

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2020



Titirangi

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Welcome to our February newsletter.

Our U3A year is now in full swing and our study groups are well underway. This year we plan to have some extra short term or occasional groups as well as our regular monthly ones. One such is already underway - Pop-up swimming. The next swim and shared lunch at French Bay is scheduled for Tuesday 10th March, from about 11.30 am. It's a great way to exercise and socialise. If you are interested in joining in, please ring Heather on **818 8809** or email heathertanguay@slingshot.co.nz or contact Dianne Deverell on dianneu3atgn@gmail.com.

The keynote speaker at our January meeting was our own Bruce Harvey, who gave us an enthusiastic and fascinating background to his new publication "Te Haerenga - The Journey: the 100,000 year journey to Aotearoa". We'll have another stellar speaker lineup for our meeting on Tuesday 25 February. Peter Nash, who convenes our Genealogy and Mah Jong groups, will be our member speaker on genealogy and family history and will ask if you should be worried researching via the computer. And he'll discuss the potential side effects of DNA testing.

Our guest speaker will be Annie Tausi on fitness, balance and strength education for seniors. "What's the first thing we lose when we get older," asks Annie. "Answer: Balance, followed by memory." She has a tremendous story to tell, following a major health event in 2016 when she woke up in Auckland City Hospital with her last memory being that of taking an aqua Zumba class three days earlier. A fit non-smoker, non-drinker, Annie recovered and now runs brain function classes dealing with memory loss, balance and cognitive issues.

We are having more and more people look at our Facebook page - Titirangi U3A. If you haven't yet, do have a look as we regularly post interesting photos that you may not otherwise get to see.

Another reminder that the \$30 subscription for 2020 is due by the 29th of February. Most people have already paid - thank you very much. Your membership is automatically renewed as long as the subscription is paid on time. After the due date, you will need to re-apply to belong. Applications are processed in the the order in which they are received. This year we have had an unprecedented number of new enquiries and we are just about at the maximum number of members which our branch can accommodate.

If you are paying your subscription by internet banking, please make sure you have recorded our new bank account number **12-3034-0162597-00**. This is a different bank and account number from the one we had this time last year. The old account is closed and we do not receive any funds directed to it.

We look forward to seeing you at West Lynn Gardens for our meeting at 1.00 pm on Tuesday 25th February. Are you aware that as regular users of the beautiful West Lynn Gardens, you are welcome to free entry to the grounds at the time of our meetings?

STUDY GROUPS REPORT FEBRUARY 2020

MAH JONG

Convenor: Peter Nash **Ph:** 817-3520

We welcome both beginners and experienced players of Mah Jong to join. Our intention is to share knowledge and learn together.

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Monday of the month

Time: 1.30 pm

Next meetings: 2 March

Venue: Green Bay

QUIZ

Convenor: Ann Whitehouse **Ph:** 816-8812

In November we squeezed in an extra meeting and had a very sociable evening. Thirteen of us met for a delicious meal at Bricklane before doing the quiz. Our 2 teams were neck and neck with each other all evening, coming 5th and 6th out of 10 teams.

Meetings: 1st Monday of the month

Time: 6.45pm for 7pm start

Next meeting: 3 March

Venue: Bricklane, New Lynn

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Convenor: Pauline Jennings **Ph:** 817-7281/027-2786146

The new Music Appreciation group had its inaugural meeting first week in February. The members discussed what they wanted to get from the group and were delighted to find their musical tastes in common. Pauline then presented a programme of music influenced by Christianity, starting with Gregorian chant and moving through 18th century Bach, Handel and Wesley to today's Gospel music and New Orleans jazz funeral music.

Next meeting is in April.

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month

Time: 10am

Next meeting: to be confirmed

Venue: Titirangi

CHESS

Convenor: Colin Whitehouse **Ph:** 816-8812

In January the group were pleased to welcome our new member Philip Gedge to the group. The group did an in-depth analysis of a game in which the black side employed the French defence, - MacCutcheon variation. Then we looked at a game played by the two Russian grandmasters, Yefim Geller and Lev Polugayevsky. In February our group analysed a number of miniature games where one player made a significant mistake. The group challenge was to identify the mistake and calculate how to gain a winning advantage because of it.

The group also welcomed Pauline McCallum as a new member.

Meetings: 1st Wednesday of the month

Time: 10am

Next meeting: 4 March

Venue: Green Bay

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 1

Convenor: Rose Vivien **Ph:** 817-8712

Group members reported back about their holiday reading; a wide range of books including fiction, non-fiction including historical travel, with both humorous and serious themes.

A great start to our meetings for 2020!

In March, we'll be reporting back about a trilogy we've been reading.

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month

Time: 1.30pm

Next meeting: 5 March **Venue:** New Lynn

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 2

Convenor: Shirley Kirby

Ph: 021 205 8999

The group met on the 1st November, first to discuss arrangements and agenda for 2020, and then to indulge ourselves in a feast of recent award-winning authors from Aotearoa/New Zealand. Books reviewed tended to focus on historical events and social commentary ranging from the exquisite coffee table book, 'Tatau' on the history and style of Samoan Tatau, through the history of Pacific Films, two of Fiona Kidman's novels highlighting issues and attitudes of the mid-20th century, to a recent text examining the concept of Turangawaewae. One of the Huia Short Stories compilation, Kate Duigan, and Sam Moore's tongue in cheek look at 'Kiwis were also presented.

December's meeting was held as a luncheon at Chikos on Lincoln Rd to conclude the year. Although magazines were the topic for the day, the enjoyment of catching up on one another's lives and plans for the holidays saw the time rapidly vanish. The food was delicious, and the company convivial.

This year two new members have been welcomed. The group met on February 7th with 7 in attendance to share the Summer Reading programme of Around the World in Four Books. Readers chose a direction to travel, ensuring that the last destination was back home. Members visited not only a wide range of places and genre but also times. A book presented which local people may enjoy is "**Auckland Architecture; a Walking Guide**" by **John Walsh & Patrick Reynolds 2019**, complete with guide maps.

Meetings: 1st Friday of the month

Time: 1.30pm

Next meeting: 6 March

Venue: Te Atatu South

NZ AND LOCAL HISTORY

Convenor: Bruce Deverell

Ph: 214-6485/027-4770266

This is a new group dedicated to NZ and local history and will visit sites and museums

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month

Time: 10.30am

Next meeting: 9 March

Venue: New Lynn

GENEALOGY

Convenor: Peter Nash

Ph: 817-3520

A helpful group for genealogists, both experienced and beginners.

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month

Time: 10am

Next meeting: 11 March

Venue: Green Bay

ART APPRECIATION

Convenor: Larrie Millett

Ph: 816-8754

The group met at the Auckland City Art Gallery on February 12th. A superb exhibition of Louise Henderson's impressive work through the decades. Our docent was excellent informing us of the various stages of her work. A very well worthwhile visit.

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month
(unless otherwise advised)

Time: 10.30am

Next meeting: 11 March

Venue: Sanderson Gallery in Newmarket

SCRABBLE

Convenor: Judy Cronin

Ph: 626-6390

We do have a vacancy or two so if you are keen on language and spelling skills and enjoy learning a new game then join up!

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month

Time: 1pm

Next meeting: 12 March

Venue: Blockhouse Bay

CREATIVE WRITING

Convenor: Pam Sellers

Ph: 817-2176

The Creative Writing Study Group had their first meeting of 2020 on Valentine's Day, but that's not what we wrote about! The assignment we were to bring on Friday was about Insects. As usual, the wide variety of ideas on this topic was both fascinating and funny.

Meetings: 2nd Friday of the month

Time: 11am

Next Meeting: 13 March

Venue: Green Bay

FILM FANCIERS

Convenor: Pat Labrum

Ph: 827-2415

The December outing was to see "Knives Out", a star-studded murder mystery at the Lynnmall Reading Theatre. Eight members attended and thoroughly enjoyed a classic whodunit with its many twists and turns. Lunch followed at Mosaic with much discussion of the trail of the many clues to help the viewer solve who had executed the murder.

Only five of our members came to see The Peanut Butter Falcon at the Flicks in Titirangi, on Friday 14 February. It was an amazing story of a young Downs Syndrome man and his journey to a new life. A heart-warming and happy film thoroughly enjoyed by us all. Followed by enthusiastic discussion over lunch with live music at the Base in Titirangi.

Meetings: 2nd Friday of the month (unless otherwise confirmed)

Time: to be confirmed

Next meeting 13 March

Venue to be confirmed

TRAVEL GROUP

Convenor: Heather Tanguay

Ph: 818-8809

A group interested in all things travel

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month

Time: 10am

Next meetings 18 February/17 March

Venue: Glen Eden

ETHNIC CUISINE/DINING

Convenor: Eileen Howard

Ph: 8278100/0211789562

For our final meeting of 2019 we went on a bus trip. Brent picked us up from Kelston Community Centre carpark and drove us northwest. Our first stop was at Woodhill Forest, where we viewed the tree-top walk and bike trails. Then we went on to Helensville for tea and coffee by the river, on a viewing platform.

We next visited Frech Orchards Estate, where we were all tempted by Chrissy's Natural Preserves; an amazing array of jams and preserves made on the estate. After a lovely walk in the orchard, we headed for our lunch destination at Shelly Beach, on the Kaipara Harbour. It was a glorious day, so we ate our fish & chips al fresco, at The Jetty Licensed Cafe.

On the way home, we stopped at Kumeu for yummy ice creams. All in all, a wonderful day, with great weather, great company and great food.

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month

Time: to be confirmed

Next meeting 20 February

Venue: to be confirmed

BUS ADVENTURES

Convenor: Eileen Howard

Ph: 021-1789562

This group explores different places in and around Auckland

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday (March, May, August)

Time 9am

Next meeting 18 March To be confirmed

Venue Kelston Community Centre (meeting place)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Convenor: Val Wike **Ph:** 827-8693

In November our topic was the Catalan separatist movement in Spain and the recent protests. We watched a video “What’s behind the Catalan movement for independence” which explored the long history of the Catalonia desire for independence. We had a lively discussion on the history of Catalonia, the current issues for both Catalonia and Spain, and the recent convictions and harsh sentences ranging from 9-13 years in prison for sedition of those involved in the independence referendum of a couple of years ago.

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month

Time: 10am

Next meetings: 20 February

Venue: New Lynn

Bus route: 170/171/172

HISTORY

Convenor: Colin Whitehouse **Ph:** 816-8812

In November the group watched an excellent video entitled “The Mandate of Heaven” which explored the effect that the three philosophies of Confucianism, Teoism and Buddhism had on the development and action of the Chinese over the decades. In January the group investigated the history of The Opium Wars in China during the 19th century, - their causes and aftermaths. A first video briefly covered the “battles, their dates and what resulted from them. A second video went into much greater depth, comparing the histories of China and the Western world and how their differing approaches to philosophy, government and science resulted in China being little prepared for a western invasion from the sea.

Meetings: 4th Monday of the month

Time: 10.30am

Next meeting: 24 February

Venue: Green Bay

OPERA APPRECIATION

Convenor: Kate Methven **Ph:** 817-9804

Our final meeting for 2019 was held on the 22nd November and we were all able to enjoy a subtitled documentary about the Bavarian State Opera, Ganz Grosse Opera. We were privileged to learn about all the people involved in their different productions which could number up to 45 annually. We were surprised to learn that about 600 people worked in order to maintain the company. It was wonderful to listen to Jonas Kaufmann, Kirill Petrenko and Zubin Mehta and see the personalities of such musicians in action. This was a great way to end another year and we finished with lunch and chocolates in the Pinesong cafe. Thank you, Kate, for leading us on the journey. We all look forward to 2020. New members are welcome to join us.

Meetings: 4th Friday of the month

Time: 10am

Next meeting: 28 February

Venue: Matai Room, Pinesong

MYTHS, LEGENDS & FAIRY TALES

Convenor: Pam Sellers **Ph:** 817-2176

The Myths, Legends, Fairy Tales group had the final meeting for the year in November. First, we had a delicious, shared and festive morning tea, with contributions from each of us. We then moved on to our study topic for this meeting, which was for each of us to share relevant information on one of these topics: Christmas, Yule, Festival of Lights, Summer Solstice or any other seasonal subject, and since we were all reporting, keep it brief. Such a wonderful variety of ideas came to us this way. We even sang! Most of these little reports concerned Christmas in some way, including the intriguing idea that Coca Cola is responsible for our modern image of Santa Claus!! We had two Solstice reports, including a pre-1300 century item recounting how dragons get very excited on the Midsummer Solstice and fly around up there mating. This item also included how to get rid of those dragons.

Meetings: 4th Friday of the month

Time: 10.30am

Next meeting: 28 February

Venue: Green Bay

WALKS AND TALKS

Convenor: Marcia Clarke **Ph:** 817-4079

10 of us including 2 new members enjoyed an hour and a half walk along Henderson Creek on a hot sunny day, stopping at points of interest along the way, followed by coffee and lunches at the Corban estate.

Ann Whitehouse will convene this group for a few months while Marcia continues her recovery

Meetings: 3rd Friday of the month

Time: 10am

Next meeting: 21 February

Venue: (to be confirmed)

STUDY GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

Kia Ora and Welcome!

We expect that there will be many exciting things happening in our groups this year and we warmly welcome all of our new Titirangi Branch members in joining us in our studies, activities and adventures.

We hope you have enjoyed reading the group reports above and gained some understanding of each group. You can enquire about and enrol for a group at any branch meeting: or you should contact me, your Study Group Co-ordinator, preferably at my email address below. It is always helpful for me if you introduce yourself to me at the end of a branch meeting, particularly if you have any questions. Remember that each U3A Titirangi branch member is expected to belong to and participate in at least one study group. Some of you have already been allocated your chosen groups, although sometimes your name has been placed on the Waiting List for a group that you have requested. Your convenor will invite you when a space becomes available.

The committee has approved the following additional study or activity groups this year: **Aspects of NZ and Local History, Bus Adventures and Music Appreciation** ...and of course our **Pop-Up Swimming Group** meeting at French Bay in February and March. We are sorry that we have closed our Economics, Latin American Studies and Music Live groups. I know that some of our new members have expressed interest in these groups, and so maybe in the future we can find new convenors and re-establish these or similar groups.

We always welcome new groups and convenors. If you have knowledge or skills that you are willing to share or suggestions about new groups, please talk with me.

This year Jan George has taken on the role of compiling the group reports for the newsletter and I really welcome her help and support. My thanks to Val Wike (our new branch Secretary), who has done wonderful work in presenting these reports with all the up-to-date information.

Thank you, Convenors. Your role is such a valued one.

Dianne Deverell, Study Group Co-ordinator Email: dianne.u3atgn@gmail.com