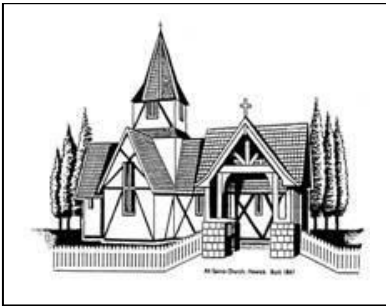




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 March 2023



Supporting  
 Lifelong Learning

**COMMITTEE 2021/2023**

- COLLEEN RIGBY *President.*
- GRAEME DIVER *Vice-president, Almoner*  
[gadiver@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gadiver@xtra.co.nz) ( 0274728033)
- JAN NAISH-WALLIS *Secretary(0272203777)*
- JONI BURGESS *Treasurer*
- GERALDINE ROSE *Past president,*  
*U3A Network representative*
- JUDITH NEL *Director of Studies*
- MARY KENNEDY *Newsletter Editor*
- JUNE POOLE *Membership*
- JOHN SAVORY *Speaker Convenor*

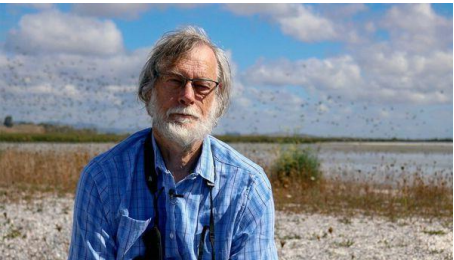
**Next General Meeting:**  
**Monday 13 March 9.30am**  
**Howick Bowling Club**  
**Speaker: Keith Woodley**  
**Ten-minute speaker: Short Story**  
**Tea team: Comparative Religions**

For new members: Annual \$25.00 subscription is payable to U3A Howick bank account: 12 3040 0556154 00, using your surname as a reference.

The 2023 AGM for U3A Howick (Inc) will take place on 3 April 2023 from 9.00 - 9.30am. The written annual reports by the President and Treasurer, proposal of accountant and annual subscriptions will be sent out at least 21 days before the meeting. Please read these prior to the meeting taking place.  
 The AGM will be followed by the presentations and celebrations of the 30th Anniversary of U3A Howick from 9.30am-1.00 pm, including lunch.

**Editorial:**

I thought I'd write about the weather – loss, tragedy, heroism and survivor's guilt, but so much has already been said. I listened on the radio to Samoan artist and choreographer, Lemi Ponifasio, talking about art and culture and its potential to change our world view. He talked about how man has "lived by the rules and rhythms of the earth for thousands of years" and how in his culture man is seen as part of the land he lives in, as subject to its laws rather than as masters over it. He suggests that we cannot "techno-fix or policy-make" our way out of climate change, but must change our spiritual beliefs and practices in a way that "animates and integrates people's lives" so that we live in harmony with each other and with the land. He suggests that art can change how people feel, see and touch the world in the way that laws cannot. I'm not sure what this means in practice, but I can't help thinking that our "Western" mindset of economic growth at all costs does not serve us well in our current environment.



**March Speaker: Keith Woodley - Filling the gaps: five years of shorebirds in North Korea**

Each year thousands of godwits depart NZ for breeding grounds in Alaska. Northbound they stop to refuel on the coasts of China and the Korean peninsula, but the southbound journey is nonstop across the Pacific. Since 2015 Pukorokoro Shorebird Centre members have completed 5 years of

surveys on the west coast of North Korea. We found much unmodified habitat and thousands of birds. What is the significance of this? How did we manage to do this?

Keith Woodley has been centre manager at the Shorebird Centre since 1993. During that time he has followed godwits along their migration pathways, including time in Alaska among nesting birds. He is the author of *Godwits: Long-haul Champions*. 2009. (Penguin Random House); *Shorebirds of New Zealand: Sharing the margins*. 2012. (Penguin Random House); and *In Pursuit of Champions: the inspiring story of the Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird centre*. 2022. (Sherlock & co and PMNT).

## February Speaker: Dr Ian Ferguson



Summary written by David Bates. Photo by Warren Yardley

*“Social and Structural Changes in Chinese Society over the past 20 years”* was the subject of the most interesting talk given by Dr Ian Ferguson MNZM to members at our February monthly meeting. Ian’s career specialty, during his 30 years as Principal Scientist at the NZ Dept of Scientific and Industrial Research and Government Science Advisor, was in the modification of cells mainly in kiwifruit, apples and horticulture to give more durable fruit for export. Ian also spent 20 years of his career on secondment to the Chinese University of Zhejiang established in 1897 in Hangzhou- one of the famous four universities in China- advising on developing techniques for the successful implementation of similar cell manipulation methods in China.

Ian stressed the importance of studying history in order to properly understand current problems between China and NZ, to assist in their solution- in this case a study of Chinese-European history is relevant. He referred to a book written in 1588 giving a Western view of the organization, technology and meritocracy in China, and spoke about the Treaty of Nerchinsk (in Latin, and translated by Jesuit missionaries) signed between Russia and the Qing Empire government showing how Russia was mainly interested in trade issues with China’s interest being the control of local tribes, borders and general security- a distinction recognizable even today.

The present-day Chinese interest in science, first recognised in 1697 when science and mathematics were introduced by Jesuit missionaries, and with the building of an observatory in Peking, has resulted in China continuing to seek scientific know-how from the West whilst developing its own institutions. NZ has had a Science Treaty with China underpinning our trade interest since the early 1960s. This led to an active exchange of students and staff between Chinese and NZ universities. Ian told us how he trained students in the methodology of science and how to write up their doctoral theses.

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the view of Western governments was that China was a great botanical resource with plants that were there for the taking: tea plants were taken to India and Kiwifruit by missionaries to NZ in the early 1900s with the consequent profitable growing/exporting in the 1960s, although only Zespri and some apple varieties remain “Copyright” to NZ. Many fruits grown in NZ do not store well and cannot be easily exported, and therefore are out of favour with NZ farmers.

Ian ended his talk by reference to how some Chinese and NZ societal customs clash, although overall China does recognise and welcome the NZ (and Western) contribution to its development

## From the President:

Thanks to members for bringing goods to the meeting for flood victims. Graeme and Allison Diver kindly delivered these to Urban in East, as a driver was taking all donated goods down to Te Karaka from there two days later. They were very grateful for the donation.

We made a donation of 50% of the Christmas raffle money \$272 to NZ Cancer Society.

## Thirtieth Anniversary

The 30th anniversary is almost upon us and coming up on 3rd April 2023. This meeting will be from 9am-1pm, so please diarise both date and times both of which are different to usual. A reminder to all Convenors that any PowerPoints for presentations on 3rd April at the 30th anniversary celebrations need to be sent to John Savory [john@savory.gen.nz](mailto:john@savory.gen.nz) and copied to Warren Yardley (as a backup) on [yardz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:yardz@xtra.co.nz) by 15 March 2023 please, as there will not be time on the day to upload them. It is by no means mandatory to have PowerPoint presentations, but if you do have them please send them in ahead of time.

## From the committee:

### Tea Duties:

We want to pay special tribute to Betty and Alan Reid for the splendid contribution they have made by always being at the club early to enable the tea duties go well, ensuring that everyone gets a hot cuppa just at the right moment and ensuring the kitchen is all tidied at the end. They have done this over many years. Betty has decided she wants to retire from this role after the March meeting. Our grateful thanks to Betty for the work she has put in over the years. The committee has decided that we will appoint a Tea Coordinator who will make sure that every convenor gets a copy of the schedule of tea duties and that every interest group will have an opportunity to organise the tea duties. This means once in about every 3 years your Interest Group will be responsible for organising tea. Alan will continue to do the name tags and name boards. Thanks Alan.

### 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Reminder: there will be a gold coin donation for the 30th anniversary booklet.

### Interest Group

Convenors, Please let Judith Nel have a copy of your Interest Group attendance sheets from May/June 2022/Feb/March 2023 as soon as possible.

**Website:** Garry Law has set up a website where interesting power points etc will be available to members. Click on the link to see what's there. [U3A Papers \(lawas.co.nz\)](http://lawas.co.nz)

We would like to set up a library of talks, so if you are prepared to provide copies of talks that you have presented to your interest groups, please send them to Garry on this email address, so that he can add to this library.

**Interest Groups:** A book for proposing new interest groups will be on the front table at general meetings. So far two new groups – *New Zealand History 2* and *Mobile phone photography* have already started (see timetable) and

two further groups, *Writing2/memoirs* and *gardening* have been proposed. Please contact Judith Nel to put your **name** down.

**Network Report:** U3A Network Event '23, confirmed for Saturday 29th July 9.30 a.m. – 3 pm. Asking for volunteers for Parking Wardens and Fire Wardens. High Viz vests are provided and equipment in the form of clear notices and stakes are provided for the parking wardens. The committee really appreciates members who step up to do these jobs as our Event depends on their presence.

### Out and about:

- Classic Car Show: Sunday 5 March 2023 10am to 3pm. A free event at Lloyd Elsmore Park. Go to [www.briteurocarshow.nz](http://www.briteurocarshow.nz) for more information
- Howick Little Theatre, presents a comedy set in the 1950's "Home, I'm darling", from February 25 to March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8pm.
- The Auckland Arts Festival takes place 9 to 26 March at various venues. Details on Auckland Live.
- Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra has a series of performances this year. For a copy of the Brochure, go to [apo.co.nz/concerts-events](http://apo.co.nz/concerts-events)
- Dance co- production by Footnote New Zealand and Mascall Dance (Canada) "The impossible has already happened", exploring water's power and purpose, shows at Q-Theatre on 1 April 2023. Book through QTheatre website
- Howick Village Cultural Food Festival – 4 March 9am to 3pm
- Auckland Art Gallery: Light from Tate – 1700's to now. From 1 March
- Grand Kyiv Ballet of Ukraine are performing in Auckland 13 and 14 April at the Kiri Te Kanawa theatre. Book through [ukraineballet.co.nz](http://ukraineballet.co.nz)
- Music in the park \_ Lloyd Elsmore Park: 11 march 2 -6pm • Celebrating Cultures 25 March 11am -4pm:  
Barry Curtis Park
-



Groups	Date 2023	Venue	Topic	Convenor
Anthropology 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 10 am	March 16	BM Theatre	Pot pourri	Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology 2 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon 10 am		55 Rodney St		Margaret Hieatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 <sup>st</sup> Fri 10 am	March 3	15 Gillett Place	Pot pourri	June Lamborn 535 8069
Book Discussion 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 1.30		129 Pah Road, Cockle Bay	Books	Brigid Bates 022 0323 866
Civilisations 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 1 pm	March 20	55 Rodney Street	China early Civilisation	Cora Young 534 8623
Comparative Religions 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday 1.30pm	March 27	55 Rodney Street	Judaism	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Current Affairs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 1.30pm	March 8	11 Shelly Beach Parade	Implications of Cyclone Gabrielle/Putin in Russia	Jan Naish-Wallis 027 220 3777
Earth and the Universe 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 10 am	March 28	BM Theatre	Latest Research	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs 10 am				Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Famous & Infamous 2 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 1.30 pm	March 16	11 Shelly Beach Pde	King Carlos of Spain	Margaret Nicholls 536 6079

French Circle 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri 1 pm	March 24	74 Aberfeldy Avenue	Napoleon III	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues 10 am	March 21	BM Theatre	Mileva Maric, Einstein's first wife/Judy Thomas Becket	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs 10 am	March 9	4A Paton Rd	Pot pourri	Alan La Roche 534 7366
History of New Zealand 2 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 2pm (new)	March 21 2pm	9 Tranquility Rise, Mellons bay	Pot pourri on New Zealand Disasters	Graeme Diver 0274728033
Literature 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 10 am	March 15	32 Butley Drive, Pakuranga	John Steinbeck	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Military History 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2pm	March 9	4A Paton's Road	Pot pourri/Special Operations Executive	Allan Reid 5349895
Mobile photography 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 2pm	March 15	1/19 Butley Drive Farm Cove	Finding perfect angle and subject	Colleen Rigby 0272916781
Movies 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon, 12.30 pm	March 13	2/21 Drake Street , Howick	Discussion of movies seen BYO Lunch	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Opera 1 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 9.30 am	March 14	BM Theatre	Fidelio	Rosemary Ovens 5343429
Opera 2 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 1.15pm	March 28	BM Theatre	TBA	Geraldine Rose 537 1917
Philosophy 1 <sup>st</sup> Mon 10 am	March 6	55 Rodney Street	Simone De Beauvoir	Cora Young 5348623
Science. 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 10 am	March 22	BM Theatre	Pot pourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun noon	March 12	Dannemora Gardens Cafe		Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 10 am	March 1	159 Pah Road, Cockle Bay	Delights of South America – John Savory	David and Adrienne Teape 5336103
Walks and Talks 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri 9.30 am	March 10	Meet at entrance to Otara Creek at E. Tamaki Road	Otara Creek	June Poole 021583893 Goeff 0211154560
World of Art 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 10 am	March 20	BM theatre	Pot pourri	Garry Law 0275665764
World of Art 2 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues 1.30 pm	March 21	BM Theatre	Pot pourri	Philippa Wilson 5342558
World of Music 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 1.30 pm	March 22	261 Bleakhouse Rd	Presentation by Ros Vallings	Julia Forsyth 021 164 1664
Writing 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 1.30 pm	March 14	9 Kelly Place	The holiday	Mary Kennedy (temp) 02102250341

