



Supporting
Lifelong Learning

Howick Inc.
PO Box 39035
Howick 2145
September 2019
Final Edition



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2019-2020

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SEPTEMBER 9 MEETING
9.30 am, Howick Bowling Club

GUEST SPEAKER: Alan La Roche: **Founding of Howick**
TEN MINUTES: Short story
TEA ASSIST: Aviation & Aerospace

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY:
PRESERVING COMMUNITY HISTORY

SAVE the Howick Horticultural Society and preserve a slice of Howick history and community activism. This was the appeal from two of our members, Brenda Loader and Jenny Hough, at last month's meeting. Mrs Loader made this pitch from the lectern: Unless we get more people to manage the garden club which is nearly a century old, the Howick Horticultural Society would be headed for extinction. It would be sad if it fell short of its 100th anniversary in 2023, she said. The society is low on numbers as it tends to attract older people. Howick U3A members who are gardening fans may want to help out a fellow-community outfit. Those interested should contact its secretary Maureen Meyrick (5354769), who is also a Howick U3A member. The society meets monthly on the first Thursday at All Saints Church. It organises flower shows and talks and has been a fixture on the Auckland gardening scene for decades. It is Howick's second oldest society.

It started as the Howick Beautifying Society in 1923, its mission being to preserve greenery and to campaign against the destruction of flora. It encouraged the planting of trees and shrubbery in public spaces like beaches and reserves. Members may want to know the society had a hand in the development of Nixon Memorial Park which later incorporated croquet and bowling greens. The society changed to its current name in recent times. It has considerable archival assets: minutes from the post-war years until the present century, membership lists, newsletters, records of competitions and winners and historical photographs. A valuable resource for researchers in community history, by any standard. And worth saving.

EVERYWHERE MAN

Guest speaker Alan La Roche (pictured at a community event) needs no introduction. Members who have read his books on Howick and its surrounds know how deeply steeped he is in local lore, besides the documented history. The Howick Historical Village was his idea, and he has been active in local government and conservation bodies over the decades. Ever the active person he has been up the Everest base camp twice and has cycled through China. What else hasn't he tried? Ask him.



NEXT MONTH: Sheila Russell on a cousin who was part of a group which staged a daring mass escape in wartime Germany.

TINNITUS STUDY

AUCKLAND University is recruiting participants for ongoing research into tinnitus (so-called buzzing in the ear.) Only those with no tinnitus problems will be accepted as members of a control group. Men should be aged between 60 and 86, women between 70 and 75. Contact Phil Sanders, a PhD student conducting the research (philip.sanders@auckland.ac.nz or 9238011.)

OSTEOARTHRITIS RESEARCH

PARTICIPANTS are being sought to take part in clinical trials to improve pain management for knee osteoarthritis. The study conducted by the Waitemata DHB in conjunction with local universities seeks to compare the effectiveness of two pain medications – Duloxetine and Venlafaxine – in the treatment of arthritic knee pain. Participants should have experienced moderate to severe knee pain for several months and be able to attend three appointments at North Shore Hospital. Contact the study nurse Michelle Wang (michelle.wang@waitematadhb.govt.nz) if you fit the bill.

RESIGNED

MARGOT Keesing has resigned her membership.

REPORT ON LAST MONTH'S TALKS

THE NAVY AS PROTECTOR AND FLAG CARRIER

THE talk on the Royal New Zealand Navy given jointly by an officer and a naval historian brought a startling revelation: The navy, under-resourced as it long has been, has the primary duty of patrolling New Zealand's exclusive economic zone, the world's fourth largest. The zone which runs 200 miles out to sea from the country's territorial outer limits is an expanse of more than 4 million sq km, 15 times New Zealand's land mass. If oil or gas of monumental quantity were found under the sea bed, or fishery stocks were poached by foreign fishing fleets, it's the role of the Navy as a branch of the Defence Force to protect the national interest. That's not to mention foreign military craft entering our waters with malevolent intent.

In military and diplomatic strategy, the Navy's focus is in maintaining stability in the Pacific Island nations in collaboration with the Australians, the thinking being that a Pacific region free of strife will better promote equanimity on both sides of the Tasman Sea. After withdrawing from the more ambitious involvement in Middle East flashpoints like Iraq and Afghanistan, the Navy has shifted its diplomatic gaze closer home, to Southeast Asia, as an extension of the West Pacific strategy of carving out a huge area of calm. This was described by Lt-Cdr Kane Sutherland as a "buffer" to protect Australasia's western flank.

As he pointed out, it is a man-sized job for a force with aging ships and new craft on order which are at least a decade away from delivery. The personnel count is also inadequate: He said the Navy needed 3,000 people to carry out its duties proficiently, but its current headcount was only 2,200. But such has been New Zealand's devotion to international alliances and diplomatic ties with the Asia-Pacific region in more recent times that it pitched in when it could: in peacekeeping in East Timor and Cambodia, intervening in Bougainville, helping fight the communists in the Malayan Emergency, assisting in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami. Add to that pre-emptive action in checking imported terrorism and cross-border crime such as drug smuggling.

It is a source of pride to Navy people present and past that this is a service branch that does its duty, in spite of stretched resources. It has won New Zealand many friends in the Asia-Pacific region. Until 1941, when New Zealand officially had its own navy (the Royal NZ Navy), its naval forces had from the 19th century been an appendage of the British Royal Navy, which had final say over operational deployments and personnel management. For instance the Chief of Naval Staff had always been a Briton until as late as 1960.

As the naval historical Michael Wynd said, this was an unavoidable vestige of imperial ties to Britain when the Royal Navy was the supreme fighting force on the high seas. New Zealand, of course, benefited much from the association, in operational and management nous. Cook and Hobson are names frequently cited when talking about New Zealand's maritime heritage. But in this century, with older craft being refurbished and new ships on the way, the Navy is coming into its own.

BLOW HOT, BLOW COLD

MALCOLM Booth, last month's ten-minuter, made light work of the weather issue, one of the Big Questions of our time. He was not about to take an ideological position on a matter that has as many deniers and doubters as there are true believers. His was rather a lightish look at the vagaries of weather set to lived experiences. It drew chuckles from some members who obviously felt a visceral connection with what he was narrating.

He told members he left for Britain in the 1950s to take up a job in the agricultural machinery business, starting in relatively mild Cornwall. This was at the least an amiable introduction to the famously cold and wet British weather because he was soon to be despatched to northern Scotland as a sales representative. He said of the Scottish fastness and its frigid conditions that this was the place "where God invented winter".

How so? One night his garage was demolished in a storm. There was no need for a fridge in the home. Eggs would be frozen solid so he had to run them under a warm tap before they could be put to use. Queen-size bedsheets hung out to dry became stiff as parchment. "Fold the sheet and you came away with two single sheets of plywood" was his graphic representation of the cold. As for desperately needing to relieve himself when in a car in sub-zero temperatures, he improvised with a can. "When I tossed the contents out the window the pristine snow had a yellow slash across it." Mr Booth mercifully restricted man-jokes to just this one.

In the hellish hothouse that is summer in Australia, where he was next in the 1960s, pouring water over his head in 45 Celsius conditions in a Sydney drought was routine practice. You could get heat stroke otherwise. But his poor wife was "wilting like a rose" and not at all happy that her meticulous knitting was speckled with droplets of perspiration. Finally, home to Auckland. Mild and temperate: the place where the phrase Goldilocks conditions was invented? He said of this particular winter that he had not felt the need to use his winter duvet which had been readied. If *this* was climate change, he said he liked it. "Bring it on."

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

THE Booker Prize 2019 shortlist is just out: **Quichotte** *Salman Rushdie*; **The Testaments** *Margaret Atwood*; **Ducks, Newburyport** *Lucy Ellmann*; **Girl, Woman, Other** *Bernardine Evaristo*; **An Orchestra of Minorities** *Chigozie Obioma*; **10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World** *Elif Shafak*.

OUT AND ABOUT

++ **HOWICK Little Theatre's** current and coming presentations are **Neighbourhood Watch** (season ending Sept 28) and **Disorderly Conduct** (Oct 2-5.) **Watch** is a comedy by **Alan Ayckbourn**, directed by **Penelope Keegan**. **Conduct** is written by **Nathan Hey**. Tickets iticket.co.nz, for showtimes go to hlt.org.nz.

++ The **Auckland Youth Orchestra** at **Howick All Saints Church** on Sept14, in **Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto** (soloist **Kent Isomura**) and **Strauss's Don Juan**. Concert starts 7.30 pm.

++ **BACH Musica** offers **Hummel's Trumpet Concerto** and sacred music by **Mendelssohn** in its Sept 29 concert at the Town Hall, 5 pm. Playing the Hummel will be APO principal trumpet **Huw Dann**. Soprano **Stephanie Acraman** sings **Mendelssohn's Psalm 42, Hear My Prayer and Verleith uns Frieden**. Conductor **Rita Paczian**. Tickets \$30-\$70 from Ticketmaster (ticketmaster.co.nz.)

++ **OPERATUNITY's** next performance in Botany features New Zealand's own **Three Tenors (Bonaventure Allan-Moetaua, Kalauni Pouvalu, Derek Hill)**. At St Columba Church, Ti Rakau on Oct 8 at 11 am. Tickets from bookings@operatunity.co.nz or call 0508 266237.

++ IT's rare the **Auckland Philharmonia** manages to get two A-listers to share the stage: conductor **Vladimir Ashkenazy** and violinist **Viktoriya Mullova**. (Would have cost the APO a packet.) The duo will collaborate in the **Sibelius Violin Concerto**. Symphony for the evening is **Dvorak's Seventh**. Sept 12, Town Hall. Concert sold out but diehard concertgoers could take their chances waiting at the box office as ticket-holders who have a late change of plans are known to offload their tickets in the half hour before the event.

++ **MARGARET Atwood**, whose 1985 book **The Handmaid's Tale** enjoyed a spurt in sales after the coming of Donald Trump provoked dystopian stirrings portrayed in her story, will come to **Monterey Howick** in a delayed screening on Sept 28 (8.15 pm) of the launch of her sequel, **The Testaments**. The event takes place in London on Sept 10, comprising readings from the new book and conversations with select guests. Repeat Monterey screenings on Sept 29, 10.30 am and 7.20 pm. **The Testaments** is on the Booker Prize shortlist.

Group (yellow denotes full)	Date	Venue	Topic	Convenor
Anthropology 1 3 rd Thurs 10 am	Sept 19	Betty Reid's 4A Paton Rd	<i>Neanderthal 2</i> Betty Reid	Jennie Leyland 534 4034 Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology 2 4 th Mon 10 am	Sept 23			Margaret Hieatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am	Oct 4	Beverley Luxton's 1 Village Dr, PPV	<i>Spanish Art (DVD)</i> Betty Gate <i>Trulli Houses in Italy</i> Margaret Nicholls	Malcolm/Dilys Booth 534 3604
Aviation and Aerospace 1 st Wed 10 am	Concluded Oct 2 next	BM Theatre		Clive Bolt 534 2946
Book Discussion 4 th Thurs 2 pm	Sept 26	Margaret Smith's 25 Centre Ct, PPV		Margaret Smith 576 3206
Civilisations 3 rd Mon 1 pm	Sept 16	Cora Young's 55 Rodney St	<i>Charlemagne</i> Cora Young	Cora Young 534 8623
Earth and the Universe 4 th Tues 10 am	Sept 24	BM Theatre	<i>Black Holes, Quasars and AGNs</i> (active galactic nuclei)	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Tues 10 am	Concluded Oct 1 next			Peter Garrick 535 4085
Famous & Infamous 2 3 rd Thurs 2 pm	Sept 19	Glenda Van der Maas's 50 Sale St	<i>Mata Hari</i> Glenda Van der Maas	Ray Lewis 535 5628
Famous & Infamous 3 1 st Thurs 10 am	Oct 3	Jean Fitzgerald's 1 Lodge Lane, PPV	<i>Jean Denholm, Jean Fitzgerald</i> presenting – topics TBA	Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Forum 3 rd Fri 10 am	Sept 20	Beverley Luxton's 1 Village Dr, PPV		Beverley Luxton 576 9625
French 4 th Fri 1 pm	Sept 27	Gayleen Mackereth 70 Cook St	<i>Franche-Comte</i> Chris Cameron	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 rd Tues 10 am	Sept 17	BM Theatre	<i>Prince Albert</i> Judy Lee	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am	Sept 12	Alan La Roche's 18 Tui Vale, Cockle Bay	Potpourri	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Literature 3 rd Wed 10 am	Sept 18	David Dwerryhouse's 74A Aberfeldy Ave	<i>Polynesian Myths and Legends</i> David Dwerryhouse	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Movies 2 nd Mon 1 pm	Sept 9	Jean Denholm's 2/21 Drake St	<i>Recent movies seen – discuss</i> (after BYO lunch)	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Nature Walks and Talks 2nd Fri 9 am	Sept 13	Meet Porterfield Reserve off Clifton Rd, Whitford	<i>To Clifton Beach and back</i>	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Opera 1 2 nd Tues 9.30 am	Sept 10	BM Theatre	<i>Norma</i> by Bellini	Jean Denholm 534 6844
Opera 2 4 th Tues 1 pm	Sept 24	BM Theatre	<i>Fedora</i> by Umberto Giordano 108 min	Geraldine Rose 537 1917
Philosophy 1 st Mon 10 am	Oct 7	BM Theatre	<i>Get Better at Living Life –</i> <i>Discuss</i>	Chris Nixon 535 5309
Poetry 2 nd Tues 2 pm	Sept 10	Hawthorn Dene café, Botany Rd	<i>Sam Hunt</i>	Beth Voogd 534 7468
Science 4 th Wed 10 am	Sept 25	BM Theatre	Potpourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2nd Sun noon	Oct 13	Palmer's garden centre cafe		Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 st Wed 10 am	Oct 2	David Dwerryhouse's 74A Aberfeldy Ave	<i>Canada and Alaska</i> Gwen Kirman	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
World of Art 1 3 rd Mon 10 am	Sept 16	BM Theatre	<i>Art of Spain and Australian</i> <i>artist William Robinson</i>	Garry Law 271 6505
World of Art 2 3 rd Tues 1.30 pm	Sept 17	Philippa Wilson's 12 Daria Place	<i>Teapots</i> Philippa Wilson <i>Jack Vettriano</i> Dilys Booth	Heather Watson 274 4747
World of Music 4 th Wed 1.30 pm	Sept 25	David Dwerryhouse's 74A Aberfeldy Ave	<i>Les Miserables</i> David Dwerryhouse	Ngaire Taylor 534 8538
World War II 2 nd Thurs 2pm	Sept 12	Jim/Sheila Russell's 8/50 Cook St	<i>Legacy of WWII</i>	Allan Reid 534 8538
Writing 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm	Sept 10	Judy Wilson's 32 Butley Dr	<i>An Overactive Imagination</i>	Marian Heywood 534 1159

