

U3A NEWSLETTER: October 2023



Committee			
President	Jill Leonard		
Treasurer	Shirley Anderson		
Network Reps	Cynthia Sweetingham		
	Barbara Field		
Secretary	Sue Robertson		
Speakers	Cynthia Sweetingham		
Mini Speakers	Barbara Field		
Newsletter	Carole Watson		
Teas	Jan Gilbert		
Trips	Jan Lauder		
Meet and greet	Shirley Anderson		
	Barbara Field		
Almoner	Adrienne Grayson		
Website	Sue Robertson		
Past President	Barbara Field		

Thursday 5th October

Main Speaker: Bernadette Stockman “Camps for the disabled children in Syria”.

Ten Minute Speaker: Our new president, Jill Leonard. She plans to tell us something of her background.

Thursday 7th September

The Annual General Meeting went very well with a new President and Secretary elected. Beth Bach resigned after many years on the committee and as secretary. Many thanks Beth. A new group Exploring Auckland has started.

Presidents Report: Jill Leonard

At the last meeting our group conveners were available to discuss their interest groups, please feel free to continue those chats.

Barbara also asked for your ideas on trips next year. Please let me or any committee members know your suggestions.

I said we would discuss the Xmas lunch venue at the meeting; however the decision has been made to have it at the Papatoetoe Cossie Club on December 7th.

Some of the suggested venues were already fully booked so an executive decision was made.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting, hopefully the weather will be bright.

Treasurer's Report

Shirley Anderson

Internet banking details:

Account no: 02-0167- 0025509-00

When making payments please provide the following details in the appropriate boxes.

- Particulars: enter Surname
- Code: enter First Name
- Reference: details of payment e.g., Trips

Newsletter Editor

Please could you send information to Carole after your meetings? By the last Friday of the month please, so I can send it out in plenty of time for members to read.

Classical Music Appreciation – 2nd Friday – 2pm Convener - Rogan Falla

There was not a meeting in September.

Art Appreciation: Conveners Barbara Field

In September a small group of us met and talked about the Art films we had seen recently. We also admired a Renoir painting of Flowers and a painting of a King Fisher done by a local artist.

In October we plan to visit the Auckland Art Gallery to see an exhibition of aboriginal art and an archive display of work done on a Breughel painting, The Village Fair.

We will meet at the Papatoetoe Train station at 10.am on Thursday 12 October. Anyone who is interested in coming is welcome. The exhibitions are free.

Historic Group Convener - Rogan Falla

There was not a meeting in September.

Mah-jong: Convener: Sue Robertson

Mahjong group meets every Tuesday at 1pm, for a 1.15 pm start, in the Hunters Corner Bowling Club.

We are a lively group and enjoy using our brains as well as lots of laughs. We have plenty of space in the Club rooms and welcome new members.

It is easy to learn the basics of mahjong and with experience to extend your skill.

The cost per session will be \$2 which includes tea, coffee, and biscuits.

Exercise Class

This is held every Monday except public holidays at Friendship house at 9.30 am. The class is now full.

We are feeling the benefit of these exercises and coffee afterwards gives us a chance to catch up.

Monday mornings at Friendship house Strength and balance class

This group will still be running in the school holidays. We all enjoy our strength and balance exercises and the coffee and chat afterwards.

Poetry Group1 – 3rd Friday 10-00am Convener – Shared.

It is amazing to find there are so many poems lamenting the loss of trees; we read at least three on this topic. The importance of trees is obviously something poets are aware of. To Autumn by John Keats, The Giving Tree by Sheldon Silverstein, Loveliest of Trees by AE Houseman, and They Have Cut Down the Pines by Mary Lesel Lisle were among those we read and enjoyed. Pat Hamill read one of her own compositions, about how she and her siblings had enjoyed playing in trees as children.

Next month we will meet at Jan Lauder's home at 72 Puhinui Road on Friday 20 October at 10.am. Our topic will be poems to do with water, seas, lakes, rivers. If you want to write your own that would be great.

Readers' Group – 3rd Wednesday – 1-30pm

Convener: Shirley Anderson

Nevil Shute Norway (17 January 1899 – 12 January 1960) was an English novelist and aeronautical engineer who spent his later years in Australia. He used his full name in his engineering career and **Nevil Shute** as his pen name, in order to protect his engineering career from inferences by his employers (Vickers) or from fellow engineers that he was "not a serious person"^[1] or from potentially adverse publicity in connection with his novels,

Shute's novels are written in a simple, highly readable style, with clearly delineated plot lines. Where there is a romantic element, sex is referred to only obliquely. Many of the stories are introduced by a narrator who is not a character in the story. The most common theme in Shute's novels is the dignity of work,

spanning all classes. Shute's heroes tended to be like himself: middle-class solicitors, doctors, accountants, bank managers, and engineers—generally university graduates. However (as in *Trustee from the Toolroom*), Shute valued the honest artisans and their social integrity and contributions to society more than the contributions of the upper classes. Aviation and engineering provide the backdrop for many of Shute's novels. He identified how engineering, science, and design could improve human life and more than once used the anonymous epigram, "It has been said an engineer is a man who can do for ten shillings what any fool can do for a pound.

Daniel Silva (born 1960) is an American journalist and author of thriller and spy novels. or a brilliant but unworldly boffin. In 1994 he began work on his first novel, *The Unlikely Spy* (1996). The novel debuted on The New York *Times* best-seller list on January 26, 1997; In 1997 Silva left CNN to pursue writing full-time. Since then Silva has written 23 more spy novels, all best-sellers. Gabriel Allon, an Israeli art restorer, spy, and assassin, is the protagonist in all but three of Silva's titles. Some of his novels involve Islamic terrorism, some involve Russian villains, and some are about historic events related to World War II and the Holocaust.

Readers have three authors to choose from for October:- Joanne Trollope, Martin Walker, and Faye Weldon. That should allow for all tastes.

Armchair Travel

Convenor Jan Lauder, 2nd Wednesday, 10 am various venues

September 13th. Jan gave an account of her and Alan's recent trip to British Columbia, including a time on Vancouver Island and a bus tour of the Rockies, accompanied with a selection of the photos.



The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday October 11th, at 10.00am. This will be a talk by Les Grass and is to be held at the Grass's place at 13 Hill Road.

Movie Buffs Convenor Jan Gilbert

Five of us went to see *Haunted in Venice*, a Kenneth Branagh film of the Agatha Christie Novel. Set in Venice just after the Second World War. Poirot has retired and lives in seclusion, a friend gets him to go to a Halloween party in a crumbling villa. The set is dark and there are murders for him to solve past and present. Well-acted and absorbing viewing I think all enjoyed it.

Carole for Jan

Garden Group Convenor Glenis McGeachie

Exploring Auckland - 1st Friday each month

Jan Lauder, Convenor.

A new group in which we will use public transport - trains, buses, and ferries - to explore the journey to a corner of our city, using our Gold Card concession on the AT Hop card. It will generally result in a visit to a cafe for coffee or lunch. No sign-up required, just turn up at the designated start time and place as announced each month.

This month

Friday 6th October

Meet at the **Papatoetoe Train Station at 10.30am**, to catch the 10.35 train (Papakura 10.16am, Takanini 10.20am) to Britomart, then the NX1 double-decker bus to Albany Bus Station via the Northern Busway, and then a local bus to the Westfield Albany Mall for coffee/lunch.

Social Lunch

Trips Jan Lauder.

A very pleasant time was had by everyone who came on the **Cornerstone Alpaca Stud** bus trip top Gordonton, where we had an interesting presentation by Sam about alpacas and the farm, followed by lunch onsite, and then a stop on the ride home in Pokeno for ice cream.

