

# PAPAKURA U3A NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2024

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## **Sandy's Space**

*Our Speaker this month was James Duncan, Tramway Project Manager at MOTAT. From the start you could feel the enthusiasm James had in wanting to share the story behind the arrival of the Electric Trams into Auckland in the early 1900's.*

*The digital images that he shared were amazing. To see Trams in the late 1800's being pulled by Horsepower and then, through hard work and positivity, there was the success of bringing the Electric Tram Service to Auckland. This story is only Part 1 so we will definitely arrange for James to return in early 2025 for Part 2. Lynn thanked James on behalf of u3a Papakura.*

*Kathleen McKay was our 10 minute speaker. It was lovely to hear of her arrival into New Zealand with her family and her transition to Kiwi life. Kathleen also spoke of her interest in Genealogy, and just how difficult it was at times to get the information, but she persevered. Thank you Kathleen for taking the time to share a little about yourself, which is much appreciated.*

*"Don't look back with Regret - Look forward with Hope"*

*Sandy*

## **AUGUST Meeting**

**Tuesday** 20 August St John's Hall, Ray Small Drive, Papakura.

**Speaker:** Melinda Seal - Totara Hospice

**Introducer:** Carol Hickman

**Thanker:** Sue Rainsford

**Greeters:** Bev Dunn, Helen Higgott, Joy Bowyer

**Tea Roster:** Kathi Sharan, Erica Cartwright, Elizabeth Rix

**10-minute speaker:** Lynn Smith

## **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

All members are welcome at any interest group. Just contact the Co-ordinator of the group and they will add you to the group's contact list, or roll up at their next advertised group event.

### **Book Group**

Co-ordinator Ruth Bourne Ph: 09 294 9396 Book Group usually meets at 10am on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at Drury Library. Please contact Ruth if you need further information. All are welcome to our meetings at the Drury Library

### **Film Appreciation Group**

Coordinator Rod Baldwin Ph: 298 3842 or email:

[rodneymbaldwin@hotmail.com](mailto:rodneymbaldwin@hotmail.com)

Monthly date and time arranged depending on film, usually Hawkins Theatre or Rialto, Newmarket. Email Rod to get put on his emailing list.

**My suggestion for the August film** is "Fly Me To The Moon". "Starring Scarlet Johansson and Channing Tatum, this is a sharp, stylish romantic comedy, set against the backdrop of NASA's historic Apollo 11 moon landing. Brought in to fix NASA's public relations image, sparks fly in all directions when marketing expert, Kelly James (Johansson), wreaks havoc on Launch Director Cole Davis's (Tatum) already difficult task."

Screening at Hawkins Theatre:

1 & 10 August at 10am 7 & 21 August at 12:30pm 15 August at 7:30pm

**Review:** I thoroughly enjoyed the film I suggested for August, 'Fly Me To the Moon', this "alternative tale" of the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing, a main theme of which is the use of the "Big Lie" when publicising something ( a theme which seems very appropriate in these times of Trump's "alternative facts". The vitality and versatility of Scarlet Johansson's acting is in stark contrast to the woodiness of her co-star, Channing Tatum. But the star of the show is Woody Harrelson, as the enigmatic "government man" who is promoting the "Big Lie".

**Review:** The July film, "Ka Whawhai Tonu", a New Zealand film set during the Waikato Wars of the 1860s, has plenty of drama and action, but a plot which I found a bit hard to follow, with the situation of the female lead within her Maori community difficult to comprehend. Most of the dialogue is in Maori, which adds to the film's authenticity, with English translations in print on the screen. Unfortunately, the print was often difficult for me to read, so I spent much of the film leaning forward in my seat and straining my eyes to comprehend what was being said.

**New Takaanini Cinema.** A new cinema, named "Silky Otter", one of a new chain of similarly named cinemas throughout the country, opened at Takaanini Village on 20th July. According to the cinema management their facility offers a "luxurious experience" at the movies. However for that "experience" you pay \$26-50/ticket for adults or \$19-50 for Gold Cardholders. When compared to the \$10/ticket for seniors at the Hawkins Theatre you would be paying a lot for the privilege of the "luxury". I know which facility I shall be

continuing to suggest for films and which I will be frequenting unless there is a particularly outstanding movie at the "Silky Otter".

**International Film Festival.** The 2024 NZ International Film Festival is to be held between 31 July and 4 September in selected cinemas in Auckland and nine other locations throughout the country. Information on the Festival, and ticketing, is available online at: [nziff.co.nz](http://nziff.co.nz). Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Civic Theatre Box Office. Rod Baldwin

### **International News Group**

Coordinator Dena Gilmore [belongingvp@inspire.net.nz](mailto:belongingvp@inspire.net.nz) If you would like to be part of a group that shares and discusses information on international stage, please get in touch with Margaret Gane. Phone Margaret on 022 158 8064 for more information. We would love to have more members so, if overseas events and 'goings on' are of interest to you, come along and join us. We would love other members to come and join us. Margaret Gane.

**Next meeting:** 15th August and it will be at the Pizza Box at 10am.

Margaret Gane 022 158 8064

### **OUT'N'ABOUT GROUP**

Coordinator Helen Higgott Ph: 298-1213 email: [higgotth@gmail.com](mailto:higgotth@gmail.com). Monthly date and time arranged depending on event. Phone Helen to get put on the emailing list.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, 7th August at 10am - All U3A members invited.

Visit to the NEW Manurewa RSA - 22 Scenic Drive, Manurewa. Trip Organiser: Gloria 027 356 1220 or email [guyfawkes48nz@gmail.com](mailto:guyfawkes48nz@gmail.com) Please confirm if you are interested or NOT. Car pooling can be arranged where needed.

No charge, but donation to RSA is your choice - I will take something yum for morning tea. Tour and history will be given and we can have a cuppa there too. Suggestion is that we go somewhere for lunch. Two suggestions so far, are the Manurewa Cossie Club Cafe or M10 in Southgate.

**Previous meeting 1** On a beautiful sunny day, (after a frost) 3 of the Out'n'About Group, went to the World Choir Games at Auckland Botanic Gardens. Lovely setting and we had booked chairs and got the front row under a canopy. We were then entertained for an hour by three lovely choirs from China. All the Choirs where from different parts of China. A lovely entertaining morning.

**Previous Meeting 2** Seven of us, including one family member, travelled into the city to visit the World Press Photo Exhibition held at Smith & Caughey. This is an annual exhibition showcasing a diverse selection of the world's best photojournalism and documentary photography from the past year. Issues affecting everyday people, such as devastating conflicts and political upheaval, the climate crisis and the safe passage of migrants, were highlighted. It was very thought provoking and generated discussion amongst us. This exhibition is brought to New Zealand by the Rotary Club of Auckland as a fundraiser for charity.

## November trip

I have arranged a visit to the Anglican Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell at 10:15 am on Tuesday 15th November. Koha of \$5/person is requested. It is planned to travel by shared cars at \$5/driver.

I shall be seeking attendance confirmation at the September monthly meeting.

**Rod Baldwin**

## **WALKING GROUP**

Coordinator Christine Brouwers Christine.j.brouwers@gmail.com 021 100 9656.

Walks organised by members of the group. **PLEASE NOTE, we have changed the day for walks to the second Wednesday of the month.**

**Next Walk: Wednesday 14th August** Meet at Hawkins car park at 9.30am

Not venturing far from home this time, we plan to walk the Conifer Grove Path.

Will start at the Brylee Park Reserve on Brylee Drive and head towards Conifer Grove Reserve.

We shall stroll along the shore of the Manukau and wetlands, with the path being mostly concrete, gravel and boardwalk. "There are a few small inclines along the path, but not too challenging". There is a pier that is "not to be missed" according to the Council's website., for views over the water and plane spotting. Afterwards we shall seek out a cafe as usual!

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks-recreation/get-outdoors/aklpaths/Pages/path-detail.aspx?ItemId=73>

**Previous walk** Wednesday 10 July 2024 - Omana Regional Park

On a stunning, blue sky, mid-winter day three "intrepid" walkers completed this walk from the carpark at the Omana Regional Park, which is situated between Beachlands (Te Puru Reserve) and Maraetai. This is not an arduous or difficult walk. We walked on a mixture of concrete paths, bush tracks, grass and bridges. The vistas included paddocks with grazing sheep, small forest areas, bush, shady pohutukawa, roads de tracks and a bridge over the shoreline and sea at Kellys Beach with a stunning view across the water to Rangitoto. The knoll on the northern side of the park is gently contoured with outstanding views of the inner Hauraki Gulf, and west to the skyscrapers of the Auckland CBD. Along the route numerous seats and picnic tables invited moments of relaxation, conversation, and appreciation of the scenery.

Other visitors to the park walked their dogs, jogged, biked, and children played in the playground, all relishing the beauty of the day and the surroundings. We Aucklanders are truly fortunate to have such wonderful regional parks offering stunning views and excellent amenities within easy reach.

For more information about Omana Regional Park (and other Regional Parks in the Auckland Council catchment) go to [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks).

The drive along the Pohutukawa Coast (Maraetai Coast Road) is equally stunning. It encompasses Umupuia, Magazine Bay (known for its long jetty popular among fisherfolk and water enthusiasts during the warmer months), and numerous other charming bays offering

brehtaking views of the sea towards Waiheke Island, Ponui, and the distant Coromandel Peninsula. Absolutely magical!

Wendy Gibson

Rangitoto can be seen in the top left corner of the picture.



### **WRITING YOUR MEMOIRS**

Coordinator Gloria Buddle. Contact: Gloria Buddle 092999550 or 0273561220 or [guyfawkes48nz@gmail.com](mailto:guyfawkes48nz@gmail.com).

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the memoirs group is on the 19th August at 10am at Helen Higgott's home. Contact Gloria for further information - 09 2999550 or 027 356 1220. Please feel free to join our group - we each have our own way of recording our memories. At our morning tea meetings we read out our stories, usually 1-2 A4 pages. Sometimes a photo or memento is shared but for most the stories are been written with their families in mind, and it is hoped these memoirs will be treasured in years to come.

**Previous meeting:** Memoirs Group, Monday July 15th

Thank you, Wendy, for opening your home to the 3 of us who enjoyed the company of our group & thanks also for all who provided snacks for our morning tea. Illness, overseas holiday, school holiday sitting, weather all contributed to our numbers being down. But we 3 totally enjoyed our session.

**The dream job, of working** for the Foreign Affairs Dept and the interview, having to wait 6 months until she was 21, the age for this position. Then the posting to Thailand and using a recently vacated apartment by another FAD employee. Having a maid was a new experience, no welfare system like NZ, and many other Embassies in close proximity. So tennis and squash are but two of the sports and social activities to be enjoyed.

**Another dream job**, In England in the library, consisting of 3 floors above ground and 3 below ground. Her favorite being the Upper 3rd floor - it was the Art floor, and very popular especially with the Italian Research students. Then enjoying sitting in Trafalgar Square and watching people and the world go by.

**Christmas presents**, and how with the best intention in the world, she was given not 1 but 9 boxes of chocolates from workmates. AND a miracle, she gave ALL 9 boxes away...

THEN went 9 months chocolate FREE which included, cocoa pops, Milo, hot chocolate, favorites cakes of choc etc. But... slipped back off/on the wagon...

### **u3a Auckland Network Event 27 July 2024.**

Several Papakura u3a members attended - here are some enjoying their lunches, after listening to the morning speakers.



## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

### **AUCKLAND COUNCIL LIBRARIES**

#### **Family History Month at Papakura Library**

Join us in August for a variety of live family history events and Zoom presentations. Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter for more details.

### **LOCAL FREE FITNESS OPPORTUNITIES**

## **TAI CHI**

Sessions are held at Papakura Central Park every Sat and Sun morning from 10 - 11.30. These are organised by the Auckland Southern District Chinese Assoc Contact: asdca@yahoo.com

## **YOGA**

Regular sessions are held at the Papakura Library. Next one Sat 15 June 10.45- 12.30 Contact Papakura Library 09 377 0209

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Do you have 1-2 hours a week to teach English for settlement to an adult refugee or migrant?**

Learn how to do this with  
English Language Partners Auckland South.

FREE training for 6 Fridays from 9.30am until 2.00pm

Starts 13 September 2024 until 18 October 2024

Venue: Eastview Baptist Church,  
559 Chapel Road, Botany.

Make a real difference to a new New Zealander's life

**PHONE: 278 9099**

**EMAIL: [aucklandsouth@englishlanguage.org.nz](mailto:aucklandsouth@englishlanguage.org.nz)**

**[www.englishlanguage.org.nz](http://www.englishlanguage.org.nz)**



**AUGUST 2024**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Walking Group - Conifer Grove Path	15 International News Group Drury library	16	17
18	19 Memoirs Group	20 Monthly meeting. Speaker - Melinda Seal from Totara	21	22 Book Group	23	24



		Hospice				
25	26 Committee meeting	27	28	29	30	31