

u3a MANUREWA NEWSLETTER

MONDAY 13th NOVEMBER MEETING
at 1.30pm

TO BE HELD At ACACIA COVE RETIREMENT VILLAGE
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM
131 Wattle Farm Road Manurewa Auckland 2103



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Comprising 7/8 members who take on a variety of responsibilities

President	Bob Falconer		
Secretary	Jan May		
Treasurer	Stella Cattle		
Vice President	Heather Hine		
Membership Sec & Speaker Co-ordinator	Pat James		
Almoner	Pat James		
Network Rep	Bob Falconer		
Newsletter Sec	Doreen Lightfoot		
Refreshments Sharleen Bishop, Christine Bertram and Corrie Patterson			

PRESIDENT'S REPORT –NOVEMBER 2023

The speaker on Monday is Rob High talking about the Red Cross.

- We are now two months into our financial year and the annual subscriptions are now due.
- Subs are \$35 for a single member, and \$60 for two people living at the same address.
- Online banking is preferred, our account number is 12-3028-0593307-00.
- If you prefer to pay cash, please make sure it is in an envelope clearly labelled with your name.

The December meeting is our Christmas lunch.

Roast beef, hot vegetables and salads are on the menu, with a dessert of fruit salad and pavlova. Despite a 6 – 7% inflation rate we are maintaining

the cost of the lunch the same as last year namely \$30 per person.

If you are paying by online banking please write name in the particulars, and Lunch in the Reference space. I look forward to seeing you all on Monday at our meeting.

Bob Falconer President.

NETWORK REPORT

On Friday 3rd November I attended the combined AGM and General Meetings of the u3a Network.

The following were mentioned, and discussion followed.

- The Event. This was a success, and a profit was made. Planning is underway for the 2024 Event, and suggestions as to speakers would be appreciated.
- Membership. This is slightly up from the previous year, but still the problem of how to market u3a, a lack of male members and the problem all organisations have of finding volunteers for the committee.
- Auckland u3a Website. There is an out-of-date website that doesn't seem to be able to be deleted, and a new one under construction, which seems to have information that both the public and the members may want.
- Interest Groups. The u3a's with a large membership have a range of interest groups, and a brief discussion as to how that members of the smaller u3a's could attend any that might interest them run by other groups.

TREASURER: (Stella) FEES for 2023/2024 are \$60 for a couple or any two people living at the same address and \$35 for a single person. Fees can PREFERABLY be paid by internet banking to ASB 12-3028-0593307-00 or if you don't have access to internet banking, please ensure the notes are put into an envelope with your name on the outside.

Host Group:

<i>Roster for Host Groups</i>					
<i>Feb</i>	<i>Book Review</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Movies Group</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Current Affairs</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>History & People</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Card and Board Games</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Music Apprec</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>Current Affairs</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>Book Review</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Christmas dinner</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>Music Apprec</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>History & People</i>		

OUR NOVEMBER SPEAKER will be **Rob High**, from **Red Cross**
The Red Cross is the largest humanitarian movement in the world. We all recognise the emblem – but what is actually behind the well-known symbol? How did this globe-spanning organisation come to be and what does it actually do? In this presentation you will hear about the humble beginnings of the Red Cross, learn what we do internationally – and the programmes and services offered here by our national society, New Zealand Red Cross. Rob High joined NZRC in 2011 (originally as a volunteer). He has held a variety of different roles within the organisation, from coordinating local Community Programmes and liaison to our Volunteer Branches, to managing city-wide street collection appeals in Auckland, Whangarei and locations in Northland. More recently, he coordinated the Red Cross activation at Fieldays 2022 in Hamilton (the first time Red Cross have been invited to attend).

OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER was Iain Wakefield

Pat James introduced Iain who was born in Edinburgh, attended school in London, and after medical school in London, he worked in Leeds, Edinburgh, Guernsey and Brisbane before settling in New Zealand in 1990. He worked as a family doctor in Drury for 22 years. He has been a member of the Papakura District Historical Society for 29 years, and won the national excellence award of the NZ Military History Society in 2007 for a paper on Reverend Thomas Norrie. His talk told the story of his house in Drury, the oldest in the area and a rather significant building over the last 167 years.


THANKS, WERE EXTENDED BY: Warwick May and thanked Iain for his most interesting talk and especially seeing that it was part of our local history.

SHARE, SHOW, & TELL -

Remember we only have 10 minutes to fit everyone in, so, if there are 30 of us for example, that allows us about 20 seconds each to share our words of wisdom!!! Not such a daunting task really!! Saying " I have nothing to share " would allow you to use those precious 30 seconds anyway. A win win situation either way!!! Warwick

June Bellamy gave a talk on the effects that the development planned for 40A Carnoustie Drive, Wattle Downs of 42 Terrace House, with 4 bedrooms and 1 parking space and the effect this could have on the habitat, old trees, increase in traffic and the environment etc.

GROUP REPORTS:

	BOOK REVIEW Meetings are held on the 1 st Tuesday of the month, 10am. Convenor, Pat James Next meeting will be on the 3 rd October and 7 th November.
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BOOK REVIEW held on 3rd October 6 present and 3 apologies

The Banksia House Break Out by James Roxburgh (his first novel)

Ruth Morris, aged 81, is placed in Banksia House Rest Home by her son, Michael. She doesn't want this but she had a fall and Michael insists. When Ruth learns that her best friend, Gladys, is terminally ill in Brisbane, she and two others break out of Banksia House, steal a car and begin the drive to Brisbane to visit Gladys one last time.

The book tells of their adventures on the way.

Rated 4.5

The Moon Sister by Lucinda Riley

The Moon Sister transports you to the grandeur of the remote Scottish Highlands and the gypsy caves of Granada, just as Spain descends into civil war, interweaving the stories of two women searching for their destinies, at the risk of potentially losing their chance. The 5th book in the Seven Sisters series.

Rated 3.5

The Diary of a Book Seller by Shaun Bythell

Meet Shaun Bythell, bookshop owner, bibliophile and misanthrope extraordinaire. He lives and works in the Bookshop, Wigton in North West England. The crooked shelves contain anything from a 16th Century Bible to a first edition Agatha Christie. In Shaun's honest and wryly hilarious diaries, he reveals the highs and lows of life in the book trade as he contends with eccentric customers, bin-foraging employees and a perennially empty till. **Rated 5**

Halfway Round the Harbour by Keith Sinclair

This is the biography of Keith Sinclair who was born on 5 December 1922 in Epsom, Auckland, the first of the 10 children of Ernest Duncan Sinclair and Florence Pyrenes Kennedy. Ernest and Florence initially lived with Keith in boarding houses before the growing family moved to a small house in Ellerslie. Although the family was poor, Sinclair's childhood was active and adventurous, especially after the family moved to Point Chevalier in 1931. He was more prominent as a poet than an historian but worked in the History Department until his retirement from teaching in 1987. After completing his PhD in 1954, he rose through the ranks, being promoted to associate professor in 1960 and professor in 1963. He was a powerful figure in institutional politics. **Rated 5**

The Heron's Cry by Ann Cleeves

North Devon is enjoying a rare hot summer with tourists flocking to its coastline. Detective Matthew Venn is called out to a rural crime scene at the home of a group of artists. What he finds is an elaborately staged murder - Dr Nigel Yeo has been fatally stabbed. His daughter Eve is a glassblower and the murder weapon is a shard of one of her broken vases. Dr Yeo seems an unlikely murder victim. He's a good man, a public servant, beloved by his daughter. Matthew is unnerved, though, to find that she is a close friend of Jonathan, his husband. Then another body is found - killed in a similar way. And Matthew finds himself treading carefully through the lies that fester at the heart of his community...Our reader was disappointed with this book which is not a page turner. **Rated 3**

Homecoming by Kate Morton

Adelaide Hills, Christmas Eve, 1959: At the end of a scorching hot day, beside a creek in the grounds of a grand country house, a local man makes a terrible discovery. Police are called, and the small town of Tambilla becomes embroiled in one of the most baffling murder investigations in the history of South Australia. Many years later and thousands of miles away, Jess is a journalist in search of a story. Having lived and worked in London for nearly two decades, she now finds herself unemployed and struggling to make ends meet. A phone call summons her back to Sydney where her beloved grandmother, Nora, who raised Jess when her mother could not, has suffered a fall and is seriously ill in hospital. At Nora's house, Jess discovers a true crime book chronicling a long-buried police case: the Turner Family Tragedy of 1959. It is only when Jess skims through its pages that she finds a shocking connection between her own family and this notorious event — a mystery that has never been satisfactorily resolved. This is a page turner! **Rated 5**



CARD AND BOARD GAMES: meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 1.30pm. Convenor: Val Marris
Next Meeting Date, 5th October and 2nd November.

Our group played Rummicub on Thursday 7th September. We had some interesting games followed by a cuppa and short bread.



CURRENT AFFAIRS: meetings are held on the 3rd Monday, at 2pm. At Jan and Warwick's place.
Convenors: Jan and Warwick May
Meeting Dates: next meeting on 23rd October and 20th November.

As you will see from the number of topics, quite a few of you ventured out. Thanks. Climate change was a very popular topic, followed by – elections – please, please bring on Saturday 14th!, Mokos, artificial intelligence, women's suffrage, Warwick's mini – series, are we too clever? And, Child protection. The discussion on Mokos was fascinating, as so many people seem to sport them these days.

Next meeting, next Monday 16th October at 2pm.

Jan May



HISTORY PEOPLE AND PLACES: are held on the 3rd Tues 1.30pm at Jeanette Cortesi's home. Phone: Convenor Jeanette Cortesi and Tricia Jordan.
Next Meeting 17th October and 21st November.

Meeting held on September 19th. Topics discussed were:

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL



Formally the Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is an Anglican cathedral in Salisbury England, it is the mother church of the Diocese of Salisbury and is the seat of the Bishop of Salisbury Interesting history, the clock which has no face, the chapter house displays the best-preserved copy of the four surviving original copies of the Magna Carta and its decorative medieval frieze which depicts scenes from the books of Genesis and Exodus etc.



John Gerard 1564 – 1637 who operated a secret ministry of the Catholic Church and as a disguise he pretended to be interested in gambling and wore fashionable clothes, was captured, tortured, and finally escaped disguised as a footman in the retinue of the Spanish Ambassador, died 1637 aged 73 at the English College seminary in Rome.



NEW ZEALAND HOUSE DECORATION a new breed of butterflies emerged in New Zealand neighbourhoods in the 1950s. No other species appeared on the homes – no dragonflies, ladybirds or geckos, although there was the odd seal with a silver ball on its nose.



OPERATION COTTAGE

A tactical manoeuvre which completed the Aleutian Island campaign. On 15 August 1943 Allied military forces landed on Kiska Island which had been occupied by Japanese forces since 1942. The Allied forces suffered 313 casualties from Japanese landmines and booby traps, and by this time the Japanese forces had secretly abandoned the island.



AJ Cronin, doctor turned author influenced the formation of the NHS.

In his era, the public could not get enough of AJ Cronin. His novels became international best sellers. Hollywood seized on them to make films which proved even more popular. One novel, *The Citadel*, was hugely influential in stirring public opinion before the birth of the National Health Service.



MUSIC APPRECIATION: meetings, are held on the 4th Friday of the month, 2 to 4pm at Simon and Pat James’ place. Convenor: Simon James
The next meeting will be on the 27th October and 24th November. .

CONCERT held on 22nd September -we had a **pick and mix**, where each person in turn, picked a number for the CD and then a second number for the track. As a result, a most enjoyable afternoon was held with a wide selection of music.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 24th November, 2 to 4pm at ours. Let me know if you wish to join us. Simon.



MOVIES GROUP: dates and time depend on which movie is selected and then make your own way to the Hawkins Centre Papakura and meet there. Contact Heather Hine

September Movies

Country Cabaret – A French film with English subtitles. Davis found that hard work and big ideas were not enough to save his dairy farm, so when he chanced upon a dazzling nightclub performance by Bonnie Starlight, he has the bright idea to turn his old barn into a country cabaret. As well as entertainment, he proposes to promote local food producers. He convinces sophisticated city girl, Bonnie to live in a converted barn loft, and find local talent to make a show out of nothing. Based on a true story, David after a number of setbacks, does succeed in saving his farm.

Oppenheimer – is the story of the enigmatic man who risks destroying the world in order to save it. Stared Cillian Murphy as JR Oppenheimer and Emily Blunt as his wife. Also includes a number of well-known stars in the cast. The story follows his life up to the making of the atomic bomb, and how history treated him later.

Hello everyone,

Regretfully, I am winding up the movie group. The last few months there have only been 2, 3 or occasionally 4 of us attending, and it is not worth while continuing. I have either been choosing the wrong movies, or times that don't suit most members. Hopefully you will all continue to get to movies that interest you. If you wish to receive the Hawkins programmes, you can get them to email them to you each month.

kind regards, Heather

MARCO POLO	MARCO POLO – PAPA KURA U3A: Next meeting will be held on Wed 19 th July at 2pm in the downstairs meeting room at Acacia Cove Lodge. Contact is Pat James The next meetings will be on the Wed 18 th October and the 21 st November.
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September 20th – Wendy Deeming on trip to Albania

Date of next meeting 18th October, Iris Durney South Korea – to be confirmed

NOVEMBER 2023						
Monday	TUESDAY	WED	THURS	FRIDAY	SAT	SUN
		1 ST	2 ND Board & CARD GAMES 1.30PM	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH
6 TH	7 TH Book Review	8 TH	9 TH	10 TH	11 TH	12 TH
13 TH U3A GENERAL MEETING 1.30PM	14 th	1 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
22 nd CURRENT AFFAIRS 2PM	23 rd HISTORY PEOPLE & PLACES 1.30pm	24 th Marco Polo 2pm	25 th	26 th MUSIC APPREC 2PM	27 th	28 th
29 th	30 th					
MOVIES Hawkins Centre Papakura and meet there. <u>Contact Heather Hine</u>						