

PAPAKURA U3A NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023

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BILL'S BURBLE



Like anyone with a gun pointed at their head I can take a gentle hint to do my duty and provide the expected u3a burble for the month.

Those among you who turned up to hear Mitchell Pham as our featured speaker at our last monthly meeting will probably agree with me that his talk was both thought provoking and riveting. Mitchell highlighted some serious situations he had had to face in in his early past. First as a child refugee from Vietnam, he had to overcome what seemed impossible odds as one of the so-called boat people in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. Eventually this led as far as a huge refugee camp in Indonesia, where he worked towards enough education to become an acceptable child refugee migrant into New Zealand. He successfully made it through his secondary education, finally reaching the heights of top business scholar for the year at Auckland University. Working with other young graduates, Mitchell helped set up a number of key international businesses, both in New Zealand and in South-East Asia. From Mitchell's accounts of the prospects for refugees, I suspect at least some amongst his audience might have shared my thought that the refugees seeking help from the West need a somewhat more sympathetic and supportive acceptance than has often been the case in our recent past.

One very encouraging new development for our organization was the small group of photography enthusiasts who turned up last meeting seeking to use our u3a club as a new umbrella group in place of Senior Net. They wish to join us for monthly club meetings (as full members) and hope to use the Takani Library as their new venue for photography. Our u3a committee is happy to accept their membership. For those u3a members seeking to extend their own interests in our monthly program it could be that photography could become another option. Watch this space.

As the end of the year draws closer, I finish with a gentle reminder that shortly we will be calling for volunteers to join our committee. Please give it consideration.

My thought for the day: If you enjoy wasting time, it can't really be called wasted time. Stay safe.

SEPTEMBER 2023 Meeting

Tuesday, 19 September 2023 at 10am, St John's Hall, Ray Small Drive, Papakura.

Speaker: Alan Knowles - Rings Redoubt

Introducer: Wendy Deeming

Thanker: Bev Dunn

Greeters: Bev Dunn, Sandra Bensemman, Helen Higgott

Tea Roster: Liz Rix, Anna Rankine, Elizabeth Stephenson

10 Minute speaker: Joy Bowyer

Here are two links, one for Mitchell Pham's TV documentary and the other for his presentation he gave to us at our August meeting, which has the "7 lessons" slide that interested many of you.

Presentation

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=4d9c7a5acb&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1775718112663933951&th=18a49e371e8f93ff&view=att&disp=inline>

Documentary

https://drive.google.com/file/d/16nyvkfpVhLt8KUJewHuaurrMM_HdoNr6/view?usp=gmail

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

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 3rd Friday of each month from April to September at 2pm at Helen Higgott's house. **Registration: Please email Helen at higgotth@gmail.com or Iris at irisdurney@yahoo.co.uk** or just roll up.

Next and last meeting: We will meet on Friday 15th September 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: The last time we met we explored "The Keyboard" in all its various forms: clavichord, harpsichord, piano and organ and, as in other sessions, we listened to a wide range of musical examples. For me each session has been a learning experience. Unfortunately, the next time we meet draws this group to a close.

For those of us who attended, the sessions were a real treat, and so ably led by Simon and Pat James. We appreciate the time they have put into organising this group. Thanks also to Helen for making her home available.

Shirley Peddie

Book Group

Co-ordinator Ruth Bourne Ph: 09 294 9396 Book Group usually meets at 10am on 4th 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: All welcome to our next session meeting on Thursday 28th September. My mobile phone is 27 2771507 if needed. Cheers, Ruth

Film Appreciation Group

Coordinator Rod Baldwin Ph: 298 3842 or email: 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: There will be no films screening at Hawkins Theatre during September. I shall however next week make a suggestion for a movie at The Rialto in Newmarket, accessible by train.

International News Group

Coordinator Dena Gilmore 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 not be meeting in September but will resume in October. Please call Margaret Gane or Dena Gilmore if you are interested in joining us.

Last meeting: Our small group continues to meet on the third Thursday of the month at the Pizza Box, Papakura. Topics discussed this month were: recent thefts at the British Museum, the Parthenon Project, the fires in Hawaii, and the ever more repressive regime of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the banning of women and girls from schools, universities, workplaces, parks, swimming pools.

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: 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. More details will come after that to those wanting to come. Organiser - Margaret Gane 022 1588064

Last meeting: In August we did the Papakura Art Trail and discovered paintings in a variety of different places which we have walked past frequently and never noticed before. Pamphlets are available at the Library.

Walking Group

Coordinator Varda Swery 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 October.**

Writing Your Memoirs.

Memoirs Group - Contact: Gloria Buddle 092999550 or 0273561220 or 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 17th September at Sue Smurthwaite's house. 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: We were delighted to welcome 2 new members - Sue Smurthwaite and Mary Halliday and look forward to hearing their contributions in the future.

Today we heard about visiting a number of Pacific Islands in the 1970's seeking shelter when hurricanes threatened. Then to Dunedin where a member, acting as a helper on a grandchild's school visit to the Settlers' Museum, was able to locate information about the arrival in NZ of her great grandparents in the 1860's. We listened avidly as Iris read from her mother's diary of

arriving at a remote tea plantation in southern India as a 19 year old bride in 1947. The long trek uphill and the descriptions of starting a garden and the local fauna and flora were vivid and we were all filled with admiration of what she endured. A complete change was travelling from UK to Lake Como in Italy in 1970 with 2 young children. When the car broke down in Germany patience, ingenuity and a rescuer enabled the problems to be solved. Finally a comparison between communication in the 1960's and today when a member was living in London. Her 20 year old granddaughters were incredulous that she talked with her parents twice in 3 1/2 years. We remembered the importance of the blue air letter forms and how eagerly they were awaited. This led to considering the food that we ate in the immediate post war years. The home grown fruit and vegetables and the hours spent preserving quart jars of fruit and the dozens of pots of jam and marmalade our mothers made every summer. Life is very different today!

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) or Iris Durney (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 now!** There is an entrance fee of about \$10.00. The gardens are closed on Mondays.

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.

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.

FREE TAI CHI TRAINING AND PRACTICE

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

SEPTEMBER 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Out'n>About visit to the Auckland Museum exhibition	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Music Appreciation Group	16
17	18 Memoirs Group meeting	19 Club meeting	20	21 International News Group meeting	22	23
24	25 Committee meeting	26	27	28 Book Group	29	30