



HOBSONVILLE NEWSLETTER

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JUNE 2024 MEETING

Thursday 20 June, 10am

Hobsonville Bowling Club, Memorial Park Lane, off Hobsonville Road

Morning Tea: Current Affairs **Hosting:** Weekly Walking **Mini Speaker:** News & Views

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to all who attended our AGM and welcome to two new committee members Christine Henderson and Rachel Harvey. Alexa has continued to be our Almoner so if you know of anyone ill or has had any misfortune please advise Alexa.

Also Nancy Ferris has taken over from Val as our Group Coordinator therefore, any queries regarding Special Interest Groups, please speak to Nancy.

Thank you to our retiring Committee members – Val Baker and Rob Web. Their input and help will be missed but hopefully we will still see them at our monthly meetings.

In March, the suggestion was made that we all add our emergency contact name and phone number to the back of your U3A name badge. If you are like me and completely forgot perhaps you can bring those details with you to the next general meeting and write it on the back of your badge.

A date for your diaries: December 5th, U3A Christmas Lunch. More details to follow closer to the time.

*Bronwen King
President*

**21ST JUNE
SHORTEST DAY
WINTER SOLSTICE**



GUEST SPEAKER



Popular television and radio cooking personality **Annabelle White** is synonymous with good food and fun times in the kitchen. Annabelle believes that keeping food simple, easy, and delicious, mixed with plenty of tips, confidence building, funny quips and great recipes make for good times for family and friends.

The author of eleven cookbooks Annabelle is busy with cooking classes and the public speaking circuit. In 2009 the University of Waikato recognized her with the Distinguished Alumni award. Annabelle's first cookbook *Best Recipes* was released in 1997 and has been reprinted multiple times. Many of her titles are now out of print but her sequel to Best Recipes entitled *Simply The Best* co-authored with Kathy Paterson in 1999 topped the New Zealand best-selling list and remained there for many weeks. Other titles include, *Annabelle Cooks*, *Annabelle Cooks Healthy* and specialist cook books in the areas of *Christmas*, *BBQ* and *Cakes and Slices*.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS


ADVENTURE WALKING Convenor: Graeme Johnston

In May our adventure began at the Auckland Botanic Gardens, where the primary objective was to explore the Puhinui Stream and Forest Trail. Because that involved a great many steps to a reasonable elevation, we divided into two groups. The first tackled the Forest Trail, through some magnificent stands of native trees, before returning along a serene stream-side track. The second group spent the morning in the confines of the gardens. While not as vibrant as in spring, many trees nevertheless showed off their autumn colours. Mention was also made of a fountain sculpted from spades, and a giant green corrugated-iron bird with red maple for a backdrop. Lunch at Miko Café completed our day. **Next Walk:** 3rd Monday **Time:** 10am. **Venue:** TBA. **VACANCY**




Spade sculpture fountain

ARTS & THEATRE Convenor: Anne Denton

 Viewed: An amusing opera, *Le Comte Ory* was voted top class with a modern setting (present day NZ - rugby, et al) and updated lyrics. The Italian film festival is now behind us (one member went to 5) and the French film festival is now on. There are events featuring at least 5 orchestras on our list of possible outings, not to mention the quartets, trios, jazz bands, choirs and soloists. Plays in 3 theatres including Shakespeare, Agatha Christie and a present day one-woman show. The Museum, Art Gallery, Pah Homestead, Brick Bay all tantalise us. Can we fit art and sculpture into this programme? **Next Meeting:** Last Thursday. **Venue:** Greenwich Gardens. **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**

BOOK GROUP Convenor: Karen Willmott

 Mills & Boon month for us. Lots of hilarity ensued. Happy endings for all and content self-explanatory just by looking at titles. Books a lot raunchier than those read in our younger days. Typically they have a virgin and an extremely wealthy, gorgeous, ripped man. *Sheikh's Secret Love-Child* by Caitlin Crews, 3.5 stars; *Just This One Summer* by Clare Connolly, 4 stars; *Whisked Away by Her Millionaire Boss* by Nina Milne, 4 stars; *Tempted by the Brooding Vet* by Shelley Rivers; *Claimed by Her Billionaire Protector* by Robyn Donald, 3 stars; *His Housekeepers Twin Baby Confession* by Abby Green, 2.75 stars; *The Lost and Found Girl* by Maisey Yates, 4 stars; *16 Lighthouse Road* by Debbie Macomber, 2.5 stars; *Her Texan Man* by Diana Palmer, 1 star. **Next Meeting:** 3rd Thursday **Time:** 1.30pm. **FULL**

COMPUTER GROUP **Convenor: Nigel Dempster**

Join the computer group - don't be a fool,
We've got the coolest gadgets and all the best tools.
Our meetings are epic, filled with tech talk,
We'll teach you to code and troubleshoot balks.

No need for a lab coat or a chef's special knife,
Here you'll learn skills that will last you your life.
Debugging is thrilling, a real brain teaser,
Our memes are legendary, our snacks a crowd-pleaser.



So trade in your worries for a comfy chair,
Come join us geeks and get lost in software.
From gaming to coding, we do it all right,
Join the computer group, it's pure byte delight!

We meet each month on the second Thursday,
At 13:30, so mark it without delay.
At Summerset in Hobsonville, where we convene,
Join the computer group, and see what we mean!

Next Meeting: 2nd Thursday. **Time:** 1.30pm. **Venue:** Summerset Cinema, Hobsonville. **VACANCY**

CRAFT CREATORS **Convenor: Judy Peace**

The Craft group continue to meet twice monthly working on individual projects as well as calico dolls for Starship Hospital. Cloth baskets and silver bow brooches have been recent group activities. **Next Meetings:** 2nd and 4th Wednesday. **Time:** 9.30am. **VACANCY**



CURRENT AFFAIRS **Convenor: Judy Lewins**



At our last Current Affairs meeting we discussed the results of Winston Peters' recent overseas trips, from increased trade with India, to engaging more with the Pacific and the possibility of joining AUKUS which could boost NZ's research in advanced technology, AI and hypersonic missiles. An article on Russia's plans for Africa was also interesting. Russia's interest in Guinea, Mali, Burkina, Faso, Niger and Chad should be

watched. 65% of earth's arable land is in Africa. Israel, Palestine, Ukraine and Donald Trump were also discussed. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Thursday. **Time:** 1.30pm. **FULL**

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

This month our choice was Golden Ribbon in Kelston, a Filipino restaurant. The Philippines traded with China long before colonisation and rice is their staple dish. The Spanish Conquest brought Christianity and trade, and they ruled for over 300 years. An odd fact is that they banned the use of knives and the usual cutlery is spoon and fork. The Spanish ceded the islands to the USA in 1868 and the Japanese occupied the islands until the end of the war. Independence was achieved 1948. The cuisine reflects this mixed heritage, with pork and chicken the meat ingredients. Our favourite was the kare kare, a mild curry flavoured with peanuts. We were too full to try the cakes which looked sensational. Another enjoyable meal. **Next Meeting:** 1st Thursday. **Time:** 1.00pm. **VACANCY**



FAMILY HISTORY **Convenor: Shared by all members**



How did our ancestors travel about the country? The topic for this month. Think horses; dog carts; bullock tracks; thick native bush to hack through, fording rivers where the water covered the backs of the horses; coastal shipping, crossing oceans on clippers for weeks on end, and of course getting about on good old "Shank's Pony!" As usual the group shared a rich tapestry of well researched stories, from

exploring the whanau history of the Tainui waka to a member's photo and recall of flying in a DC3 at age 5 to Dunedin and then having to travel to Invercargill by taxi as the weather was too rough for the plane to continue! **Next Meeting:** 2nd Tuesday. **Time:** 1.30pm. **VACANCY**

FOOD FOR FUN Convenor: Marilyn Page

Our May meeting took place at a restaurant rather than a home because of this month's hostess's road being dug up making access difficult. The restaurant chosen was the Golden Viet at NorthWest. The meeting was well attended and everyone enjoyed a great variety of dishes. At the end of the meal, we all filled out a short survey provided by May's hostess (Kristine) and we rated such things as the ease of getting there including parking, the venue and its atmosphere, the service from the wait staff, the food itself and whether we thought it was value for money. I am happy to report that the Golden Viet was rated by us as a **4 Star** restaurant with the highest sub-score being the delicious food. Next month our hostess will be Helen. **Next Meeting:** Last Tuesday. **Time:** 11.30am **FULL**



ITALIAN COOKERY FOR MEN Convenor: Alessandro Laryn



In our May meeting we featured Calabria, a southern region where a signature, very spicy and spreadable kind of salami is produced, called *nduja*. We prepared *pasta with nduja* and a rich *crostata with ricotta*.

Next Meeting: 3rd Wednesday **Time:** 10am. **Venue:** West Harbour. **VACANCY**



iPAD-iPHONE Convenor: Kay Hamilton

Our meeting was at Sandra's home in Hobsonville on Tuesday 4th of June at 10 am. We had a great meeting with all our members there except one who is now residing on the other side of the world and another who cannot cope with Sandra's stairs. We talked mostly about getting roaming when you are off on holiday as one of our members is off to Bali. Maybe the most important thing to come out of our discussion was to shop around looking for a deal out there. But also be careful as there are many scams around. **Next Meeting:** First Tuesday. **Venue:** TBA. **Time:** 10am. **VACANCY**



MAHJONG Convenor: Bronwen King



Our Mahjong group continues to meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoon of each month. We play in threes or fours depending upon the numbers attending. A most enjoyable afternoon pausing about halfway through for afternoon tea – very civilized. How fortunate are we!! **Next Meetings:** 2nd & 4th Monday. **Time:** 12.30pm. **Venue:** TBA. **FULL**

MUSIC SEEKERS Convenor: Jan Bickerton

We enjoyed an amazing viewing and listening program this month put together by one of our talented members consisting of songs from Sumara Joy, a young talented America Jazz singer and Blossom Dearie, also an American Jazz singer and pianist who sang 'Summer is Gone' and 'They Say it's Spring'. These were followed by several items from the movie 'Brassed Off' which brought back memories. Grupo Talio Choir then entertained us with 'YMCA', 'Proud Mary' 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and 'Il mondo I Con te partiro', all of which were conducted by Silvia Sanz Torre with passion and fun. Morning tea followed then we were entertained by Elton John's concert held in the Royal Opera House London in 2002. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Friday. **Time:** 10am. **Venue:** Summerset Cinema, Hobsonville. **VACANCY**



NEWS AND VIEWS Convenor: Linda Nixon

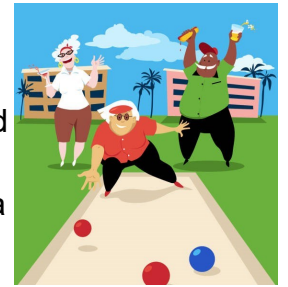


The news this month was full of variety with plenty of discussion. Topics selected by various persons in the group were from articles in NZ Herald, The Listener, NZ Gardener, Online options and Council mailbox flyers. Speaking freely, learning from each other on topics we had not taken the time to read and view, creates a stimulating time of open conversation. **Next Meeting:**

4th Tuesday. **Time:** 10am. **Venue:** West Harbour. **VACANCY**

PÉTANQUE Convenor: Carol Denton

Our Petanque morning on May 10th was the coldest morning recorded in Auckland this autumn with temperatures down to 1 – 3 degrees. This didn't daunt our keen Petanque players coming prepared with their mittens and beanies. The wind was a little chilly but we soon warmed up and all thoroughly enjoyed being out in the fresh, crisp air having some fun trying to get our boules closest to the cochonnet.



After we finished playing we enjoyed the ambience of Soljans Winery. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Friday.

Time: 10am. **FULL**

QUIZ GROUP Convenor: Bill Kittelty



A great turnout for the June meeting with the questions presented by quizmaster Geoff (Beresford) ranging from early New Zealand history, the body, and oddly enough, a few questions relating to chemistry. Answers were explained in detail if necessary. A great afternoon's entertainment. **Next Meeting:** 1st Friday. **Time:** 2pm. **FULL**

SCIENCE Convenor: Geoff Beresford

The Auckland volcanoes theme was continued for our May meeting. Instead of climbing a mountain we explored the types of eruptions which occurred in Auckland from the comfort of Dave Allen's lovely home. There are a couple more of these sessions ahead. Our May meeting consisted of a presentation of the types of volcano, followed by a couple of videos on the subject. One of these was part of the DEVORA programme (DEtermining VOLcanic Risk in Auckland).



The second "How Auckland Volcanoes Erupt" is an excellent, illustrative presentation by Ian Smith, an Auckland University volcanologist. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Wednesday. **Time:** 2pm. **Venue:** Dave Allen's house.

VACANCY

SUNDAY BRUNCHERS Convenor: Bronwen King



We had a lovely brunch in early May at The Rosebank Kitchen. There were 12 of us in attendance and weather wise a beautiful morning. As usual, our brunch took the whole morning – we had a lot to put in order. Also, what could be more pleasant than to sit in a café with your friends and sort out the world! This month on 9th June we are going back to where it all began in August 2016 and having our brunch at Pickles

on Apollo in Mairangi Bay. As always new members are welcome. **Next Meeting:** 2nd Sunday. **Time:** 9.30am. **VACANCY**



Visitors are welcome to attend our General Meetings. Visitor's fee \$2.

WINE APPRECIATION Convenor: **Linda Meehan**

Our June meeting was held at Soljans, the third oldest family-owned winery in NZ. Established firstly in Lincoln Rd in 1937, our own U3A member Tony Soljan continues to oversee the day to day operation at the newer Kumeu location in conjunction with the younger family members. Our obliging host Lucy provided five very different wines, which were accompanied by our own tasting platters. Judging by the number of brown paper bags tucked under members' arms on leaving, it was obvious that there was a wine to suit every taste, with purchases to be enjoyed at home at leisure. **Next meeting:** 1st Tuesday. **Time:** 1.30pm. **FULL**



WEEKLY WALKING Convenors: **Neville Olsen and Gill Stephens**



Over recent weeks we have had walks in Albany, Greenhithe and Hobsonville. At Albany we walked around the Massey University campus and were surprised at just how big it is. On one of our Hobsonville walks we went through the Summerset Retirement Village grounds and along the causeway to the Upper Harbour Bridge. In Greenhithe we walked around the Kingfisher Estate and through the reserve to the Lucas Creek. We have also walked the new walkways at Orion Point and alongside the Ryman village. **Next Walk:** 1, 2, 4 & 5th Mondays. **Time:** 9.30am. **Venue:** TBA. **FULL**



2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

