



Supporting
Lifelong Learning

Howick Inc.
PO Box 39035
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FINAL EDITION



COMMITTEE 2018-2019

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BEVERLY JIN *Ten-Minute Speakers*

NEXT MEETING: September 10, 9.30 am
Howick Bowling Club

GUEST SPEAKER: Michael Bassett: Prime Ministers
From Seddon to Key

TEN MINUTES: Mary Kennedy: A Journey to Israel

TEA BREAK: Travel group

SAY 'BOO' TO FRAUDSTERS

SENIORS not fully conversant with Internet functions are a favoured target of online fraudsters. A recent case of a couple cheated of \$53,000 when they settled by Internet banking what appeared to be an authentic electronic invoice from their builder will be replicated again and again, in all manner of variations. Other home-buyers have been conned making online payments to accounts of lawyers and estate agents which had been hacked into and falsified. Cyber-security people, it would seem, are only playing catch-up as hackers and cyber criminals come up with a bewildering escalation in sophistication. So you are at their mercy? NO.

Observing sensible precautions when executing online transactions and handling email can save you much grief. The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and the Banking Ombudsman have continued to reinforce a recurrent message put out by financial institutions and cyber-security firms that people need to be alert to two common scams: email and phone 'phishing' (as in fishing expeditions – so apt).

Say you get an email from what at face value is a bank or government agency (IRD, WINZ, etc), or some service provider, asking you to confirm or update personal details. MSD's advice is that you do not click on the link provided within the email, but to just delete the email. If the email looks improbable or suspicious, don't even open it – just delete. You could phone the organisation concerned to verify if the mail came from them. Then there are phone scammers impersonating company staff, such as Internet or telco service providers, asking you to turn on the computer to load some software as there are "technical issues" that require attention. Don't – just hang up. Don't be impressed by technical gobbledygook. These are attempts to plant viruses in your computer so as to extract personal data, with criminal intent.

As for online invoices from whomever, more so companies you have been dealing with, make it a point to call (but not the number provided) to check if the payment demand came from them. Fraudsters know their intended victims hardly ever check the payee account number. So there...

INSIDER'S INSIDER

MICHAEL Bassett (picture) held several senior portfolios in the Labour governments of David Lange and Geoffrey Palmer between 1984 and 1990. After politics he drew on his experience of public life and his learning (PhD, Duke University in the US) to carve out a role as an eminence grise through his writings, public lectures and astute political observations. Dr Bassett, 80, has published 15 books. New Zealand's Prime Ministers: From Dick Seddon to John Key, his latest which came out last year, is the subject of his talk. His forte is political history: he has taught at Auckland University and in the US and Canada. He had also served on the Waitangi Tribunal.

NEXT MONTH: Phil Sai-Louie, a history buff and third-generation Chinese New Zealander, will talk about national anthems.



COME JOIN US, PEOPLE

SOME study groups are looking for new members. The bigger the group, the more varied the contributions and breadth of learning. This is the core purpose of the U3A. Those who are unsure about which new groups to join could ask to attend as guests to get a flavour of the proceedings – then decide. Ideally, just take the plunge and immerse yourselves. Following is a sampling of activities described by their respective conveners. Call to join up.

Anthropology L - Margaret Hieatt, phone 5349131: “We are a small friendly group who meet on the fourth Monday of the month. It is not necessary to contribute if you don’t wish to. Our subject is wide ranging and deals with peoples and cultures of the world. We are interested in what folk are doing and why they are doing it their way, so it incorporates learning about other communities and also the beginnings of humankind.”

Poetry – Beth Voogd, 5347468: “We have fun gatherings, nothing too serious. Active participation is encouraged. Members may be asked to bring a favourite poem to read to the group, with an optional discussion to follow. I may offer a poem with the title left out and ask members to suggest a title to go with the verse. We could also have fun with poetry terms (foot, ode, etc) and find poems to fit the terms. We are big on New Zealand and contemporary poetry, but do not exclude other schools and periods.”

World of Art 1 - Garry Law, 2716505: “Our activities include visits to galleries near and far, short and long talks by members and video screenings. While some members are artists, it’s not necessary to be one – you just need to have an interest in art. Meetings are usually held at the Bruce McLaren Village theatre, sometimes elsewhere.”

Earth and the Universe - Clive Bolt, 5342946: “Our group is dedicated to the enjoyment of learning about both the basics and the latest research in cosmology, astronomy and Earth sciences. Use is made of quality public lectures to keep proceedings interesting and at a level everyone can understand and enjoy.”

Nature Walks and Talks – Alan La Roche, 5347366: “We start at 9 am on the second Friday of the month, walking to places of interest. A written history of each walk’s route is given to all participants.”

SURVEY ON FALLS

THE University of Canterbury is conducting an online survey on the incidence of falls sustained by people aged over 50 in outdoors walking. The project by the university’s Geospatial Research Institute aims to evaluate the use of technology, like fitness tracking wrist gadgets, to design safer walking environments. Although the survey is targeted at residents of Christchurch, data being sought has generic application. Participation by U3A members outside of Christchurch would still be useful to the researchers. Go to app.maptionnaire.com/en/4303 to fill out the questionnaire.

TWO NEW MEMBERS

TWO new members were inducted last month: Eric Collins (sponsor David Dwerryhouse) and Charmaine Faith (sponsor Beverly Jin). Mr Collins plans to join the Music, Opera and Art groups for a start, and Ms Faith has her sights on Travel, Science and Philosophy.

FUTURE OF U3A

HEATHER Baigent, last month’s guest speaker who filled both the main speaker and 10-minute slots, made a strong pitch for a younger U3A membership profile as current members (about 10,000 in over 80 chapters throughout New Zealand) are mainly elderly. The aim is to keep the movement self-sustaining and spry. Speaking as president of the Auckland U3A Network, she said she would prefer that the word “retired” be expunged from the U3A’s promotional literature so as to attract younger working people. She also took a dim view of overtly ‘socialising’ activities like lunch groups proliferating in the formal study network. The learning element, she said, had to remain paramount as an organising principle.

In her main talk on her days as a foreign service officer where she rose to be No 2 at the embassy in Beijing, she took a forward look to 2021 when New Zealand, as rotating host of the 21-member Apec (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum) meeting, will have the leaders of the United States, China, Russia and Japan in the same room.

OUT AND ABOUT

++ THE **Borodin Quartet** from Russia performs at the Town Hall on Sept 16 at 5 pm (yes, 5 pm) under Chamber Music New Zealand’s annual offering. On the programme is **Tchaikovsky’s String Quartet No 1** and works by **Haydn, Shostakovich** and **Wolf**. Founded in 1945 the Borodin is of unquestioned pedigree: it played at the funerals of Stalin and Prokofiev who died on the same day in 1953, and Shostakovich worked with the ensemble on his string quartets. Now into its eighth decade, players have come and gone but insightful musicianship remains its selling point. Concessions \$30-\$72 from Ticketmaster (ticketmaster.co.nz, 0800 111999).

++ **LA BOHEME** the evergreen Puccini opera comes to the Aotea Centre on Sept 13, 15, 19, 21 (all 7.30 pm start) and 23 (2.30 pm.) Home-grown singers fill the main roles: **Thomas Atkins** as Rodolfo, **Marlena Devoe** plays Mimi and **Amelia Berry** is Musetta. Running time 2hr 30min. **Tobias Ringborg** conducts the **Auckland Philharmonia** accompanied by the **Freemasons NZ Opera Chorus**. Concessions \$171 premium to \$45 C reserve. Call 0800 696737, email hello@nzopera.co.nz or go Ticketmaster.

++ SHAKESPEARE fans, **Macbeth** will be screened at the Monterey on Sept 9 and 13 in the National Theatre Live series. **Roy Kinnear** is Macbeth and **Anne-Marie Duff** his wife. Director **Rufus Norris**. Running time 3hr 30min.

Groups (yellow denotes full)	Date	Venue	Topic	Convener
Ancient Civilisations 3 rd Mon 1 pm	Sept 17	Jean Denholm's 2/21 Drake St	<i>Petra & Ancient Musical Instruments</i> Warren Yardley & Jean Denholm	Cora Young 534 8623
Anthropology H 3 rd Thurs 10 am	Sept 20	BM Theatre	<i>Colour</i> All members contribute	Jennie Leyland 534 4034 Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology L 4 th Mon 10 am	Sept 24	Cora Young's 55 Rodney St	<i>Ancient Inventions</i> Cora Young	Margaret Heatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am	Oct 5	Jean Denholm's 2/21 Drake St	<i>Alhambra</i> Philippa Wilson and Jean Denholm	Maurice Taylor 534 8538
Book Discussion 4 th Thurs 2 pm	Oct 25	Margaret Smith's 25 Centre Ct, PPV	No Sept meeting	Margaret Smith 576 3206
Earth and the Universe 4 th Tues 10 am	Sept 25	BM Theatre	<i>The Local Galactic Group</i>	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Tues 10 am	Oct 2	Allan Reid's 4A Paton Rd	<i>Marilyn Monroe</i> Allan Reid	Peter Garrick 535 4085
Famous & Infamous 2 3 rd Thurs 2 pm	Sept 20	June Barton's 16 Tui Vale Rd	<i>Elizabeth Cochrane (Nellie Bly)</i> Joni Burgess	Richard/Moira Burns 533 8793
Famous & Infamous 3 1 st Thurs 10 am	Oct 4	Jean Fitzgerald's 1 Lodge Lane	<i>Arthur Conan Doyle</i> Jean Fitzgerald	Jean Fitzgerald 577 5546
Forum 3 rd Fri 10 am	Sept 21	Beverly Luxton's 1 Village Dr, PPV	Open discussion	Beverly Luxton 576 9625
French 4 th Fri 1 pm	Sept 28	Gayleen Mackereth's 170 Cook St	<i>Le Placard (contd)</i> DVD	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 rd Tues 10 am	Sept 18	BM Theatre	<i>Libraries of Timbuktu Part 2</i> Monica Mooney	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am	Sept 13	Pamela Henty's 1 Keswick Close	<i>Dutch Immigration to New Zealand</i> Joy Pilkington	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Literature 3 rd Wed 10 am	Sept 19	Judy Wilson's 32 Butley Drive	<i>Prosper Merimee</i> Dene McConnochie	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Nature Walks and Talks 2nd Fri 9 am	Sept 14	Meet Pigeon Mt Rd carpark by Scouts HQ	To Wakaaranga Creek, Pakuranga Sailing Club by Bramley Dr and back	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Opera 1 2 nd Tues 9.30 am	Sept 11	BM Theatre	<i>Marriage of Figaro</i> by Mozart	Hilary Patterson 533 8785
Opera 2 4 th Tues 1 pm	Sept 25	BM Theatre	<i>Aida</i> by Verdi 160 min Placido Domingo and Aprile Millo	Moya Nixon 535 5309
Philosophy 1st Mon 10 am	Oct 1	BM Theatre	<i>Personal and Community Guilt Through the Ages</i> Presentation & discussion	Christopher Nixon 535 5309
Poetry 2 nd Tues 2 pm			Activities resume next year.	Beth Voogd 534 7468
Science 4 th Wed 10 am	Sept 26	BM Theatre	Potpourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2nd Sunday, noon	Oct 14	Meadowlands Coffee Club	Open discussion	Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 st Wed 10 am	Oct 3	Beverly Johnson's Apt 144 BM Village	<i>New Caledonia</i> Beverly Johnson	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
World of Art 1 3 rd Mon 10 am	Sept 17	Garry Law's 31 Lansell Dr, D'mora	<i>Titian and Veronese</i> Garry Law	Garry Law 271 6505
World of Art 2 3 rd Tues 1.30 pm	Sept 18	BM Theatre	<i>David Hockney</i> DVD	Heather Watson 274 4747
World of Music 4 th Wed 1.30 pm	Sept 26	Ngaire Taylor's 6 Stevenson Way	<i>Handel</i> Dene McConnochie	Ngaire Taylor 534 8538
World War II 2 nd Thurs 2pm			Resuming Oct/Nov	Allan Reid 534 9895
Writing 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm	Sept 11	Beverly Johnson's Apt 144 BM Village	<i>Night</i>	Marian Heywood 534 1159

