



Supporting
Lifelong Learning

Howick Inc.
PO Box 39035
Howick 2145
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FINAL EDITION



COMMITTEE 2018-2019

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President/Director of Studies
DAVID DWERRYHOUSE
Vice President/Membership
WARREN YARDLEY
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JONI BURGESS *Treasurer*
CHUA HUCK CHENG *Newsletter*
ROSEMARY OVENS *Almoner*
BEVERLY JOHNSON *Assistant Secretary*
BEVERLY JIN *Ten-Minute Speakers*

NEXT MEETING: **October 8, 9.30 am**
Howick Bowling Club

GUEST SPEAKER: **Phil Sai-Louie: The Call of National Anthems**

TEN MINUTES: **Short Story**

TEA BREAK: **World of Art 1**

NOT ALL ABOUT AGE: PRESIDENT NICHOLLS

PRESIDENT Margaret Nicholls last month offered her take on how to develop U3A membership, in response to the Auckland U3A Network president’s view that attracting younger members was important for the movement to sustain itself as membership all round was declining through ageing. While she did not disagree on a fundamental level with Network head Heather Baigent’s position, Ms Nicholls argued that commitment and enthusiasm were the critical attributes that would keep the U3A healthy and progressive, “whatever the age of members”. In short, the spirit matters whereas age is only a number.

She said: “We will grow our membership through having vibrant groups, interesting speakers, enthusiasm for learning and sharing knowledge and wisdom with one another.” She suggested that more people would join up “if we spread the word that the U3A is a wonderful way to keep young in body and mind”. As social mixing and lifelong learning have been shown to be positive in healthy ageing, she asked that such activities be celebrated.

AS I SEE IT – BY AN EX-MINISTER

MICHAEL Bassett, last month’s guest speaker, cast a critical eye over the New Zealand political landscape while giving a historical perspective on the country’s changing politics over the decades. As a minister in the Labour Cabinets of David Lange and Geoffrey Palmer, he brought an insider’s knowledge to his subject. As a non-partisan observer free of party affiliation, he was unsparing in his judgments but generous in his praise of good leadership where it occurred in the past. His was undoubtedly one of the more memorable guest appearances before the Howick U3A. Following are excerpts and his responses to members’ questions:

On MMP: Dr Bassett was opposed to the electoral reform when first proposed and he remains unmoved to this day that it contradicts a principle of government by majority. He wrote back in 2002: “The (MMP) system rewards sleight of hand... The transparent (first past the post) system MMP replaced has given way to clandestine calculations and backroom deals. Worst of all it has ‘elected’ the otherwise unelectable.” Echoing widespread frustration with the process of government formation after the 2017 election, he asked: “How can it be that a minority party can get to decide who forms the government?” He noted it has happened before. But he acknowledged MMP does give the people a wider choice.

Roger Douglas the scribbler: “You could not have a meal with Roger without him pulling out a napkin and working out some policy matter to show its outcome. He’s ever so engaged.” He described Mr Douglas, who as finance minister introduced socio-economic reforms in the 1980s that modernised the country, as the one politician not a prime minister who has had an enduring impact on New Zealand life.

The Ardern government: Despite his Labourite antecedents Dr Bassett pulled no punches in his estimation of the current government. He attributed its policy incoherence to the Labour party’s long wilderness in opposition when it never thought it could get back into government soon. Policy formulation and thinking about issues suffered, exacerbated by the chop-and-change in party leadership. In his judgment only six or seven ministers in the Ardern Cabinet pass muster. No names mentioned.

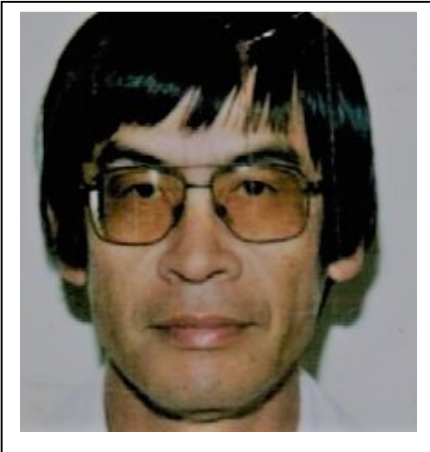
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On a four-year electoral cycle: While he agreed a three-year term does not give a government much time to get things done before it gets sucked into election mode before even the second year is out, he was ambivalent about prospects of the entrenched practice being scrapped. One reason: There is no election fatigue here, unlike say in the United States where all kinds of elections seem to be taking place all the time.

Wages and productivity: Dr Bassett blamed the country's anaemic wage growth on low worker productivity. This had been so for the last decade. Without higher productivity achieved through wider investment and a better trained and educated workforce, he said it was hard to justify wage hikes.

Politics as entertainment: "Politics before the advent of television (in 1960) was a diversion for the people, an entertainment," he said. More so as radio and cinemas did not fill the void. People took their entertainment as it came, and politicians were more than equal to the task. And today? Dr Bassett didn't say.

Auckland housing shortage: This had its roots going back decades, he said, when cheap concessionary loans and family welfare benefits being capitalised mopped up limited supply without the requisite level of investment in phased construction. He reckoned Auckland is short of 40,000 homes, an endemic under-supply situation.



HYMNS OF NATIONALISM

Guest speaker Phil Sai-Louie (picture) will take us on a tour of national anthems - the history, nationalist impulses and how they serve as a rallying point for people. A third-generation Chinese New Zealander, he has an interest in local-area history and is active in historical societies.

NEXT MONTH: Two of our own will share the guest slot. Sheila Russell will recount the experiences of her mother she calls a "twentieth century child" working in a textile factory in pre-war England. Murray Clent will take us up Hitler's eagles' nest, a lodge in the Bavarian Alps where the leaders of the Third Reich would unwind when not plotting campaigns.

WHERE JESUS WALKED

LAST month's ten-minute speaker, Mary Kennedy, spoke of a spiritual-cum-political awakening she experienced when she visited Israel as a young woman of 28. To have walked where Jesus had walked, and to have visited contested places that resulted from interminable conflict (Golan Heights, the West Bank, Sinai peninsula, Jerusalem) just overwhelmed the senses, she recounted. And she met her future husband staying with fellow travellers in a kibbutz, a communal settlement which was a feature of life in Israel's foundation years.

RESIGNED

Hannah Aiken, Phil Collins, Dawn Dowling and Barbara Drake have resigned, effective October 2018.

NEW MEMBER

PAUL Rush, sponsored by Richard Burns, is our newest member inducted last month. He plans to join the Literature, Architecture and Travel groups for a start.

PASSING

HELEN Morgan, a long-time member and a valued participant in several study groups, died on Sept 4 2018.

AUCKLAND U3A NETWORK SPECIAL

SECRETARY Cora Young reported on the Auckland U3A Network's anniversary special event (Aug 31, St Chad's Church in Meadowbank) which she said was well presented and worth the time spent. She said more of our members should consider attending when the next one is held. Presentations were invigorating, the event was over-subscribed. Retirement Commissioner Diane Maxwell, the featured speaker, focused on the urgency of saving especially among younger working people – a well-worn if relevant theme as the future shape of superannuation is anybody's guess. Speakers from various U3A chapters contributed short talks.

'UNIVERSITY' TAG NOT PERMITTED

THE Auckland U3A Network has received word from Education Minister Chris Hipkins that the U3A

movement in New Zealand may not use the word 'university' in its literature and communication. The worldwide U3A movement, which had its origins in a French university in the 1970s, has casually been styled 'University of the Third Age', a reference to its mission of promoting continual learning among retired people. Auckland Network president Heather Baigent had written to the minister seeking clarification whether, one, the known prohibition in the Education Act 1989 still stood; and two, whether the U3A could be exempt. The minister has made clear the U3A is not an educational institution within the meaning of the Act and is therefore subject to the Act's exclusion.

The Howick U3A had acted proactively on the matter in April this year by substituting the University of the Third Age tagline with the words 'Supporting Lifelong Learning' under the logo. We acted when made aware of an advisory put out by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority that the word 'university' had a restricted application. The U3A obviously did not qualify. The education minister's response to the Auckland Network query merely reaffirms a standing order.

BOOKER SHORTLIST

THE shortlist for the 2018 Booker Prize is out. These six books are the finalists drawn from a longlist of 13 titles picked from the original 171 submissions:

Milkman *Anna Burns* (Faber & Faber). Young girl's view of Ireland in the time of the IRA troubles.

Washington Black *Esi Edugyan* (Serpent's Tail). Bond between a slave and his oppressor's brother.

Everything Under *Daisy Johnson* (Jonathan Cape). Reunited mother and daughter look back at their past.

The Mars Room *Rachel Kushner* (Jonathan Cape). Dark comedy about a women's prison in California.

The Overstory *Richard Powers* (William Heinemann). Strangers try to save the world's last virgin forests.

The Long Take *Robin Robertson* (Picador). WWII veteran's story told in verse, prose and pictures.

Go to themanbookerprize.com for details on these books and for the announcement of the winner on Oct 16.

OUT AND ABOUT

++ **BOOKARAMA**, Howick Rotary's annual used-books fair, is on from Oct 10-14 at the usual RSA location in Wellington St. From 9 am. If you would invest the time, you could be rewarded with rare finds.

++ POLISH ceramics exhibition at the **Polish Heritage Trust Museum** (polishheritage.co.nz), 125 Elliot St, Howick. Part of Auckland Heritage Festival. Oct 9-12 and 14, 10 am. Free, koha appreciated. Full festival programme on heritagefestival.co.nz.

++ **LI YUNDI**, winner of the Chopin Piano Competition in 2000 aged 18, performs with the **Auckland Philharmonia** as soloist-conductor on Oct 31. Part of his **Touch of Chopin** Australasian tour. Vodafone Events Centre, Great South Rd, Manukau, 7.30 pm. Past Chopin winners who built outstanding careers have included Martha Argerich and Krystian Zimerman. Tickets \$129 to \$299, \$10 per ticket going to HeartKids charity. Tickets 0800 289849 or at Pakuranga Plaza customer desk. Concert details eventfinda.co.nz.

++ **MONTEREY** cinema has two arty offerings in coming weeks: An outdoors staging of **La boheme** in Sydney harbour (Oct 15, 21, 25 - 135 min) and an art documentary **Cezanne** (Oct 30, Nov 4, 8 - 85 min).

++ PHOTOGRAPHY hobbyists, mark down Oct 27 for a unique competition organised by **Uxbridge Arts & Culture of Howick**. Billed as **Photomathon**, competitors are given 10 hours to shoot 10 photos on 10 given subjects. Cost is \$15, 9 am to 7 pm. Bookings with Ashley Gorgan 5356467. Details uxbridge.org.nz.

++ **SCHUBERT'S 'Trout' Quintet** will be the centrepiece of a chamber concert featuring players of the **New Zealand String Quartet**, bassist **Hiroshi Ikematsu** and pianist **Piers Lane**. Town Hall, Oct 12, 7.30 pm. Concessions from \$30, Ticketmaster 0800 111999. Ex-principal bass of NZSO, Ikematsu now with the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra. Lane has a wide repertoire of concertos and chamber works.

++ **HOWICK Little Theatre's** November presentation will be a **Noel Coward** comedy, **I'll Leave It To You**, directed by **Laurie Mills**. Opening Nov 10, last show Dec 1. Seniors \$26, bookings 3611000. Running time 140 min, curtain up 8 pm, Sunday 2 pm matinee Nov 11, 18. Theatre website hlt.org.nz.

++ **AUCKLAND Symphony Orchestra** (aucklandsymphony.co.nz) free concert, Town Hall, Oct 21, 2.30 pm. Main pieces **Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade** and **Rachmaninov's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini** (Sara Lee piano). Conductor **Peter Thomas**. Tickets aucklandlive.co.nz, donations appreciated.

| Groups (yellow denotes full) | Date | Venue | Topic | Convener |
|---|--------|---|---|---|
| Ancient Civilisations 3 rd Mon 1 pm | Oct 15 | Cora Young's 55 Rodney St | <i>Ancient Einsteins</i> DVD | Cora Young 534 8623 |
| Anthropology H 3 rd Thurs 10 am | Oct 18 | BM Theatre | <i>Excerpts from the book Sapiens</i> by Yuval Noah Harari | Jennie Leyland 534 4034 Betty Reid 534 9895 |
| Anthropology L 4 th Mon 10 am | Oct 22 | Cora Young's 55 Rodney St | <i>Women of China</i> Peta Carnell | Margaret Heatt 534 9131 |
| Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am | Nov 2 | Maurice Taylor's 6 Stevenson Way | <i>Pentlugurd and Iceland</i> June Lamborn and Ngair Taylor | Maurice Taylor 534 8538 |
| Book Discussion 4 th Thurs 2 pm | Oct 25 | Margaret Smith's 25 Centre Ct, PPV | Latest reads | Margaret Smith 576 3206 |
| Earth and the Universe 4 th Tues 10 am | Oct 23 | BM Theatre | <i>Evolution of the Galactic Disc</i> | Clive Bolt 534 2946 |
| Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Tues 10 am | Nov 6 | | No meeting | Peter Garrick 535 4085 |
| Famous & Infamous 2 3 rd Thurs 2 pm | Oct 18 | Allan Reid's 4A Paton Rd | <i>Marilyn Monroe</i> Allan Reid | Richard/Moira Burns 533 8793 |
| Famous & Infamous 3 1 st Thurs 10 am | Nov 1 | Jeanette Fenn's 70 Cantora Ave | <i>Arthur Conan Doyle</i> Jean Fitzgerald | Jean Fitzgerald 577 5546 |
| Forum 3 rd Fri 10 am | Oct 19 | Beverley Luxton's 1 Village Dr, PPV | Open discussion | Beverley Luxton 576 9625 |
| French 4 th Fri 1 pm | Oct 26 | David Dwerryhouse's 74A Aberfeldy Ave | <i>Travels in France</i> David Dwerryhouse | David Dwerryhouse 534 4829 |
| History 3 rd Tues 10 am | Oct 16 | BM Theatre | <i>Development of English</i> DVD and discussion | Judy Lee 535 8547 |
| History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am | Oct 11 | Garry Law's 31 Lansell Dr, D'mora | <i>Great US Fleet</i> Garry Law | Alan La Roche 534 7366 |
| Literature 3 rd Wed 10 am | Oct 17 | Judy Wilson's 32 Butley Drive | <i>The Little Prince</i> by Antoine de Saint-Exupery | Judy Wilson 576 6340 |
| Nature Walks and Talks 2 nd Fri 9 am | Oct 12 | Meet Murphy's Bush carpark | Through Kahikatea forest of Flat Bush | Alan La Roche 534 7366 |
| Opera 1 2 nd Tues 9.30 am | Oct 9 | BM Theatre | <i>Fidelio</i> by Beethoven | Hilary Patterson 533 8785 |
| Opera 2 4 th Tues 1 pm | Oct 23 | BM Theatre | <i>I Puritani</i> by Bellini Anna Netrebko 3hr | Moya Nixon 535 5309 |
| Philosophy 1 st Mon 10 am | Nov 5 | BM Theatre | <i>Truth</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 | Oct 24 | BM Theatre | Potpourri | Jim Hine 534 4259 |
| Sunday Discussion 2 nd Sun, noon | Oct 14 | Meadowlands Coffee Club | Open discussion | Joan Clarkson 537 6397 |
| Travel 1 st Wed 10 am | Nov 7 | D. Dwerryhouse's 74-A Aberfeldy Ave | <i>Auckland to Falklands by Square-rigger</i> Roy Swan | David Dwerryhouse 534 4829 |
| World of Art 1 3 rd Mon 10 am | Oct 15 | Meet BM Village 9.30 am | <i>Visit Kaipara Coast Plant Centre & Sculpture Gardens</i> | Garry Law 271 6505 |
| World of Art 2 3 rd Tues 1.30 pm | Oct 16 | BM Theatre | <i>Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse</i> | Heather Watson 274 4747 |
| World of Music 4 th Wed 1.30 pm | Oct 24 | Ngair Taylor's 6 Stevenson Way | <i>Michael Houston and Beethoven Sonatas</i> Ngair Taylor | Ngair Taylor 534 8538 |
| World War II 2 nd Thurs 2pm | Oct 11 | Allan Reid's 4A Paton Rd | <i>Kent at War</i> Allan Reid | Allan Reid 534 9895 |
| Writing 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm | Oct 9 | Marian Heywood's 1/8 Aylmer Ct, Eastern Bch | <i>Turkish Delight</i> | Marian Heywood 534 1159 |

