



Supporting  
Lifelong Learning

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July 2022



#### COMMITTEE 2021/2022

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**MARY KENNEDY** *Newsletter Editor*  
**JUNE POOLE** *Membership*  
**JOHN SAVORY** *Speaker Convenor*

**Next General Meeting:**  
**Monday 11 July 9.30am**  
**Howick Bowling Club**

**Speaker: Robyn Williams: An overview of DNA**  
**Ten minute Speaker: Short Story**  
**Tea team: World of Art 2**

Several subscriptions remain outstanding. Please pay \$25.00 to U3A Howick bank account, 12 3040 0556154 00, using your surname as a reference. (If you are unable to pay online, you can pay Joni in cash at a general meeting.)

#### Editorial:

With our new public holiday, we are now all aware of the Matariki star cluster that appears at this time of the year. In the past, this cluster – which is called by various names such as Subaru and Pleiades – has been important in many ancient cultures. (Pleiades was originally linked to Halloween, when old souls are said to briefly return.) These days, though, in our western culture, we often dismiss these myths as irrelevant, except as an opportunity for a holiday. This reminds me of how different cultures have different world views, and how these differences can be both enriching and problematic. I listened to a podcast recently on the acronym, WEIRD, which stands for western, educated, industrialised, rich and democratic. Apparently, this cultural group makes up only 12% of the world population, but accounts for 80% of scientific research. The podcaster points out that while we often take our own world view for granted as the ultimate truth, many other cultures similarly take their world view as the only one. The value of science, the importance of the individual, even some aspects of human rights are not seen as important in many cultures, or historically, in ours. I guess that those who have moved from one culture to another are able to see life from many perspectives. But for the vast majority, our version of reality is shaped by our own experiences and culture. In the words of Joni Mitchell's song, *Both Sides Now*, we “really don't know life at all.”

#### Ten-minute speaker: Malcolm Booth

Malcolm gave an interesting talk about the importance of vaccines over the years and their importance in increasing life expectancy and reducing child mortality. The first vaccine, for smallpox, was developed in 1796 using cowpox serum, and the polio vaccine followed in the 1940's. Vaccinations for diphtheria, measles and whooping cough followed, protecting children worldwide from these potentially fatal diseases. Malcolm pointed out that without vaccinations, most of us would not be here to enjoy our old age.

## June Speaker: Warren Yardley



Warren's talk took us around Auckland showing us some fascinating places he has visited and photographed. Here are some of the places he has explored, which are well worth a visit.

- North Head. This was originally built to stop invasions in the 1880's. In 1942 the threat of invasion led to several tunnels being dug out. There is a myth that there are Boeing float planes concealed in them. More recently, someone had the bright idea of making cafes in them! If you look carefully,

you will find a mural depicting the bombing of Rainbow Warrior.

- Queens Ferry. This historic pub has a rich history. In the 1860's it was a popular beer house, and is considered to be haunted. In 1963, the gunman in the Basset Road murders assembled his weapons in the Queen's Ferry cellar.

- On one of his expeditions, Warren saw what looked like a boat on top of the ferry building. It is, in fact, a galleon - part of the weather vane, made in the 1980's and now back in place.

- Imperial lane. This area also has a rich history, as Warren has discovered. For example, The Imperial Hotel sits on the site of the old Metropolitan Hotel, after it burnt down. The old Roxy Cinema has been replaced by restaurants. You can still see a dip in Fort Lane caused by subsidence due to underground streams. The food truck known as The White Lady was for many years a fixture in Fort Street, and will be remembered by many. The foreshore was reclaimed in 1860s, where Commercial Bay now stands.



In the second part of his talk, Warren told of some of the riots which have happened over the years.

- In 1905, the shilling riot broke out after a customer was accused of not paying for dinner. The customer hit the waiter and a fight broke out. A crowd gathered and had to be dispersed by the police.

- In 1932 there was an unemployment riot. Demonstrators marched to the town hall, looting and shouting. One man was felled by a police truncheon. Sailors were called in and special horses assisted. These riots spread throughout the country.

- In 1942, US troops arrived. This caused jealousies and racial problems. Brawls developed after Maori were allowed to drink with white soldiers. These brawls spread across central Auckland.

- Auckland's first prison was on the corner of Queen and Victoria streets. It had stocks and gallows.

In 1965 a prison was designed with spokes based on Dartmoor prison. Jim Russell, a training college student, took photos of the prison for a project. A prisoner tried to escape and shots were fired. The prisoner surrendered 33 hours later. In 1984 a riot erupted at a concert after Dave Dobbyn made rude comments to police.

Finally, Warren mentioned a few historic places scattered around Auckland.

- Several churches, such as St Paul's Church in Emily Place and St Matthew's in the City, contain religious artifacts from overseas – and the buildings are also very beautiful.

- Mount Eden Prison. This is the scariest place Warren has photographed and it makes him shiver with its "evil vibes". Thirty-six people have been hung there, the last in 1957. In spite of its evil history, this is a protected building. "Spooky places" can be found in:

- Alberton house, which is said to have a ghost.

- The Unitec buildings in Mount Albert, previously Carrington psychiatric hospital. Strange noises have been heard in the cellars where inmates used to be constrained.

- Carlisle house in Grey Lynn for homeless youth. It is said that 42 boys burned and the place is now haunted.

- Kingseat hospital in Karaka. This psychiatric hospital has been closed for many years, and its haunted buildings are now used for ghost trips.

Clearly, Warren and his camera have discovered much about Auckland's past and his talk showed us that even though our history is short, there are plenty of interesting stories to be told.

## July Speaker: Robyn Williams



### **Biography:**

Robyn Williams is a semi-retired accountant and has been researching her family history for over forty years. She has been a member of The New Zealand Society of Genealogists for over thirty years and has served as a member of the Board of Directors and has just completed her last term in June 2022. Robyn has assisted in organising three conferences for the NZSG and has served on a number of committees. Currently Robyn is the President of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations and is looking forward to the Congress being held on Norfolk Island in

August. Robyn is Convener of the Howick Branch of NZSG which meets in Howick monthly on a Saturday. Robyn is also a Volunteer and Team Leader at the Family Research Centre in Panmure.

### **My talk is called "An overview of DNA".**

DNA is being marketed as the way to find your family history. This talk will tell you how DNA will help you and what else you need to do.

### **From the Committee:**

It is great to see that at least half of the Interest Groups already have decided on a topic they are considering for a 5 minute presentation to the Anniversary event on 3 April 2023. Most other groups are also currently exploring which topic they will present.

Jan Naish-Wallis is organising a bus trip to the Auckland Museum to see The Greeks exhibition on 26 July. Please contact Jan on 027 220 3777 to indicate your interest to join with fellow U3Aers in viewing this fantastic display, without having to drive into the city!

The 30th anniversary committee is seeking assistance from a cake maker and someone with deep pockets! We are looking for someone to bake and ice the cake for our 30th anniversary. We are happy to provide ingredients to your specifications. Please let Colleen Rigby know if you are able to do so or know of someone who would be willing to assist. Ph 027 2916781.

We are also wondering if anyone in U3A Howick or someone you know, would be willing to sponsor the publication of our 30th anniversary booklet. Contact Judy Wilson [jaws@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jaws@xtra.co.nz)

### **From U3A Network:**

### **Out and about:**

- The DOC Edge Festival takes place at the Civic from 1 June to 10 July. For bookings and more information, see the Auckland Live website.
- Estuary Art and Ecology Awards will be displaying their artwork at the Uxbridge Centre from 2 July to 27 August
- Candlelight Music series takes place at St Matthews-in-the-City from 21 May until 11 June. Book through eventfinda
- Fridays at 12 features young musicians at various local schools between 20 May and 17 June. See the Uxbridge website for more details.
- The Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra are planning a series of concerts in May and June at various venues. For more details go to [apo.co.nz](http://apo.co.nz)
- The Writer's festival will be held 23 to 28 August. Programme is available at the library or online at [writersfestival.co.nz](http://writersfestival.co.nz)

<b>Groups (yellow- full)</b>	<b>Date 2022</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Convenor</b>
Anthropology 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 10 am	July 21	BM Theatre	Pot pourri	Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology 2 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon 10 am	July 25	55 Rodney St	Kiore as a marker - Margaret	Margaret Hieatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 <sup>st</sup> Fri 10 am	July 1	BM Theatre	Milau Viaduct- Alice Taylor A modernist icon – Betty Gate	June Lamborn 535 8069
Book Discussion 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 1.30	July 28	9A Merino Avenue	Books	Joni Burgess 537 4834
Civilisations 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 1 pm	July 18	55 Rodney Street	The Ptolemaic Dynasty	Cora Young 534 8623
Comparative Religions 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday 1.30pm	July 25	55 Rodney Street	Pot pourri – Hinduism contd.	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Current Affairs 1st Tuesday 2pm	July 6	11 Shelly Bch Pde Cockle Bay	Women’s Issues	Jan Naish-Wallis 534 4438
Earth and the Universe 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 10 am	July 26	BM Theatre	Measuring Cosmic distances	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs 10 am	July 7	70 Cantora Ave	Spike Milligan	Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Famous & Infamous 2 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 1.30 pm	July 21	4A Paton Road	Ian Purchas	Joni Burgess 537 4834
French 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri 1 pm	July 1 and July 29	74A Aberfeldy Avenue Hland Pk	Robespierre – Joy Kirschberg/ Napoleon – Angela Cullen	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues 10 am				Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs 10 am	July 14	4A Paton Road	Pot pourri	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Literature 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 10 am	July 20	32 Butley Drive, Pakuranga	John Mulgan – by David Dwerryhouse	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Military History 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2pm	July 14	9 Tranquillity Rise	The Battle of the River Plate	Allan Reid 5349895
Movies 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon, 12.30 pm		2/21 Drake Street ,Howick	Discussion of movies seen	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Nature Walks and Talks 2nd Fri 9.30 am	July 8	Meet far end Kerswill Place	Panmure bridge	June Poole 021583893
Opera 1 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 9.30 am (not full)				Rosemary Ovens 5343429
Opera 2 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 1.15pm	July 26	BM Theatre	“Samson et Delila” (Pl Domingo) Saint-Saens	Geraldine Rose 537 1917
Philosophy 1st Mon 10 am	July 4	55 Rodney Street	The Courage to be – Paul Tillich by Cora	Cora Young 5348623
Science. 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 10 am	July 27	BM Theatre	Pot pourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2nd Sun noon	July 10	Dannemora Gardens Cafe		Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 10 am	July 6	67 Litten Road	Nile Cruise/Valley of the Kings – the Savorys.	David and Adrienne Teape 5336103
World of Art 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 10 am	July 18	BM Theatre	Pot pourri	Garry Law 271 6505
World of Art 2 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues 1.30 pm	July 19	BM Theatre	Margaret Preston - Cheryl	Philippa Wilson 5342558
World of Music 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 1.30 pm	July 27	6 Stevenson Way	Prokofiev - Ngaire	Ngaire Taylor 534 8538
Writing 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 1.30 pm	July 12	9 Kelly Place, Cockle Bay	Those were the days	Marian Heywood 534 1159

