

# PAPAKURA U3A NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024

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## Sandy's Space

Our meeting held on 19th March was excellent. Sue Smurthwaite, our own u3a member, spoke about how she had been approached by an organisation to set up a new school curriculum for primary school-aged children in Rosario, Buenos Aires and Bahia Blanca in Argentina. Hearing how the school was, and how the improvements she saw once the curriculum was installed, was amazing. Sue's experiences as a tourist were both positive and negative. Thank you, Sue.

Our ten-minute speaker, Margaret Gane, spoke about one of New Zealand's most noxious weeds - the Moth plant. Once the Moth plant takes hold it can smother the host plant. Margaret advised the best and safest way to remove and dispose with the Moth plant.

We have managed to find some interesting speakers to cover the next few months and are looking forward to hearing them. Of course, we are always open to ideas from all members for suggestions for future speakers and new ideas for group activities.

"Always be Yourself"

Sandy

## APRIL Meeting

*Tuesday 16 April, St John's Hall, Ray Small Drive, Papakura.*

*Speaker: Murray Trembath - From Conception to 2-years old*

*Introducer: Helen Higgott*

*Thanker: Joy Bowyer*

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

*Tea Roster: Christine Bertram, Iris Durney, Linnhe Eagleton*

*10-minute speaker: Kevin Higgott*

**U3A lapel pins for sale** \$5.00 each. Available at each meeting - see our Treasurer, Lynette.



## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS - \$30**

Members are gently reminded that annual subscriptions are now due and may be paid to our Treasurer, Lynette McInnes, at our monthly meeting or online to the club's bank account, whose number is at the top of the page. We are keeping it at \$30, which is a bargain when you consider the interesting speakers we manage to get for you. Not forgetting that the morning tea is included in the price. Thank you in advance and thank you to those who have already paid.

## **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:

[rodneybaldwin@hotmail.com](mailto:rodneybaldwin@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 April movie** is "The Convert", screening at Hawkins Theatre at : 12:30pm on Tuesday 2nd April 7:30pm on Saturday 22nd April

"When a lay preacher arrives at a British settlement in 1830s New Zealand, his violent past is drawn into question and his faith put to the test as he finds himself caught in the middle of a bloody war between Māori tribes".

**The suggestion for our March movie** was "The Great Escaper", but was too late to be included in the last newsletter. However, here is a review of the film.

"In the summer of 2014, Bernard Jordan (played by Michael Caine) made global headlines when, at the age of 90, when he staged a "great escape" from his care home to join fellow

war veterans on a Normandy beach to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the D Day landings.

It was a story that captured the imagination of the world as Bernie embodied the defiant 'can do' spirit of a fast-disappearing generation. But there was also a "back story" of the enduring love between Bernie and his wife of 60 years (played by Glenda Jackson), and one man's need to come to terms with the lasting trauma of war." 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:** Thursday 11 April, 10am at the home of Margaret Grant, Drury. Contact Margaret Gane 022 1588 064 for further information.

**Previous meeting:** 3 members met on Wednesday 14 March to continue discussing international news stories. We covered the following topics:-

1. US plans to get much needed aid to Gaza in the form of a floating dock accompanied by a 2 lane causeway and pier. An earlier version of this was used at the invasion of Normandy on D Day. This allows for aid to be offloaded without any US personnel touching the soil! Security is a big issue as the area is an active combat zone and hostile fire could happen. As well, civilians who are desperate for food, could crowd on to the piers in the hope of getting supplies early. Unarmed Palestinians are to patrol the beaches to prevent this from happening.

2. The recent avalanche in Japan which claimed the lives of 2 New Zealanders. 20 years ago, another NZ parent lost her 18 year old son to an avalanche in the same country. Since then, she has made it her mission to teach young people about avalanche safety. Her training has included:- what to look for and what snow does; the basics of weather forecasting and taking the right equipment. Robyn Gordon is known as the 'avalanche lady' around the country.

3. Digital Product Passports. These are being developed by companies to attach to their products so that potential buyers can check out:- where the product was made; what it is made of, its warranty; and its washability. Recyclers can also access information about what components can be recycled within the product. DPPs are also being used at building sites where every component that is being used in construction has a passport so that at the end of the building's life, these components can be reused and recycled!

4. A 'feel good' story about 38 seahorses being released back into the ocean in Sydney Harbour. A video has been posted online for you to watch.

We all appreciated a cup of tea after digesting and discussing these topics!

### Out'n>About Group

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

**Next meeting:** Thursday 18 April 2024

Visit the Guo Pei exhibition of his amazingly extravagant and colourful fashion designs at the Auckland Art Gallery.

Tickets \$20.50 (show Gold Card)

Going by train. Papakura Station 9.36am

Takanini Station 9.40am

**Questions.** Sally Curtis. 0272570135

**Previous meeting:** A visit to the Wildlife Photographer of the year exhibition at the Auckland Memorial Museum. Organised by the British Natural History Museum. The exhibition showcased the technical skills combined with an element of luck of worldwide photographers, professional and amateur aged 11 years upwards. We spent a wonderful couple of hours admiring the wide variety of animals, birds and the diversity of their habitats. Photos also reflected how global warming, flooding, pollution and humanity are threatening the future of many species of wildlife. The Grand winner was a beautiful photo of a Horseshoe crab, the junior photographers showed impressive skills, my favourite photo was the underwater class winner - a hippopotamus with her two offspring. Thank you to Margaret for organising. Sally Curtis

It would be great to see more members in the future coming on our Out'n>About adventures.

### ***Walking Group***

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

Usually meets the first Thursday of the Month. Walks organised by members of the group

**Next walk:** Thursday 4 April 2024 Puhinui Stream Forrest

**We are offering this walk again for April as only 2 were available in March**

**Walk time:** 45 - 60 minutes

**Description:** This loop bush track skirts alongside the Totara Park & Botanical Gardens. The track is unpaved but well maintained. It follows the winding and pretty Puhinui Stream through lovely native bush, alive with plenty of birdsong. The stream itself has a few babbling waterfalls and remnants of past dams. It is mainly flat, a few steps as head into Totara Park to Beauford House.

**Highlights:** Huge Trees, Stream, Plenty of Points of Interest, near Totara Park and Botanical Gardens

Meet at Hawkins Theatre carpark at 9:30am

Please bring a hat, water bottle and \$5 for the shared drive

**Pleased notify Christine if you are joining the walk.**

### **Writing Your Memoirs.**

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

**Next meeting** 15th April at 10am, at Margaret Grant's home. Gloria will email all Memoirs members.

**Previous meeting:** Monday 18th March was held at Iris's home. Thank you Iris and to those who provided our lovely morning tea. Memories were shared about a variety of topics, as always, and we then look forward to the next meeting to "see what happened next". Today we heard about....

**A fabulous story** hearing about a long holiday in India - the planning, the familiar sights/homes/farms and workplaces. Of being welcomed by the locals who now live and work there. Showing NZ family where their mother and her parents and sister lived. Once in a lifetime trip.

**From our Lassie from Scotland**, now a Kiwi, about her trip to the Faroe Islands, halfway between Scotland and Iceland. (editor's note: Google says 18 major islands, total of 779 islands, islets and skerries). Of there being no flat ground only hills and more hills. They have lots of sheep, but still import lamb from NZ. The 18 islands are joined by bridges or tunnels. Whale meat used to be "Air Dried" there.

**Next, of flying to Canada** after being home in NZ for 2 years. Entering Canada, Customs officer who was convinced our traveller was a smuggler due to her wearing her grandmother's jewellery, but they then understood after an explanation.

Playing soccer and attempting to kick the ball, but there was a steel bar imbedded in the ground, resulting in a broken toe. Hobbled around until a doctor was found and the damage was confirmed. Very elegant footwear from then on!!

**We heard about toys** etc. from yester year. Of a handmade (much loved) rag doll made by her mother. About her father being in the Air Force and a Navigator. Of having 3 siblings, and sharing a trike and one ball, and playing the games with blocks, draughts, Chinese checkers.

**Next story was about life** in a small village in a Cul-de-sac with husbands all at work, out of the area. Owning their own home for the first time in the village, which contained one shop, one pub, one church. There were 12 homes in the Cul-de-sac, and wives had progressive lunches while the children were at school and then village activities such as tug-of-war, etc. Small community but very close and supportive.

**Hearing part two** of a Weight program and the many ways to conquer and win...lots of laughs in looking back... more to come. Doc prescribed tablets, which were later banned from sale. Gyms, sauna's, even chewy lollies to be taken an hour before meals to suppress appetite... yeah right!

**Preview of the Auckland u3a Network Event 2024-Saturday 27 July '24**

Go to our Network Website to see who our speakers are and when to register!

[u3auckland.net](http://u3auckland.net)

**AUCKLAND u3a NETWORK EVENT - Saturday 27 JULY '24**

**SPEAKER SUGGESTIONS** please.

If you have a suitable speaker in mind, please let Margaret Gane know!  
(margaretjgane@gmail.com)

We are collating a list of potential speakers soon and would love to receive any names asap! Look forward to hearing back from you!

**AUCKLAND u3a NETWORK WEBSITE (Established this year)**

Developed and Managed by our Network Committee FOR Network Groups  
**u3auckland.net**

This is an invitation to go into the site and have a look at it!

Click on 'Papakura u3a' and view the details of our group as it stands at present.

While you are on the site, click on other u3a groups in the Network and see what their website looks like!

If you like certain features of a group's website, let our own committee know!

This sort of feedback could be very helpful for the updating and 'refreshing' of our own website.

Margaret (Secretary, Auckland u3a Network Committee)

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**MOTH PLANT, ALSO KNOWN AS (Kapok Vine)**

STAMP - SOCIETY TOTALLY AGAINST MOTH PLANT

They have a Facebook page.

**Pest Free South Auckland 2024 Moth Plant Competition**

Registrations now open.

Aim - to collect moth vine pods from 4 March to 10 May

Competition Categories

Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary and Community Groups

**Prizes to be won.**

Website - <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz>

Contact Person - Richard Henty

Contact E-mail - mothplantlocations@gmail.com

**Some helpful hints from Margaret G.**

Small moth plants, just pull out of the ground and leave.

Larger vines - find the root and pull out of the ground if you can. Tie stem in a knot to keep roots off the ground or leave further up the tree or in a fence line.

Cut the pods with secateurs or pull off the stem. BEWARE of the white sap which can irritate the skin.

You do NOT NEED TO CUT OFF all the flowers or cut the vine down. It will die anyway in situ.

Remember to cover your arms and legs with clothing, wear gloves and protective eyeglasses. Pods can be buried, taken to landfill or incinerated. I put mine in a plastic bag, tie the top very firmly and place in my red topped rubbish bin.

PS Contact Margaret 022 1588064 OR margaretjgane@gmail.com if you want support with getting rid of this weed

### Papakura u3a poster

Are any of our members willing and able to produce a poster explaining about our club? Some of the information that could be in the poster:

- when we meet - time and date
- what we do at our meetings, plus our group meetings during the month

We want to get people along to enjoy our club, as we do. The poster could be used in various places in Papakura. If you are interested in taking part please let Sandy, Helen or Carol know.

APRIL24						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Walking Group	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 International News Group	12	13
14	15 Memoirs Group	16 Monthly meeting	17	18	19	20
27	22 Committee meeting	23	24	25 Book Group	26	27

28	29	30				