



Supporting
Lifelong Learning

Howick Inc.
PO Box 39035
Howick 2145
NOVEMBER 2018

FINAL EDITION



COMMITTEE 2018-2019

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DAVID DWERRYHOUSE
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CHUA HUCK CHENG *Newsletter*
ROSEMARY OVENS *Almoner*
BEVERLY JOHNSON *Assistant Secretary*
BEVERLY JIN *Ten-Minute Speakers*

NEXT MEETING: November 12, 9.30 am
Howick Bowling Club

GUEST SPEAKERS: Sheila Russell - *20th Century Child*
Murray Clent - *Hitler's Eagles' Nest*

TEN MINUTES: Judy Lee – *The Eleventh Hour*

TEA ASSIST: World of Art 2

CONVENERS' EVALUATION

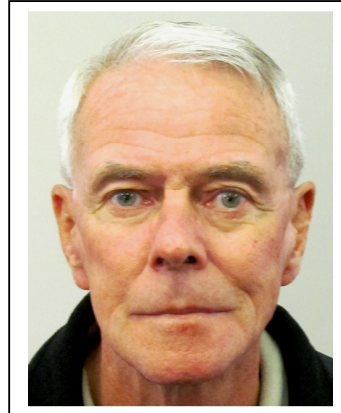
STUDY group conveners are asked to meet President/Director of Studies Margaret Nicholls after the general meeting to evaluate progress of a modified system of managing study meetings, as several groups have had a change of convener while some others have been experiencing a fall in numbers. The new format which arose from discussions Ms Nicholls had with conveners earlier in the year was aimed at encouraging participation by as many group members as possible since passivity can lead to uneven presentation loads borne by the more active. Attendance trends were also to be monitored and remedies sought if members were frequently missing meetings, for whatever reason. Rotation of conveners was also an objective to give relief to those who feel they have been too long in the role, and to get new conveners blooded. The meeting starting at noon should last about half an hour.

AGED SURVEY RESPONSES

THE public consultation on enriching the lives of seniors drew 470 submissions, according to the Minister for Seniors Tracey Martin. Howick U3A members who offered their thoughts are thanked. The data is being evaluated, out of which is promised an action plan to improve liveability and work prospects for those who choose to stay employed. The minister disclosed that main themes of the submissions were, not surprisingly, adequate retirement income, health and social interactions. Seniors also wanted to be treated with respect. Another point emphasised was that there be realisation the aged population in this country is diverse, with multi-faceted needs and wants. This would suggest more sensitivity in policy execution by public servants is called for.

ANTHEMS AND NATIONALISM

NATIONAL anthems, the subject of last month's talk, sounded dry on the face of it. But guest speaker Phil Sai-Louie infused his talk with wit, historical perspective and moments of irreverence such that an exposition on the anthropology of anthems turned out to be an entertaining take on how people are moved,



OF FACTORY AND LODGE

Howick U3A member Sheila Russell (top left) will share duty with Murray Clent as guest speakers. British-born Ms Russell, who lived through the last war under German assault, will relate her mother's quite different experiences as a textile worker in pre-war England. Ms Russell was a hospital dietician and did various jobs in schools before coming with her husband in the 1970s to settle in New Zealand, where she retrained as a teacher.

Mr Clent's subject will be the alpine mountaintop hideout of Adolf Hitler's nicknamed Eagle's Nest. It was here that he would relax with his trusted principals and entertain carefully chosen guests -- aside from plotting the trajectory of the Third Reich. Born in Invercargill, Mr Clent had been an accountant/company secretary whose last job was with Carter Holt Harvey.

sometimes in not so good ways, by words and music which express their identity. An example of the not so good was the case of the Burmese anthem's composer who was imprisoned by the British colonisers then by the Japanese who in turn had driven out the British. The composer spent in all 16 years in prison. Moral of the story: a stirring anthem can sound subversive to ears not intended.

Moments in sporting triumph could be marred too. The New Zealand men's coxed four rowing team that won gold in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City heard not God Defend New Zealand but Britain's anthem at the medal ceremony. It was only from the 1972 Games on that Kiwis came into their own, so to speak. Why was that? Wish Mr Sai-Louie had elaborated on it. But that wasn't half as mortifying as the great Ethiopian marathoner Abebe Bikila, a double Olympic gold medallist, having to endure listening to the host nations' anthems at his victory ceremonies in Rome in 1960 and again at the 1964 Tokyo Games. Some double whammy. In neither instance had the Ethiopian anthem been prepared because he hadn't been expected to win. Luxembourg's surprise men's 1,500m winner at the 1952 Helsinki Games, Josy Barthel, suffered the same indignity when a mangled "anthem" was improvised because sheet music for his country's anthem wasn't available.

Mr Sai-Louie saved a howler for last. He picked his Top Three of anthems, for their words and uplifting music. France came in at No 3, South Africa was second and – wait for this – America's Star-Spangled Banner was his top choice. Probably anticipating protests of incredulity from his audience (which there were, good-naturedly), the speaker was quick to say this was a personal opinion.

NEW MEMBERS

TWO new members came on board last month. **Geraldine Rose**, sponsored by Cora Young, is keen on music and opera. She plans to join these groups and also Famous-Infamous, Art and Travel. **Jan Porritt** (sponsor Joni Burgess) is looking at Anthropology, History, Travel and Earth and Universe.

RESIGNED

DAVID Bone resigned this month.

CHANGE AT OPERA 2

MOYA Nixon has resigned as convener of Opera 2, and **Geraldine Rose** takes over. Ms Nixon is thanked for the expertise and insights she brought to the role, which made opera viewing more fun, less befuddling.

DIETARY REQUESTS FOR X'MAS PARTY

VEGETARIANS and those who are gluten-intolerant are asked to inform President Margaret Nicholls (margn@waimama.co.nz, 5366709) or Secretary Cora Young (coraj@xtra.co.nz, 5348623) of their dietary needs as preparations for the Christmas tea are well in hand. A few members stated their preferences at the last meeting, so this notice is meant for those who were absent. Do tell friends who do not use a computer.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

CONVENERS are asked to prepare two quiz questions each (with the answers provided) related to their subject areas, as a contingency item for the Christmas tea. Questions should be of a general nature which anyone with sound general knowledge is likely to know. Send your questions/answers to the quizmaster David Dwerryhouse (daviddwerry@outlook.com) by Nov 23.

ATTENTION, ATTENTION

VOLUNTEERS are sought for ongoing research conducted by Evatte Tiana Sciberras-Lim, a PhD candidate at Auckland University, to understand how a person's capacity to focus attention on a task at hand declines with age. It seeks to determine how well one is able to filter out distractions when driving, reading, watching TV or walking to the shops, as examples. Safety is a concern, enjoyment an aspiration. The researcher thanks members who helped with an early phase of the research last year. The current phase will involve visits to the university's city campus for cognitive tests and EEG experiments. Subjects will be above age 60 and have normal vision or normal vision with glasses. Email the researcher (esci911@aucklanduni.ac.nz) for details with 'Avoiding distraction – behavioural/EEG study' in the subject line.

ARTHRITIS SUPPORT

WORLD Arthritis Day was observed internationally last month, October. Those who suffer from this condition, which statistics show afflicts 650,000 people in New Zealand, may want to link up with local

support groups organised by Arthritis New Zealand. Go to its website arthritis.org.nz for details or call 0800 663463 to speak to an arthritis educator. According to the literature, there are some 100 known types of arthritis, the common forms being osteoarthritis, gout and rheumatoid arthritis. Symptoms are joint swelling, persistent morning stiffness, redness or warmth in joints and persistent pain or tenderness.

BOOKER PRIZE POSTSCRIPT

READERS of fiction will have known that a 56-year-old Northern Ireland writer, Anna Burns, was last month named the winner of the 2018 Man Booker Prize for *Milkman*, a story set in the period of the Catholic-Protestant conflict in Ireland seen through the eyes of a young girl.

What they probably didn't know was that Ms Burns was a struggling writer barely able to make ends meet, living on charity and benefits, when her big break came. In between warding off debilitating back pains and bouts of despair to complete the book, she also did house-sitting and used food banks to keep herself going. So the win which carries a cash prize equivalent of NZ\$100,000 (and decent income from a spike in sales of the book, maybe film rights) could not have been more timely, or deserving.

She said of the windfall: "I'll clear my debts and live on what's left." Yet *Milkman*, her third novel, was turned down by several publishers until the Faber & Faber imprint accepted the manuscript. Ms Burns was the first female winner since New Zealander Eleanor Catton won in 2013 for *The Luminaries*.

OUT AND ABOUT

++ **MICHAEL Houstoun**, a home-grown 'name' pianist beloved of concertgoers, joins in the **Manukau Symphony Orchestra's** 25th anniversary celebrations to play two pieces – **Bach's Keyboard Concerto No 1 in D minor** and **Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini**. Main orchestral piece is **Handel's Music for the Royal Fireworks**. Conductor **Uwe Grodd**. Nov 24, 7.30 pm at the Vodafone Events Centre, Manukau City. Seniors concession \$34. Phone bookings 0800 289849 or 5773031.

++ **THE Thursdays@Seven** spring concert series at All Saints Anglican Church in Howick closes with two events in November. On Nov 15 **Ensemble East** plays a **Mozart** string quartet, followed by **Lisa Chou** (piano) and **Donagh Rees** (narration) in **Poulenc's Story of Babar the Elephant**. On Nov 22 pianist **Flavio Villani** gives a recital of **Beethoven, Schubert, Liszt** and his own compositions. Entry by donation, 7-8 pm.

++ A **CHRISTMAS Cinderella** pantomime will be the **Operatunity** touring group's year-end presentation. St Columba Church in Ti Rakau Drive, two shows on Nov 20 at 11 am and 2 pm. Single tickets \$35, group discounts available. Packed lunch included. Bookings 0508 266237 or operatunity.co.nz/concerts.

++ **THE** inaugural **NZ Irish Festival** of food n drink, live music, comedy and film opens in various locations on Nov 15. For Howick-Pakuranga residents, opening festivities will be at **O'Hagan's Irish Pub, 2 Dunrobin Place, Highland Park**. From 5 pm, no door charge. Festival details nzirishfest.co.nz.

++ **BEETHOVEN's First and Ninth symphonies** round off conductor **Edo de Waart's** 2018 Auckland calendar with the **New Zealand Symphony Orchestra** on Nov 24 at the Town Hall. 8 pm. The NZSO will be playing the complete Beethoven symphony cycle in its 2019 season over four concerts in August.

++ **NEW Zealand Opera** 2019 season: **The Barber of Seville** at Aotea Centre June 6, 9, 13, 15; **Don Giovanni** (concert performance) at Town Hall July 19; **The Turn of the Screw** at ASB Waterfront Theatre Oct 18, 20, 23.

++ **ROYAL New Zealand Ballet** 2019 season: **Black Swan, White Swan** at Bruce Mason Centre North Shore June 7, 8, Aotea Centre June 20, 21 22; **Bold Moves** at Aotea Centre Aug 20, 23, 25; **Hansel and Gretel** at Aotea Centre Dec 5, 6, 7, Bruce Mason Centre Dec 13, 14.

++ **PARNELL's Rose Festival** is marking its 25th anniversary. Make tracks to the Parnell Rose Gardens for the event on Nov 18. To amp up the vibe, there will be food/market stalls and all things gardening.

++ **NZ Flower and Garden Show** at Trusts Arena in Henderson, Nov 28-Dec 2. Opens 10 am. Seniors \$28. West Auckland is a world away for Howick-Pakuranga residents but gardening devotees would be happy to make the epic journey. Tickets from Ticketek (ticketek.co.nz.) Show website nzflowergardenshow.co.nz.

Groups (yellow denotes full)	Date	Venue	Topic	Convener
Ancient Civilisations 3 rd Mon 1 pm	Nov 19	Cora Young's 55 Rodney St	Potpourri	Cora Young 534 8623
Anthropology H 3 rd Thurs 10 am	Nov 15	BM Theatre	<i>Women of China</i> Peta Carnell	Jennie Leyland 534 4034 Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology L 4 th Mon 10 am	Nov 26	Cora Young's 55 Rodney St	<i>Colours</i> Marianne Fredericksen	Margaret Hieatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am	Dec 7	Philippa Wilson's 12 Daria Place	Potpourri	Maurice Taylor 534 8538
Book Discussion 4 th Thurs 2 pm	Nov 22	Margaret Smith's 25 Centre Ct, PPV	Latest reads	Margaret Smith 576 3206
Earth and the Universe 4 th Tues 10 am	Nov 27	BM Theatre	Latest research discoveries	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Tues 10 am	Dec 4 (Nov no meeting)	Nancy Edwards's 17 Masefield St	Potpourri on Christmas theme - all contribute	Peter Garrick 535 4085
Famous & Infamous 2 3 rd Thurs 2 pm	Nov 15	Glenda Van der Maas's 50 Sale St	<i>Cartoonist Carl Giles</i> Richard Burns	Richard/Moira Burns 533 8793
Famous & Infamous 3 1 st Thurs 10 am	Dec 6	Dannemora Gardens cinema lounge	Potpourri – each to bring a plate	Jean Fitzgerald 577 5546
Forum 3 rd Fri 10 am	Nov 16	Beverley Luxton's 1 Village Dr, PPV	Open discussion	Beverley Luxton 576 9625
French 4 th Fri 1 pm	Nov 23		<i>Lunch at La Fourchette, St Helier's</i>	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 rd Tues 10 am	Nov 20	BM Theatre	Potpourri – 5min each on any history topic	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am	Concluded Dec 13 next			Alan La Roche 534 7366
Literature 3 rd Wed 10 am	Nov 21	Judy Wilson's 32 Butley Drive	<i>Victor Hugo</i> David Dwerryhouse	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Nature Walks and Talks 2 nd Fri 9 am	Dec 14	Meet Mellons Bay beach	<i>Walk up the valley and back</i>	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Opera 1 2 nd Tues 9.30 am	Nov 13	BM Theatre	<i>The Barber of Seville</i> by Rossini	Hilary Patterson 533 8785
Opera 2 4 th Tues 1 pm	Nov 27	BM Theatre	<i>Natalie Dessay: Operatic selections</i> 135min	Geraldine Rose 537 1917
Philosophy 1 st Mon 10 am	Dec 3	BM Theatre	<i>Philosophy of Nietzsche</i> Group discussion	Christopher Nixon 535 5309
Poetry 2 nd Tues 2 pm			Activities resume next year.	Beth Voogd 534 7468
Science 4 th Wed 10 am	Nov 28 (no meetings Dec/Jan)	BM Theatre	Potpourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2 nd Sunday, noon	Dec 9 next			Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 st Wed 10 am	Dec 5	David Dwerryhouse's 74A Aberfeldy Ave	<i>Travels in France</i> David Dwerryhouse	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
World of Art 1 3 rd Mon 10 am	Nov 19	BM Theatre	Potpourri	Garry Law 271 6505
World of Art 2 3 rd Tues 1.30 pm	Nov 20	BM Theatre	<i>Hammershoi</i> DVD and potpourri	Heather Watson 274 4747
World of Music 4 th Wed 1.30 pm	Nov 28	Jean Denholm's 2/21 Drake St	<i>Development of Christmas carols</i> Richard and Moira Burns	Ngaire Taylor 534 8538
World War II 2 nd Thurs 2pm	Concluded Dec 13 next			Allan Reid 534 9895
Writing 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm	Nov 13	Judy Wilson's 32 Butley Dr	<i>'I Wonder Where He's Gone'</i>	Marian Heywood 534 1159

