



Supporting Lifelong  
Learning

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March 2024



#### COMMITTEE 2023/2024

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**JUNE POOLE** *Vice-President*  
**JOHN SAVORY** *Speaker Convenor*  
**CYRIL NEVEZIE** *Membership*  
**LINDA STUBBS** *Almoner* 027 297 5601

**General Meeting:**  
**March 11, 9.30am**  
**Howick Bowling Club, Selwyn Road, Howick**  
**Speaker: Lindsay Diggelmann**  
**10-minute speaker: Sue Townson**  
**Tea team: Philosophy**

#### President's Report

A very special welcome to new members Adrienne and Roland Bairstow.

It was very encouraging to see 70+ regular members attending our last meeting as well as a large number of visitors.

I am promoting THEME OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH. Bring along a friend or two and be in for the special draw!! Our Social Media promotions have enabled more people to be aware of U3A Howick and what it offers. Remember we are a family our motto is 'Learn, Laugh, Live'

It's great to see Convenors taking their interest group outside their normal meeting venue. Visits to Wild Life Photographer of the Year exhibition at the Museum (Mobile Phone Photography); visit to Ardmore to view the Mosquito reconstruction (Military History); History of Great South Road and NZ War Redoubt sites (NZ History 2) Architecture tour of Britomart precinct (Architecture); Ayrilies Garden (Gardenz) all add spice to our learnings and companionship.

We have a busy month ahead in March, your committee is in discussion regarding the Incorporated Society changes of which we are members, and the presentation of reports for the AGM in April.

Trust you are all well

Graeme

**Editorial:** There was a segment this week on Fair Go about digital exclusion of older people. They interviewed a woman – bright and intelligent – who had no mobile phone and no email address, and was determined that it would be too much for her to learn. While I do understand that some people in their 80's and 90's may have difficulty learning new things, I do think that life would be more rather than less stressful without rudimentary skills, at least of texting and using emails. Even if there are no young people to help, the library will set up an email address and assist people to use it. I must say that I am quite addicted to my phone and my computer, it seems to give my fingers something to do. Stuff quizzes, quordle and octordle games and shamefully, Candy Crush, have become part of my daily routine. But I have learnt to do useful stuff too. I have become more competent over time – and I like to try new little techniques, and no longer fear that if I make a mistake, the whole computer will blow up! Editing this newsletter, for example, has taught me several - albeit basic – skills and given me more confidence. Which leads me to make a request. I have been editing this newspaper for three years now, and am keen to pass on the role to a new editor. If you have even the faintest interest, please email me on the newsletter website, and I will invite you over to show you what is involved.

## March Speaker: Lindsay Diggelmann



Dr Lindsay Diggelmann is a Senior Lecturer in History, and also Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Auckland. He teaches a wide range of topics concerning many aspects of European history but his specialist area is the history of the Middle Ages, and particularly the Anglo-Norman period of the 11th and 12th centuries. When he is not teaching, Lindsay is a keen pub-quiz participant and an avid armchair sports watcher. He has been a regular speaker on the U3A circuit for a number of years.

The title of his talk is: Fighting for God: Religious Conflicts in the Middle Ages and the Twenty-First Century.

Modern conflicts which contain a strong religious element can often appear baffling and frightening. Knowing more about the historical background of such events may not help us to solve them, but at least it will help us to understand them more clearly. What links can we draw, for example, between recent crises and the Crusades? This lecture will look back to interaction between religious groups (Christians, Muslims and Jews) in the Middle Ages to show how many of today's most intractable conflicts have their origins in quite distant historical eras.

## February Speaker: Colleen Brown: The Bulford Kiwi

Colleen's excellent talk, and her enthusiasm for her topic - about her book on the Bulford Kiwi - had us all buzzing. As an author and storyteller, writing is her passion and obsession. Her research has taken her far and wide, learning from people all over New Zealand and her material comes from archives in the National Library as well as many personal stories.

The Bulford Kiwi is a large depiction of a kiwi carved into the chalk of the Salisbury Plains. Nearby, is the military town of Bulford, and the Sling Camp, where New Zealand soldiers trained, and later waited for their return home at the end of WW1. The Sling Camp has gone now, but traces of the foundations remain.

New Zealanders were part of the occupying forces in Germany liberating the country. Conditions for the soldiers during the war were grim, where little food, bleeding feet and rat infestations were the norm. Back in Britain, conditions were not much better. High inflation, soldiers displacing civilians in work and strikes had brought the country to the brink of Civil War. In Sling Camp itself, cramped conditions and influenza were rife and there were delays of the troopships to take the soldiers home. This led to unrest, and soldiers rioted for two days, when the ringleaders were caught and punished. Brigadier General Stewart was instrumental in quelling the riot and Colleen, after tracking down a family member in Milton, found letters and photos of the event.

Colleen was also interested in the Hart family, who were instrumental in digging the Bulford kiwi. Colleen was able to track down a sister Harry Clark, a relative of the Hart's, and was given several photos of the Kiwi along with Harry's diaries.

While the Kiwi survived the second world war, it fell into disrepair until in the 1980's it was rechalked by Danny Fisher, a commander in the army corps. Although it looks different to the original depiction, it is remarkable that it has survived.

As well as her book about the Bulford Kiwi, Colleen has written a children's book, "Violet's Scarf", about a young girl who knitted a scarf for the soldiers overseas in World War One. By a strange co-incidence, the package was opened in France by her brother, George, who brought the scarf and its tag home.

It is testament to the popularity of her talk that, when Colleen brought out her books to look at or buy, there was a long queue, waiting to talk to her or to buy a book.



Photos:

Members enjoying lunch – provided by Bruce McLaren Village (left) and Linda Stubbs with Colleen Brown

#### From the committee:

Annual subscriptions will be due after the AGM in April. If at all possible, please pay by bank transfer. Details of our bank account number will be in the next newsletter.

Information relating to the AGM will be sent soon, so that you can read the documents before the meeting.

**U3A Howick website:** To become a follower on our website, just google [u3ahowicknz.co.nz](http://u3ahowicknz.co.nz) and then click on the bottom right corner of the home page where it says Follow and enter your email address.

**U3A Facebook page:** Join this facebook group (u3ahowick) for interesting information and updates.

#### From the Convenors:

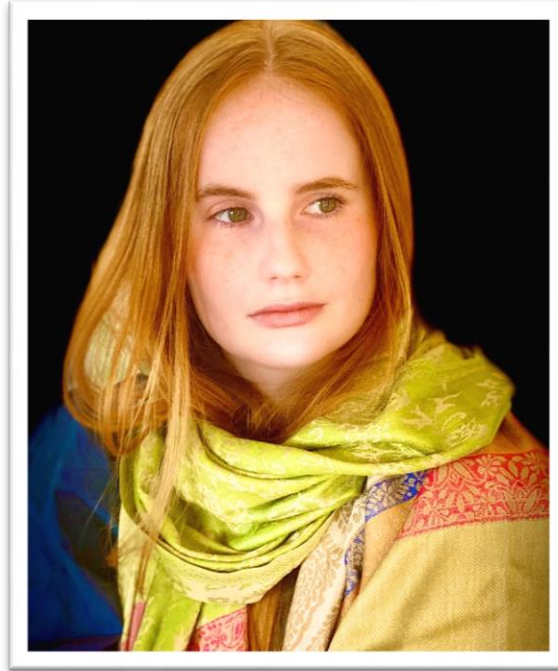
**Opera Group . Viewing on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at Bruce McLaren Theatre, with a 1.15 p.m. start. 'LUCREZIA BORGIA'** by Donizetti, (after the play of same name, by Victor Hugo), premiered in Milan in December 1833. Lucrezia Borgia was well known in history through rumours about her and her family, casting Lucrezia as a femme fatale. An Italian noblewoman of the House of Borgia, Lucrezia was the illegitimate daughter of Pope Alexander VI and his mistress, Vannozza dei Cattanei.

Donizetti's operatic portrayal of Lucrezia Borgia is one of the most demanding roles for a soprano, and only such accomplished stars as Joan Sutherland have risen to the challenge. Lucrezia was notorious in Renaissance Ferrara as much for her beauty as for the political intrigue and suspicious deaths that surrounded her and her family. Along with Sutherland's compelling portrayal, Tenor Alfredo Kraus, Conductor Richard Bonyng and renowned Stage Director John Copley, along with brilliant staging and costumes, deliver a Lucrezia Borgia that will delight all who view this wonderful 1980 recording from Royal Opera House Covent Garden. Please come along and enjoy the afternoon. **Convenor** – Geraldine, Ph. 5371917

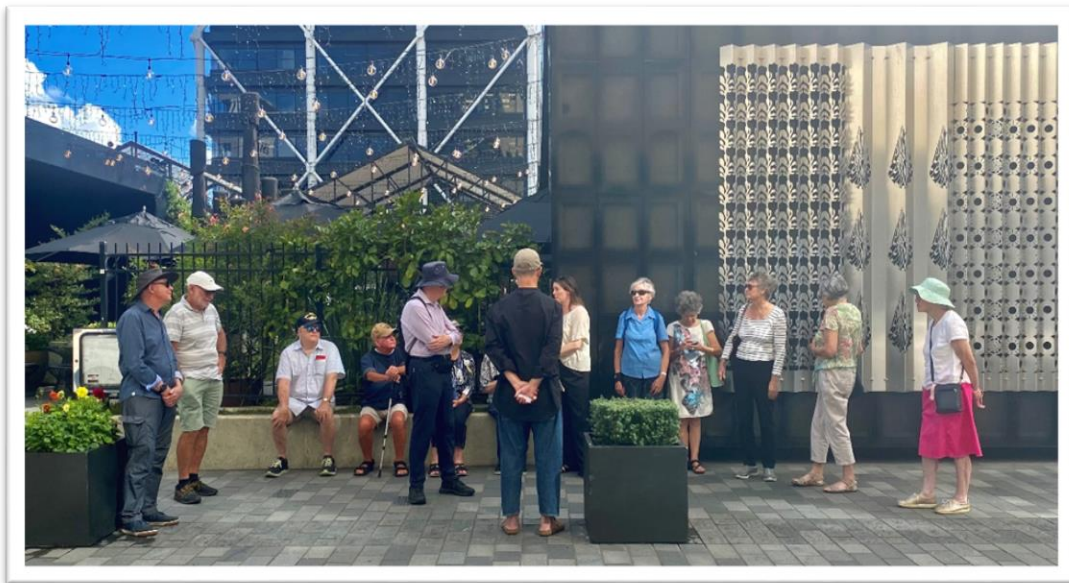
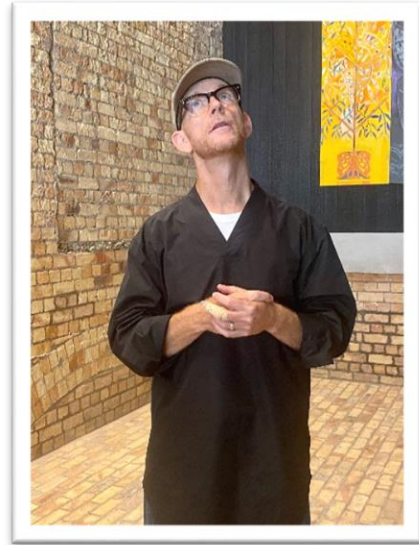
- The Military History group went to AVSPECS, at Ardmore airport. Here are some pics:



- The **Mobile Phone Photography** group had great fun taking portrait pictures of a real life model, also took portrait photos of one another. Here are some examples: Lynette Upshire, Dorothy Viljoen and June Poole (Will leave you to guess which photo depicts the model)



- The Architecture group had a wonderful guided tour of the redevelopment of the Britomart area by architectural journalists Jeremy Hansen and Melinda Williams (Colleen Williams' daughter) from Cooper Group. They explored the Britomart Hotel, Kingi, The Library and the Hayman Kronfeld Building and were impressed by the integration of original materials into modern luxurious eco friendly buildings. They also visited the Lighthouse Building on the wharf.



### Out and about

- Exhibition at the Auckland Art Gallery showing Guo Pei's innovative and visually striking clothing ensemble designs, shoes and jewellery. It is on until 5 May 2024.
- Manukau Symphony Orchestra – Rachmaninov 2: 9 March 7.30pm at Due Drop Events Centre
- Auckland Museum has several exhibitions; Wildlife photographer of the year, Through the Eye of the Lens, a digital photo exhibition and Te Ra, the only customary Maori sail in existence
- Te Ahurei toi o Tamaki Auckland Arts Festival starts in Aotea Square on 7 March. See Auckland Live website for details
- The Bridge, music by Justin Devereux, Davey Jo south and Steve Edwards, March 24 at Uxbridge Theatre
- Dr Jane Goodall's "Reasons for hope" 10 June, Sky city theatre, Tickets available now.
- Auckland Philharmonia: Mendelssohn - The Hebrides, Unsuk Chin - Violin Concerto No.1, Sibelius - Symphony No.2 Thursday 28 Mar | Auckland Town Hall

<b>Groups(yellow=closed * members welcome</b>	<b>Date 2024</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Convenor</b>
Anthropology 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 10 am	March 21	4A Paton Road	Cappadocia and people who lived there	Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology 2* 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon 10 am	March 25	55 Rodney Street	The Ice Man	Linda Stubbs 0272975601
<b>Architecture 1<sup>st</sup> Fri 10 am</b>	March 1	Britomart Precinct	Guided tour of restored Victoria and Edward Building	June Lamborn 535 8069
Book Discussion 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 1.30 *	March 28	129 Pah Road	Books	Susanne Morgan 0211852020
Civilisations 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 1 pm	March 18	55 Rodney Street	Minoans	Linda Stubbs 0272975601
Comparative Religions 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday 1.30pm *	March 25	55 Rodney Street	Christianity	Margaret Nicholls 021344083
Current Affairs* 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 1.30pm	March 13	11 Shelly Beach Parade	Houthis, background, funding, red Sea attack etc.	Jan Naish-Wallis 027 220 3777
Dinner Club 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 6pm	March 26	The Good Home	New Group	Jan Naish-Wallis 027220 3777
Earth and the Universe 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 10 am	March 26	BM Theatre	TBA	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs 10 am	March 7	Cinema lounge Dannemora Gdns	Franz Joseph	Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Famous & Infamous 2 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 2.00pm*	March 21 *New time	11 Shelley Beach Parade	Pot pourri	Margaret Nicholls 021344083
French Circle* 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri 1 pm	March 22	74A Aberfeldy Avenue	History of French Colonialism	David Dwerryhouse 0210315416
Gardenz 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday 10.30am**	March 5	125 Potts Rd Whitford	Trip to Ayrilies garden	Linda Stubbs 0272975601
History* 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues 10 am	March 19	BM Theatre	TBC	Judy Lee 535 8547
History New Zealand 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs 10 am	March 14	31 Lansell Drive	Pot pourri	Alan La Roche 534 7366
History of NZ2* 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 2pm	March 19	39 Devon Road	History of Premier House +secret and not-so-secret societies in NZ	Graeme Diver 0274728033
<b>Literature 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed 10 am</b>	March 20	32 Butley drive	Macbeth, by David Dwerryhouse	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Military History 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2.00pm	March 14	9 Tranquility Rise	Pot pourri - Africa	Allan Reid 5349895
Mobile photography* 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 1.30pm	March 20	1/19 Butley Drive	Photo editing 1	Colleen Rigby 0272916781
Movies * 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon, 12.30 pm	March 11	11 Shelly Beach Parade	Watch "Love Actually"	Jan Naish-Wallis 027 220 3777
Opera 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 1.15pm	March 26	BM Theatre	'Lucrezia Borgia' - Donizetti	Geraldine Rose 5371917
Philosophy 1 <sup>st</sup> Mon 10 am	April 1	55 Rodney Street	Happiness, led by Christopher	Christopher Nixon 5343843
Science. 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 10 am	March 27	BM theatre	Pot pourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
<b>Travel 1<sup>st</sup> Wed 10 am</b>	March 6	159 Pah Road, Cockle Bay	Lyn will present her trip to Spain	David Teape 5336103
Walks and Talks 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri 9.30 am	March 15	Cnr Coronation and Church Rd	Kiwi Esplanade, Mangere	June Poole 021583893 Goeff 0211154560
World of Art 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 10 am *	March 18	31 Lansell Drive	Medley of places, times, materials, styles and artists – fake or real	Garry Law 0275665764
<b>World of Art 2 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues 1.30 pm</b>	March 19	BM Theatre (TBC)	Edward Hopper by Philippa	Philippa Wilson 5342558
World of Music* 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 1.30 pm	March 27	261 Bleakhouse Rd	TBA	Julia Forsyth 021 164 1664
Writing 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 1.30 pm	March 12	32 Butley Drive	Peculiar	Mary Kennedy 02102250341





Short Bio of I.C.K. Cameron.  
Christopher Cameron will talk about Te Pūnaha Kura Māori, the Native School System, which was a discrete section of the New Zealand government's education organisation, and existed for 101 years until 1969.  
As Christopher has Māori heritage through his mother, and as both of his parents were teachers in Native Schools, he has always had an interest in Māori history, customs and language. In 2008 and 2009 he completed a Certificate in Te Ara Reo Māori (Advanced) at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa.  
A current project of Christopher's is to establish a new Group in USA, Māori Language and Customs, (Te Reo Māori me ngā Tikanga

**Commit**