



Supporting  
Lifelong Learning

**Howick Inc.**  
PO Box 39035  
Howick 2145  
**MARCH 2020**

**FINAL EDITION**



**COMMITTEE  
2019-2020**

- DAVID DWERRYHOUSE**  
*President/Membership*
- GERALDINE ROSE** *Vice President*
- MARGARET NICHOLLS**  
*Immediate Past President/Director of Studies*
- CORA YOUNG** *Secretary/Auckland*  
*U3A Network Liaison*
- JONI BURGESS** *Treasurer*
- CHUA HUCK CHENG** *Newsletter Editor*
- WARREN YARDLEY** *Guest Speakers*
- ROSEMARY OVENS** *Almoner/Welcomer*
- MARY KENNEDY** *Minutes Secretary*

**MARCH 9 MEETING**  
**9.30 am, Howick Bowling Club**

- GUEST SPEAKER: Hilary Arrowsmith: Auckland Libraries and the Digital Age**
- TEN MINUTES: Judy Wilson: From the Bottom of a Trunk**
- TEA ASSIST: Forum**

**CALLING PROSPECTIVE  
CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION**

THE election to choose a new committee will be held in May, at the annual general meeting. President David Dwerryhouse made a call last month for members to consider running for election as two places on the committee will fall vacant in the 2020-2021 term. Howick U3A also needs to continually rejuvenate its governing ranks. The constitution permits a maximum of thirteen committee members, a minimum of six. Intending candidates are asked to fill out forms of candidature early. Forms from Secretary Cora Young.

**DATA ON STUDY  
GROUP PROFILES**

DATA sheets were handed out to convenors of study groups at last month's general meeting for them to record attendance and also to gather data that might help them plan their activities better. If some group members have been missing meetings regularly, convenors would want to find out why. Arrangements could be made to assist them with shared rides, for instance, if limited mobility was the reason. If groups are filling up to a number considered the maximum a regular host could accommodate comfortably, convenors could inform Director of Studies Margaret Nicholls that the groups are full. They will get a yellow designation in the newsletter to show they cannot take in new members. Conversely, under-strength groups could put out a call for more members.



**ALL ABOUT READING**

**HILARY Arrowsmith** (picture), our guest speaker, picked up the reading habit at a young age by frequenting the Remuera Library. It seems appropriate that her professional life should now revolve around the printed word. She has worked as a librarian since 2001, been customer services librarian at the Remuera Library and is now senior librarian for programmes and events, Auckland Libraries. In this capacity as facilitator of reading services, Ms Arrowsmith has organised book clubs and gives talks to introduce older folk to the use of electronic devices to access books and other content, such as e-magazines, and to learn to use tablets and mobile phones with ease.

**IN APRIL:** *Beth Voogd on the Dutch Resistance in WWII and Chris Cameron on Native Schools in New Zealand.*

## **RETIREMENT VILLAGES:**

### **CLARITY SOUGHT**

CONSUMER NZ is taking a hard look at occupancy contracts for retirement villages and plans to campaign for the removal of clauses it considers vague, unfair or otherwise loaded in the developer's favour, according to the Ministry of Social Development. Consumer NZ takes the position that complex contracts are a barrier to prospective clients making sound decisions. Those intending to 'go village' should look up the MSD website [superseniors.msd.govt.nz](http://superseniors.msd.govt.nz). It has a wealth of advice and links to relevant information sources.

## **U3A ONLINE RESOURCE**

### **ON OFFER**

CORA Young, our liaison person with the umbrella Auckland U3A Network, reminds study group convenors that an online resource called U3A Online is available to members. It carries information and courses on a range of subjects which study groups could tap into to complement their activities. Go to [u3aonline.org.au](http://u3aonline.org.au) or see Cora Young for details. There is a small charge for using the platform.

## **NEW MEMBER**

PATRICIA McDonald (sponsor Geraldine Rose) was inducted last month as a new member. She has an interest in history and things French.

## **NEW PHONE NUMBER**

MICHELLE Minson's home number has been changed to 5329284.

## **REPORT ON LAST MONTH'S TALK**

### **GERALDINE ROSE:**

#### **MY LIFE ON THE BOARDS**

OUR Vice President Geraldine Rose sang in German opera houses for the whole of her 23-year professional career. Opera devotees know of Vienna, Milan, London, St Petersburg and Paris as the nodes of the European operatic universe. Not forgetting Bayreuth, of course. Ms Rose asked whether anyone in the audience had been to Bayreuth. None had. This was where she needed to explain how Bayreuth stands by reputation at the summit of the artform.

It is a small Bavarian town where the Wagner festival has been staged almost uninterrupted since 1876. Bayreuth is where singers and conductors at the peak of their craft want to perform, not for the fees which are often below market rate but for the glory and honour of playing in such Wagner staples as the Ring cycle of four operas based on Germanic legend.

Just like another German cultural phenomenon -- the once-a-decade *Passion Play* in the Bavarian village of Oberammergau -- these events are sold out years in advance. Ms Rose considered her five years in the 1980s under contract to Bayreuth as the icing on her career. As well she might: she had a couple of solo parts and was a flower maiden who attempted to seduce Placido Domingo's character in *Parsifal*. Being a Bayreuth participant meant one was practically given the keys to the city, she said: feted and treated as honoured residents during the Wagner season.

Another career highlight was her part as a soloist in the Stuttgart State Opera's world premiere of *Akhnaten*, by the American Minimalist composer Philip Glass. The opera about an Egyptian sun king is sung in ancient tongues including biblical Hebrew. The world premiere was recorded -- naturally -- and Ms Rose had her name inscribed for posterity in the CD's performing credits as one of Akhnaten's daughters.

But stage success is achieved through a hard grind. Ms Rose started singing in Australia after graduating from Melbourne University with a degree in performance. Then Europe beckoned. As in all stage careers Ms Rose began hers modestly, singing briefly in England before moving to Germany where she started off in a provincial opera house in Gelsenkirchen. After that came the high-paying Stuttgart State



*Bayreuth Festspielhaus: Temple to Richard Wagner*

Opera, a progression she likened to playing for the All Blacks after a spell in the minor leagues. As in Bayreuth, Stuttgart State Opera performers were “admired and respected as contributors to the city’s cultural life”, she said.

Grandeur on stage, which opera epitomises, often hides the blood, sweat and tears of backstage chaos -- like costume fittings and the hours spent on makeup -- and rehearsals which could go badly wrong if the producer – usually a brand-name personage from another performance medium -- didn’t have a clue about what he was doing. Ms Rose shared anecdotes about a Spanish movie director who made a mess of *Carmen* -- apparently confusing stage directing for screen production values -- and a Romanian playwright hired to produce *Aida* who, it quickly became apparent to the cast, could not have heard the music, still less read the libretto.

Also unseen by audiences is the lengths to which stage prompters in the wings cue singers in on the beginning phrases and also to ensure singers are kept “in time” so as not to get out of phase. In Bayreuth and other concert halls which are reverberant, with a lapse of seconds before the sound reaches the audience, the chorus ensemble would not be singing to the conductor’s beat. They would be following the cue of chorus directors doing frantic hand gestures from the wings. The choral singing will come fractionally ahead of the conductor’s cue. Out of sight, but of a piece with the music.

How’s that for the mystique of opera?

**BAYREUTH NOTE:** Pietari Inkinen from Finland, music director of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra from 2008-2015, will conduct a new production of the Ring cycle this year. This will be his first appearance.



*Photo courtesy of Rocket Lab*

## **ROCKETMEN**

A COMBINED party of the Howick and Pakuranga U3A Aviation and Aerospace study groups visited Rocket Lab’s mission control and manufacturing facility in Mt Wellington on Feb 19. Its opening in 2018 featured a special guest, William Shatner of the Star Trek series. Rocket Lab is an American space technology company of New Zealand origin, headquartered in California, which launches smaller satellites into low Earth orbit for commercial and government customers. In January this year its New Zealand launch pad in Mahia Peninsula, near Gisborne, successfully sent up a satellite for the United States National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), using an Electron rocket developed by Rocket Lab. The NRO is an intelligence agency. This was the first launch of a NRO payload from New Zealand. The U3A visitors were shown around the facility and briefed on the ongoing works programme. Howick members who visited were Hugh Martin, Aviation/Aerospace convenor Clive Bolt, Peter Robson, Chris Cameron, Garry Law and Jim Hine. Try spot them in the picture above. The lone woman is Rocket Lab’s host.



## OUT AND ABOUT

++ THE **Manukau Concert Band** plays a programme of *Sturm und Drang* (roughly, storm and stress) music at **St Andrew's Church Centre**, Vincent St, on March 28, 7-9.15 pm. Admission \$10. The Sturm und Drang artistic movement in 18<sup>th</sup> century Germanic Europe was characterised by free expression of emotions that shook up the senses but which led to contradictory conclusions of release and continued questing. It was the precursor to the Romantic movement in literature and music. Typical early Sturm practitioners were **Haydn, Mozart, Goethe** and **Schiller**.

++ **HOWICK Little Theatre** has an **Agatha Christie** thriller coming in May – **Love From a Stranger**. Man sweeps woman (who just had a lottery windfall) off her feet while her fiancé is abroad, they get married and go to live in the quiet countryside. Bliss – or what? May 9-30, 8 pm, with 2 pm matinees May 10 and 17. Directed by **Laurie Mills**. Phone 3611000 for tickets, seniors \$26.

++ **BUDDHA Day**: April 4-5 at the **Howick Buddhist temple, Fo Guang Shan**, in Stancombe Rd, Flat Bush. This annual event that draws thousands of visitors has everything: food and craft stalls, multicultural musical and dance performances, taiqi demonstrations, blessings, and quiet contemplation for those who venture into the meditation halls. The temple complex of about 4 ha is itself worth exploring. From 10 am.

++ **BACH Musica** presents **Bach's St Matthew Passion** at the Town Hall on April 19, 5 pm. Running time 3hr. Principal singers are soprano **Elizabeth Mandeno** and tenor **Lachlan Craig**. **Joel Amosa** is Christ and **Iain Tetley** the Evangelist. Choral backing **Auckland Girls Choir** and **Auckland Youth Choir**. Conductor **Rita Paczian**. Book online admin@bachmusica.com, phone 309 2224. Ticket range \$30-\$70.

++ **SHOWTIME Las Vegas**: This will be the **Operatunity** offering on April 7, featuring the vocals of such as **Elvis Presley, Tom Jones, Cher** and **Celine Dion** – singers many seniors can relate to. Showtime 11 am at the usual place (St Columba Church, Ti Rakau.) The March programme for Botany on March 10 is a tribute to **Glenn Miller** and his big-band swing music. Bookings operatunity.co.nz or call 0508 266237.

++ **BALLET Preljocaj** from France puts on **Snow White** this month as part of the **Auckland Arts Festival**. This is a modernistic staging of the tale, with costumes designed by **Jean Paul Gautier** and set to music by **Mahler**. Choreographer is **Angelin Preljocaj**. March 11-15 at the Aotea Centre, running time 110 min with no intermission. Go to aaf.co.nz for times which differ during the run. Concession range \$54-\$125. Online bookings ticketmaster.co.nz and aaf.co.nz, or at the Aotea Centre box office (9512501.)

++ ANOTHER ballet to mark down is the **Moscow Ballet La Classique's** performance of **Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty** at the Aotea Centre on May 9, 7.30 pm. 160 min with intermission. Concessions \$75, ticketmaster.co.nz (0800 111999.) The La Classique company was founded in 1990.

++ THE autumn series of the **Thursdays@Seven** concerts at All Saints Church Howick is on. **Jade Quartet** on March 12; violinist **Arwen Newband** and pianist **Peter Watts** March 19; classical guitarist **Bruce Paine** March 26; the music of 18<sup>th</sup> century Spanish composer **Antonio Soler** April 2; violinist **Natalia Lomeiko** and pianist **Sarah Watkins** April 7 (Tuesday). Door donations appreciated.

++ THE **Auckland Youth Orchestra** under the baton of **Anton Poljanich** plays **Beethoven's Triple Concerto** and **Rimsky-Korsakov's** colour-rich **Scheherazade** at All Saints Church on March 14, 7.30 pm.

++ THE widely admired **Soweto Gospel Choir** from South Africa will give one concert only on March 18, as part of the **Auckland Arts Festival**. Their blend of African gospel, freedom songs and grassroots blues sung to uninhibited dance gyrations has won them fans across the world for close to two decades. First appearance in Auckland. Aotea Centre, 8 pm, 2hr duration. Concession range \$57-\$89. Bookings aaf.co.nz or at the Aotea Centre box office.

++ THIS one for fishing enthusiasts. The **Prospect of Howick** is holding a fishing competition on March 29, 4 am-3 pm, in association with **Bosuns Bar** and **Big Fish Bait & Tackle** of Cascades Rd. \$5,000 of prizes going, with \$1,500 for the heaviest snapper. Entry fee \$25 per line, \$30 after March 15. Tickets from Prospect of Howick (5343199) and Big Fish Bait & Tackle (5762764). Fish species listed are **snapper, John Dory, trevally, kingfish, kahawai**.

++ **FRENCH Film Festival** at Monterey Howick on March 19-April 5. Seniors \$12.50.

<u>Groups (yellow denotes full)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Convenor</u>
Anthropology 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 10 am	Mar 19	BM Theatre	<i>The War on Women</i> Joni Burgess	Jennie Leyland 534 4034 Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology 2 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon 10 am	Mar 23	Cora Young's 55 Rodney St	<i>A Women's World</i> Gill Muggleston	Margaret Hieatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 <sup>st</sup> Fri 10 am	Apr 3	Maurice Taylor's 6 Stevenson Way	Maurice & Ngaire Taylor presenting – topic TBA	Malcolm/Dilys Booth 534 3604
Aviation and Aerospace 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 10 am	Apr 1	BM Theatre	<i>Parasitic Aircraft</i>	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Book Discussion 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 2 pm	Mar 26	Margaret Smith's 25 Centre Ct, PPV		Margaret Smith 576 3206
Civilisations 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 1 pm	Mar 16	Cora Young's 55 Rodney St	<i>Persia</i> Gill Muggleston	Cora Young 534 8623
Earth and the Universe 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 10 am	Mar 24	BM Theatre	<i>Milky Way Galaxy Decoded</i>	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs 10 am	Apr 2	Jean Denholm's 2/21 Drake St	<i>Charles Rene McIntosh</i> Jean Denholm <i>Susan Boyle</i> Jean Fitzgerald	Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Famous & Infamous 2 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 2 pm	Mar 19	Allan Reid's 4A Patons Rd	<i>Highclere &amp; Earl of Carnarvon</i> Allan Reid	Allan Reid 534 9895
Forum 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fri 2 pm	Mar 20	Jessica Pybus's Highlands, 49 Aberfeldy Ave, Highland Park		Jessica Pybus 534 7415
French 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri 1 pm	Mar 27	David Dwerryhouse's 74A Aberfeldy Ave	<i>French Regions</i>	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues 10 am	Mar 17	BM Theatre	Potpourri – 5min per member on a world history topic	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs 10 am	Mar 12	Malcolm Booth's 3/47 Orangewood Dr	Potpourri – Garry Law leads	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Literature 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 10 am	Mar 18	Judy Wilson's 32 Butley Dr	<i>Life of Somerset Maugham</i> Judy Wilson	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Movies 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon, 1 pm	Mar 9	Jean Denholm's 2/21 Drake St		Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Nature Walks and Talks 2nd Fri 9 am	Mar 13	Meet Whitford Village roundabout	Wade-Turanga walkway and back – Allan Reid to lead	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Opera 1 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 9.30 am	Mar 10	BM Theatre	Verdi's <i>Otello</i> (Kiri Te Kanawa)	Jean Denholm 534 6844
Opera 2 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 1 pm	Mar 24	BM Theatre	Donizetti's <i>Anna Bolena</i> 194 min	Lana Ashley (temp) 274 6797
Philosophy 1st Mon 10 am	Apr 6	BM Theatre	Pre-selected articles that guide us to get better at living life	Christopher Nixon 535 5309
Poetry 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 2 pm	Mar 10	Colleen Williams's 1/139 Clovelly Rd	<i>Why Poetry?</i>	Beth Voogd 534 7468
Science 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 10 am	Mar 25	BM Theatre	Potpourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2nd Sun noon	Mar 8 Apr 12	Danske Mobler cafe TBA		Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 10 am	Apr 1	Vivien Roberts's 24 Elsmore Crescent	<i>From Norway to the Russian Border</i> Vivien Roberts	Warren Taylor 534 3482
World of Art 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 10 am	Mar 16	BM Theatre	<i>Fake or Fortune: Lowry</i> DVD <i>Peter McIntyre: War Artist</i> Jennie Leyland	Garry Law 271 6505
World of Art 2 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues 1.30 pm	Mar 17	BM Theatre	<i>William Robinson</i> Garry Law	Heather Watson 274 4747
World of Music 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 1.30 pm	Mar 25	Ngaire Taylor's 6 Stevenson Way	<i>Mendelssohn</i> Dene McConnochie	Ngaire Taylor 534 8538
World War II 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs 2 pm	Mar 12	Geoff Mooney's 23 Limerick Place	<i>The Ratline</i> Geoff Mooney	Allan Reid 534 9895
Writing 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 1.30 pm	Mar 17	Marian Heywood's 1/8 Aylmer Court	<i>Rain</i>	Marian Heywood 534 1159

