connections with Macleans College know that the extensive grounds occupied by the school are on lease from the Ngai Tai tribe? A grievous error in Treaty of Waitangi land claim adjudications had resulted in 5,495 acres in Otahuhu being classified as missionary land and taken from Maori without payment, according to the research. Only recently did the area's Ngai Tai, which did not sign the treaty, receive compensation which included the Macleans College land. Mr La Roche did not say how much the school pays in rent.

In the overall scheme of Howick's development into a polity, Mr La Roche regretted that the role of early Maori stakeholders and the Fencible pensioners has not been well recorded. Maori antecedents depended a good deal on oral hand-me-downs, as recorded sources were sparse. Of the Fencibles, who were mainly demobbed Irish Catholic soldiers, he wondered whether the paucity of record was a manifestation of the Anglican-Catholic animosity in the old country from where European settlers came. The Fencibles had a dual impact on the area's history -- in defence against hostile acts and the procreation boost it gave Howick in the mid-1800s. The first of them landed on Howick Beach in three ships in 1847. One of these, the Sir Robert Sale, gave its name to Sale Street on which Howick U3A's notional home stands nearly two centuries later. That's heritage, folks.

Howick had the largest fortified Fencible settlement in all of Auckland. Partly, this was to guard against threatened attacks by the Ngati Maru of Thames, who resented encroachment by foreigners on ancestral land. Fencible men did not have it easy. Cottages advertised as desirable accommodation for those willing to venture to the other side of the world were mud hovels in wet weather. Drink and loneliness were a constant in a faraway land, despite the company of wives and children. Widowed Fencible wives were offered free passage back to their homeland, or three acres of land to make a life for themselves if they chose to stay. The history tells us none took the long sail back to the cold isles. Many remarried. So, in a small way, did they contribute to the beginnings of Howick as we know it.

Last word to Mr La Roche: "Howick is one of New Zealand's most attractive places but some people want to eliminate the name. The media calls Panmure Tamaki. We must keep the name Howick, with pride." Spoken like a dyed-in-the-wool Howickian.

OUT AND ABOUT

++ **THE Turn of the Screw**, Henry James's durable ghost story, gets an operatic treatment by **New Zealand Opera** on Oct 18, 20 and 23 at the ASB Waterfront Theatre. The opera version written by **Benjamin Britten** has New Zealand soprano **Anna Leese** in the lead role as the governess in a troubled household. **Holly Mathieson** conducts the **Auckland Philharmonia** slimmed down to chamber size. **Thomas de Mallet Burgess** is the director. Tickets \$25-\$148 from Ticketmaster (ticketmaster.co.nz.)

++ EARLY notice is given here of the **Manukau Symphony Orchestra's** final concert on Nov 16 of its 2019 season. Its concerts are usually sold out. Main work on the programme is the **Brahms Third Symphony**. The concerto is **Mozart's Clarinet Concerto** with **Deborah Rawson** as soloist. Conductor **Uwe Grodd**. Vodafone Events Centre, 7.30 pm. Seniors tickets start at \$63. Call 5773031 or email bookings to admin@manukausymphony.org.nz.

++ THIS one for devotees of chamber music: The **Quartour Ebene** from France continues its **Beethoven Live Around the World** series with **Beethoven's 'Compliments', 'Serioso' and 'Harp' string quartets** at the Town Hall, Oct 26, 7.30 pm. Tickets \$32-\$90 from Ticketmaster. The Quartour Ebene has been picked as *the* foursome to play the entire Beethoven cycle of 16 string quartets at Carnegie Hall in New York next year to mark the composer's 250th birth year. This Auckland concert is a foretaste: Dive in.

++ THOSE who like **Richard Strauss's** richly evocative music would not want to miss his tone poem **Also sprach Zarathustra**, to be played by the **Auckland Philharmonia** (Town Hall, Oct 31, 8 pm.) Forget the commercial association with the opening notes of the piece. It's the complex construct of musings adapted freely from **Friedrich Nietzsche's** allegorical work of the same name that stir the soul, its many fans swear. One of Nietzsche's famous quotes: "Life without music would be a mistake." **Mozart's Symphony No 29** and **Haydn's Cello Concerto** (soloist **Harriet Krijgh** from Holland) are the other pieces on a lavish programme. Conductor **Giordano Bellincampi**. Tickets from Ticketmaster.

++ **THE British Film Festival** on Oct 30-Nov13 will have screenings across Auckland, including **Monterey Howick**. In all, 28 films will be shown comprising newish releases, classics and documentaries. Among actors featured are **Kiera Knightley, Bill Nighy, Anna Paquin, John Hurt** and **Sean Penn**. Details on montereyhowick.co.nz.

<u>Groups (yellow denotes full)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Convenor</u>
Anthropology 1 3 rd Thurs 10 am	Oct 17	BM Theatre	<i>North American Indians</i> Cora Young	Jennie Leyland 534 4034 Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology 2 4 th Mon 10 am	Oct 28	Cora Young's 55 Rodney St	<i>Language</i> Rae Thomson	Margaret Hieatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am	Nov 1	June Lamborn's 15 Gillett Place	Alice Taylor, Malcolm Booth presenting – topics TBA	Malcolm/Dilys Booth 534 3604
Aviation and Aerospace 1 st Wed 10 am	Nov 6	BM Theatre	<i>Supercharging WWII Aircraft Engines</i>	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Book Discussion 4 th Thurs 2 pm		Activity pause until early next year		Margaret Smith 576 3206
Civilisations 3 rd Mon 1 pm	Oct 21	Cora Young's 55 Rodney St	<i>The Carolingians and Their Heirs</i>	Cora Young 534 8623
Earth and the Universe 4 th Tues 10 am	Oct 22	BM Theatre	<i>Black Holes and Active Galactic Nuclei</i>	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Tues 10 am	Nov 5	Nancy Edwards's 17 Masefield St	<i>Kevin Milne Pt 2</i> Peter Garrick	Peter Garrick 535 4085
Famous & Infamous 2 3 rd Thurs 2 pm	Oct 17	Allan Reid's 4A Patons Rd	Potpourri	Ray Lewis 535 5628
Famous & Infamous 3 1 st Thurs 10 am	Nov 7	Betty Gate's Apt 160 BM Village	<i>The Queen's Mother-in-law</i> Betty Gate	Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Forum 3 rd Fri 10 am	Oct 18	Beverly Luxton's 1 Village Dr, PPV		Beverly Luxton 576 9625
French 4 th Fri 1 pm	Oct 25	David Dwerryhouse's 74A Aberfeldy Ave	<i>Charante-Maritime</i> Mary Kennedy	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 rd Tues 10 am	Oct 15	BM Theatre	<i>Prince Albert Pt 2 plus Development of English (DVD)</i>	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am	Nov 14			Alan La Roche 534 7366
Literature 3 rd Wed 10 am	Oct 16	Judy Wilson's 32 Butley Dr	<i>German Myths and Legends Potpourri – all contribute</i>	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Movies 2 nd Mon, 1 pm	Oct 14	Jean Denholm's 2/21 Drake St	Group discussion	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Nature Walks and Talks 2nd Fri 9 am	Nov 8	Meet Cockle Bay, by the Windross	<i>To Pah, Callendar, Shelley Pk and back via Pohutukawa Ave and John Gill Rd</i>	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Opera 1 2 nd Tues 9.30 am	Nov 12	BM Theatre	<i>Fidelio</i> by Beethoven Jonas Kaufman	Jean Denholm 534 6844
Opera 2 4 th Tues 1 pm	Oct 22	BM Theatre	<i>Les Miserables – 25th Anniversary Special</i> 170 min	Geraldine Rose 537 1917
Philosophy 1st Mon 10 am	Nov 4	BM Theatre	<i>Getting Better At Living Life</i>	Christopher Nixon 535 5309
Poetry 2 nd Tues 2 pm	Nov 12	Colleen Williams's 1/139 Clovelly Rd	Two poems from each	Beth Voogd 534 7468
Science 4 th Wed 10 am	Oct 23	BM Theatre	Potpourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2nd Sun noon	Nov 10	Danske Mobler cafe		Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 st Wed 10 am	Nov 6	David Dwerryhouse's 74A Aberfeldy Ave	<i>China</i> Brendan Vallings	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
World of Art 1 3 rd Mon 10 am	Oct 21	BM Theatre	<i>Monuments Men</i> (documentary)	Garry Law 271 6505
World of Art 2 3 rd Tues 1.30 pm	Oct 15	Dannemora Gardens 30 Matarangi Rd	<i>Ron Mueck</i> Jeanette Fenn <i>Jacqueline Fahey</i> Lana Ashley	Heather Watson 274 4747
World of Music 4 th Wed 1.30 pm	Oct 23	Jean Denholm's 2/21 Drake St	<i>The BBC Proms</i> Jennie Leyland	Ngaire Taylor 534 8538
World War II 2 nd Thurs 2pm	Nov 14			Allan Reid 534 9895
Writing 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm	Oct 15	Jan Porritt's 61 The Parade, Bucklands Bch	<i>Inside the Box</i>	Marian Heywood 534 1159

