

# PAPAKURA U3A NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023

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## BILL'S BURBLE



On a recent morning trip by train through to Newmarket, several folk in my carriage greeted me by name. I looked around and it dawned on me that amongst my fellow passengers there were some familiar faces from Pukekohe and as it happened, they were heading into town on their Out and About u3a trip and they invited me to join their travelling group. This was a useful reminder that organizations like u3a offer much more than a monthly meeting with a featured speaker.

Perhaps it should go without saying that the success of our own group is always going to reflect how much we as members are prepared to contribute. Newcomers won't be amongst us unless they are invited by us - and are unlikely to stay if they are not made to feel welcome.

At a recent committee meeting it was noted that some members are uncertain whether they are up to date with their annual subscriptions. Remember that subscriptions for the following year are invited at the end of year AGM. At present most have paid and any who are still uncertain can check with the treasurer at any of the monthly meetings.

And now the month's up-lifting thought. Like many oldies, from time to time I wonder how it is all going to end. For me, I am beginning to suspect it will end when one of the younger members of my tribe pulls the plug on my life support system to charge their i-pad.

## AUGUST 2023 Meeting

*Tuesday, 22 August 2023 at 10am, St John's Hall, Ray Small Drive, Papakura.*

*Speaker: Mitchell Pham - Digital transformation, new innovation and technology*

*Introducer: Helen Higgott*

*Thanker: Naveen Sharan*

*Greeters: Bev Dunn, Sandra Bensemman, Helen Higgott*

*Tea Roster: Joy Bowyer, Judith Hunt, Barbara Hadfield*

*10 Minute speaker: Wendy Deeming*

*A reminder that **subs are now due** - our subs pay for the hall rental and morning teas.*

*We have kept them at \$30 for this year and they can be paid to Lynette McInnes or paid online at ASB bank account 12-3031-0213766-01. Please check with Lynette who can tell you if you have paid or not - Ph: 2977195 or [lynettemcinnnes@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:lynettemcinnnes@yahoo.co.nz)*

## 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.

**Music Appreciation Group.** This group will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month from April to September at 2pm at Helen Higgott's house. **Registration: Please email Helen at [higgotth@gmail.com](mailto:higgotth@gmail.com) or Iris at [irisdurney@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:irisdurney@yahoo.co.uk)** or just roll up.

**Next meeting:** We will meet on Friday August 18th 2 - 4 pm at Helen Higgott's house (Phone 09 298 1213)

All welcome to join - is an afternoon of listening and learning about varying aspects of classical music. Presenter: Simon James

**Last meeting:** At our July soiree the subject was choral music and we relaxed with music ranging from the 1500's to the 1900's. Excerpts we listened to were sung by some superb choirs. Pat James sends us short biographies of the composers to add interesting background. They ranged from Gesualdo who murdered his wife and her lover, to Peruvian composers (de Araujo) to the more familiar music of Hayden, Mozart, Elgar, Vivaldi etc. We finished with a rousing rendition from Handel's Messiah. A lovely afternoon, thank you Simon and Pat. Thanks to Shirley for our afternoon tea.

### **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.

**Next meeting:** All welcome to our next session meeting on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August. My mobile phone is 27 2771507 if needed. Cheers, Ruth

**Last meeting:** 6 of us shared our month's reading. 16 books discussed. No in depth analysis was done but much was learned. 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.

**August suggestion:** My suggestion for the August Film is "Oppenheimer", showing at the Hawkins Theatre: 3, 11, 12 August at 12:30pm 10 and 18 August at 7:30pm

"Oppenheimer" is an epic thriller that thrusts audiences into a pulse-pounding paradox of the enigmatic man who must risk destroying the world "in order to save it". Starring Cillian Murphy as Oppenheimer, Emily Blunt as his wife, and Matt Damon as General Leslie Groves Jnr, Director of the Manhattan Project"

Of course those with markedly different tastes may prefer the very popular movie, "Barbie", showing at Hawkins: 3 August at 10am 7 and 18 August at 12:30pm

11 and 24 August at 7:30pm

And if you wish you could enjoy both movies as a "Doubleheader" on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

### **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 022 1588064. 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. Dena and I are continuing to meet at the Pizza Box on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. We would love other members to come and join us. Contact Margaret 0221588064 to express your interest. Margaret Gane

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 10am at the Pizza Box in Papakura

**Last meeting:** Dena and I met at the Pizza Box on Thursday 20 July, 10am to continue our 'round up' of international events. We always have so many to choose from!

Topics discussed included:

- who will host the Commonwealth Games now after Victoria's decision to pull out? The original aim of the Commonwealth Games was to unite all the member countries but is this still applicable in 2023?
- we thought that the dilemma facing the Commonwealth Games Federation could be a suitable project for our new King and Queen Consort to 'take on'.
- the immediate future of the US soldier who escaped to North Korea from a tour group. How was he allowed to go free at the airport to join a tour group at the DMZ only to run, without being challenged, straight over the border?
- the growth and popularity of Laboratory grown diamonds as a more affordable way for people to purchase these. They are physically and chemically identical to the natural product but are cheaper and more sustainable to the environment.
- the test flight of a solar-powered plane which climbed above 20,000m thrilling its designers and developers. Solar panels power the electric motors and charge the batteries at the same time. Purpose - to 'plug the gap' between conventional aircraft and costly satellites by providing an aircraft that can be used for military and civilian surveillance and communications.

### **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:** Thursday 17 August Papakura Art Trail

Meet at the Museum Foyer at 10 am. We will view at least 14 of the murals done by local artists sited centrally around Papakura. The distance to be covered is less than a kilometre. We will finish at the Museum where we can enjoy the current Matariki Exhibition.

Cost: Free Organiser: Helen Higgott ph 298 1213

### **Out 'n About Trip for September**

Auckland Museum exhibition - 'Egypt - In the Time of the Pharaohs'

Wednesday 6 September, 11am (ticket is timed)

Cost - Concession (with ID) - \$21 Carpooling will be available as usual.

All expressions of interest by **18 July meeting** please. More details will come after that to those wanting to come. Organiser - Margaret Gane 022 1588064

**Last meeting:** Having reached Britomart and walked towards Queens Wharf we were stopped by police dealing with the construction site tragedy. Had a delicious coffee and caught the next train home.

### **Walking Group**

Coordinator Varda Swery [varda.swery@gmail.com](mailto:varda.swery@gmail.com) 09-299 9765 and 021-1827190. Usually meets the first Thursday of the month. Walks organised by members of the group.

**Next walk:** Due to the unpredictable weather and having to cancel previous walks due to rainy days, **there will be no walks until September (included).**

### **Writing Your Memoirs.**

Memoirs Group - Contact: Gloria Buddle, 09 2999550 or 027 356 1220 or [guyfawkes48nz@gmail.com](mailto:guyfawkes48nz@gmail.com). You are all invited to come along to join us at our next meeting. Below are samples of some interesting stories our members have recorded for family and also just for the pleasure of bringing times in your life back into your life and memory.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the memoirs group is on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August at Gloria's house - 11 Sutton Crescent Papakura. 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 x A4 pages. Sometimes a photo or memento is shared too.

**Last meeting:** Thank you Wendy for opening your home to the 8 of us who, as always, enjoyed each other's company. It was great to have two visitors: one being Helen's sister-in-law Jan, and the

other was Edna from Franklin U3A, who is hoping to arrange a Memoirs Group there, although she is welcome to join us anytime. Thanks also to those who provided snacks for our morning tea. Those who were unable to attend; we look forward to our next meeting.

### **Snippets of Memoirs from our meeting today.**

**Continuing memories** of living in Pacific-Solomon Islands. During leisure time there were lots of adventures, learning to sail, scuba diving, watching a movie on a sail of the ship, near an uninhabited island. Then it was noticed many canoes/boats around their ship were all watching the cowboy movie too!! Being in a cyclone and helping other friends to evacuate to higher ground.

**More continuing memories** of arriving back in England as a teenager. Staying with relations, looking for a job, (working in a bank - women were behind the scenes: becoming a Teller, was not a career that was available to women). The realization that the bare building sites and land were still the result of WWII. Not knowing any friends until she started work. THEN the dream job at a library which was near a museum, which held costumes from history, and shows.. More next time.

**We heard about a lady** who suffers from Dementia - she is a beautiful lady and hearing of her life story and achievements. Now 90 years old, she had 5 children of her own and adopted 7 children, one of whom was only 10 months old at the time. (Our lady was her home visitor over many years and now visits weekly in the retirement village and is now a very good friend. Can imagine the lady in her own home looks forward to her friend visiting as not many people still do that).

**Memories of birthdays** and family get-togethers. Hosting her son's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday party and the power going out, using candle lights not just on the cake! The boys loved it of course. Also, learning to dance the Charleston at a 21<sup>st</sup> party held at home. How parents birth year was never disclosed, or discussed, and two sisters who managed to work out the years, by being detectives.

**Then to India** and continuing research to find a village her father worked in - Facebook helped and a name change of the village was sorted. Reading from father's book, of having another European visit and of a friendship and joint interest in the local snakes and finding rare ones. Of an amazing mother, who at 19 lived in India raising her girls. Having to walk everywhere, especially after giving birth in the hospital, and the trek home (all goods were carried on the helper's heads - no roads, up steep hills, mud, dust, etc).

**In England**, her dad being in the Navy so her mother trained to be a nurse. WWII training was a short course as they were urgently needed to help out in hospitals. Hearing the nursing stories was an eye opener, then having a new appreciation of how NZ was coping. Living in NZ and then having a honeymoon in England.

**Next, a story** of being born in Papakura at a Maternity Home, and since researching this home, and now volunteering at the Papakura Museum, has been lucky to chat to visitors and be given photos of that building - a bonus. A beloved Teddy Bear RIP was given a proper funeral and buried in the back yard of their home.

**Yesteryear memories** of presents received for girls and then young LADIES: cup, saucer and plate, colouring books, paint tins with sometimes 20 different colours in it, Ludo and Snakes and Ladder games, playing cards - Happy Families etc., birthday cards with a hanky inside (or sometimes a ten shilling note), bangles, signet rings, cardboard cut-out dolls with paper clothing to attach to them.

We have had offers of hosts for our meetings in October and November - Margaret Grant in October and Iris in November. Just September to arrange so if you can offer your home please let me know. Thank you, Gloria

### **AUCKLAND U3A NETWORK EVENT**

5 members attended last Saturday 29 July. Chris Finlayson gave his address via Google Meet and he was very well received by the members present. Dr Paul Buchanan was our second main speaker and he spoke for 50 minutes without notes! His final words to us were to the effect that the threat to our country is not from the 'outside' but from within our own country and he used the recent and prolonged protest outside Parliament Buildings as an example.

But of course, the highlight for us was Iris's splendid mini talk on 'Tranquebar' which was delivered with her usual clarity and precision! As a result of her presentation, she was delighted to be told about another connection to the area from another member present. I shall leave Iris to tell you all about it some time.

The Event is worthwhile coming to! And I am hoping that future Events will attract even more members to come! Margaret Gane.

### **SHORT TERM (TIME LIMITED) GROUPS FOR U3A**

Socialise - make friends - Learn something new.

- *Groups are the lifeline of U3A. We would like to ask members to consider facilitating or organising short term groups that people can join.*
- *Have you got a special interest in learning something or in passing on your knowledge on a particular subject?*
- *Do you know of an online course that you would like to do and invite others to join you eg. coursera courses, U3A on line course?*
- *Do you know of a local expert in a subject who might be asked to run a short series on their subject? eg: music, archaeology, history subjects, Waitangi Treaty etc.*
- **PLEASE** consider contributing to the life of our Club by organising and facilitating a group (you don't need to be the expert, just find someone else who is or find the information from an online course!!). These groups could possibly be 4 or 6 sessions either weekly or monthly or even longer if you like and the interest is there.
- A venue could be the Drury Library (free) or your home, or any other venue that is suitable, as groups would probably be not too large.

Do consider this and contact Helen Higgott ([higgotth@gmail.com](mailto:higgotth@gmail.com)) or Iris Durney ([irisdurney@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:irisdurney@yahoo.co.uk)) with your ideas and plans and enthusiasm.

### **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**EDEN GARDENS**, 28 Omana Ave, Epsom is holding its Annual Tulip Festival 26 & 27 August 9am - 4 pm. However the tulips will still be flowering before and after! There is an entrance fee of about \$10.00. The gardens are closed on Mondays

### **FREE TAI CHI TRAINING AND PRACTICE**

Papakura Central Park, Great South Road. Saturdays 10am - 11.30. All welcome

### **NGA TANGATA MANU** (the Bird People) by Tania Mae Miller

This is a free display of a large variety of woven items on at Nathan Homestead until 19/8

### **WORLD PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS EXHIBITION**

This exhibition of superb but sobering photos is on at Smith and Caughey's until 20 August. A number of the photos graphically feature the current situation in the Ukraine and Afghanistan. Cost \$15.00 (Seniors).

**The Papakura and District Historical Society** are holding one hour TALKS in the Papakura Museum during this year.

**Wednesday 6 September, 6.30pm** - Terry Carson will speak about 'Law and Disorder in early South Auckland'

**Saturday 4 November, 1pm** - Alan Knowles, Curator of Papakura Museum will speak about 'Papakura's Stronghold, the Story of Rings Redoubt'

NO cost but you are asked to register your attendance by phoning the Museum (09) 298 2003 for seating purposes.

<b>AUGUST 2023</b>						
<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	15	16 International News Group	17 Out'n>About Group	18 Music Appreciation Group	19
20	21 Memoirs Group meeting  Committee meeting	22 Club meeting Speaker - Mitchell Pham	23	24 Book Group	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		