



University of the
Third Age

Howick Inc.

PO Box 39035
Howick 2145

FEBRUARY 2018



COMMITTEE 2017-18

WARREN YARDLEY

President/Guest Speakers

MARGARET NICHOLLS

Vice President/Director of Studies

CORA YOUNG *Secretary*

JONI BURGESS *Treasurer*

DAVID DWERRYHOUSE *Membership*

CHUA HUCK CHENG *Newsletter*

MARIAN HEYWOOD *Ten-minute Speakers*

JENNIE LEYLAND *Almoner*

NEXT MEETING: February 12, 9.30 am
Nixon Hall, Sale St, Howick

GUEST SPEAKER: Bill Reid on What Lies
Beneath Central Auckland

TEN MINUTES: Marian Heywood

TEA BREAK: Literature group

WINTER HEATING SUPPORT

MEMBERS will have read about the Winter Heating Payment, a government concession to seniors which will take effect this year. The media has reported in general but vague terms what this is: \$700 to be paid to couples, and \$450 to singles, to help them with their winter heating. Reports said the support will cover a period of five months from May to September each year (meaning, presumably, it is subject to review with a change of government.) It was also reported that those eligible will not be paid if they are out of the country for longer than a month during the qualifying period.

The scheme, as elaborated upon in the Ministry of Social Development's seniors newsletter, contains significant qualifications:

- * Payment this year will be made for July to September. Only from 2019 will the five-month May-September period start to apply.
- * Those who are out of the country indefinitely during the pertinent period will be paid for the first four weeks, but payment will be stopped from the fifth week. Resumption of payment has to be applied for should they return within the qualifying period.
- * Those on super and veterans' pension are eligible; those receiving the residential care subsidy or residential support subsidy are not.
- * After-tax payment per week is \$31.81 for couples, \$20.45 for singles.
- * Payment is automatic, so no application need be made.



BOMB SHELTERS RESONANT (WITH LIFE)

Not many Aucklanders who lived through WWII knew that air raid shelters covering 3.5 km of tunnel lay beneath the CBD in the university precinct. Much less today's students, who trudge daily through Albert Park beneath which the tunnels pass. They had been built in readiness for a Japanese air attack during the Pacific campaign. That never happened, thankfully, and the tunnels have lain sealed, for seven decades now. If civic campaigner Bill Reid (picture) has his way, the tunnels will be repurposed as a tourist attraction and to also provide a link for pedestrians and cyclists through the city's densest stretch. Auckland Council has been lobbied for its endorsement. Will it or won't it?

CHRISTMAS TEA

THE traditional Christmas morning tea which closed out the year drew a sizeable crowd. Proceedings were sped along with games of word skill and general knowledge, devised by Beverley Luxton and David Dwerryhouse. Word tests tossed at the crowd by Ms Luxton must have induced a mental fog in not a few (centripetal was one of the easier words), which quite possibly gave her a silent chuckle. Mr Dwerryhouse based his quiz on the subject disciplines of the 25 study groups. A sampling of answers: Beowulf (literature), Descartes (philosophy), quantum physics (universe) and Cubism (art.) In neither contest did any table of head scratchers have a perfect score, but fun they obviously had. Thanks are due Secretary Cora Young and her team of helpers for sending attendees home happy with the tea treats.

DEVONPORT NAVAL VISIT

PENDING confirmation, the yearly Past President's Excursion will be to the Devonport naval facility on the North Shore. Might participating members get piped on board a naval vessel? (Just kidding.) The event is scheduled for late in the year. Details pending.

NATURE WALKS SCHEDULE 2018

Feb 9: Meet at Nixon Hall for a 'Catholic Walk' through Sale St, Luplau Pl, Liston Cres, Granger Rd, Convent-orphanage, Howick Beach, Rangitoto View and back. **March 9:** Dickensian 'Great Expectations' trail from Charles Dickens Dr, Bleakhouse Rd corner. Surprise, surprise: The great writer almost came to Auckland in 1847 and again in 1861. **April 13:** Meet Dannemora Dr, walk from Logan Carr Reserve to Point View Dr. **May 11:** Meet Greenmount Reserve car park off Guy's Rd for a walk through tree-lined reserves. **July 13:** Meet Nixon Hall for a historical trek in Howick. **Aug 10:** Meet end of Clovelly Rd, walk to Naupata Point and the old Maori pa site. **Sept 14:** Meet Pigeon Mountain Rd, walk to Wakaaranga Creek as far as the Pakuranga Sailing Club. **Oct 12:** From Murphy's Bush car park through the Kahikatea forest of Flat Bush. **Nov 9:** From Windross Restaurant, Cockle Bay Beach, up the bush-clad valley to Pah Rd, View Rd, Calendar Place and environs. **Dec 14:** Meet Mellons Bay Beach, up the valley and back. **Walks convenor Alan La Roche informs that there are spare places and visitors are welcome. Phone 5347366 or email alanlaroche@xtra.co.nz.**

THE ECONOMIST'S BEST BOOKS 2017

THIS is a shortened list of the best books of 2017 as chosen by the editors of The Economist magazine.

NON-FICTION: The Retreat of Western Liberalism *Edward Luce* (Little Brown); Toscanini *Harvey Sachs* (W.W.Norton); Six Minutes in May: How Churchill Unexpectedly Became Prime Minister *Nicholas Shakespeare* (Harvill Secker); The Road To Somewhere: The Populist Revolt and the Future of Politics *David Goodhart* (Hurst); The Novel of the Century: The Extraordinary Adventure of Les Miserables *David Bellos* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux); Tamed: Ten Species That Changed Our World *Alice Roberts* (Hutchinson); Dawn of the New Everything *Jaron Lanier* (Bodley Head).

FICTION: White Tears *Hari Kunzru* (Knopf); Stay With Me *Ayobami Adebayo* (Knopf); Lincoln in the Bardo *George Saunders* (Bloomsbury); The Golden Legend *Nadeem Aslam* (Faber & Faber); Exit West *Mohsin Hamid* (Riverhead); Compass *Mathias Enard, translated* (New Directions); Fever Dream *Samantha Schweblin, translated* (OneWorld).

OUT AND ABOUT

++ ENGLISH National Ballet performs dancer/choreographer Akram Khan's version of Giselle next month as part of the Auckland Arts Festival. Ballet fans who are adventurous about modern stagings of classical ballet – Giselle was first performed in 1841 -- will need no persuading this latter-day Giselle is imaginative. There are laid-off factory workers instead of avenging Wilis; a misbehaving rich kid instead of a lovelorn prince; and Vincenzo Lamagna's haunting music instead of Adolphe Adam's original score. The Khan Giselle has received fulsome praise (one London critic wrote that it could well rank as a masterpiece of 21st century dance), but you decide. Clips available on YouTube. Music is by the Auckland Philharmonia. Aotea Centre, March 1,2 (7.30 pm); 3 (2 pm and 7.30 pm); 4 (5 pm.) Concession range \$65-\$145, Ticketmaster (ticketmaster.co.nz, 9512501).

++ VINTAGE cars: You love them or you hate them. If you fancy these old but shiny contraptions occasionally seen trundling down the Pakuranga Highway, head to Lloyd Elsmore Park for the annual Auckland Brit and Euro classic car show on March 4, 10 am to 3 pm. Mini Coopers, Jaguars, Bentleys, the odd Ferrari and much else will be on display. If you drive a BMW, you may be curious what its ancient forebears look like. Details on briteurocarshow.nz.

++ GEORGE Orwell's 1984 (published 1949), with its depiction of sinister state intrusiveness and curtailed individual rights, has been enjoying a revival in book sales since the emergence of one Donald Trump. A British stage adaptation of the novel has also been wowing audiences in London and New York. That play comes to Auckland next month, presented by Auckland Theatre Company (atc.co.nz) in collaboration with the play's UK originators. ASB Waterfront Theatre, March 10-25. Running time 1 hr 40 min with no intermission. Start times vary, check ATC or the ticketing agent for details. Tickets \$69-\$109 from Ticketmaster (ticketmaster.co.nz.)

Groups (yellow denotes full)	Date	Venue	Topic	Convenor
Ancient Civilisations 3 rd Mon 1pm-3pm	Feb 19	Cora Young's 55 Rodney St	<i>Life in Ancient Egypt</i> Sheila Russell	Cora Young 534 8623
Anthropology H 3 rd Thurs 10 am	Feb 15	BM Theatre 795 Chapel Rd.	Potpourri	Alison O'Connell 534 7539
Anthropology L 4 th Mon 10 am	Feb 26	Cora Young's 55 Rodney St	Potpourri – each to bring an article	Margaret Heatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am	Concluded March 2 next	Maurice Taylor's 6 Stevenson Way	TBA	Maurice Taylor 534 8538
Book Discussion 4 th Thurs 2 pm	Feb 22	Margaret Smith's 25 Centre Ct, PPV	<i>Our Holiday Reads</i>	Margaret Smith 576 3206
Earth and the Universe 4 th Tues 10 am	Feb 27	BM Theatre		Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Tues 10 am	Concluded March 6 next			Peter Garrick 535 4085
Famous & Infamous 2 3 rd Thurs 2 pm	Feb 15	BM Theatre	Potpourri	Richard/Moira Burns 533 8793
Famous & Infamous 3 1 st Thurs 10 am	Concluded March 1 next			Jean Fitzgerald 577 5546
Forum 3 rd Fri 10 am	Feb 16	Beverley Luxton's 1 Village Dr, PPV	Open discussion	Beverley Luxton 576 9625
French 4 th Fri 1 pm	Feb 23	David Dwerryhouse's 74-A Aberfeldy Ave	<i>Joan of Arc</i> dvd	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 rd Tues 10 am	Feb 20	Fencible Lounge	Potpourri	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am	March 8	Meet on site	Tour of Howick Historical Village	Tim Pearson 576 4091
Literature 3 rd Wed 10 am	Feb 21	Judy Wilson's 32 Butley Drive	<i>Daniel Defoe</i> Dene McConnochie	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Nature Walks and Talks 2nd Fri 9 am	Concluded March 9 next	Meet Charles Dickens Dr, Bleakhouse Rd corner	Dickensian 'Great Expectations' trail	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Opera 1 2 nd Tues 9.30 am	Feb 13	BM Theatre	<i>Concert, Interviews</i>	Hilary Patterson 533 8785
Opera 2 4 th Tues 1 pm	Feb 27	BM Theatre	<i>Renee Fleming and Bryn Terfel in Concert</i> 106 min	Moya Nixon 535 5309
Philosophy 1 st Mon 10 am	Concluded March 5 next	BM Theatre	<i>Private Life Brain (contd): How Come Consciousness</i>	Chris Nixon 535 5309
Poetry 2 nd Tues 2 pm	Feb 13	Colleen Williams's 1/139 Clovelly Rd	<i>Favourite Scottish Poets</i>	Beth Voogd 534 7468
Science 4 th Wed 10 am	Feb 28	BM Theatre	Potpourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2nd Sunday, noon	Concluded March 11 next			Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 st Wed 10 am	Concluded March 7 next	Gordon Hudson's 1 Elsmore Cres, PPV	<i>Spain & Portugal</i> David Dwerryhouse	Gordon Hudson 576 8262
World of Art 1 3 rd Mon 10 am	Feb 19	BM Theatre	<i>Two Australian Woman Artists</i> Garry Law	Garry Law 271 6505
World of Art 2 3 rd Tues 1.30 pm	Feb 20	Jean Denholm's 2/21 Drake St	Potpourri	Heather Watson 274 4747
World of Music 4 th Wed 1.30 pm	Feb 28			Ngairé Taylor 534 8538
World War II 2 nd Thurs 2pm	Concluded March 8 next			Allan Reid 534 9895
Writing 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm	Feb 13	Marian Heywood's 1/8 Aylmer Court, E. Bch	<i>After Christmas</i>	Marian Heywood 534 1159