



Titirangi

President: Heather Tanguay 0276995480 heathertanguay@slingshot.co.nz

Secretary: Val Wike 827 8693 wikeval@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2020

After what has been a challenging year for all of us, we are nearing the end of 2020 with positive thoughts and wishes for better times in 2021.

We will celebrate the good things we have all achieved this year with our *AGM*, entertainment and delicious afternoon tea on Tuesday, 24 November at West Lynn Gardens at the usual time of 1.00pm. Our entertainment will be provided by the wonderful Chilean musicians, Francesco and Viviana Barros.

The cost for our afternoon tea is \$15 and if you have not already paid, could you please do so online [U3A Account number 12-3086-0157159-00]. If you **do not** do online banking and will be paying by cash on the day, please let Heather know **asap** so we can include you in our catering arrangements.

A few other points which may interest you: We are looking for some additional volunteers please ... two of our U3A Committee members will be away for 3 months at the beginning of the year and we need a Catering and Housekeeping Coordinator to stand in for them. We are also still on the lookout for someone to take over as Membership Secretary for the coming year.

Of course, all our committee and a number of other members work for our group on a voluntary basis. It's a team effort and without the committee and others giving their time and talents to the benefit of all members of Titirangi U3A, we would have a less professional and convivial group catering to such a wide range of interests.

Yes, we always need more people to help out - we need a designated First Aider and wonder if there are any first aiders, nurses or doctors among our membership who are prepared to take on this role. We also need a 'techie' person to take over the electronic aspects for our General Meetings from March 2021. Our thanks to Rick Mayne for his contribution to date. Please talk to Heather if you help with either of these roles.

Other points:

- 2021 Subs are due by the end of January 2021. Contrary to info in our last newsletter we will **NOT** be taking cash payments at the *AGM*, only at the meeting on 26 January 2021. However, you can still make payment online, tagged 'Sub & (your name)'.
Membership for U3A Titirangi will be maintained at 100 for 2021.
- If you are responding to an email regarding a group activity, please ensure your response is sent to the Convenor!
- We have inserted a date against next Group meeting in the following report, however may we suggest you call the convenor to check that the meeting is going ahead on that date.

For your diary ...

- Our first meeting of 2021 will be on Tuesday, 26 January, 1.00pm at West Lynn Gardens.

And finally grab a tissue, brace yourself for an extreme case of goosebumps and watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OT8AdwVOVkw> which shows late prima ballerina Marta C. González seemingly recalling old choreography while she is wheelchair-bound and battling Alzheimer's.

See you at the AGM

Heather Tanguay (President) and your Titirangi U3A Committee

STUDY GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

This is my final report for the newsletter as I am handing over this role to Carole Craighead (carolecraighead@gmail.com) after four years keeping in touch with you all and working alongside our wonderful convenors who volunteer their time and energy into providing us with such a range of challenging and rewarding experiences. My thanks to all our convenors and to Carole.

What has impressed me so much over this time has been the friendship and real collegiality of the groups as they each follow their own pathway of learning. I feel sure that our Titirangi Branch by the nature of its size and the commitment of each member has been able to sustain really positive attitudes as people have got to know each other. Long may this supportive culture reign here!

We have, at the end of this year, 23 groups with a membership of 263. Unfortunately, we still have waiting lists for several of our groups and so I remind each member always to reply to your convenor's email about your monthly meeting and confirm your attendance or otherwise. If you fail to attend for **two** consecutive meetings and have not emailed in your apology, then your name will be taken off the list and your position offered to someone else. This is a matter of courtesy and fairness. Please help with this.

Please also remember that you must be clear in your response to the email - **reply only to your convenor**. A "reply to all" means it will go to everyone in the group including the convenor. However, you need to ensure that you are not just replying to the last person on the chain. I hope that all of us will remember to check our Spam or Junk folders if we do not receive an expected email.

At this point of writing my report for the newsletter, there are 4 spaces available on the **Bus Adventures** trip on 26th November to Mangawhai via Kaiwaka and Puhoi for anyone interested. Please email Eileen Howard on emh5116@gmail.com ASAP to check details and express your interest.

Thanks must be given as we come to this year's end to Shirley Barker-Kirby who has established so well our second **Book Group** and Peter Nash who has inspired lots of us with **Mah Jong**. We are still hoping for a new Convenor for this group. Thanks to Carol Dean-McCarroll who has been prepared to take over convenorship of the Book Group.

We always need new study groups and it would be pleasing if some other people would offer to help out with the convening of some new and interesting topics for next year. Thanks to Bev and Julian Cole getting **Japanese Style** underway (and the numbers have really increased here); and Bruce Deverell and Pauline Jennings who also have two really interesting groups. We also would love to see more members join up with **Chess**! What an opportunity to learn a new brain game!

Can you offer to take a short-term craft group? What about a language group... a te reo group? Is there anyone who could help others on the topic of climate change or the environment? A Maths group? A play reading group? A poetry group? The ideas are endless. Please talk with Carole Craighead (0274746289) if you wish to have or see a group started.

Thank you all for your support as we have worked our way through this challenging Covid 19 year. Be kind and enjoy the new learning opportunities that the Titirangi U3A committee and convenors are providing for you.

My thanks and best wishes....and I look forward to seeing you around with more time to chat!

Nga Mihi

Dianne Deverell

email: dianne.u3atgn@gmail.com

STUDY GROUPS REPORT OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

MAH JONG

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

The Mah Jong group meets twice a month. Our last session was, as usual, a very friendly session. I even won a round or two, maybe because I continued to tutor the beginner group!



Next meeting: 7 December 2020

Time: 1.00pm **Venue:** Green Bay

MUSIC APPRECIATION

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

Our November programme was put together by Peter Luker who focused on British folk music including traditional tunes and sea shanties, followed by songs from the wonderful days of the 60s and 70s. Members sang along! Thank you, Peter.

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month

Time: 10am

Next meeting: 1 December 2020 **Venue:** Titirangi



QUIZ

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

Two teams tested our memories, with an average result and a lot of fun. There will be no quiz in December but we are fitting in an extra meeting on November 24th.



Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month

Time: Quiz: 6.45pm for 7pm start

Next meeting: 24 November, with a pre quiz meal for group members **Venue:** Bricklane, New Lynn

CHESS

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

The chess group studied a game played by Jose Capablanca, the world chess champion from 1921 until 1927 and we then played two round-robin games against a computer programme. Each member takes a turn choosing a move without discussion, so each player has to work out what the purpose of the move of the previous player was. It was a lot of fun!

Meetings: 1st Wednesday of the month **Time:** 10am

Next meeting: 2 December 2020 **Venue:** Green Bay



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 1

Convenor: Rose Vivien

Ph: 816-8712

Our November meeting was the first we had been able to do in person for quite some time. It was interesting and a lot of fun. Seven of us shared poetry as well as other reading we had undertaken over the past month including NZ works, classical and modern poets as well as those we remembered from childhood and those who had made a significant impact on our lives through their writing.



Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month **Time:** 1.30pm

Next meeting: 3 December 2020 **Venue:** New Lynn or Green Bay

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 2

Convenor: Shirley Kirby

Ph: 021-2058999

Another month of being able to gather!! 5 participants met at Shirley's place on Fri, Nov 6th with 4 apologies. Book sharing was preceded, of course, by conversation regarding the state of the USA Presidential election! Today's topic was a book recommended by a friend. As usual a wide range of material and genre was introduced. A discussion regarding summer reading and 2021's agenda took place. *The group agreed to meet at a restaurant in Titirangi for end-of-year lunch on Dec 4th.*



Meetings: 1st Friday of the month **Time:** 1.30pm

Next regular meeting: 5 Feb, 2021 **Venue:** Please contact for location

Topic: Summer finds

NZ AND LOCAL HISTORY

Convenor: Bruce Deverell

Ph: 214-6485/027-4770266

This month we focussed on the NZ Intertribal Musket wars, after considering what happened pre- and post-1815 when there was a surplus of muskets after the Napoleonic Wars. We covered a range of aspects such as the effects on the Maori population, the Maori economy and we looked at a summary of the main tribal movements. We also studied the development of the gunfighter pa.

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month **Time:** 10am

Next meeting: 14 December 2020 **Venue:** Trip planned

Local history at your fingertips

GENEALOGY FOR BEGINNERS

Convenor: Peter Nash

Ph: 817-3520

The latest Genealogy group meeting for some time in October featured various attendees' research problems and made some suggestions. Consequently, we explored some Irish websites and spent some time on a problem involving a lady with the surname RABBITT.

We also explored the "PapersPast" website which now includes the NZ Police Gazettes and the AJHRs – parliament records of reports etc submitted to parliament. Attendees were also shown how to use a (free) website which enables black and white photographs to be coloured.

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month **Time:** 10am

Next meeting: 9 December 2020 **Venue:** Green Bay



ART APPRECIATION

Convenor: Larrie Millett

Ph: 816-8754

No meeting held this month

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month **Time:** 10.30am
(unless otherwise advised)

Next meeting: 9 December 2020 **Venue:** to be confirmed



SCRABBLE

Convenor: Judy Cronin

Ph: 626-6390

Although this group is currently full, you are welcome to add your name to the Waiting List if you are keen on language and spelling skills or want to enjoy learning a new game.



Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month **Time:** 1pm

Next meeting: 10 December 2020 **Venue:** Blockhouse Bay

CREATIVE WRITING

Convenor: Pam Sellers

Ph: 817-2176

No recent meetings

Meetings: 2nd Friday of the month **Time:** 11am

Next Meeting: 11 December 2020 **Venue:** Green Bay



FILM FANCIERS

Convenor: Pat Labrum

Ph: 827-2415

For our first outing since July seven members saw "Rams" this month, a delightful film starring Sam Neill and many familiar Australian actors about an outback community facing a contagious sheep disease. It included some dramatic bush fire scenes. This was followed by lunch at Bricklane and rounded off what was our final outing for 2020.



Meetings: 2nd Friday of the month (unless otherwise confirmed) **Time:** to be confirmed

Next meeting to be confirmed **Venue** to be confirmed

TRAVEL GROUP

Convenor: Heather Tanguay

Ph: 818-8809

Sheridan convened the meeting in the absence of Heather and Jerry who were away travelling naturally!

11 members attended and we started with everyone saying something in the language of a country they had visited. That took us to such far off lands as Italy, India, Germany etc.

Our main speaker, Yvonne, took us on an informative, adventurous, and often hilarious trip around NZ as she 'camped' in her Subaru station wagon. Who needs O/S travel when there is so much to take in right here?!

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month **Time:** 10am

Next meetings 15 December 2020 **Venue:** Glen Eden RSA



BUS ADVENTURES

Convenor: Eileen Howard

Ph: 021-1789562

Nine of our group enjoyed a good trip to Thames. We had morning tea beside the miniature railway, then did some sightseeing a little way up the coast and around the town. We stopped at the war memorial monument on the hill, and at the art gallery in the historic Tararu Rd school building. Lunch was at the Aeroview café, garden centre and gift shop. We headed home after sherry and port tasting.

Meetings: 3rd and 4th Wednesday (NOTE: changed to Thursday for next meeting/s)

Time 9am

Next meetings 26 November and 3 December 2020 to Mangawhai via Puhoi

Venue Kelston Community Centre (meeting place)



ETHNIC CUISINE/DINING

Convenor: Eileen Howard

Ph: 021-1789562

Our group appreciated being able to go out and eat together again. Seven of us met at Le Petit Bocal French restaurant in Sandringham Road, and thoroughly enjoyed the food and the company.

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month **Time:** to be confirmed

Next meeting 19 November 2020 **Venue:** Zeki's, Henderson



CURRENT AFFAIRS

Convenor: Val Wike

Ph: 827-8693

Members had an interesting range of topics for discussion at our October meeting. These ranged from consumerism, obesity and the food industry, potential coronavirus vaccines and their accessibility, misinformation, and natural medications. We concluded with morning tea and general discussion.

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month **Time:** 10am

Next meetings: 19 November 2020

Venue: New Lynn (Bus route: 170/171/172)



WALKS AND TALKS

Convenor: Ann Whitehouse

Ph: 816-8812

We had a lovely walk in dappled shade along the historic Exhibition Drive, listening to tui and warblers, admiring the Rewarewa flowers and enjoying the views across the Manukau harbour, with a quick burst up Shaw Road to get the heart rate up, all rounded off with a delicious morning tea in Stripe cafe.

Meetings: 3rd Friday of the month **Time:** 10am

Next meeting: 20 December 2020 (a walk in 3 parts (or maybe 4!))

Venue: Eric Armishaw Reserve Coastal Pathway and Pt Chev . Beach café for lunch.
Meet at the waterfront carpark at the end of Walker Road, Point Chevalier



HISTORY

Convenor: Colin Whitehouse

Ph: 816-8812

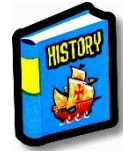
The group continued their topic on the history of India with a video on the rise of Hinduism. The video covered the basic tenets, the deities, the social effects on both politics and family life and their sacred texts. It also covered the administrative structure (or lack of it) of the religion.

Meetings: 4th Monday of the month

Time: 10.30am

Next meeting: 23 November 2020

Venue: Green Bay



OPERA APPRECIATION

Convenor: Kate Methven

Ph: 817-9804

Alison O'Grady presented us with further interesting background to Verdi and his operatic work; and gave a clear account of Act 1 of today's film of Rigoletto, which was different in that it was not staged in the theatre. This was a 1982 production directed by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, starring Ingvar Wixell (in two roles), Edita Gruberová and Luciano Pavarotti. Kate provided us with further information and ideas at the end and interesting discussions followed. Next month we will watch Acts 2 and 3. Tentative plans were made for a range of opera for 2021.

Most members then went to the Pinesong café for lunch and further enjoyable discussion.

Meetings: 4th Friday of the month

Time: 10am

Next meeting: 27 November 2020

Venue: Matai Room, Pinesong



MYTHS, LEGENDS & FAIRY TALES

Convenor: Pam Sellers

Ph: 817-2176

We met at the end of October for the first time since February. It wasn't a regular type of meeting, where someone has done research in an area of interest and presented it to the group, but instead a catch-up and debrief on what these months have been for each, and a reconnection of the group.

Meetings: 4th Friday of the month **Time:** 10.30am

Next meeting: 27 November 2020 (a festive farewell to 2020 and a chance to meet our new members)

Venue: Green Bay



JAPANESE STYLE Study Group

Convenors: Bev and Julian Cole

Ph: 021-0873223/817-8682

At our October meeting we discussed several books on Japan covering art, cookery, gardens, flower arranging, netsuke dress) and tea ceremonies. At our November meeting Lynda Carter presented the influence of Japanese artists on other artists for example Van Gogh, etc.

Meetings: 1st Wednesday of the month **Time:** 1pm

Next meeting 2 December 2020 (A social meeting as well as a member speaker. Please bring a small plate to end the meeting)

Venue: 4 Otitori Bay Rd, Titirangi

