



Tamaki Drive

The Secretary - U3A Tamaki Drive
1/18 Walmsley St., St Heliers 1071

MARCH 2021

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 193

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MEETING WEDNESDAY 24th MARCH 2021 at 9.30 AM

March Meeting Speaker: Professor Carol Mutch: What we can learn from recent national disasters and crises that might help us through Covid-19?

April Speaker: Proposed speaker is Loren O’Sullivan, Director -NPH New Zealand. - They help vulnerable children and families in 9 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean.

SIG Responsibilities for 24th February 2021

Introducing the Guest Speaker:	Science and Technology
Written Report on Speaker:	Classic Films
Morning-tea:	Classic Films 2
5-10 minute Speaker	Music Group
Verbal Reports 1	Geology
Verbal Reports 2	Art Appreciation

President’s Report:

Our first meeting for the year was the AGM in February. The Auckland region returned to Covid Level 1 just in time to enable our meeting to take place. At the time of writing this report we are hoping for the same thing to occur again this month. It is very disruptive to have all this ongoing stopping and starting and not being able to plan our meetings with any certainty. Hopefully once the Covid vaccines begin, things will settle down to a steadier routine.

The good news. We welcome three new members: Jill Massey, Anna-Louise Roberton and Edward Worthington.

At the AGM, most of the officers and committee were re-elected with Nancy Crooks and Elizabeth Mitchell coming on board as new committee members.



Toni Howe receiving her well-deserved Life Membership award

The highlight of the meeting was a special rare presentation of a “Life Membership” award to Toni Howe who has stepped down from the Committee this year after many years of membership and service to our U3A. As one of the original members, we are very grateful to Toni for her contribution and many years of service. She will be sorely missed by the committee.

President's report continued : The guest speaker was Major Greg Moyle speaking on NZ's War Memorial Museum in Le Quesnoy, France - "Why we should remember".

On our SIG's scene, we are pleased to report that there has been a good response to the reforming of the Music Group. We now have a nucleus of interested members, enough to start the group. Christine Robinson has done a great job in sourcing some excellent course material including a set of DVD's and a course booklet for "*Music as a Mirror of History*".

We have some ideas for additional SIG's but the committee recommends that we take them one at a time to ensure that any set ups are handled properly.

I mentioned at the AGM that the U3A Auckland Network is planning a "**Celebrating U3A in Action**" event. This is Auckland's major U3A event for the year and this year it will be held on 29th July at the Westgate Baptist Church, West Harbour from 9.30am to 2.30pm. the keynote speaker is the well-known journalist and commentator Steve Braunias. There will be six other mini speakers from around the Auckland U3A's. **Registrations are now open** and can be done on-line (see attachment with this newsletter). Printed copies of Registration Forms are also available on the entrance desk at general meetings. Space is limited to 350 and we urge you to act now if you want to attend. The cost per person is \$30 and includes a morning tea and lunch. We hope that some of you members will "buddy up" with other U3A friends and come along to enjoy this very interesting day.

Down the track, we have some good ideas for a group outing. The committee is working on the details and we will give you more information once decided on.

In the meantime, enjoy your U3A and get involved with the SIG groups and make the most from your membership. *Oh, just one more thing please.* Thank you for all those who have paid their annual subs. If yours is still outstanding we would appreciate it if you would please see Maree and settle up asap – thanks! Murray

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW OVERDUE

Thanks to the members who have paid their 2021 subs.

Our U3A subs are due for renewal. The Annual sub is \$40.

PROMPT PAYMENT IS APPRECIATED PLEASE.

Payment can be made by the following methods:

1. **Internet banking (*Preferred Method*):** Pay direct into our ASB account:- U3A Tamaki Drive - 12-3027-0449506-00

Please be sure to add your first and last names in the particulars and code fields so the payment can be identified.

2. **Cash or cheque:** at a monthly meeting.

3. **Mailing a cheque:** to M Holmes, Treasurer U3A Tamaki Drive, 145B St Heliers Bay Rd, St Heliers, Auckland 1071.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE U3A POST OFFICE BOX IS HAS NOW BEEN CLOSED

Members who paid in full (\$40) last year prior to the \$10 reduction when Covid arrived, may reduce their fees to \$30 this year if they wish. Please see me if you are unsure what you paid last year.

Should you decide not to renew your membership we would be very sorry to lose you but please advise us so we can update our records.

Do give me a call If you have any queries and I will be very happy to help you.

Maree Holmes - Treasurer Ph: 575 0380 moree@xtra.co.nz

Antiques and Collectibles - Jade is an ornamental mineral and is found in East Asia, South Asia and South East Asian Art, but also in New Zealand, Mexico and Guatemala. It is particularly prized in China. It usually comes in a variety of green colours as well as white and yellow. Our discussion which will be held this Friday the 19th will discuss all aspects of Jade with reference to its place in New Zealand as a treasured toanga of the Maori. Equally, it is valued and is very prized in Chinese culture, and is very valuable. It is used in jewellery and of course, in objects of art and over many centuries in China has been a very prized in the same way that we value silver and gold. Patricia Coleman, is going to discuss Jade and all members of the Antiques and Collectibles Study Group will also be part of the discussion. New Members always most welcome. Annette.

Classic Films: Our first meeting for the year was the classic, *The Mouse That Roared*, with Peter Sellers, Jean Seberg, David Kossoff and William Hartnell.. Released in 1957, it was an amusing satire on the cold war period. The smallest country in the world, The Duchy of Fenwick was bankrupted when its only income, wine exported to the United States, was replaced by a cheaper Californian wine. After their repeated complaints were ignored, Fenwick decided to declare war against the United States with the objective

Classic Films continued: of losing and, as a result, receiving compensation, as had happened to the defeated countries after WW1. After declaring war, their army of 20 men fully armed with bows and arrows, sailed to New York. However, due to unusual circumstances, the Duchy of Fenwick won the war. John

Exploring History: The "Gathering of Russia" followed by Ivan IV and the building of Saint Basil's Cathedral in Kazan and other sites, were our presentations for this month's meeting. These made for good discussion, especially the beauty of the rebuilt Quosarif Mosque after its destruction by Russian troops after the siege of Kazan.

At our April meeting we shall begin the history of Peter The Great his life and achievements. We still have a long period of the history of Russia before us and if any of our members are interested, please join us as different perspectives make for more interest and discussion. Patricia

Geology: In our first meeting this year Ian Simpson gave a photo power point presentation of an Auckland GeoClub field trip to the Nelson and Buller Districts based at Murchison and Motueka.

Highlights included Murchison and Inangahua earthquake effects, Miocene plant fossils, Devonian fossils, Natural Gas seep in Longford Syncline, Orbicular Granite, and Nelson Boulder Bank.

Our next meeting will be on 4th of March when our guest speaker will give an account of his experience with active volcanoes. Visitors and new members are welcome. Ian S.



Natural gas seep in Blackwater valley which was ignited by hunters in 1930s and has been burning ever since.

Main Speaker: The Guest Speaker at our first U3A General Meeting of the year was Major (Rtd) Greg Moyle.

He spoke to us about NZ's War Memorial Museum in Le Quesnoy, France :

The importance of the Museum, and "Why we should remember " the exploits of brave New Zealand Soldiers during WW1. Back in 1914, the team of 1.1 million looked to Britain for their defence. The NZ forces were well organised, mostly came from the land, but were tough, some had even served in the Boer war. Many young men answered the call to join up and about 100,000 served in the first World war, 12,500 on the Western Front. New Zealand soldiers are remembered today for their superb defence of the small town of le Quesnoy and therefore it has been chosen as a location for the Museum. Christine.

Music: I will organise an informal meetup of the members who have already indicated an interest and try to find a day to meet upon which suits the majority.

Having the DVDs of "Music as a Mirror of History " on hand with 24 lectures , makes it all seem a lot more possible! Christine

Theatre: Sunday 14th March our theatre group attended the Dolphin Theatre, Onehunga. The play was Death&Taxes which was in the office of Destiny Life Insurance Co. It was billed as being a crime story,ghost story and hilarious comedy. Pleased to say it certainly delivered on all aspects. So many interesting lines & intrigue all the way to final with an unexpected end. Great acting by all performers in the cast. Enjoyed by all. Fay & Helen

Travel: Our Travel Group made a good February start, then struck a March hiccup as our scheduled meeting coincided with a Level 3 lockdown. So our February meeting began our year with a rough plan for March to November which will be a mixture of viewing episodes of the Great Churches of the World DVD series, and being entertained by our members' tales of travels pre- and post-Covid. We also had a series of brief presentations from each member of their memories of their first overseas trip which produced the usual fascinating range of stories we have to tell. There were ship journeys from Fiji or Africa as small children, student travels to Switzerland, "Ten Pound Poms" travelling to New Zealand, and the shock of the large guns on the hips of Los Angeles policemen, plus many more. Our April meeting will be at Josephine's place to hear of her recent 3-week road trip around the South Island as a for-once-welcome JAJA. There will be an alarming number of photographs due to the inability to resist yet another glorious shot. Some standard sights were on the agenda, plus a few unexpected delights to demonstrate how there is much to still discover in our own country. Further on in the year we will hear of the trip Mary and her husband were lucky enough to complete to Antarctica just before Covid changed our world, plus other tales of members' past travels. So our adventure interests continue both in reality and from our armchairs. Josephine Ellis

The 'Celebrating U3A in Action 2021' Web site is now open for registrations

<https://www.u3anz.com/event>

A Registration Receipt including your details and our bank details will be sent to your email address on successful completion of your Registration.

- Unfortunately we are no longer able to accept payment by cheque, Please use Internet Banking and Bank deposits only.
- There is now an option to select Vegetarian meals
- Scrolling down to the 'How to get there' button will display the address and location map
- Printing of any of these pages can be achieved by selecting the 'print' function in your browser
- Help is available if needed by contacting u3a.network@outlook.com or those emails listed on the Registration Page

LIST OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Antiques and Collectibles
Convenor: Annette Delugar Ph: 575 6560
Co Convenor: Cherry Hankin Ph: 521 4251
3rd Friday of each month @ 10.00 am

Art Appreciation
Convenor: Patricia Coleman Ph: 524 6235
Co Convenor: Jennifer Black Ph: 575 2068
1st Thursday of each month @ 10.00 am

Classic Films
Convenor: Nancy Crooks Ph: 575 8476
Co Convenor: Janet Shaw Ph: 575 6015
2nd Monday of each month @ 1.15pm

Classic Films 2
Convenor: Cherry Hankin Ph: 521 4251
2nd Friday of the month @ 7.15 pm

Exploring History
Convenor: Mavis James Ph: 575 8385
Co Convenor: Patricia English Ph: 570-9733
2nd Monday each month @ 10.00 am.

Famous & Infamous
Convenor: Christine Robinson Ph: 575 1505
3rd Monday of the month @ 10.00 am

Geology
Convenor: Ian Simpson Ph: 575 0939
Co Convenor: Jill Goldkorn Ph: 521 8424
1st Thursday of the month @ 10.00 am

Living with the Gods
Convenor: Judy Simpson Ph: 575 0939
Co Convenor: Roselda Stevens Ph: 522 1483
1st Monday of the month @ 10am

Medieval Cities
Convenor: Cherry Hankin Ph: 521 4251
Co Convenor: Patricia Coleman Ph: 524 6235
3rd Monday of the month @ 1.30 pm

Opera
Convenor: David Colmore-Williams Ph: 528 4158
Co Convenor: Toni Howe Ph: 528 1966
2nd Tuesday of the month @ 10am

Our Night Sky
Convenor:
Co Convenor:
1st Tuesday of month @ 10.00 am

Science & Technology
Convenor: Murray Holmes Ph: 575 0380
Co-convenor: Tony Keen Ph: 022 355 1223
4th Wednesday of the month after Gen. Meeting

Theatre
Convenor: Helen Frost Ph: 575 4990
Co Convenor: Fay Nicol Ph: 521 2469
3rd Friday of the month @ 10.30 am

The Industrial Revolution
Convenor: Patricia Coleman Ph: 524 6235
Co Convenor: Patricia English Ph: 570 9733
3rd Thursday of the month @ 10 am

Travel
Convenor: Josephine Ellis Ph: 027 512 7182
Co Convenor: Gary Robinson Ph: 585 2248
1st Wednesday of each month @ 1.00pm

Science and Technology - Our S&T group opened the year with a visit from two members from the Browns Bay U3A Inventors and Inventions Group. Stu Russell gave a fascinating presentation on Alladin's Magical Flying Carpet. Stu saw the stage show when it was here in Auckland and could not work out how they got the magic carpet to seemingly fly through the air. Was it done with drones, air pressure, wires, or motors, or something else? He jumped on the web to try and work it out, but every avenue he investigated turned into a dead end with no definite answer. He persisted and eventually found the answers, The carefully guarded secret was a very clever system involving *if you want to know the answer to this perplexing question you will have to join the S&T group!*



This month (March) our group is visiting Buckley Systems, one of NZ's most innovative scientific development companies.

If you are interested in thought-provoking meetings about Science and Technology, see me about coming along and joining our enthusiastic group. *Murray Holmes - Convenor*

NOTICE TO U3A TAMAKI DRIVE MEMBERS

Conditions for attending U3A under Covid Level 1 Restrictions

If you have any of the following symptoms of Covid-19 - please do not attend the meeting.

- Cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Runny nose, sneezing, post-nasal drip
- Loss of smell

Arriving at the meeting:

- Hand sanitiser is available in the Community Centre foyer.
- **For Contact Tracing you must check in as you arrive.** Our team will be ticking off Member's names before entry to the meeting room.
- **Please plan to arrive at the meeting a few minutes early to allow our team to check you in.**
- Everyone must wear a name tag including visitors.
- Please maintain a respectable distance and be aware of your personal hygiene around other members.
- Touch only the food items you intend to consume at morning tea.

Other Committee Members and Helpers:

Vice President	Patricia Coleman	Ph: 524 6235	pat-jack@actrix.co.nz
Speakers:	Mavis Haigh	Ph: 534 8891	m.haigh@auckland.ac.nz
Interest Groups:	Christine Robinson	Ph: 575 1505	jc-rob@xnet.co.nz
	Liz Mitchell		lizmitchell750@gmail.com
	Nancy Crooks	Ph: 575 8476	nancymetacrooks@gmail.com
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Membership:	Patricia English	Ph: 570 9733	patricia.english19@gmail.com
New Members:	Patricia English	Ph: 570 9733	patricia.english19@gmail.com
" "	Terese Phillips	Ph: 570 1816	teresePhillips51@gmail.com
U3A Network:	Christine Robinson	Ph: 575 1505	jc-rob@xnet.co.nz
Past President:	Judy Simpson	Ph: 575 0939	judyandian.simpson@xtra.co.nz