

# PAPAKURA U3A NEWSLETTER JULY 2024

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## **Sandy's Space**

Firstly, I would like to thank David Thompson, resident of u3a Network Auckland, for taking the time to come to our meeting this month.

Our speaker this month was Jan Alldritt-Miller introduced by Helen Higgott. It was a breath of fresh air to hear about her life growing up in Auckland and her Art journey. Jan brought a selection of her paintings, many of which had received prestigious awards. One in particular, "Granny", a portrait of her dearest friend's mother-in law, was sent to the Daler-Downey UK (famous producers of art material) for an exhibition of 400 international entries. The painting was placed 2nd, a great honour for Jan. We were shown an art technique using acrylics with water colours that Jan had spent quite some time developing. I was approached, after the completion of Jan's presentation, by fellow members expressing how informative it had been and they would love to have her back. Sally thanked Jan on behalf of Papakura u3a.

Wendy Deeming was our 10-minute speaker. She spoke about Rewi Alley a New Zealand born writer and Political activist. He spent 60 years of his life in China and was a member of the Chinese Communist Party. He was instrumental in creating a bridge of friendship between China and New Zealand. Wendy shared that she had travelled to China for the memorial service commemorating Rewi's tireless work. Thank you for sharing, for me this was new information.

Finally, and importantly, I had the great honour of presenting a gift to Helen Higgott to acknowledge her dedication for the last 10 years, of being Papakura u3a's representative at the Auckland Networks meetings. Also, Margaret Gane spoke about the support she had received from Helen when she had been the President and now Secretary. Thank you once again Helen from us all. I introduced Sally Curtis as our new u3a representative for Papakura.

Life is for living. Make each day count.  
Sandy

## **JULY Meeting**

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

**Speaker:** James Duncan - *Trams in Auckland*

**Introducer:** Sandy Bensemann

**Thanker:** Lynn Smith

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

**Tea Roster:** Sue Smurthwaite, Kathi Sharan, Erica Cartwright

**10-minute speaker:** Kathleen McKay

We will be saying goodbye to **Pam Cain** as she has decided to resign from Papakura u3a after 21 years of being a member. We will miss you, Pam, but it is good to hear that you have enjoyed being at our u3a meetings over the years and we thank you for all your contributions to the club. Thanks you for your good wishes and we all send our warmest wishes and hope that you keep on enjoying life.

### **NETWORK REPRESENTATIVE**

At the June meeting Helen Higgott was presented with two lovely gifts - a pot plant and a pair of thick long-sleeved gardening gloves for being the Network Rep since 2013. Thank you but I am so embarrassed as I have really enjoyed the role and found it very interesting. I know Sally Curtis will look after the Club's interest well in the future. Helen

### **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 July film** is "Ka Whawhai Tonu", a NZ made film set during the Waikato wars in 1864, which tells the story of a pivotal battle through the eyes of two young teenagers caught up in the chaos of the battle.

Showing at the Hawkins Theatre on:

10 & 31 July at 7:30pm      11 July at 10am      24 July at 12:30pm

**Review:** "Joika", based on a true story of Joy Womack, a determined 15 year old Texan ballet dancer who set out to become a Prima Ballerina in the Russian Bolshoi Ballet, is a tale of hard work, sweat, tears, and frustration, as it becomes clear to her that, despite achieving her first goal of being accepted as a Bolshoi dancer, she will never be allowed to be given a leading part in a ballet nor achieve Prima Ballerina status unless she prostitutes herself to an influential "sponsor". The cinematographer for this movie accentuated the gloom of the story by using dimmed lighting for most scenes. 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:** At our next u3a meeting on 16 July, we shall be calling for more members to express an interest in the International News Group. An informal meeting will then be held to find the most suitable day and time across the group. Margaret Gane 022 158 8064

**Previous meeting:** 2 members met at Pizza Box on Thursday 20 June for a catchup on international events that have caught their attention.

Topics covered included:-

- the US has been active in helping its citizens cope with the cold by providing places where the homeless and low income families can go to keep warm. Now they are faced with the challenge of providing places where these people can keep cool in the face of more frequent heatwaves
- the death of Michael Moseley, a doctor and scientist who was renowned for coming up with theories and then testing them out on himself. Was this his motive when he went missing recently in a heat wave in an area that was rocky with no shelter? His death is a tragedy for his family, the scientific and medical world
- the leader of the Labour Party in the UK has had protestors outside his home who have threatened his wife and family. Is it appropriate for protestors to gather outside private homes when there are other places that are better suited for this activity? eg Parliament, town squares etc.
- an Israeli hostage who has just been released has shared her experience in captivity. She was kept captive first with a family with children who were paid 3 times the average wage by the Hamas to keep her; and then in a hospital. She has been an advocate for peace but as a result of her experience, she now says that she has no confidence that the Hamas will agree to it
- Circadian rhythms. We are at our lowest in energy and least productive between 1-4pm but pick up energy again after that. Is this why we tend to fall asleep in afternoon meetings?! Margaret Gane

### OUT'N'ABOUT GROUP

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

**Next meeting 1:** Joy hopes to have arrangements for the World Choir Games on the **12th July** at 11am in the Glade in the Perennial Gardens, Auckland Botanic Gardens soon. If you are interesting in coming I will be taking my car and can email you the final arrangements as soon as they come out. You can look it up in Auckland Botanic Gardens website as well. Joy Bowyer 0275007592

**Next meeting 2:** World Press Photographic Exhibition on **Tuesday, 30 July 2024** Meet at the Papakura Train Station at 0930 to catch the 9.36am train (9.40 from Takaanini). Cost of entry is \$20 for seniors.

**Organizer Wendy Deeming** Ph:298 6370 or Email: [wjd0047@gmail.com](mailto:wjd0047@gmail.com)

**Previous meeting** Last month's trip to First Scene had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers.

### **WALKING GROUP**

Coordinator Christine Brouwers [Christine.j.brouwers@gmail.com](mailto: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:** On Wednesday 10 July to Omana Regional Park, west of Maraetai. Description given is an easy 2.7km circular walk through varying countryside. There's a 750m detour to a look out. Track is paved or metal with some grass and boardwalk. Toilets available

Meet at HAWKINS THEATRE CARPARK Time 9.30am Hope the weather is kind to us!

Please express your intention to Christine at [christine.j.brouwers@gmail.com](mailto:christine.j.brouwers@gmail.com) 0211009656

More info and photos on [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks) and search Omana Regional Park

### **Last walk:**

Four members of the walking group chose to take a wander around the Auranga estate at the end of Bremner Road in Drury. This area is in the process of being developed into a high density housing area by the well known developer, Charles Ma. The retirement village, Karaka Pines, is also situated here and is proving popular amongst retired people. The Auranga estate is situated on the banks of the Pahurehure Inlet and already the area has been laid out with walking paths that give spectacular views of the water which is framed by the planting of flaxes and other native plants. Some of us spent time identifying these using an App called PictureThis. Other special features of the area included a jetty which had a map of part of Auckland etched out on the wooden planks, a stone bridge, children's playground with innovative structures and objects that children can play with (and adults too!), cycle lanes, drainage pits along the side of the roads and limited parking for cars! I think all of us were grateful that in the midst of the closely positioned houses, there were green spaces for the residents to relax in and enjoy.

I would recommend a visit to Auranga to anyone who is curious about how these housing subdivisions are being developed and to give thanks for the green spaces that have been incorporated into the overall design.

They are so needed and necessary for the wellbeing of all who choose to live there. PS Auranga means 'wellbeing'! Margaret Gane.



### **WRITING YOUR MEMOIRS**

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

**Next meeting** Our Memoirs Group would like to invite you to come along and join us at our next meeting at 10am on 15th July 2024 at Wendy's home. Contact Gloria for further information. A reminder email will be sent out nearer the date.

**Previous meeting:** Families were the topic chosen by 4 members and we heard about the veneration in which a missionary grandmother from USA was held in India. Another talked about the wonderful meals cooked by her mother on a coal range using home killed meat, home-grown vegetables and fruit and "old fashioned" desserts such as rice pudding, tapioca and junket. A grandfather managed a swimming pool complex in London after serving in WW2 and receiving the Military Cross. He was a superb gardener and exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Another spoke of a care-free upbringing in Thames riding her bike everywhere but having little awareness of extended family until going by bus to St Heliers when about 10 for Christmas with an uncle and family.

Then it was back to London on an OE and staying with an aunt and family and their eccentric cat. Continuing on different themes we heard about being stuck under a fully decorated Christmas tree, being unable to be rescued by her pregnant sister, and having to wait till her brother-in-law returned home! Finally it was a tale of dreams and violent nightmares. What an eclectic mix!!

We missed you Gloria and hope you are feeling better now.

## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

### **WORLD CHOIR GAMES FREE FRIENDSHIP CONCERTS**

A series of friendship concerts performed by different choral groups for the World Choir Games 2024. These are to be held at the Glade in the Perennial Garden at the Auckland Botanic Gardens - less than 5 minutes walk down from the Visitors' Centre as follows:

Friday 12 July 11 am and 2 pm                      Saturday 13 July 11am and 2pm.  
For more details see Auckland Botanic Gardens website "What's On".

### **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

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

TO REGISTER GO TO THE NETWORK WEBSITE - [u3aauckland.net](http://u3aauckland.net)



**u3a** Auckland Network welcomes you to a day of celebration

Salvation Army Church, 18 Allright Place, Mt Wellington  
Saturday 27 July 2024 - 9:30am (for 10:00am) to 2:30pm

### Speakers:

**Morning:** [Distinguished Professor Emeritus Paul Spoonley MA MSc PhD FRSNZ](#)

"The supersizing and superdiversity of Auckland:  
how Auckland will change over coming decades."

**Afternoon:** [Sir Ashley Bloomfield KNZM](#)

"Public trust in New Zealand: where we are at, and how do we  
strengthen public trust to build social capital and social cohesion?"

Also included are four presentations by u3a Members and lunch - \$45.00

## JULY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Walking Group  Omana Regional Park	11	12 Out'n'About Group  World Choir Games	13
14	15 Memoirs Group	16 Monthly meeting Speaker - James Duncan - Trams in Auckland	17	18	19	20
21	22 Committee meeting	23	24	25 Book Group	26	27
28	29	30 Out'n'About Group  World Press Photographic Exhibition				