



Howick Inc.
 PO Box 39035
 Howick 2145
DECEMBER 2019

FINAL EDITION



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2019-2020

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DECEMBER 9 CHRISTMAS TEA MEETING
9.30 am, Howick Bowling Club (downstairs)

TEN MINUTES: **Jenny Hough: My Experiences as a Travel Guide**

TEA ASSIST: **Famous and Infamous 1**
(Gill Muggleston's group)

WELCOME TO THE CHRISTMAS TEA

THE piece de resistance of today's Christmas meeting is of course the lavish tea, prepared by the catering crew of the Howick Bowling Club. We can count on the quality of last year's delightful eats, which received approving comments from members, to be replicated. Vegans and the gluten-averse will be catered to. First order of business will be the study group reports, followed by the 10-minute talk by our member Jenny Hough who will recount her time as a tour guide. Surprise entertainments will come with the tea. No pre-announcement here, but a fun time is in prospect for attendees. Remember, the event takes place downstairs.

NEW MEMBER

JEANETTE Priscott, sponsored by Alice Taylor, was inducted as a new member last month. She would be interested in History as well as the Walks group, which will please Alan La Roche who has been trying to get recreational walkers to sign up.

SUN AND WIND IN THE FACE

This report from former president Margaret Nicholls, who organised the Past President's excursion on Nov 20: The day began with an exhilarating ferry ride from Half Moon Bay to downtown Auckland, then the Maritime Museum where all boarded the three-masted Ted Ashby for a trip under the harbour bridge and back. Lunch was enjoyed at nearby restaurants followed by a tour of the First Encounters exhibit, then the ferry ride back. Pictured front row from left: Warren Yardley, Geraldine Rose, Angela Cullen, Mary Kennedy, Kaisu Herman, Jenny Hough. Back row: Glenda Van der Maas, June Lamborn, Margaret Nicholls.



Picture courtesy of Ted Ashby crew

NEWSLETTER PAUSE

THE newsletter will not appear in January, be back in February. Best wishes from the Editor for the seasonal festivities and holidays.

FAMOUS/INFAMOUS DOWN TO TWO

THE Famous and Infamous 1 group has been disbanded as its numbers had been falling due to members passing on and through resignation. Peter Garrick, who has concurrently resigned as the convenor, is thanked for his services. In announcing the cessation Mr Garrick paid tribute to Margaret Jones, a previous convenor and a stalwart of the group's proceedings. Allan Reid, convenor of Famous and Infamous 2, also expressed thanks. Mr Garrick's former group members could choose to join either of the remaining two groups. With this change, Famous and Infamous 3 under Gill Muggleston will be renamed 1 while the other group is unchanged as 2.

CHANGE IN FORUM GROUP

BEVERLEY Luxton has resigned as convenor of the Forum group, and her successor is Jessica Pybus (jandjpybus@xtra.co.nz, 5347415). Mrs Luxton is thanked for her long service. The group will meet on the third Friday as before but the venue and time have not been decided. Next meeting on Feb 21.

PASSING

JOAN Dowd, a longstanding member, passed away on Dec 3, aged 90.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR DEMENTIA STUDY

A DOCTORAL candidate of Auckland University, Nethra Chigateri, is seeking volunteers to aid in research to develop an algorithm as a predictor of early dementia. Volunteers aged 65 and above who have no walking disorders will be put through two exercises: walk along a 6m mat with a smartphone attached and around a 50m track. The 45-minute tests evaluating gait will be conducted at the university's Newmarket campus. Participants will receive a Countdown voucher. Please email nchi085@aucklanduni.ac.nz. or call 021 2679570 to make arrangements.

REPORT ON LAST MONTH'S TALK

NORTH KOREA UP CLOSE

GUEST speaker Peter Wilson gave members a measured overview of North Korea: its sociology, economy and the country's controversial role in the region's geopolitics, but without lapsing into clichés common in portrayals of the East Asian garrison state, arguably the world's most closed society. One little known fact he brought up, in encouraging a more objective view be taken of the Korea question and the history of the truncated peninsula, was that 10 per cent of the people killed when the Americans dropped nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 were Koreans. They had lived in Japan as forced labour, as Korea was a Japanese colony from 1910 to 1945. Just as the estimated half million Roma (gypsies) who perished in the Holocaust together with the Jews became merely a historical footnote, so has the Koreans' ordeal in a land not their own been largely overlooked in accounts of humankind's only (so far) nuclear attack.

A far worse magnitude of death and destruction was to be visited on the Korean people in the Korean War of 1950-53 waged among foreign powers, when civilians made up three-quarters of the four to five million war deaths. That conflict led to a permanently divided peninsula, a shaky truce that could flare up into renewed war at any time – and a legacy of two disparate nations populated by the same people, one prosperous and the other a dystopian polity. The North with Soviet help actually had the rudiments of an industrial state going when the South was an agrarian economy, but look at the reversal of fortunes in the last half century. South Korea now ranks 11th among the world's largest economies.

Mr Wilson brought knowledge to his subject. He has had exposure to Asia in decades of developmental work. He spent time in North Korea on a United Nations mission during a period of crop failure that caused widespread hunger. He has been instrumental in facilitating NGOs' work in educational exchange to promote English language teaching in North Korea, and the donation of farm equipment for

crop cultivation. New Zealand, he said, is well regarded in North Korean official circles because of the humanitarian support it provides. His retirement interest, he said, has been managing the NZ-DPRK Society. (Democratic People's Republic of Korea is North Korea's formal name.)

He addressed the big question of North Korea's liberalisation as a clash of irreconcilable positions: insistence by the United States that Pyongyang forswear nuclear ambitions by giving up its nuclear stocks before a peace agreement to formally end the Korean War could be signed, which will lead to diplomatic recognition and an end to economic sanctions. The North wants those plus an end to annual US-South Korean war games which it regards as a provocation – but is ambivalent about denuclearisation.

Mr Wilson noted that President Bill Clinton came closest to breaking the impasse when he offered to travel to Pyongyang to sign a limited deal in the last days of his presidency. It was aborted when the incoming president, George Bush Jr, said he would disavow any agreement reached. President Bush then branded North Korea as part of his 'axis of evil', and that put paid to any hope of progress in future negotiations. According to Mr Wilson, Mr Clinton later regretted not going to Pyongyang.

After President Bush, President Barack Obama did not invest much energy on the Korea issue. His foreign policy preoccupation was to bridge the divide between the Judeo-Christian West and the Muslim world as an essential antidote to the looming age of terrorism. And what of President Donald Trump's courtship of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un? Mr Wilson framed the overtures as a case of Mr Trump desperately seeking the Nobel Peace Prize "because Barack Obama had one".

A facetious aside, perhaps, but this is a profoundly troubling issue that on the evidence is hard to resolve as the North Koreans trust only their nukes for self-preservation, not vague American promises of this and that if they gave them up.

BOOK CHOICES

THE New York Times just released its pick of the 10 best books of 2019:

Fiction: **Disappearing Earth** *Julia Phillips* The disappearance of two young girls in the forbidding Kamchatka Peninsula scars a community.

The Topeka School *Ben Lerner*

Exhalation *Ted Chiang* Meanderings on time travel.

Lost Children Archive *Valeria Luiselli*

Night Boat to Tangier *Kevin Barry*

Non-fiction: **Say Nothing** *Patrick Radden Keefe* The Troubles in Northern Ireland, told from both sides.

The Club *Leo Damrosch* Intellectual luminaries of 18th century Britain chew the fat.

The Yellow House *Sarah Broom*

No Visible Bruises *Rachel Louise Snyder* The subtitle 'What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us' says it all.

Midnight in Chernobyl *Adam Higginbotham* The 1986 nuclear plant meltdown that changed the world's perception of 'cleaner' mass-produced energy.

OUT AND ABOUT

++ **OPERATUNITY's** opening show for Botany on Feb 11 is entitled **100 Glorious Years of Song**, featuring a range of 20th century styles and big names. At St Columba Church on Ti Rakau Dr, starting 11 am. Online bookings operatunity.co.nz or call 0508 266237.

++ **MOZART's Marriage of Figaro** is the only regular production **New Zealand Opera** will stage in the 2020 season, in a strategic re-positioning of opera as entertainment tastes and audience demographics change. Three other operas will be site-specific; one will be staged in a church, for instance. Details on nzopera.com. Auckland dates for Figaro at the Aotea Centre are June 4, 6, 10, 12, 14.

++ **MONTEREY Howick** operas in 2020: Puccini's **Madama Butterfly** Feb-Mar; Philip Glass's **Akhmaten** Mar; Alban Berg's **Wozzeck** Mar-Apr; Gershwin's **Porgy and Bess** May; Handel's **Agrippina** May; Wagner's **The Flying Dutchman** June; Puccini's **Tosca** Jul-Aug; Donizetti's **Maria Stuarda** Aug.

++ **BOOKINGS** are open for **Auckland Arts Festival** events running from March 11-29, 2020. Go to aaf.co.nz for programming and booking details. Early bird deals end Dec 9.

++ **THE Auckland Philharmonia** will perform **Beethoven's** symphony cycle over four evenings next year to mark the composer's 250th birth year. Symphonies No 1, 2, 3 on Mar 21; No 4, 5 Mar 24; No 6,7 Mar 26; No 8, 9 Mar 29. All concerts Town Hall, 7.30 pm, except the Mar 29 performance which starts 5 pm.

++ **ROYAL New Zealand Ballet's** 2020 season: **Venus Rising** (ASB Waterfront Theatre July1-5); **Dangerous Liaisons** (Aotea Centre Sept 17-19); **The Sleeping Beauty** (Aotea Centre Dec 3-6, Takapuna Bruce Mason Centre Dec 11-12).

<u>Groups (yellow denotes full)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Convenor</u>
Anthropology 1 3 rd Thurs 10 am	Feb 20	BM Theatre	Potpourri No meeting Dec, Jan	Jennie Leyland 534 4034 Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology 2 4 th Mon 10 am	Jan 27		Lunch – venue TBA No meeting Dec	Margaret Hieatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am	Feb 7		TBA No meeting Jan	Malcolm/Dilys Booth 534 3604
Aviation and Aerospace 1 st Wed 10 am		BM Theatre	Jan, Feb meetings TBA	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Book Discussion 4 th Thurs 2 pm			Activity pause until early 2020	Margaret Smith 576 3206
Civilisations 3 rd Mon 1 pm	Jan 20	Cora Young's 55 Rodney St	<i>Beginnings of Capetian France</i> Cora Young	Cora Young 534 8623
Earth and the Universe 4 th Tues 10 am	Feb 25	BM Theatre	TBA No meeting Dec, Jan	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Thurs 10 am	Feb 6	Jean Denholm's 2/21 Drake St	<i>Maria Montessori</i> Gill Muggleston No meeting Jan	Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Famous & Infamous 2 3 rd Thurs 2 pm	Feb 20	Jan Naish-Wallis's 11 Shelley Beach Pde	Potpourri No meeting Dec, Jan	Allan Reid 534 9895
Forum 3 rd Fri 10 am	Feb 21	Venue and time TBA	No meeting Dec, Jan	Jessica Pybus 534 7415
French 4 th Fri 1 pm	Jan 31		French lunch – venue TBA No meeting Dec	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 rd Tues 10 am	Jan 21	BM Theatre	<i>They Shall Not Grow Old</i> DVD No meeting Dec	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am	Dec 12	John Peat's 130 Point View Dr	Potpourri No meeting Jan	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Literature 3 rd Wed 10 am	Dec 18	Judy Wilson's 32 Butley Dr	<i>Quartet</i> DVD No meeting Jan Feb 19 next – Maugham's Painted Veil (same venue)	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Movies 2 nd Mon, 1 pm	Feb 10	Jean Denholm's 2/21 Drake St	No meeting Dec, Jan	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Nature Walks and Talks 2nd Fri 9 am	Dec 13	Meet Howick Historical Village	To Pakuranga creek, Highland Park and back No walk in Jan	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Opera 1 2 nd Tues 9.30 am	Dec 10	BM Theatre	Lehar's <i>The Merry Widow</i> Renee Fleming No meeting Jan, Feb 11 next	Jean Denholm 534 6844
Opera 2 4 th Tues 1 pm	Feb 25		TBA No meeting Dec, Jan	Geraldine Rose 537 1917
Philosophy 1st Mon 10 am	Feb 3	BM Theatre	Pre-selected articles that guide us to get better at living life (No meeting Jan)	Christopher Nixon 535 5309
Poetry 2 nd Tues 2 pm	Dec 10	Joni Burgess's 9A Merino Ave	Christmas and holiday poems No meeting Jan, Feb 11 next	Beth Voogd 534 7468
Science 4 th Wed 10 am	Feb 26	BM Theatre	Potpourri No meeting Dec, Jan	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2nd Sun noon			After Dec 8, next meeting TBA	Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 st Wed 10 am	Feb 5		TBA No meeting Jan	Warren Taylor 534 3482
World of Art 1 3 rd Mon 10 am	Jan 20	BM Theatre	Potpourri No meeting Dec	Garry Law 271 6505
World of Art 2 3 rd Tues 1.30 pm	Feb 18	Dannemora Gardens, 30 Matarangi Rd	Potpourri No meeting Dec, Jan	Heather Watson 274 4747
World of Music 4 th Wed 1.30 pm	Jan 22	Jean Denholm's 2/21 Drake St	Potpourri – 10min each No meeting Dec	Ngaire Taylor 534 8538
World War II 2 nd Thurs 2pm	Dec 12	David Weston's 12 Campbell Rd, Maraetai	<u>Potpourri</u>	Allan Reid 534 9895
Writing 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm	Dec 10	Marian Heywood's 1/8 Aylmer Ct, Eastern Bch	<i>The Bonfire</i>	Marian Heywood 534 1159

