



Supporting
Lifelong Learning

Howick Inc.

PO Box 39035
Howick 2145
JUNE 2019

FINAL EDITION



COMMITTEE 2019-2020

DAVID DWERRYHOUSE

President/Membership/Ten-minute Speakers

MARGARET NICHOLLS

Immediate Past President/

Director of Studies

CORA YOUNG *Secretary/Auckland*

U3A Network Liaison

JONI BURGESS *Treasurer*

CHUA HUCK CHENG *Newsletter*

WARREN YARDLEY *Guest Speakers*

ROSEMARY OVENS *Almoner/Welcomer*

MARY KENNEDY *Minutes Secretary*

JUNE 10 MEETING

9.30 am, Howick Bowling Club

GUEST SPEAKER: Jane Harding on the work of the Liggins Institute

TEN MINUTES: Judy Wilson: Te Araroa Trail

TEA ASSIST: Anthropology H

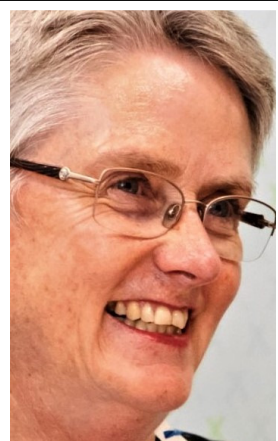


Photo credit Warren Yardley

PASSING OF THE BATON

David Dwerryhouse starting his tenure as the new President of Howick U3A with a floral tribute to outgoing President Margaret Nicholls (picture), whom he thanked for her leadership. The election held at the AGM last month brought in a new committee member, Mary Kennedy, while two serving members, Beverly Johnson and Beverly Jin, stepped down. All others were re-elected

* **Outgoing President's report overleaf**



ABOUT EARLY-LIFE SCIENCE

Professor Jane Harding (picture) of Auckland University is a researcher in neonatal science – care and development of newborns, the behaviour of nutrients and growth factors in the regulation of growth, blood glucose control and the long-term consequences of treatments undertaken. Her talk will be on the work of the Liggins Institute at the university. She is a Distinguished University Professor and had been Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), co-ordinating all research. She obtained her medical degree at Auckland University, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford where she completed her doctorate, and was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of California-San Francisco. She has received numerous awards for her work and is an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

NEXT MONTH: Fiona Jeffcoat on the experiences of a long-distance walker

OUTGOING PRESIDENT OFFERS THANKS

FULL text of retiring President Margaret Nicholls's report to the 2019 AGM held on May 13:

THIS year has been one of change and celebration. We moved from Nixon Hall to the Howick Bowling Club and we celebrated our 25th birthday.

I think you will agree the move has been most successful and our celebration was fun. This is a tribute to our strong membership and able committees who have ensured continuation of a vibrant club for 25 years. I wish to thank again the past Presidents and committees for their enthusiasm and commitment. I am honoured to have been a part of the story of Howick U3A.

Obviously members are the most important aspect of any club and we have maintained a steady number this year. Thank you for participating in both the monthly meetings and interest groups.

Of course you all know that a President is only a reflection of the willing members who are prepared to give of their energy and time to be on the committee. I am fortunate to have been part of an extremely talented and enthusiastic committee who supported me and made sure that you feel that you belong to a club that provides interest, companionship, enjoyment and learning. Research suggests that these are all things that promote a healthy life.

It is therefore to those enthusiastic people that I address this report.

David Dwerryhouse, as Membership Secretary, has ably kept accurate records and contact with new, current and past members. He has also had the role of Vice President and has carried out the task of thanking speakers and facilitating meetings during my absence. He has also brought calmness and sage advice.

Warren Yardley has continued to arrange for wonderful speakers to entertain and inform us and as a past President he has assisted me in my role with a thoughtful and steady voice.

Joni Burgess continues to work her magic with the finances. In spite of extra outlay, due to the move and the birthday catering, we are able to keep the subscription low and sponsor the Past President's trip.

Chua Huck Cheng provides us with accurate information about the interest groups, a brief overview of the monthly meetings, reminds us about club issues and also adds interesting snippets on events in the local area.

Beverly Johnson has ably assisted Corajean Young as Minutes Secretary and we thank you for taking on this task, Bev. All the best for the future.

Cora Young will continue as Correspondence Secretary and the Auckland Network contact as well as sharing her wisdom and joy with the committee. Several members attended the annual Auckland U3A Network meeting in August for an entertaining day. We also took part in a Network census.

The first person you see every month at the door is our Almoner, Rosemary Ovens. She is a welcoming face and she also makes sure that our wishes reach members who are unwell or bereaved.

Every month Beverly Jin confirms the group for the 10-minute speaker and she checks with Marian Heywood on the short story. Thank you for doing this Beverley, and we hope that you enjoy all your travels in the future. Thank you too, Marian, for entertaining us with amazing stories from the writing group.

Outside of the committee the tea team led by Betty Reid makes sure we have our "cuppa and bikkies" on time. As you will know when you have your turn to help, this task requires efficiency and organisation. Also behind the scenes, but very much valued, are Jim Hine and Bevin Cornwall who make sure that all the tech needs are met for the smooth running of the meetings.

When people join the U3A they are surprised at the number and breadth of our interest groups. These would not be the success they are without the contribution of convenors who ensure the meetings are interesting and enjoyable. This year we have tried to bring variation in this role to encourage members to share tasks and I am confident that members will put themselves forward as convenors in the future. Thank you to all of you.

Most of the committee members have indicated they are willing to stay on this year, but we have a few vacancies so please think about how you can support the club in this fulfilling way.

I have really enjoyed being your President and thank you for your patience and support.

AT LAST, A NOMINEE FOR VP

THE committee is happy to report we now have a nominee for the post of Vice President. Notice is hereby given that a special general meeting is called, concurrent with the July monthly meeting, to vote on the nomination.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

AN amendment to the Constitution on the scheduling of the annual general meeting was approved by a show of hands at the AGM. The new clause permits the AGM to be deferred to the month of May if there are compelling reasons for a postponement. The AGM is usually held in April.

RESIGNATIONS

MOYA Nixon, Doreen Priestley and Marjorie Silcock have resigned their memberships.

JULY MEETING

EARLY notice: The July meeting will be held downstairs at the Howick Bowling Club, not at the usual upper level.

SUBSCRIPTION DUE

A REMINDER that subscription of \$20 for the new financial year is due. Payment to Treasurer Joni Burgess at the meeting. Cheques made out to Howick U3A can also be mailed to Howick U3A Box 39035, Howick, Auckland 2014. Online payments to ASB Bank 12 3040 0556154 00 with surname as reference.

OF PARKINSON'S AND DEMENTIA

A PUBLIC talk on Parkinson's disease and dementia will be held at Auckland University on July 2 at 1-2.30 pm. Venue is the AMRF auditorium at the medical faculty, 85 Park Road, Grafton. Two scientists in neuroscience research, Dr Brigid Ryan and Dr Peter Freestone, will discuss latest advances in the study of these degenerative brain conditions. Event free but entry is by ticket. Email admin@medicalresearch.org.nz for tickets or call 9231701.

REPORT ON LAST MONTH'S TALKS

DAVE RONSON:

A HAMLET CALLED HOWICK

DAVE RONSON is an English transplant from a Lancashire hamlet called Howick -- population a few hundred and a satellite of Preston, a big town just 4 km distant. He relocated half a world away from Britain as a young man, and has lived in New Zealand for 45 years. A good portion of that time (25 years) has been spent in *our* Howick. Whether this was a happenstance, he didn't say. His description of the original Howick -- a settlement of tenant farmers, quaint cottages built between the wars, and solitary service providers such as a cobbler, a chemist and a petrol station -- bore little resemblance to his adoptive genteel Howick, if a situational familiarity had been an intent.

Members who attended the talk will have noted he retained a regional English accent, with barely a cadence of Kiwi speech evident after a half-century living in this country. In sport he identifies with Manchester United. With these antecedents it seemed natural he spoke of his English Howick with nostalgia although, it should be added, without a trace of homesickness. His recollection of his growing-up years was of the 1950s. There has only been "minor growth" since, he reported unhappily.

But there is significant history Howick can speak of, its origins believed to date to Norman times. Relics of the past the village has a few. There is the stone cross, known to locals as the Howick Cross, reputedly placed by the 13th century monarch King John (he of the Magna Carta which reduced royal power greatly) as a place of worship for village folk. There is a 17th century thatched cottage, known as the Marigold, where lived a spunky suffragette named Edith Rigby, whose brushes with the law extended to arson, vandalism and the bombing of Liverpool's cotton exchange. There would be little doubt she regarded her seven enforced stays in prison as recognition of her success at pursuing policy activism.

Mr Ronson's family history on the other hand is totally in character with the nature of the place and with the lay of the land. They had a family farm, the Marsh farm, thought to be the oldest property in the area. There were cottages in the compound where the family lived. But there was no hot water. How did they manage in brutal English winters? Even cattle had to be sheltered indoors in the winter months. He spoke of how village children who were practically on nodding terms with the herds of dairy cattle would scoff at the notion that there was such a thing as a blue cow. (Echoes of the illusory black rose, black tulip here.) But, as Mr Ronson pointed out, there was the Friesian-Shorthorn-X variety reared in Howick which had a blue-grey coat. Hard to know what disbelieving youngsters thought of the evidence.

Howick was not all bucolic charm and slow times. Reminders of changed times would intrude amid the clatter of farm equipment and machines threshing hay, when military planes built in Preston would break the sound barrier making test flights over the area. These sonic booms -- Mr Ronson dared his listeners to imagine the loudness of the blasts -- would shake windows and frighten the animals. Our Guy Fawkes night fireworks which send pets cowering couldn't hold a candle to these beastly claps of thunder.

Mr Ronson's final homage to the place where he grew up had to do with football -- naturally. Howick had no pub until 1975 when the Tom Finney Pub opened -- named for the Preston area's most famous son in the modern era and one of England's all-time greats. Finney played 76 times for England between 1946 and 1958. He was a loyal one-club player for Preston North End all his life. He even took a secondary job as a plumber in his early playing years when footballers' pay was nothing like today's grotesque amounts. Of such relatable modesty does the romance of an era morph into legend.

GEOFF MOONEY:

BIG HEART, SMALL TOOLS

GEOFF MOONEY dipped into his memory bank to pull out anecdotes of the limitations and herculean odds New Zealand's maritime search and rescue operations faced in this area of humanitarian work. In his young years he had been in the merchant navy, making master mariner. But it was his later years spent in the Transport Ministry's marine division, which coordinated rescue operations, that he relished. As he told it, this was a case of big heart and small tools: New Zealand, which has ever invested only slightly in defence hardware, took on an inordinately large role in rescues at sea, if one considered non-military work as an extension of a country's naval and air capability.

This was the big surprise his audience learnt about the scope of New Zealand's responsibility. The area covered was enormous: from south of the equator to Antarctica. Members would have wondered: What was Australia's role? Where was the United States, whose Pacific Fleet patrolled a big part of the Pacific? India is north of the equator, faraway China is off the radar -- they are out of the picture. But where was nearby Indonesia? Presumably it was because Indonesia, now a ranking maritime nation, hadn't yet reached sufficient scale in the time when Mr Mooney and his mates were doing improbable things. So, score one for New Zealand, which consistently has packed some punch for one its size.

Mr Mooney noted that New Zealand's logistical problem had always been its lack of planes. The old Orion and Hercules planes had done faithful service, but systems upgrades were patchy and fleet replacement had few advocates when social spending commanded most attention in Budget allocations. As for ships, critical first responders in sea rescue, Mr Mooney's recollection was that there used to be about 50 merchant vessels active in New Zealand waters. These and even fishing boats had been pressed into service as their crews knew coastal waters better than most. Now container ships dominate the scene, said Mr Mooney with an inaudible sigh. It appeared he meant to convey that ponderous behemoths are slow -- not much help in timely rescue.

But back to his active duty days. He recalled vividly the case of an American boatie couple reported missing in New Zealand's north-east corner. A call to the communications centre was received at 3 am -- "A case I will never forget" -- from elements of the US 5th Fleet, asking if they could help with the search. It turned out the intrepid Kiwis didn't need the Americans' assistance. ('Never under-estimate us Kiwis' could have an audience aside exchanged at this narration.)

Then as now, said Mr Mooney, most search-and-rescue was of small boats and yachties sailing the Pacific who were overdue or had radio contact broken off for a variety of reasons. Today, satellite phones and state-of-the-art radar make for a different ball game. In Mr Mooney's time, it was basically human endurance and ingenuity against the elements. This was where Mr Mooney and his band made a difference.

OUT AND ABOUT

++ **OPERATUNITY** has two events in the coming weeks. **The Dancing Years** is on June 11, featuring dance numbers from the movies. On July 23 comes **Divas Through the Decades** -- a skip through memory lane courtesy of names like **Connie Francis, Doris Day, Barbara Streisand** and **Judy Garland**. Also recognised is the died-too-young **Whitney Houston**. St Columba Church in Ti Rakau Dr, 11 am. Tickets bookings@operatunity.co.nz or call 0508 266237.

++ LAST performances of **The Barber of Seville, Rossini's** madcap opera that has one or two hummable arias, at the Aotea Centre on June 13, 15. Starts 7.30 pm, show duration just under 3hr. Ticket range \$50-\$180 from Ticketmaster (ticketmaster.co.nz). **Wyn Davies** conducts the **Auckland Philharmonia** backed by the **Freemasons NZ Opera Choir**. Principal singers are **Sandra Piques Eddy** (Rosina) and **John Tessier** (Count Almaviva).

++ **EXTREMES** of **Tchaikovsky** symphonies -- the overplayed **No 6 (Pathetique)** and the underplayed **No 1 (Winter Dreams)** -- get an airing this month. The **Auckland Philharmonia** under **Mikhail Tatarnikov** performs the Pathetique on June 27, paired with the **Ligeti Violin Concerto** (soloist **Andrew Beer**, the APO's Canadian concertmaster). In the soft-hued Winter Dreams, let's see how Russian conductor **Dima Slobodenlouk** moulds the often heavy-handed, big-sound **New Zealand Symphony Orchestra** in the mood music of wintry landscapes on June 21. The concerto on this programme is **Stravinsky's Violin Concerto** (soloist is German **Carolin Widmann**). Both concerts at Town Hall. APO tickets from its Town Hall box office or call 6231052, NZSO from ticketing@nzso.co.nz or 0800 479674.

++ **PAVAROTTI**, a film by **Ron Howard** on the late tenor, opens in cinemas on June 13.

++ **THE Royal New Zealand Ballet** puts on **White Swan, Black Swan** at the Aotea Centre on June 20, 21 and 22. Curtain up 7.30 pm, two performances on the 22nd including a 1.30 pm matinee. The ballet is a modern take on the **Tchaikovsky** classic, and with the same luscious score. Tickets \$70-\$140 from Ticketmaster.

++ **AUCKLAND University** is running a public lecture series, **Winter Week on Campus**, featuring faculty staff discussing issues of general and intellectual interest. A sampler: Egyptology, a person's relationship with his/her possessions, 3D printing, health and travel choices, urban biodiversity. July 8-12, 10 am to 2.30 pm. Fees apply. Call 0800 864266 to book or go to www.publicprogrammes.ac.nz/events/winter-week for details.

++ **PAPAKURA Museum** (209 Great South Rd, Papakura) is holding an exhibition, **Delicate Balance of Wobbling Stars**, by noted Maori artist and educator **Maureen Lander** in celebration of **Matariki 2019**. The artworks have a cosmological theme, in keeping with Matariki. Now on, closes July 19.

<u>Groups (yellow denotes full)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Convenor</u>
Anthropology H 3 rd Thurs 10 am	June 20	BM Theatre	Potpourri	Jennie Leyland 534 4034 Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology L 4 th Mon 10 am	June 24	Cora Young's 55 Rodney St	<i>Change in Chinese Mentality in the 20th century</i> Beverly Jin	Margaret Heiatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am	July 5	Ngaire Taylor's 6 Stevenson Way	<i>Farm Buildings</i> Maurice Taylor <i>Glass Bridges</i> Ngaire Taylor	Malcolm/Dilys Booth 534 3604
Aviation and Aerospace 1 st Wed 10 am	July 3	BM Theatre		Clive Bolt 534 2946
Book Discussion 4 th Thurs 2 pm	June 27	Margaret Smith's 25 Centre Ct, PPV		Margaret Smith 576 3206
Civilisations 3 rd Mon 1 pm	June 17	Cora Young's 55 Rodney St	DVD – topic to advise	Cora Young 534 8623
Earth and the Universe 4 th Tues 10 am	June 25	BM Theatre	<i>Life Cycle of Solar Mass Stars</i>	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Tues 10 am	July 2	Judith Hounsell's Villa 33, 7 Flatbush School Rd	<i>John Thaw</i> Judith Hounsell	Peter Garrick 535 4085
Famous & Infamous 2 3 rd Thurs 2 pm	June 20	Adrienne Teape's 159 Pah Rd, Cockle Bay	<i>The Borgias</i> Elizabeth Smith	Ray Lewis 535 5628
Famous & Infamous 3 1 st Thurs 10 am	July 4	Dannemora Gardens cinema lounge	Potpourri	Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Forum 3 rd Fri 10 am	June 21	Beverley Luxton's 1 Village Dr, PPV		Beverley Luxton 576 9625
French 4 th Fri 1 pm	June 28	David Dwerryhouse's 74A Aberfeldy Ave	<i>Brittany</i> Jennie Leyland and Angela Cullen	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 rd Tues 10 am	June 18	BM Theatre	<i>Potpourri (contd) – 5min on your choice of topic</i>	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am	June 13	June Barton's 16 Tui Vale, Cockle Bay	Potpourri	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Literature 3 rd Wed 10 am	June 19	Ngaire Taylor's 6 Stevenson Way	<i>Australian Myths and Legends</i> Ngaire Taylor	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Nature Walks and Talks 2nd Fri 9 am	June 14	Meet St Paul's Church carpark, Chapel Rd	<i>View Barry Curtis Park improvements</i>	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Opera 1 2 nd Tues 9.30 am	June 11	BM Theatre	<i>Manon</i> by Massenet Anna Netrebko	Jean Denholm 534 6844
Opera 2 4 th Tues 1 pm	June 25	BM Theatre	<i>La Belle Helene</i> by Offenbach 2hr	Geraldine Rose 537 1917
Philosophy 1st Mon 10 am	July 1	BM Theatre	<i>Pre-selected articles on better living - Discuss</i>	Christopher Nixon 535 5309
Poetry 2 nd Tues 2 pm	June 11	TBA	<i>Bring your favourite poems</i>	Beth Voogd 534 7468
Science 4 th Wed 10 am	June 26	BM Theatre	Potpourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2nd Sun noon	July 14	Uxbridge Arts & Culture Centre cafe		Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 st Wed 10 am	July 3			Warren Taylor 534 3482
World of Art 1 3 rd Mon 10 am	June 17	BM Theatre	<i>Marc Chagall</i>	Garry Law 271 6505
World of Art 2 3 rd Tues 1.30 pm	June 18	June Barton's 16 Tui Vale, Cockle Bay	<i>Rudall Hayward</i> P. Henty <i>Len Castle</i> J. Barton	Heather Watson 274 4747
World of Music 4 th Wed 1.30 pm	June 26	Ngaire Taylor's 6 Stevenson Way	<i>Daniel Barenboim</i> J. Forsyth <i>Touching on Beethoven</i> J. Dowd	Ngaire Taylor 534 8538
World War II 2 nd Thurs 2pm	June 13	Ray Lewis's 1/57 Mellons Bay Rd	<i>Spitfire Lost in France</i> Ray Lewis	Allan Reid 534 9895
Writing 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm	June 11	Judy Wilson's 32 Butley Drive	<i>Next Door</i>	Marian Heywood 534 1159

