

# NEWSLETTER - JULY 2020



## *Tītirangi*

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Welcome to our first full newsletter since the lockdown.

It seems most of our members were looking forward to getting together again, as we had a turnout of 50 at the June meeting. Our speakers in June were Bev and Julian Cole who were unfortunately caught on a cruise ship during the lockdown, sounds like the entertainment and cocktails saved the day .....

If you had a really interesting or unusual experience during lockdown, you may like to share it as our ten minute speaker at the general meeting. If so contact Moira at [moira@kennedy-mayne.co.nz](mailto:moira@kennedy-mayne.co.nz)

Message from the UK:

British U3A member Louise Moss has started a website called Writers Against Covid-19 and would welcome others sharing their short stories with her to help those feeling as she did when asked by the government to stay home for several months. "I live alone and within days, I felt depressed, lonely and cut off from society. I wondered if I could help others who felt the same, she says.

She now publishes new stories daily - particularly suited to older people - to bring a smile to readers' face and lift their spirits.

You can contact her on email: [lmosswriter@yahoo.com](mailto:lmosswriter@yahoo.com) or see the site on <http://www.louisemoss.com>

With winter chills still with us you're sure to have a heart-warming experience with our July meeting guest speaker, John Cowan.

John's background is communication, social work, public speaking and writing, and his skills extend through regular television spots, live audience performances, and radio (for the past 15 years on NewstalkZB's Sunday night top-rating interview show, Real Life.) His writing features in myriad magazines, manuals and books and he was the Creative Producer for the highly regarded 'Parenting Place' for 20 years.

He's also been a hospital scientist in neurophysiology, youth worker and minister. His speciality topic is family life, especially the opportunities and challenges of grandparenting and parenting adult children.

We are privileged John has found time in his busy schedule to be our guest this month. You won't want to miss him.

Our ten minute speaker is Carole Craighead recently opted on to the Committee, with Beau Johnstone.

Sheridan presented the report on the U3A Network meeting. Heather Baigent has stepped up as President due to the resignation of Ron Wilson. Comment was made regarding other memberships dropping. We are pleased that our numbers are still at 100. Waiheke is holding an inaugural meeting in September. Members from other branches are welcome to attend.

Heather's Travel Group is holding an Open Day for her next meeting for anyone to come along. The meeting will be held at the Glen Eden RSA at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 21 July.

Heather is also talking about;

### **Pop Up Water Walking**

Keep fit in the winter, very good for knees. You do not need to be able to swim, you wear a floaty belt. We will meet in the foyer. No need for us to book special lane, the numbers have not returned to the pool. Pool and changing rooms are very clean. Cost for senior \$6.40 one off. If you like it you can get a concession card. Please let me know if you are interested, thanks Heather.

Tuesday 11th August at 10.30 am, West Wave, Henderson. [heathertanguay@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:heathertanguay@slingshot.co.nz)

For the founding members you will be interested to know that Ted Erskine-Legett is celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this month. Ted was the person who instigated the forming of Titirangi U3A in 2016. Due to health reasons he was unable to continue as President though remained on the Committee as ex-officio and became our U3A representative for some time. A card has been sent and we wish Ted all the very best.

We will be serving tea and coffee at this meeting on Tuesday 28 July. The \$2 is cancelled for further meetings till the end of the year.

We look forward to welcoming you back to West Lynn Gardens for our meeting at 1.00 pm on Tuesday 28 July.

# STUDY GROUPS REPORT – 20 JULY 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:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

**Time:** 1.30 pm

**Next meetings:** 3 August

**Venue:** Green Bay

## QUIZ

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

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month

**Time:** 6.45pm for 7pm start

**Next meeting:** 3 August

**Venue:** Bricklane, New Lynn

## MUSIC APPRECIATION

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

The Music Appreciation group is finally under way. At our July gathering, George Venemore treated us to a programme of music with a Spanish influence. We heard classics, opera, flamenco and tango. And then Chilean musician, Francisco, played and sang works by Cuban Silvio Rodriguez. Francisco explained the poetry and the complex rhythms that constitute Latin American music. An exciting way to kickstart our group.

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month

**Time:** 10am

**Next meeting:** 4 August

**Venue:** Titirangi

## CHESS

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

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month

**Time:** 10am

**Next meeting:** 5 August

**Venue:** Green Bay

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 1

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

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month

**Time:** 1.30pm

**Next meeting:** 6 August

**Venue:** New Lynn

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 2

**Convenor:** Shirley Kirby **Ph:** 021 205 8999

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month

**Time:** 1.30pm

**Next meeting:** 7 August **Venue:** Please contact the Convenor for the next venue

## NZ AND LOCAL HISTORY

**Convenor:** Bruce Deverell **Ph:** 214-6485/027-4770266

Our first topic was Polynesian Migration and Māori settlement of New Zealand and that was appropriate as our meeting occurred on the first day of Matariki. We looked at theories of migration especially the “slow” boat and the “fast” boat explanation of their transit through South-East Asia out into the Pacific using a new form of technology. We had a slide show presentation along with two short You Tube clips and these lead to lots of questions, discussion and interaction.

**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month  
**Time:** 10.30am  
**Next meeting:** 10 August  
**Venue:** New Lynn

## **GENEALOGY**

**Convenor:** Peter Nash **Ph:** 817-3520  
A helpful group for genealogists, both experienced and beginners.  
**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month  
**Time:** 10am  
**Next meeting:** 12 August  
**Venue:** Green Bay

## **ART APPRECIATION**

**Convenor:** Larrie Millett **Ph:** 816-8754  
**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month (unless otherwise advised)  
**Time:** 10.30am  
**Next meeting:** 12 August  
**Venue:** TBC

## **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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month  
**Time:** 1pm  
**Next meeting:** 13 August  
**Venue:** Blockhouse Bay

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

**Convenor:** Pam Sellers **Ph:** 817-2176  
**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month  
**Time:** 11am  
**Next Meeting:** 14 August  
**Venue:** Green Bay

## **ETHNIC CUISINE/DINING**

**Convenor:** Eileen Howard **Ph:** 8278100/0211789562  
**Meetings:** 3rd Thursday of the month  
**Time:** to be confirmed  
**Next meeting** 20 August **Venue:** to be confirmed

## **FILM FANCIERS**

**Convenor:** Pat Labrum **Ph:** 827-2415  
As a group we were still reluctant to venture out to a cinema complex. We had instead a lunch and TV discussion of what we had watched during Lock Down. This was held at Bricklane and 7 of us enjoyed the socialization aspect and top topics were The Luminaries and One Lane Bridge, both positive and negative. The latter – who was the murderer? Looking ahead to July, this is a pattern we will probably continue until such time we feel more confident about visiting a cinema.  
**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month (unless otherwise advised)  
**Time:** to be confirmed  
**Next meeting** 14 August  
**Venue** to be confirmed

## TRAVEL GROUP

**Convenor:** Heather Tanguay **Ph:** 818-8809

Due to not knowing about venues at the time the meeting was set, we decided to continue with the Glen Eden RSA as a venue. We opened the meeting to other U3A members to come as visitors and 3 decided to come and join us.

Everyone was very pleased to be back together after lockdown.

We started the meeting with everyone having a turn to say where they would travel to in New Zealand over the remaining months in 2020. The list was very wide.

Our speaker this month was Pauline McCallum and she spoke to us about her memorable visits to Rwanda and Uganda to visit with the apes and gorillas. What a magical experience filled with adventure.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 21 July, same venue Glen Eden RSA at 10.00am. Visitors welcome. Speaker Gill Norris talking about Botswana.

Order your coffee when you arrive \$3.

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month

**Time:** 10am

**Next meetings** 21 July

**Venue:** Glen Eden

## BUS ADVENTURES

**Convenor:** Eileen Howard **Ph:** 021-1789562

This group explores different places in and around Auckland

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (March, May, August)

**Time** 9am

**Next meeting** Nothing planned

**Venue** TBC

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

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

Given that we had not met for some months we had contributions from members on topics of interest to them as well as a broad theme of the "Black Lives Matter" protests. We had an interesting discussion on Statues and whether the removal of some was justified. We considered the purpose and relevance of Statues in our world today

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month

**Time:** 10am

**Next meetings:** 20 August

**Venue:** New Lynn

**Bus route:** 170/171/172

## WALKS AND TALKS

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

Our first post lockdown walk was a short but pleasant stroll alongside Te Whau Awa, and through Archibald park where there were once potteries and brickworks of the same name. Over coffee in Humbug cafe afterwards, Shirley volunteered to lead our next walk on Friday 17th July. Details to follow

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month

**Time:** 10am

**Next meeting:** 21 August

**Venue:** (to be confirmed)

## HISTORY

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

**Meetings:** 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month

**Time:** 10.30am

**Next meeting:** 24 August

**Venue:** Green Bay

## **OPERA APPRECIATION**

**Convenor:** Kate Methven                      **Ph:** 817-9804  
**Meetings:**                      4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month  
**Time:**                              10am  
**Next meeting:**                      24 July  
**Venue:**                              Matai Room, Pinesong

## **MYTHS, LEGENDS & FAIRY TALES**

**Convenor:** Pam Sellers                      **Ph:** 817-2176  
**Meetings:**                      4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month  
**Time:**                              10.30am  
**Next meeting:**                      24 July  
**Venue:**                              Green Bay

## **Study Group Co-ordinator's Message**

Welcome back one and all to our Study Groups. Thanks to our convenors who by the nature of their Study Groups were able to maintain contacts and share tasks and activities with their members during Lockdown. Thanks also to members who contributed ideas and information for sharing with their colleagues.

We are pleased to announce that we have a new group starting in August. Julian Coles has offered to convene a Japanese Art group on the first Wednesday of the month at 1pm. This group is for those members who are interested in learning about aspects of the topic in a shared research and learning situation. The initial meeting will be a planning one. Please sign your name up on the clipboard at the meeting or email me if you want to have your name put on the list. Here is his proposal:

### **U3A STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL for JAPANESE ART**

For people interested in looking at the work of Japanese artists and painters from the 15th century.

Key figures would include SESSHU TOYO 1420-1506 - Studies in Broken ink - The Floating World and the importance of empty space KATSUSHIKA HOKUSAI 1760-1849 - 'The Great Wave' KITAGAWA UTAMARO 1753- 1806 - 'Poems of the Pillow' UTAGAWA HIROSHIGA 1797- 1858 - 'Fifty three stations of the Hokaido'

These artists among others had a profound influence on the impressionists (Van Gogh, Gauguin and Lautrec) and later modern artists. Japanese organic simplicity in buildings also inspired modern architects such as Walter Gropius and Frank Lloyd Wright A very good reference book is 'JAPAN STYLE' by Gian Carlo Calza.

Heather, our President, proposed at the start of this year to run a Water Walking group at West Wave. Heather will be able to answer any questions you may have at our July Meeting. If this group has been confirmed by then, Heather will give us the details. Add your name on the clipboards if you wish to join.

New members, sometimes it has been difficult to get you into the groups of your choice. I always do my best to ensure that you are entered into one group. However, you may need to stay on a Waiting List until a Vacancy arises. Our convenors will often invite members on the Waiting List to attend a meeting when they know in advance that a current member is unable to attend.

All members must reply to their convenor/s each month about their attendance or absence from a group. Please don't forget this expectation, as there are members waiting for a vacancy in many groups.

Enjoy being back amongst old friends or enjoy making new ones!

Dianne Deverell    Ph 214 64 85 dianne.u3atgn@gmail.com

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