

March 2021



Guest Speaker
Professor Alison Jones

Title: This Pakeha life
– an unsettled memoir

Professor Alison Jones' latest book *This Pākehā Life: An Unsettled Memoir* has had rave reviews. An outline states: “This book is about my making sense here, of my becoming and being Pākehā. Every Pākehā becomes a Pākehā in their own way, finding her or his own meaning for that Māori word. This is the story of what it means to me. I have written this book for Pākehā – and other New Zealanders – curious about their sense of identity and about the ambivalences we Pākehā often experience in our relationships with Māori.” Alison will talk with us about the process of writing her memoir, and the sticky question of Māori-Pākehā relationships today.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Hello members,

I am so impressed with the speed with which Garry was able to set us up for our Webinar, replacing our monthly meeting, cancelled because of Covid19 Lockdown (number 4!). Our scheduled speaker preferred to postpone

his talk for later in the year, and Sheryl Coyle stepped in, also at the last moment, to present a session on India. A good number of members were able to log in and enjoy this session, and judging from comments the Committee has received, it was a enjoyed very much. So our grateful thanks go to Garry and to Sheryl for their great work.

Unfortunately, many SIG groups also missed out on meeting during March, although I believe some had some innovative ways of catching up. Now that we are down to Lockdown 1, all the meetings at the Heart of the Bays (the community centre) are all-go again.

Like many of you, I have spent some time with my eyes on my television, watching the America's Cup racing duals, which ended very satisfactorily as far as I am concerned. I read that many people in the World – especially Italy – are dumbfounded at scenes of joyous New Zealanders shoulder to shoulder cheering on the race, as Italians transition into another total lockdown due to a third phase of Covid19. So that we try to avoid getting to this stage, we will continue to record all visitors and members to our April meeting.

Val Lloyd President

NOTICES

Autumn Twilight meetings

We have a new initiative of offering an open series of evening presentations on the **fifth** week of March and the **second** and **fourth** Tuesdays in April and May. These will be held in the **Sherwood Room at the Heart of the Bays** (formerly the Browns Bay Community Centre). Meeting runs from 6.30 to 8.30pm. There will be two presentations

each evening with a tea break in between. The presenters are members of various SIG groups and the topics vary widely.

Tuesday March 30

- Special effects for the stage show Aladdin by Stu Russell
- Imagery in literature by Glen Plaistowe

Tuesday April 13

- My Camino by Sheryl Coyle
- The elimination of small pox from the planet by Fay Weatherley

Tuesday 27th April

- Waterways of England and Wales Heather Howarth
- Spanish Armada Fay Weatherly

At this hour of day parking will not be an issue but space is limited in the Sherwood Room so it's advisable to get there in good time to get a seat.

Noticeboard

The Committee will be trialing a noticeboard at our main meeting for health and welfare information sent to the club over the previous month that is of potential interest to club members. Last month we received a brochure on macular degeneration that will be posted on the board. This will not include information of a purely commercial nature such as advertising material from retirement villages.

Special Interest Groups

All members should be part of at least one special interest group. If there is a talk on in one of the groups that you would like to attend phone the convener and see whether they are happy for you to attend.

Special Interest Groups at another U3A

Members visiting a SIG at another U3A may be required to make a payment at the discretion of that SIG group.

New Inquiries to join U3A

If you know anyone who is interested in joining our U3A, please pass their names onto our Membership Liaison Myfanwy Van Hoffen. Your committee has prepared a whole “interest pack” for any such inquiries. Myfanwy’s contact may be made through this website.

Closure of Community Centre (Heart of the Bays)

Many of you will know that as from 15 March, East Coast Library services will temporarily locate in the Community Centre building. It is expected that the library refurbishment will take about five months. This will only affect two SIGs and they have been notified of a room change.

SIG REPORTS

Active Travellers _No report this month

Archaeology

“The Dig” is a recently released film about the excavation of a seventh century grave site at Sutton Hoo by Basil Brown. Although the film was fairly accurate, today Fay’s talk filled in the some of the gaps in the narrative concerning the treasures that were found – the pattern welded sword [the owner was probably left-handed], the

helmet, reconstructed from its shattered remains, the purse lid, the massive silver platter, and so on. Edith Pretty, the landowner gave all 263 found objects to the British Museum where they are now on display. There are several good video clips on Youtube about Sutton Hoo if you want more.

Art History

This month's session focused on the work of Hiroshige, the Japanese woodblock print artist of the nineteenth century. We looked at a selection of prints from the series *100 famous views of Edo*. Hiroshige's art combined Japanese artistic traditions with ideas borrowed from Western art. Along with Hokusai, he helped make the landscape an important genre within Japanese art.

Art Potpourri

The Marshall Gallery In Orewa, which displays a large variety of works by many notable established NZ artists, was the venue this month. Sally, the owner was our impromptu guide, helpfully explaining about the background of some of the artists and the techniques and media they use. Some examples of what we saw were paintings and screen prints by Dick Frizzell showing his range of styles, Dean Buchanan paintings, light shades by David Trubridge, photographs by Jane Usher, an intriguing hanging brass objet d'art (which included some bugles and a trumpet) plus a vividly contrasting sculpture both by James Ballantyne. A brief meeting was held in the gallery. The Auckland City Art Gallery major exhibition Toi Tu Toi Ora: Contemporary Maori Art runs until May 9th. BBC News selected 16C. Flemish artist Catharina van Heemessen, who painted the first known self portrait, for UN International Women's Day on March

8th. Van Gogh Alive starts in Auckland on April 10th and several of our members plan to go.

The April meeting will be about 2 NZ artists, James Ross and Bill Hammond.

Book_Group

It was good to meet again in person rather than on Zoom. Books discussed included: *The 25th Hour* by David Benioff; *The Dutch House* by Anne Patchett; *The Library of Legends* by Janie Chang; *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins; *Later* by Stephen King; *Becoming* by Michelle Obama; *The Choice* by Dr Edith Eva Eger; *Silent Invasion* by Clive Hamilton; *Times to Remember* by Rose Kennedy; *Saving Italy* by Robert M Edsel; *Searching for Charlie* by Tom Scott; *Stand by Me* by John Kirwan; *All Blacks Don't Cry* by John Kirwan; *Church of Spies* by Mark Riebling; *The Sealed Letter* by Emma Donoghue; *Trumpet* by Jackie Kay; *Driving to Treblinka* by Diana Wichtel; *Dark Tides* by Philippa Gregory; *Call me Evie* by J P Pomare; *Tell Me Lies* by J P Pomare; *The Survivors* by Jane Harper; *Tree of Strangers* by Barbara Sumner; *Troubled Blood* by Robert Galbraith; *A Song for the Dark Times* by Ian Rankin; *Of Mice and Minestrone* by Joe R Lansdale; *The Long Road Home* by Danielle Steel; *Notes From a Big Country* by Bill Bryson; *Walking on Ice* by Emma Stevens; *This Light Between Us* by Andrew Fukuda and *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn.

Books and Beyond

We were glad to be able to start the year back in the Sherwood Room and to meet our newer members face-to-face again. We noted with sadness the passing of Shona Cooper who was not only a foundation member of U3A Browns Bay but also a foundation member of our SIG. Her warm personality and perceptive contributions to all

our discussions will be sorely missed. As usual our holiday reading proved to be wide ranging and covered many genres. For the coming year we agreed to continue the very successful formula of having a main presenter but a related 'challenge' for all the rest of us - however the discovery that the Browns Bay Library is closed for the next 5 months may take our 'challenges' to a higher level!

Challenge for April will be a title related to '**Conscience**'; the **Challenge for May** will be '**Mountains**' (could also be 'Hills')

Classical Music No report this month

Creative audio visual No report this month.

Creative Writing No report this month

Current Affairs No meeting this month due to Covid restrictions on the venue

Cycling No trip due to Covid 19.

Film Appreciation

The Film Appreciation group held its monthly meeting in the very pleasant Settlers Village cinema where we viewed the classic 1951 film *The African Queen*, directed by John Huston and starring Robert Morley, Audrey Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart. This story of an unlikely pairing of an uptight missionary lady and a devil-may-care captain of a small river steamer facing the might of Kaiser Wilhelm's German soldiers has stood the test of time. As the pair battled each other, the perils of an African river, and the pursuing soldiers, mixed with plenty of humour and pathos, the result was an entertaining experience for all of us.

Français pour rire

We started today's meeting with a short video of the Pont du Gard, the Roman aquaduct used to bring water from the hills to Nimes in southern France. We then read in French about some meteorites that landed in Algeria and are believed to have come from the solar system protoplanets. On to our main subject where Heather talked about the long and illustrious life of Charles de Gaulle, before we continued our story of two young people in Paris in Springtime. At last they know each other's names! Finally our homework for the week was " What is famous about the Place de Tertre in Paris - I'm sure many of you will have been there!

Inventors and Inventions

16 members attended the March meeting for an excellent presentation by John Ewen on the invention and history of the bar code. As a challenge to find a quicker way than manual price entry at a checkout, it was invented by Norman (Jo) Woodland & Bernard Silver in 1951. It was originally a circle format, but languished until laser technology could scan it fast enough. The square format was found to be more practical and this became standardised under the Universal Product Code (UPC). A packet of Wrigley's Gum was the first bar coded item to be scanned out in the town of Troy in Miami, at Marsh's Supermarket on June 26 1974, an event that is still celebrated in Troy. Ian Graham, with an interest in steam engines, demonstrated a delightful little model Stirling Engine bought out in Mapua, Nelson and powered by a tiny methys flame rather than steam.

International Studies

Unfortunately we were caught up in the recent 1 week lockdown ,so the meeting was postponed until April., when Gordon will talk about Patagonia.

Have you been there ? Come and listen to Gordon's account to see if you agree with his impressions.

Local History No report this month

Mah Jong (every Friday 9.30am)

New members welcome at all levels.

Medical Science and History

Al gave a Power Point Presentation on: Homoeopathy and Energetic Healing: Healing from the Life Side, Not the Form Side surveyed the changing future of healing, what Richard Gerber, MD calls in Vibrational Medicine the shift from “Newtonian” medicine to “Einsteinian” medicine, from an emphasis on matter to an emphasis on the energy that vitalises matter. Starting with homoeopathy, with its “treat the whole person, not the diagnosis” approach, the talk also discussed Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), Therapeutic Touch, invocational healing, and the holographic concept of the body, as used in TCM, Foot Reflexology, Hand Reflexology, and Iridology. Denise discussed and shared several links with the Group including: Preventing Dementia, Effects of Covid on Post Menopausal women, ME or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome post Covid and a book titled “ The Pursuit of Agelessness” by Andrew Steele.

Modern History

Murray gave us a presentation which included a power point presentation of a review of the events leading up to the crash of the Air NZ DC10 aircraft in November 1979 in

the Antarctic resulting in the loss of 257 lives. He also covered the Investigations into the crash, the following Royal Commission and the research by Capt. Gordon Vette, another Air NZ Captain, into the white out conditions experienced in the Polar Regions. He outlined the effects of the crash and the body recovery on a wide range of people involved in the aftermath of this disaster. This was covered in a book written 40 years after the event by a granddaughter of one of the crash victims. Whoever has an interest in this aviation disaster will have a different opinion on the cause. Unfortunately the situation became somewhat political with the blame being laid on different participants

Music Appreciation and History

Our March meeting was small as we had a few apologies from 4 of our members.

However, we really enjoyed 3 Arias from various Operas, via email, sung by Sophia Winton, a lovely opera singer.

The programme was intentionally short as we had decisions to make re future meetings.. It was decided to meet at the Community Centre in future, hopefully making it easier for some members to attend.

This Group will welcome new members, Phone 478-7959 Pat, or 475-9315 Jen

Music - Mainly Classical No report this month

Puzzles Patterns & Paradoxes

Our group works by each member bringing a short contribution to each meeting. At this meeting we had time for only 4 of these. John spoke about bar codes [the ones we scan in the supermarket and the QR codes] He then introduced us to:-

<https://www.shapeways.com/marketplace?type=product&q=Moebius+models>.

This website 3D prints all sorts of puzzling mathematical shapes using them as bracelets, ear rings and objects d'art. Daihei Shibata was the next revelation. If you google this name you will get short video clips showing all sorts of unexpected situations. The Pike River Disaster was Fay's talk. What actually went wrong? Who was to blame? Ian presented us with the "Black and white Pebble Puzzle" and an article about the puzzles in learning the vocabulary of the English language.

Renaissance

Fay spoke about the dangers of the Elizabethan House. The invention of chimneys allowed more than one room in a Tudor house as the fireplace could be on an outside wall. It also permitted houses to have more than one storey. The second storey often projected out from the first storey, in a narrow street, almost touching the house across the road. A chimney fire in one house would therefore quickly spread to other houses. Despite more rooms, there was no running water in any house and all washing of laundry and the body [as well as using the toilet] had to go on outside the house, in all weathers. Women, who had to carry water in wooden buckets from the nearest well or stream, were particularly subject to drowning. 40% of all deaths registered at the time were due to drowning.

Heather H presented us with 3 painters of the English Renaissance of the 16th Century. Hans Holbein was famous for portraits of Queen Elizabeth and The Ambassadors. Nicholas Hilliard, the only English-born in her choice, was a goldsmith by training, famous for miniatures in gold, silver worn by many at court, as well as larger portraits. He was a Protestant so kept quiet during

Mary I's reign. Isaac Oliver painted the Queen, many aristocrats at court and later James I on his accession to the crown. Much interesting discussion followed.

The Maori World

This month we focused on Sir Tipene O'Reagan who is best known for his role as the long serving Chairman of the Ngaitahu Māori Trust Board when he lead negotiations for the Ngāi Tapu Claim process before the Waitangi Tribunal. After 8 long, hard years, this culminated in the signing of the Ngāi Tahu Settlement in 1998, which was a great victory for Ngāi Tahu. Now aged 82, he is recognised for his exceptional mana, his continued outstanding leadership and eminent contributions to promoting and advancing science, technology and the humanities in New Zealand.

Travel No report this month

Ukulele

The group has been rehearsing the songs for the April main meeting. Anyone who likes singing popular songs would be most welcome to join the group and help out on the hand held percussion.