



HOBSONVILLE NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2024 MEETING

Thursday 16 May, 10am

**Hobsonville Bowling Club, Memorial Park Lane,
off Hobsonville Road**

Morning Tea: Italian Cooking for Men

Hosting: Family History

Mini Speaker: AGM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



MEETING NOTICE!

It's AGM month! It's your chance to have your say! Our AGM will be held at the beginning of our meeting on the 16th. This will be followed by our normal meeting albeit slightly abbreviated, morning tea and then our speaker.

Make sure you don't miss this important meeting.

Hopefully you have all paid your subs. We are now just updating our membership numbers with a view of accepting a few more off our waiting list.

Don't forget the Network Event is being held on Saturday 27th July. It looks as if they have managed to secure 2 excellent main speakers. I know the numbers are limited and places are filling up fast so make sure you don't miss out. There is more information re Registration included on page 2 of this newsletter. I repeat—don't miss out!

*Bronwen King
President*

Happy Mother's Day

GUEST SPEAKER



Dave Park grew up in Levin and completed a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering (Hons) at the University of Canterbury and a Master of Engineering in Aircraft design at Cranfield in the UK. His professional career has included aircraft operations engineering and flight operations management roles at Air New Zealand and Qantas New Zealand, as well as 20 years aviation consulting in airport design, airport infrastructure, aircraft operations and airspace safety assessments in NZ, Australia, the South Pacific, Middle East and the UK.

Dave's topic will be about the NASA Scientific balloon project which started its NZ operations in Wanaka in 2015.

u3a Auckland Network
LIFELONG LEARNING - SHARING KNOWLEDGE - FRIENDSHIP - LEADING EDGE INFORMATION

Celebrating u3a in Action - 2024
Auckland - 27 July 2024

u3a Auckland Network welcomes you to a day of celebration

Salvation Army Church, 18 Allright Place, Mt Wellington
Saturday 27 July 2024 - 9:30am (for 10:00am) to 2:30pm

Speakers:

Morning: Distinguished Professor Emeritus Paul Spoonley MA MSc PhD FRSNZ
"The supersizing and superdiversity of Auckland:
how Auckland will change over coming decades."

Afternoon: Sir Ashley Bloomfield KNZM
"Public trust in New Zealand: where we are at, and how do we
strengthen public trust to build social capital and social cohesion?"

Also included are four presentations by u3a Members and lunch - \$45.00

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

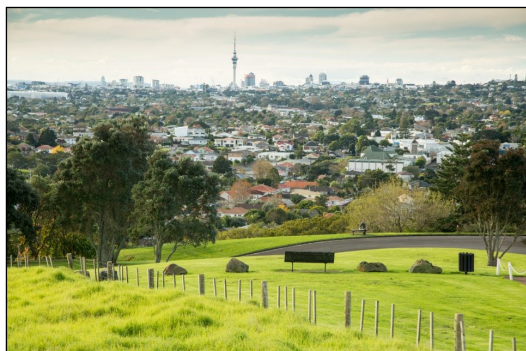
ARTS & THEATRE Convenor: **Anne Denton**

The schedule of events that we might go to this month is crowded with the Italian Film Festival offerings at Bridgeway, a free concert featuring the organ in Auckland Town Hall, NZ Symphony Orchestra (Tchaikovsky). St Matthews Chamber Orchestra (Beethoven), Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra (Dvorjak etc, featuring trumpet), inspiring and amusing plays at several theatres and the usual weekly offerings at the Jazz & Blues Club. Welcome to two new members. Because of the clash with ANZAC, we did not meet in April so are now looking forward to getting together in May.



NOTE: Next Meeting: Last Thursday. **Venue:** Greenwich Gardens. **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**

ADVENTURE WALKING **Convenor: Graeme Johnston**



For our April walk, we visited yet another one of the many vantage points giving excellent views over the city. This time it was Mount Roskill, or Puketapapa. So much evidence of pre-European history on the upper slopes contrasts with the later “development” of the surrounds, from the stark commercial buildings of Stoddard Road to the urban renewal taking place along Richardson Road. The pleasant green spaces of Akarana Golf Club and Keith Hay Park, beyond Dominion Road, offer a welcome change. After dallying for some time to

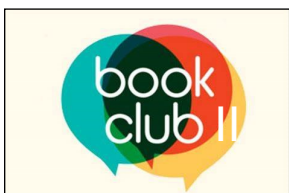
enjoy the view we made our way to Keith Hay Park before crossing the Motorway and returning to our starting point at May Road. **Next Walk:** 3rd Monday **Time:** 10am. **Venue:** TBA. **VACANCY**

BOOK GROUP **Convenor: Karen Willmott**

Own choice. *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon - a historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th century midwife. In Maine 1789 a man is discovered frozen in a river. Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. But a local physician undermines her conclusion of murder, declaring the death to be an accident. Martha is forced to investigate the murder on her own - 4.5 stars. Also *Threat Vector* by Tom Clancy - 5 stars; *The Great Alone* - 4 stars and *The Women* - 5 stars, both by Kristin Hannah; *The Freezing Order* by Bill Browder; *Cousins* by Patricia Grace - 4 stars; *Exiles* by Jane Harper - 4 stars; *Remote Sympathy* by Catherine Chidgey - 5 stars. **Next Meeting:** 3rd Thursday **Time:** 1.30pm. **FULL**



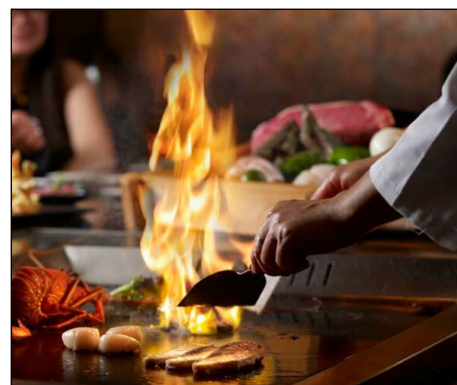
BOOK CLUB II **Convenor: Liz Van Brink**



We discussed our titles around the theme of “China”. *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Dai Sijie – boys sent away for re-education stumble upon a stash of Western literature 4/5. *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lake* by Lisa See – girl who’s grown up on a tea plantation ends up in a Chinese city 5/5. *First Pass Under Heaven* by Nathan Hoturoa Gray – journal of a NZ lawyer, one of the first Westerners to walk the length of the Great Wall 4/5. *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang – masterpiece about 3 generations of Chinese women from the author’s family 5/5. *The Road to Miran* by Christa Paula – record of travels in the forbidden zone of Xinjiang 4.5/5. Our theme for June is “Czech”. **Next Meeting:** 1st Thursday. **Time:** 10.30am. **Venue:** Hobsonville Point. **VACANCY**

EAT AROUND THE WORLD: **Convenor: Jan Edmonds**

Japan has so many different types of cuisine, and for our first experience we chose Daikoku in Albany where we had the Teppanyaki lunch special. Teppanyaki is a Western influenced style of Japanese food where the meal is cooked on a teppan, (iron grill), in front of the diners. Our special had two prawns, and a choice of two meats – we had chicken and steak. Also included were miso soup, daikoku salad, Teppan vegetables, steamed rice and ice cream. The performance of the chef was great fun, juggling the knives, chopping and sizzling, and setting the prawns alight – flames reaching high above us. We enjoyed our meal, and thought it very good value for money. **Next Meeting:** 1st Thursday. **Time:** 1.00pm. **VACANCY**



COMPUTER GROUP Convenor: Nigel Dempster



The group goes from strength to strength with new members joining regularly. Last month was very interesting with the members learning all about new technology and the way we should look at the future. We discussed some interesting websites and also talked about money mules and why they can be worse than the person who gets scammed. If you would like to come along and enjoy a light hearted look at computers and technology, whether you are an expert or a novice, we would love to see you. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Thursday. **Time:** 1.30pm. **Venue:** Summerset Cinema, Hobsonville. **VACANCY**

EXERCISE TO MUSIC Convenor: Colleen Soljan

Exercise to music has a few vacancies at this time. Our sessions are at the Hobsonville Bowling Club at 10am every 2nd Thursday & 4th Thursday of the month. \$3 Hall hire. We do 30 - 40 minutes of exercise following a low impact Walk & Groove type of video. Then most of us normally go for a coffee at a local café. You are welcome to come along and give it a try to see if you would like to join the group. **Next Meetings:** 2nd & 4th Thursdays. **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**



FAMILY HISTORY Convenor: Shared by all members

Our Convenors this month, asked the group to choose one of their 16 great great grandparents; research their lives and share their findings with the group. Everyone had really interesting stories to tell, including great great grandparents who emigrated to New Zealand as early as 1841 and a great great grandfather who had been transported in 1828 to Australia for stealing a sheep. Family resources such as diaries and photos, along with information gathered from online resources such as Papers Past or NZ Archives, helped build up a picture of what life was like for our pioneering ancestors. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Tuesday. **Time:** 1.30pm. **VACANCY**



FOOD FOR FUN Convenor: Marilyn Page

All of our members met to savour a taste of Spain and produced an interesting array of dishes. We started with Tapas - Patatas Bravas, Mushrooms and Garlic Toast and Huevos Rellenos (Spanish Devilled Eggs), followed by Spanish Chicken in Bravas Sauce and Seafood Paella. Desserts were Spanish Rice Pudding with cinnamon, Panatelles (Cookies rolled in almonds or pine nuts) and Churros coated in cinnamon sugar with Chocolate sauce. This feast was accompanied by Spanish Rioja and White wine. No dinner that night! **Next Meeting:** Last Tuesday. **Time:** 11.30am **FULL**



GOLD CARD TRIPS Convenor: Tiina Delacey



Warkworth was our destination last month. Bus to Warkworth not really synchronised with our arrival at Hibiscus Coast Station but for us it did not matter as it gave us the opportunity to have our morning coffee at one of the cafes close by. On arrival at Warkworth, we did the Riverside Walk till we reached some op shops. Next was lunch after which we tried to complete the river walk but it was closed a bit further up. So then to more shops and the art gallery. Some took the time we had left to enjoy a beer outside in the sun at the local hotel. Then buses back home. Many thanks to Liz, our guide, with all her interesting local knowledge. **Next meeting:** 4th Wednesday. **Time:** 9.30am **FULL**

HISTORY AND DISCOVERIES **Convenor: Linda Nixon**

'Immigration and Migration prior to 1900's anywhere in the world' was our discussion this month. This was a huge topic with plenty of pros and cons to discuss. Everyone had selected a different group of people to research and share relevant facts about their journey. It is amazing that over the centuries there has been a constant movement of people generally in groups looking or being sent to find a better life for themselves or others. **Next Meeting:** 1st Wednesday. **Time:** 1.30pm. **VACANCY**



INTERNATIONAL FILMS **Convenor: Claire Brickell**



As a follow up from last month's meeting, the group learned about Alice Guy-Blaché who was the first female filmmaker making and directing films from 1896 and 1906 in France and the US. She influenced directors like Alfred Hitchcock, who said he was thrilled by the films of French director Alice Guy. Alice was awarded the Légion d'honneur, the highest non-military award France offers in 1958. We also discussed the upcoming film festival season starting in May. The Resene Architectural Film Festival and the Italian Film Festival are first up with some really interesting films being offered. The challenge for members will be choosing what films to leave off their must watch list! **Next Meeting:** 2nd Tuesday. **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**

ITALIAN COOKERY FOR MEN **Convenor: Alessandro Laryn**



In our May meeting we featured Campania, the region with Napoli that has given the world pizza. We made two traditional dishes: *Mozzarella in Carrozza* (lit. 'in a carriage'), and *Torta Caprese*, a Capri-style almond and chocolate cake. **Next Meeting:** 3rd Wednesday **Time:** 10am. **Venue:** West Harbour. **VACANCY**



iPAD-IPHONE **Convenor: Kay Hamilton**

Our May meeting was held on Tuesday the 7th at Sandra's home in Hobsonville. We welcomed a new member to our fold and still have vacancies. Scams are still the number one concern for all of us. But we also discussed "find my phone" and "find my car". Photos were a concern of our new member and hopefully we will be able to help her at our next meeting. **Next Meeting:** First Tuesday. **Venue:** TBA. **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**



MAHJONG **Convenor: Bronwen King**



The months are marching on and with it Mahjong sessions continue to take place twice monthly. Currently, we are lucky enough to be able to use the facilities at Greenwich Gardens which has proved very convenient, although parking can prove to be challenging – almost as challenging as some of the Mahjong hands. Still, what's a challenge between friends! Viva La Mahjong! (I assume they play it in France.) **Next Meetings:** 2nd & 4th Monday. **Time:** 12.30pm. **Venue:** TBA. **FULL**

MUSIC SEEKERS Convenor: Jan Bickerton

Contributions from the group made up most of the content this month which made an interesting mix of music to watch and listen to. We began with Michael Crawford In Concert with 'All I Ask of You', Josh Groban singing 'The Prayer' and an amazing rendition of the symphonic fairy tale, 'Peter and the Wolf' composed by Sergei Prokofiev. After a short morning tea break, we moved on to Dr Hook, 'Stairway to Heaven' by Led Zepplin performed by Students from St Andrews School, Freddie Mercury and Michael Jackson's 'There Must Be More', Freddie Mercury and Montserrat Caballe singing 'How Can I Go On', Melody Gardot, and Sting, the Lancer Band of Oz playing Waltzing Matilda and finishing with Eric Bogle singing 'When I'm Dead'. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Friday. **Time:** 10am. **Venue:** Summerset Cinema, Hobsonville. **VACANCY**



NEWS AND VIEWS Convenor: Linda Nixon



News topics certainly do not disappoint, we always have so much to talk about over morning tea. Harmonious and interesting discussion is always the result. A highlight of the April meeting was a magazine article about very new careers people had started or retrained for. This was quite inspiring and positive. It is obvious the media are needing to adapt and change currently how and where they deliver informational news to the public. We are also researching outside the norm, to find the news and check out what is true or false, or mix of both. **Meeting:** 4th Tuesday. **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**

PÉTANQUE Convenor: Carol Denton

Our Friday Petanque and coffee was cancelled in April, the weather was wet and wild and we all felt it wise to stay off the roads. Did you know the modern version of Petanque originated in 1907 in La Ciotat, a town in the Provence region of the South of France? Petanque is a version of Boules: in Boules, players run and throw a ball, but in Petanque, the ball is thrown by a stationary player. Petanque's history goes back to the Ancient Greeks as early as the 6th century BC. It is recorded they played a game tossing stone balls called spheristics. Then the Ancient Romans added a target that had to be reached. This game was brought to France by Roman soldiers and sailors in the Middle Ages. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Friday. **Time:** 10am. **FULL**



SCIENCE Convenor: Geoff Beresford



Our April meeting continued our explorations of the South Auckland Volcanic Field including Mt Gabriel, Pukeiti and Otuataua Stonefields and the Ihumatao Fossil Forest. Mt Gabriel scoria cones have been quarried away but the tuff ring remains. The crater floor is an industrial site which includes the Villa Maria Winery. Pukeiti is a small scoria cone sited in the Otuataua Stonfields Historic Reserve. It and the neighbouring Otuataua volcano (now quarried away) produced the lava flows which were extensively farmed by the Maori and subsequent early European settlers. The Ihumatao Fossil Forest was an ancient kauri forest growing in a peat swamp which was destroyed and buried by rising sea level. The remains can be seen in the aptly named mudflats. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Wednesday. **Time & Venue:** 2pm at Dave Allen's house.

VACANCY

QUIZ GROUP Convenor: Bill Kittelty

Our recent May meeting was another well attended gathering with a range of entertaining and perplexing questions requiring some members to partake of "Rescue Remedy" at afternoon tea. A number of us visited the Hobsonville RSA for Friday night fish and chips, and our guests included President Bronwyn and Mary Cooper who also enjoyed their "Dutch Treat" dinner. **Next Meeting:** 1st Friday. **Time:** 2pm. **FULL**



SUNDAY BRUNCHERS Convenor: Bronwen King



It was a nice change to go back to an old friend. The Brigham in April was a very pleasant place to be. We had 2 tables out on the veranda which had a secluded comfortable atmosphere. There seemed to be a selection of menu items to suit all our tastes. And of course, the coffees were good. What more can one say. In May, we have shifted our date forward to avoid the Mother's Day clash. We have made a booking at The Rosebank Kitchen again – a second visit, but the last time was in 2019 – how time flies! As always, new members are welcome. **Usual Meeting:** 2nd

Sunday. **Time:** 9.30am. **VACANCY**

WINE APPRECIATION Convenor: Linda Meehan

Six of our group brought a bottle each of their favourite quaffing wine to our May meeting - 3 white and 3 red wines for us to taste blind. Each bottle was dressed in it's own brown paper wrapping, so it was up to individual members to taste and decide on the wine variety, region, and cost. The remaining members supplied a small tasting plate each. There was much sipping, nibbling and pondering, but in the end the wine of the day was chosen - Montes Alpha Cabernet Sauvignon 2017 from Chile. **Next meeting:** 1st Tuesday. **Time:** 1.30pm. **FULL**

