

# PAPAKURA U3A NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023

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## BILL'S BURBLE



We can now look back on another interesting monthly meeting behind us, this time featuring Alan Knowles, curator from Papakura Museum, telling us about Ring's Ridout. He was followed by Joy Bowyer as the ten-minute speaker, sharing her experiences of a busy life spent in a variety of voluntary roles in the community. Thanks to the organizers as well as the program presenters throughout the year, along with some highly successful special interest groups, I suspect our program in retrospect will turn out to be one of the more successful years for the club.

Once again, I wish to stress that an interesting and well-rounded program is far from accidental and our dedicated committee working behind the scenes deserves our thanks. Don't forget our final meeting for the year in November will include our AGM, election of club officers (with space for new folk) and this year I am **very** happy to tell you that someone has finally agreed to step up for a turn as Club President. (As the retiring President, after four years in the role I must say I am beginning to understand why a similar aged President Biden now does his shuffling stumble to the microphone).

And now my thought for the month: When eventually some smart scientists work out where the centre of the Universe must be, I guess some folk will be surprised that it isn't them.

## **OCTOBER 2023 Meeting**

**Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 10am, St John's Hall, Ray Small Drive, Papakura.**

**Speaker:** Bernadette Stockman - BounceBack4Syria

**Introducer:** Helen Higgott

**Thanker:** Sally Curtis

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

**Tea Roster** Gloria Buddle, Ann James, Varda Swery

**10 Minute speaker:** Elisabeth Rix

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.

### **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

**Next meeting:** our next session meeting is on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October. My mobile phone is 27 2771507 if needed. Cheers, Ruth

**Last meeting:** Book Group Report 28th September.

Six of us met today in the Drury Library and enjoyed morning tea with lemon muffins, as we discussed 17 books of diverse genres. I heard a radio "expert" recently opine that reading qualifies as a life enhancing hobby, I think we all knew that. All welcome to join us. Ruth

### **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.

**October suggestion:** From a pretty lean selection available at Hawkins Theatre, I suggest "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3", showing at: 11 and 31 October at 10am

17 October at 12:30 pm      20 October at 7:30 pm

"The worldwide phenomenon, "My Big Greek Wedding" is coming back with brand-new adventure as the Portokalos family travels to a family reunion in Greece. Enjoy a heartwarming and hilarious trip, full of love, twists and turns." Rod Baldwin

**Review:** I was led to suggest the movie "Past Lives" by reviews I read on the Internet, in particular, "Rolling Stones" as "the single best movie you will see this year". However, it turned out to be a very slow film, essentially telling a largely uninteresting 10-minute tale over about 2 and a half hours, as it meandered through a repetitive series of disconnected scenes, covering about 20 years in the lives of the two main characters, before arriving at the main point of the movie - the reunion. Then it drifted through a series of scenes in New York City, before simply fading away to an end just as uninteresting as the whole plot of the movie.

While I quite enjoyed the movie with its theme of individuals' lives being the result of choices made together with fate, it was difficult to stay awake at times. And my wife, who accompanied me to the movie, was quite forthright in her assessment of the film, saying as the final credits rolled: "How boring was that!"

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 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, Papakura on the 3rd Thursday of each month. We would love other members to come and join us. Contact Margaret 0221588064 to express your interest. Margaret Gane

**Next meeting:** We will next be meeting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

**Last meeting:** We didn't meet in September.

### **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:** Joy Bowyer is organising our October event which is a visit to the Tip top factory on Tuesday 31 October at 10am. Cost is \$10. Bookings are not to be made until next month, but you can register your interest with Joy before then. 027 500 7502 or cjabowyer@xtra.co.nz

**Last meeting:** In September we visited the 'Egypt - In the Time of the Pharaohs' exhibition at the Auckland Museum. This is a truly thought-provoking exhibition - they were so influenced by the various Gods and symbols. It is definitely worth a visit.

### **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:** Highbrook Park, on Thursday 5 Oct 2023.

**Description:** A mix of level and slightly hilly paths

**To see:** Pukekiwiriki Crater, wetlands, views of Tamaki Estuary, Otara Creek, Pakuranga Creek, Mount Wellington and other volcanoes, Highbrook Model Airpark.

**Time:** Approx. 75 minutes. (about 5.8 kms). We'll meet at Hawkins Theatre parking at 9:30.

Please remember to bring \$5 for sharing the drive. Please let me know if you are planning to join.

**Previous walk:** there was no September walk.

Varda

### **Writing Your Memoirs.**

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

You are all invited to come along to join us at our next meeting.

**Next meeting** of the Memoirs group is on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct at 10am, at Margaret Grant's home in Drury. Contact Gloria for further information, phone 09 299 9550

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, and this usually leads to other memories being brought into mind.

**Last meeting:** Thank you Sue for opening your home -the eight of us enjoyed each other's company. Thanks also to those who provided snacks for our morning tea. Those who were unable to attend, we missed you. Snippets of Memoirs from our meeting today.

**Hearing of a Narrow boat holiday**, that was meant to be. Of travelling on the waterways, and stopping whenever they chose, of visiting the villages and pubs along the way. Lesson - don't give up dreaming: it can/will happen.

**Then of the first trip to Darwin**, Australia, and many adventures with friends. One was of all sitting around outside in a circle, by the BBQ, with platters of cooked prawns on the menu. Special times. Of hitch hiking, safety in groups and friendly folk to help them.

**Of a young girl having brothers** but NO pets. This was "Work in Progress" and many lost, sick or stray animals (and insects) were brought home and of finally being able to have a chicken, whose egg was tendered and kept warm in bed. Shame the end of this cracking story did not result in a baby chick.

**Then a little girl under 6** who cut her own hair while sitting in front of the open fire, unbeknown to her parents who were there too. At age 7-8 of 3 cousins staying with their Grandad and his new wife and being treated to a display of Christmas Trees from around the world, and then a Pantomime in Lower Hutt and Wellington.

**Flying off then to Australia** on a Business trip, and taking their two young children along, too. Visiting a safari park, and her husband was having his birthday and was serenaded by a pack of

sealions honking out "Happy Birthday" to him. Children were thrilled at this and were having a lovely time with many memories made there.

**When arriving in England during winter**, after Sunny NZ, the weather was dark and dismal, but then a few months later spring arrived there. The joy of seeing plants sprouting, flower buds forming and the SUN...and of visiting new places with new friends and a new job.

**Another push bike story** of Mother with one daughter sitting on the frame over the back wheel, of being dropped off in town and Mother returning home to collect the other daughter and doing the shopping. There was Friday late-night shopping too at Woolworths and McKenzie's variety shops, with very long counters with the shop attendants walking along these lanes. Adding up purchases in their heads - no checkout counters by the exits or mechanical tills.

**How things have changed** since the War: food for one. England and tea drinking, coffee and cafes not around then, but when REAL coffee arrived, lots enjoyed this drink and were out in cafes and restaurants. Cheeses changed too - many flavours and varieties. Of phoning your grocery order to the local corner store and the goods being delivered by a lad on a bike with a huge wicker basket over the front wheel. Of the contraptions for payment - one being an overhead pulley system of cylinders that went along and ended up into the office, returning with change to the assistant below.



One was a mechanical system, in which gravity helped propel the cash-containing pods along wires; the other was a pneumatic system in which a blast of compressed air or suck from a vacuum had the pods in motion.

### **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

### AUCKLAND BOTANICAL GARDENS

The cherry blossom trees are coming into flower and will be in full flower during October.

There are 2 free exhibitions on in the Visitors' Centre at present:

1. **Eye on Nature Creative Arts Competition.**

Amazing creations by preschool and school aged children. Closes 8 October

2. **Manukau Photographic Society.**

Photos taken by members in the Gardens are hanging in the western corridor till 31 October.

### PEACE, LOVE AND PROTEST: AUCKLAND COUNCIL'S HERITAGE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 20TH CENTURY AUCKLAND

Presented by Auckland Council, the much-loved Auckland Heritage Festival returns from **23 September - 8 October** with the theme of 'Peace, Love and Protest' - marking 50 years since anti-nuclear protests were embraced by the nation.

[Sail aboard Breeze](#), the brigantine that stood in for Rainbow Warrior on the 1985 peace flotilla to Moruroa; get a sneak peek inside historic [St James Theatre](#) to find out how campaigners plan to save this grand old building.

With over 160 events - many of which are free or low-cost - taking place across Tāmaki Makaurau, Mayor Wayne Brown is delighted to invite residents and visitors to join the festivities. The list could go on - and it does! Check out our picks for '[Best of the Fest](#)' on OurAuckland and see the full list of events on the [Auckland Heritage Festival website](#).

### EVER PRESENT FIRST PEOPLES ART OF AUSTRALIA

This is an excellent large free exhibition of art including carving done by Australian Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, on at the Auckland Art Gallery until 29th October.

Well worth a visit.

**THE PAKURA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY** are holding one-hour TALKS in the Papakura Museum during this year.

**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.

### FREE TAI CHI TRAINING AND PRACTICE

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

**OCTOBER 2023**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>1</b>	2	3	4	5 Walking Group	5	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	9	10	11	12	13	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	16 Memoirs group	17 Monthly meeting  Committee meeting	18	19 International News group	20	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	23	24	25	26 Book group	27	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	30	31 Out'n>About group  Visit to Tip Top factory				