



Supporting
Lifelong Learning

Howick Inc.

PO Box 39035
Howick 2145
March 2021



COMMITTEE

2020-2021

- GERALDINE ROSE**
President/Auckland U3A Network Liaison
- ALAN LA ROCHE**
Vice President/Guest Speakers
- DAVID DWERRYHOUSE**
Immediate Past President/Membership
- MARGARET NICHOLLS** *Director of Studies*
- JONI BURGESS** *Treasurer*
- JAN NAISH-WALLIS** *Secretary*
- MARY KENNEDY** *Newsletter Editor*
- ROSEMARY OVENS** *Almoner/Welcomer*
- WARREN YARDLEY** *Ten-minute Speakers*

Next General Meeting:

Monday 8 March 2021: 9.30 at Howick Bowling Club*
(*If we are at level 1)

Speaker: Professor Mick Clout

Ten-minute speaker:

Tea Group: *Nature Walks and Talks*

Editorial:

So here we are again. I feel for businesses, hospitality workers etc. whose livelihoods continue to be on the line, and for teachers and students who have been abruptly thrown into teaching and learning online. For U3A members, perhaps, the effects of lockdown are less drastic, but we will all have our own reactions to the news. Personally, I am grateful to have had so much freedom in the past year, and hold on to the hope that as vaccinations take place throughout the world, normal service will be resumed eventually. In the meantime information regarding meetings remains tentative, dependant on alert levels.

Warren recently sent me an email from the Te Reo Maori group, which seems appropriate to quote in times such as these. If nothing else, you can have fun looking up the translation.

Kia Kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui.

Speaker: Sally Barclay



Sally gave us an informative talk on the restoration of the Mangemangeroa Reserve. In 1988, the farm land owned by the Somerville family was subdivided, and after a campaign by local people, part of the land was set up as a reserve. In 2000, a group called Friends of Mangemangeroa (FOM) began work on restoring the native forest on the narrow strip of land lining the estuary. The land is currently owned by the Government, and governed by the Council in partnership with FOM. The Council maintains the tracks and fences, and sprays the noxious weeds such as kikuyu grass, gorse, pampas and blackberry, while FOM focus on protecting and replanting the large number of native species in the reserve.

Kokekohe, Puriri, Taraire, Hangi-hangi, Kawakawa and Totara can be seen in the forest, as well as understorey plants such as Manukau black fern, Nikau and Manuka, as well as rushes along the saltmarshes. There is a huge amount of work involved in forest regeneration. Soil must be prepared, seeds collected and grown in the nursery before being planted out in plastic protective sheaths, as the new growth must be protected from drought, rabbits possums and pukeko. Where the land has slipped due to erosion, wood brush is laid to stabilise the land. In parts, weed mat is laid down, although in some cases the matting, which is imported from China, brings in its own weeds which must be removed. Many members of the Public assist with the work, including a Wednesday morning weeding group, and students from Cackle bay Primary and Somerville Intermediate. Sally showed us a lovely photo of primary students, all wearing bright blue gloves, absorbed in pricking out seedlings ready for replanting.

Sally's talk certainly made us aware of the dedication of all those involved in the protection and restoration of an invaluable natural resource.

March Speaker*:



Mick Clout is an emeritus professor at the University of Auckland and has broad interest in the applications of ecological science to conservation. Originally from the UK (where he studied ecological science at the University of Edinburgh) Mick gained a PhD from the University of Auckland in 1977, studying the ecology of brushtail possums. He then commenced his science career with DSIR Ecology Division at Nelson, from 1977-1989. In 1989 he joined the NZ Department of Conservation as Research Manager, where he also acted as Director of Protected Species. In 1993 Mick became an academic at the University of Auckland and extended his research interests into areas of biosecurity and invasive species management. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand (RSNZ) and was awarded the 2007 Sir Peter Scott Medal for Conservation Merit, the 2008 RSNZ Charles Fleming Award for Environmental Achievement and the 2014 Marsden Medal. Mick was the founding Chair of the Invasive Species Specialist Group of IUCN (which he led from 1995-2008), the Chair of the NZ Biosecurity Ministerial Advisory Committee from 2005-2013, and was a member of the NZ Conservation Authority from 2011-2020. He has chaired the Kakapo Recovery Group for the past 25 years.



From the Committee:

Phil Williams has kindly agreed to take responsibility for setting up the microphone and AV equipment in general meetings, for which the Committee is very grateful. We still need at least one more person to assist in this role, so if you are reasonably technologically competent, please consider volunteering. Role could be shared by a small team. Please talk to a committee member if you think you may be able to help. 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. Nominations for committee members must be received by the President by 5 April so that voting/confirmation can take place at the AGM in May.

We had planned to have a bring-a-buddy day for our next general meeting in March, but, given current uncertainties, we have decided to postpone this.

In order to reduce confusion, the committee has agreed that general meetings will only take place in Alert Level 1. Interest groups may take place at level 2 at the discretion of convenors, provided suitable social distancing is possible. Individual members, can, of course, make their own decisions. Some venues, in particular Bruce McLaren Theatre, may not be available at Level 2.

News from Convenors

The new *current affairs* group had its first meeting in February. There were six people at the meeting and we would welcome more members. At the meeting there was lively discussion. The group runs not as a lecture, but involves group participation and we would like members to do some research and thinking about the topic before coming to the meeting.

The new *Comparative Religions* group was also very well-attended and the session was stimulating and lively. The group will be looking at religions through the ages which promises to be most interesting. The group is already full, but if you are interested in joining please talk to Margaret Nicholls in case new spaces come up later.

Membership

We have two prospective new members who we hope will be joining us soon.

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. (We had planned to have a "bring-a-buddy" session at our March General Meeting, but given current uncertainties, we have decided to postpone this)

Cora has been in touch with long-term members Goeff and Monica Mooney, who resigned last year when they went to live with their daughter in Northland. They are now settled and happy up there, but miss their friends in U3A and remain interested in our doings. Cora thought those of you who knew the Mooneys would be pleased to know we are not forgotten.

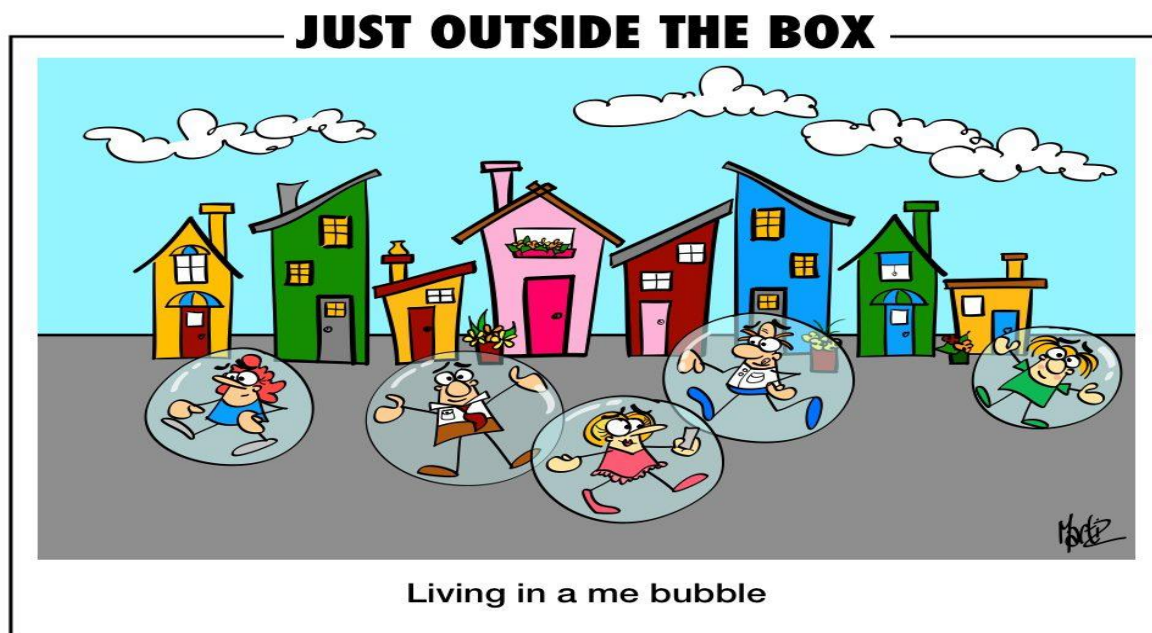
Out and about

Howick Little Theatre is presenting "The House", a comedy about the buying and selling of a house, from February 27 to March 20. Book tickets through the theatre website.

Candlelight Music Series takes place in St Matthew in the City, 187 Federal Street on 6 and 20 March. Book through eventfinda.co.nz

Auckland Live presents an experimental play, White Rabbit, Red Rabbit, at the Silo Theatre on Saturday 13 March. Details and booking through Auckland live website.

Auckland Arts Festival is returning from March 4 to March 21. For more details, have a look on the website www.aaf.co.nz, where you can download their brochure.



Groups (yellow= full)	Date - 2021	Venue	Topic	Convenor
Anthropology 1 3 rd Thurs 10 am	March 18	BM Theatre	Pot pourri	J Leyland 534 4034 Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology 2 4 th Mon 10 am	March 22	55 Rodney Street	TBA	Margaret Hieatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am	Postponed	15 Gillette Place, Howick	Royal Albert Docks The Duomo	June Lamborn 535 8069
Aviation and Aerospace 1 st Wed 10 am	Postponed	BM Theatre	Pot pourri	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Book Discussion 4 th Thurs 1.30	March 25	9a Merino Avenue	Books	Joni Burgess 537 4834
Civilisations 3 rd Mon 1 pm	March 15	55 Rodney street	Persian Empire Part 2	Cora Young 534 8623
Comparative Religions 4 th Monday 1.30pm (new)	March 22	55 Rodney Street	Religious monuments/texts 3000 to 2000 BC	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Current Affairs 1 st Tuesday 2pm (new)	Postponed	11 Shelly Beach Parade Cockle Bay	USA in the Ukraine	Jan Naish-Wallis 534 4438
Earth and the Universe 4 th Tues 10 am	March 23	BM Theatre	Exoplanets and SETI	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Thurs 10 am	Postponed	12 Daria Place	“Your choice”	Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Famous & Infamous 2 3 rd Thurs 2 pm	March 18	159 Pah Road	Ruth Bader Ginsberg	Allan Reid 534 9895
French 4 th Fri 1 pm	March 26	74A Aberfeldy Avenue Hland Pk	TBA	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 rd Tues 10 am	March 16	BM theatre	Gold Rushes of Victoria	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am	March 11	31 Lansell Drive, Dannemora	Pot pourri	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Literature 3 rd Wed 10 am	March 17	32 Butley Drive	Hamlet	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Movies 2 nd Mon, 12.30 pm	March 8	2/21 Drake Street, Howick	Discussion of movies seen	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Nature Walks and Talks 2 nd Fri 9 am	March 12	St Kentigern College 9am sharp.	Walk the grounds/ history	Warren Yardley 5330057
Opera 1 2 nd Tues 9.30 am	March 9	BM Theatre	Barber of Seville, by Rossini	Jean Denholm 534 6844
Opera 2 4 th Tues 1.15pm	March 23	BM Theatre	TBA	Geraldine Rose 537 1917
Philosophy 1 st Mon 10 am	Postponed	BM Theatre	Members’ enthusiasms	Christopher Nixon 535 5309
Poetry 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm		Currently suspended		Beth Voogd 534 7468
Science. 4 th Wed 10 am	March 24	BM Theatre	Potpourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2 nd Sun noon	March 14	Dannemora Gardens Cafe		Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Te Reo Maori 1 st Thursday 2pm	Postponed	BM Theatre	Te Reo language and culture	Chris Cameron 5338735
Travel 1 st Wed 10 am	Postponed	159 Pah Road Cockle Bay	Art Deco	David and Adrienne Teape 5336103
World of Art 1 3 rd Mon 10 am	March 15	BM Theatre	TBA	Garry Law 271 6505
World of Art 2 3 rd Tues 1.30 pm	March 16	BM Theatre	TBA	Philippa Wilson 5342558
World of Music 4 th Wed 1.30 pm	March 24	6 Stevenson Place	Early music	Ngairé Taylor 534 8538
World War II 2 nd Thurs 2 pm	March 11	4A Paton’s Road	Charles Upham 2	Allan Reid 534 9895
Writing 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm	March 9	9 Kelly Place	“When I opened the cupboard...”	Marian Heywood 534 1159