



## September 2024 News

### GREETINGS ALL

In this issue of our newsletter you'll find:

- details of next week's general meeting
- this month's and next month's photography topics
- outings coming up
- reports about last month's meeting and the recent regional network meeting
- a new regular column "Scam of the Month" from Chuck, our own tech expert

As always there are contact details for all our interest groups at the bottom of the newsletter.

Irene Hogan is our **membership care** coordinator. If you know of any U3A member who may be unwell or going through hard times please let Irene know.

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Tuesday 3 September 2024 10am**

**Catholic Church Hall, Kowhai St, Helensville**

**Please bring a \$2 contribution towards catering and venue costs**

**“Mini speaker” - Di Graham**

Di moved from Wellington to Helensville a couple of years ago and joined our U3A branch. She’s had a long held interest in family history and will share with us the story of her great grandfather, Ben Curno, who was born in London in 1849.

**Main speakers**

**Graeme Gillies and Brian Lacey**

**- Kumeu Brass Band**

Graeme and Brian will talk to us about their experiences as brass band members.

**Feel free to bring a guest**

**THIS MONTH’S PHOTOGRAPHY THEME - WATER**

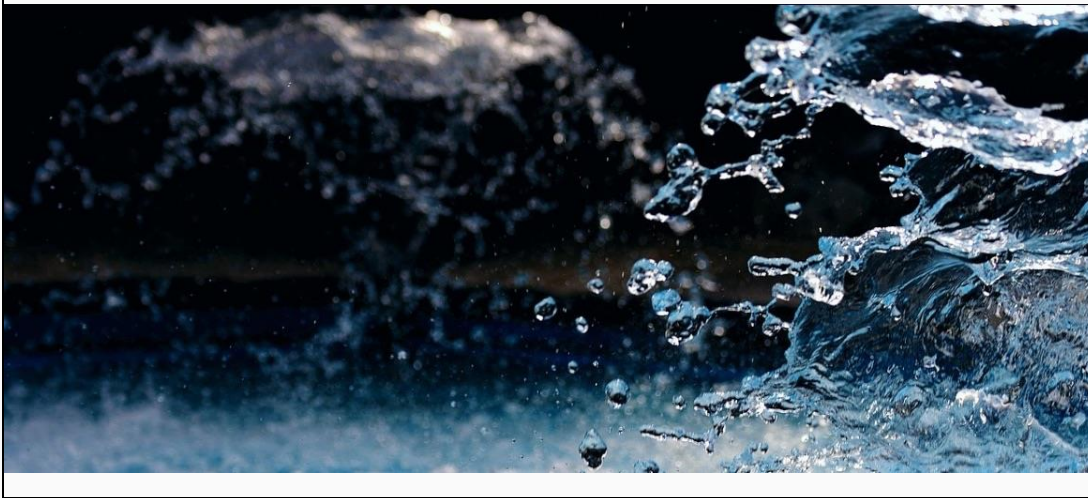
**Send in a photo for display at the September meeting.**

**Email to Pam Muirhead:**

**Last day to submit: Friday 30th August**

Get your water photo to Pam urgently for next week’s display. (Please note Pam’s new email address above.) It was great to see the range of ideas members came up with for last month’s footwear photos. This time your photo should relate in some way to the theme of water, and as always should be taken on a mobile phone.

Get your thinking caps on for next month. The topic will be “hats without heads”. Due in by Friday, 27th September.



**Notice from "Out n About" Co-ordinator  
UP-COMING OUTINGS**

**Daytime Concert presented by 'Operatunity'**

**Thurs 3 Oct**

**Warkworth Town Hall 11am - 12:30 to 12:45pm**

"The Romance of Europe - from Edith Piaf in French salons, German oop pah and Italian serenades, our romantic music will evoke the passion of Europe"

\$39 (1 - 4 tckts) \$37 (5+tckts)

Car-pooling, details tbc.

N.B. Your name and car-pool offer / request to Doreen Hogan by Sunday evening 8 Sept (txt or e-mail [02722054044](tel:02722054044) / [dmhogan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dmhogan@xtra.co.nz))

Bookings made on Mon 9th Sept - seats sell out fast!

\$ to Doreen by 16 Sept (details tbc)

**Invitation from Kaukapakapa Garden Club:**

**Bus trip on Wed 6 Nov**

**"Sweet Gum Cottage" - Linda Hallinan's garden at Hunua**

Cost about \$30 (tbc)

Interested? Contact U3A committee member Pam Muirhead ([0211379467](tel:0211379467)) for further details and to book your seat on the bus

## AT THE AUGUST MEETING

We were hosted at the Fire Station by Dave Fowler and Chontelle Asiata-Jones of the Helensville Volunteer Fire Brigade. Both Dave and Chontelle were so informative and very generous with their time. After Dave and Chontelle's talk and question time, members were taken to view the fire appliances and all the equipment on board. Some even got to go for a ride. I know everyone there felt grateful for the wonderful service the dedicated volunteer firefighters provide in our community.





### **Scam of the month.... By Chuck Rademacher**

I'm being bombarded with so many scams lately, that it's difficult to select our first scam of the month. So, I'll tell you about the one that irritates me the most.

This scam can show up in an email, but more often you will just see it as a pop-up ad in your browser. There are a lot of variations involved, so I will create a composite to describe it.

Firstly, it uses images and supposed interviews with local and international celebrities such as Mike Hosking, Clark Gayford, Suzie Aiken, Simon Barnett, Hilary Barry, John Campbell and others.

The typical scam goes something like this (using John Campbell as an example).

John is being interviewed and supposedly the "government" has shut down the interview because what John is talking about could destroy the entire NZ tax structure. John is making so much money trading bitcoins that he will be able to quit working. Supposedly, the government is preventing John from telling too many people about this because nobody will be paying taxes in the future.

The scam is asking you to pay \$495 to enable you to trade bitcoins, which is totally unnecessary. You WILL lose the \$495. More importantly, the scammer has your credit card details and you will lose a lot more.

As the sergeant on Hill Street Blues use to say.... Be careful out there!!

### **U3A Annual Regional Gathering 27 July 2024**

**Doreen Hogan attended the July event held by the U3A Auckland regional network, alongside members from all over Auckland.**

### Here is her report:

Did you know that, as Aucklanders, we are living in the fourth most diverse city in the world (defined by percentage of population born overseas : 43%), ahead of Sydney, London, Melbourne (35 – 38%), L.A., New York (23 – 27%) ?  
Or that our city footprint is comparable to that of London?

These are some of the myriad of facts and figures given by Paul Spoonley at the Regional U3A Network Gathering in July. Along with Sir Ashley Bloomfield (who needs no introduction), Paul Spoonley was a keynote speaker at that gathering. A Professor Emeritus at Massey University at Palmerston North, Paul's specialist area is Social Change and Demography, and how this impacts policy decisions at the political level.

He told us that our city is super-sized and super-diverse and will continue to be so. By the 2030's, 75% of Aotearoa's population will live in the top half of the North Island, with 40% in Auckland. Auckland will see 50-60% of the future growth of NZ's population. This growth is being driven by immigration, not birthrate. Auckland is really a different city to the rest of NZ!

Paul Spoonley would "dearly love" for NZ to develop a location policy – and do planning to deal with all this growth. He has written lots of papers for Government but got nowhere! He blames the three year electoral cycle.

Sir Ashley Bloomfield spoke on : "Public Trust in Aotearoa NZ: where are we at and how do we strengthen public trust to build social capital and social cohesion?"  
Trust has two dimensions - between people and in institutions (Govt, private sector, civil society, media). For example in the 1st Covid lockdown New Zealanders showed a high level of both dimensions of trust.

He discussed current trust levels as shown in respected international surveys, and mentioned factors influencing trust.

Business scored higher than Government; journalists less so ( a matter of concern, as journalists are the Fourth Estate, an important part of the balance of power in a healthy democracy). Teachers, scientists, neighbours also ranked highly. Sir Ashley suggested that governments do better to tell the people what they (govt) don't know, explain why when changes occur, and be upfront about mistakes and remedies. Journalists catastrophise too much! No institution is trusted to integrate technological innovation into society.

On Sir Ashley Bloomfield's wish list : Government Cross-Party Consensus - a must to move forward!

Slipped in between the main speakers, like 'little sweet treats', were four mini-

speakers who were volunteers from various local U3As. They gave us food for thought on :

- Time (as in geological time revealed in rock formations)
- Refugee Journey (NZ's settlement programme and the difficulties it helps refugees overcome)
- Adoption (Laws past and present and the profound effects they have had on people's lives)
- Girton College – Women's College at Cambridge (Speaker wove together her recent Summer School experience there, with the history of the College and of women's access to University education and Degree status)

I must also mention the pleasant setting, smooth organisation, satisfying individual lunch boxes and lots of conversation ... altogether, a very enjoyable and stimulating Saturday!

Put the 2025 Regional Gathering on your 'To Do' list for next year – now!?!



### **KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOUR**

Congratulations to our March speaker, Orquidea Tamayo Mortera, for being recognised as an Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for her services in diversional and recreational therapy, and education. When Orquidea came to our meeting her enthusiasm had us laughing and moving. She has helped develop the diversional and recreational therapy profession in New Zealand



Covid is still active in our area. Please feel comfortable about wearing a mask at our meetings if you wish to.



2024 Kaipara College & Helensville District High School  
**CENTENARY**  
20 - 21 September, 2024

To find out more about the Centenary visit [kaipara.school.nz](http://kaipara.school.nz)

The first edition of our Centenary Newsletter is available. Read on our website.

Details on how to sign up to our mailing list to receive the Centenary Newsletter can be found on our website.

**AVAILABLE NOW**

Were you once a student at Kaipara College or involved in some way? Please keep the September centenary dates in mind. More information at [kaipara.school.nz](http://kaipara.school.nz)

**CURRENT INTEREST GROUPS**

Interest groups are the great strength of U3A. As members we step up and convene small groups that offer rich opportunities for growing knowledge, skills and friendships. The following interest groups are offered by our members for our members. If you are a current U3A member and are interested in knowing more about a group feel free to contact the convenors direct. If you would like to join U3A South Kaipara or renew your membership please contact

Bev Silvester-Clark (Chair) [0274316205](tel:0274316205) [bev.s-c@outlook.com](mailto:bev.s-c@outlook.com) or Gloria Middleditch (Membership Coordinator ) [021 165-8428](tel:0211658428) [jandgmiddleditch@outlook.com](mailto:jandgmiddleditch@outlook.com)

| Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Out and About</b><br/>Any day or time that suits<br/>Doreen Hogan</p> | <p><b>1st Tuesday General Meeting 10am</b><br/>at Catholic Church Hall<br/>Kowhai St, Helensville</p> <p>Includes<br/>Cellphone<br/>Photography<br/>Pam Muirhead</p> | <p><b>Every Wednesday 10.00</b><br/>Mahjong<br/>Janice Webster</p> | <p><b>1st Thursday 10.00</b><br/>Board games<br/>Sara Newsome</p> <p><b>Every Thursday 9 - 12</b> except 3rd Thursday<br/>Mahjong for Beginners<br/>Gloria</p> | <p><b>1st Friday 10am</b><br/>Classical Music Appreciation<br/>Bev Silvester-Clark</p> |

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|--|---|--|--|--|
|  |   |  | <b>Middleditch</b>   |  |
|  | <b>2nd Tuesday<br/>10am<br/>Shared reading<br/>Bev Silvester-<br/>Clark</b> |  | <b>Every Thursday<br/>9 - 12 except 3rd<br/>Thursday<br/>Mahjong for<br/>Beginners<br/>Gloria<br/>Middleditch</b>  |  |
| <b>3rd Monday 10am<br/>Gardening, Heather<br/>Hyland 021 829<br/>454</b> | <b>3rd Tuesday<br/>10am Ted Talks<br/>Bev Silvester-<br/>Clark</b>          | <b>3rd Wednesday<br/>2pm<br/>Book<br/>Club, Rhiannon<br/>Herrick</b> | <b>3rd Thursday 12<br/>midday<br/>Food &amp; Wine<br/>Group Gloria<br/>Middleditch</b>   |  |
| <b>4th Monday 2pm<br/>U3A<br/>Committee<br/>Meeting</b>                  |   |  | <b>Every Thursday<br/>9 - 12 except<br/>3rd Thursday<br/>Mahjong for<br/>Beginners<br/>Gloria<br/>Middleditch</b><br><br><b>4th Thursday 2-<br/>4pm<br/>NZ History<br/>Tony Silvester-<br/>Clark</b> | <b>Last Friday of<br/>month 10am<br/>Needles and<br/>Stitches<br/>Wendy Daniel</b> |

**More about our interest groups.**

**Classical Music Appreciation**

1st Friday of the month 10.00-12.00

**Convenor:** Bev Silvester-Clark.

At each meeting one of us talks about a piece of music they enjoy, why it appeals, its composer and the historical context. Then we listen to it on You Tube, and discuss our experience. There is no obligation to be a presenter. You are very welcome to just come along and enjoy the music with us. New members welcome.

**Shared reading**

2nd Tuesday of month 10.00-12.00

**Convenor:** Bev Silvester-Clark

In **Shared Reading** we read a short story out loud together and reflect on what it evokes for each of us.

### **Board Games**

1st Thursday of month 10am

**Convenor:** Sara Newsome

**Venue:** Huapai

Our Board Games group is for people who like playing board games, who like getting together and who like having fun. Playing board games extends knowledge, keeps the mind active and builds relationships.

We have a range of around a dozen games to choose from which range from simple Tri-Ominos through to the word-building game of Scrabble. We have games that require quick thinking, games that require deliberation, games that draw on memory and games that require recognition of patterns.

### **Needles and Stitches.**

Last Friday of month 10.00-12.00

**Convenor:** Wendy Daniel

This is a group of like minded people interested in knitting, patchwork ,crochet, embroidery, appliqué or any sort of sewing or mending who like to meet in a casual atmosphere for a couple of hours or so each month. There is room for about 6-8 people and space for a person to bring a sewing machine.

### **NZ History**

4th Thursday 2.00-4.00

**Convenor** – Tony Silvester-Clark This is a monthly self-study group where members pursue their line of interest through reading and sharing their discoveries and learning in the group. As an adjunct to this activity we also arrange guest speakers, view other media (films, documentaries, theatre), organize site visits (trips – local and further afield).

### **Out n About**

**Convenor:** Doreen Hogan As ideas of places, shows or movies to go to arise, Doreen is available to organise a group trip. Do contact her if you have an idea for such an outing.

### **Gardening**

3rd Monday 10.00

**Convenor:** Heather Hyland

**Venue:** Varies

Our group focuses on practical gardening and knowledge sharing. The group includes a wide range of experience levels and garden styles. We meet at each other's homes or occasionally at a garden centre cafe. Over coffee we report back on the month's gardening, ask for any advice, and share friendship and laughter as well as surplus plants.

**Ted talks** (currently full)

3rd Tuesday 10.00-12.00

**Convenor:** Bev Silvester-Clark

**Purpose:** To stimulate our minds and provide the opportunity to learn something new or expand existing knowledge by watching a TED talk together. The group offer free and open discussion on the topic chosen by a different member of the group each time. We find we discuss many aspects of not only the topic but other areas that it directs us to move to. It is a fun group where we often laugh together and learn a lot from the collective background of everyone.

### **Book Club**

3rd Wednesday 2.00-3.00

**Convenor:** Rhiannon Herrick We have an enthusiastic group of readers. We follow a simple format where each person gives a brief description of a book read recently. This has become a rich resource for reading ideas for the members. A list of the books presented is then shared by email and some books are passed on to others. We usually have about 8 attending and our hour long meeting goes by very quickly.

### **Mahjong**

10.00-12.00 every Wednesday

**Convenor:** Janice

Webster

Apart from lockdowns this keen group has been meeting weekly for three years. We welcome learners.

### **Food/Wine Group**

Lunch 3rd Thursday each month

**Convenor.** Gloria Middleditch

**Venue:** Various restaurants and eateries

We comprise of between 8-15 persons enthusiastically coming together from very varied backgrounds to learn about and enjoy foods or wines from around the world that are available or made in NZ. There are a few interesting older buildings that have been repurposed from homes or business' now adapted for use as a restaurant with very interesting histories. We can carpool if necessary all to be organised through Gloria Middleditch

### **Mahjong for Beginners**

This group meets from 9am until noon every Thursday, except for the 3rd Thursday of the month. For more information phone Gloria

**Convenor:** Gloria Middleditch

### **Cellphone Photography**

**Convenor:** Pam Muirhead

Optional part of the General meeting 1st Tuesday of the month

**Venue:** Catholic Church Hall, Kowhai Street

For anybody interested in impromptu snapshots captured on your cellphone. A topic is provided for the month and people will take a photo related to that topic and submit it to Pam by email or messenger etc. The photos will be printed and displayed at the monthly meeting.



**Warm wishes,**

**U3A Sth Kaipara Committee**

Bev Silvester-Clark Chair

Tony Silvester-Clark Treasurer

Noeline Sheldon Secretary

Gloria Middleditch

Doreen Hogan

Pam Muirhead

Linda Cameron

Jackie Pillay

Irene Hogan

Heather Hyland

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