



Supporting
Lifelong Learning

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March 2022



COMMITTEE 2021/2022

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**Next General Meeting:
Monday 14 March 2022**

Via Zoom

Main speaker: Paul Brown:

Topic: Giving is Good. But can Good do better

Editorial:

It's very hard to find something positive to say about life at the moment. But I have thought of three things that made me smile last week.

- My daughter's puppy rooting around in my suitcase looking for socks. He may be full of mischief, but he's so cute.
- The fully-functional dunny put up by protesters, perfectly plumbed into the Wellington waste-water system. Their ideas may be bonkers but they know where to put their sh*t!
- Reading the reports by convenors of the various meetings that have been successfully held last month. We may be down but we're not out!

Hang in there, folks. The sun's still shining out there.



February Speaker:

Sean Lyons gave us an informative talk via zoom about protecting ourselves online. Netsafe is an independent non-profit organisation set up in 1998 to support all internet users. The service is free.

While 71% of internet users think that the internet is a good place, it can also be scary, and 33% have reported issues for which they needed to seek help. The particular challenges for our age group are scams and financial fraud.

Dispelled a number of myths about internet scams.

1. I've seen them all before.

In fact, new scams are being devised all the time – sex extortion, money laundering offers from Nigerian banks, fake requests needing bank details etc

2. If they are from a trusted site such as Countdown or Amazon or from friends then you can trust them.

In fact, scam sites often use familiar logos and look like trusted sites but they are not. Friends can be hacked.

3. All scammers are based overseas.

Most scam sites are based overseas, but they may use a .co.nz address.

4. Only certain types of people get scammed.

Most of us are vulnerable: scams can happen when online shopping, using PC Doctor, making investments or “paying” Government debts, as well as romance scams.

Netsafe works with organisations to shut scams down, and also gives advice to the public on how to avoid scams. Here are the points he mentioned.

1. When online shopping, New Zealand protection laws apply for sites that are genuinely based in New Zealand, so you need to check that a business has a physical address in New Zealand and a contactable phone number.
2. Use a credit card or paypal so your transaction can be traced. If you are contacted regarding prizes and promotions, don't confirm or give details – contact the organisation yourself.
3. Never respond to phone calls saying your computer is faulty. Delete emails with links unless you are sure they are genuine, and don't give user names, passwords or phone numbers.
4. If “friends” send unexpected links, contact them on another platform and check. (In the old days it was simple – don't talk to strangers!)

If you do think you have been scammed, contact Netsafe, and they will investigate. If you have been harassed or bullied online, they can assist you and contact police if necessary.

I'm sure everyone who “attended” the meeting or who has watched the recording will have gone away with plenty of ideas to keep themselves safe online.



March Speaker: Paul Brown



Auckland-born and bred, Paul is a proud first-generation New Zealander who has enjoyed a split career beginning in sales and marketing management roles in the automotive industry and financial services, before working in the for-purpose sector as CEO of the international development agency, ChildFund New Zealand. Now a Strategic Advisor in his consulting practice, Paul is applying transformative thinking to assist businesses to remain relevant, sustainable and impactful. Much of this work is at the intersection of the social sector with purpose-driven corporations.

Paul and his wife Angela are kept busy with two teenage sons. Paul serves on the board of Independent Living Services, and in his spare time tries to convince his body to gear up for another long-distance run in New Zealand's magnificent wilderness.

His topic will be: *Giving is Good...but can Good be better.*

From the Committee:

Our March meeting will be on zoom. You will receive an invitation soon.
At present, our AGM is planned for the May meeting.

From the Convenors

We have been advised that the Bruce McLaren Theatre is closed for meetings until further notice.

Here are reports from some groups from last month.

Anthropology 1. Our February meeting was Looking at the Documentary, *The Return of the Motonui Panels* that were found in a swamp in Taranaki and smuggled out of New Zealand and brought by a Swiss Collector of indigenous art. His daughter was kidnapped in the 90s and he put them up for sale. The New Zealand government intervened on behalf of the people of Taranaki and they were withdrawn. After he died the family negotiated to return the panels and a delegation went to bring them home. The family came too, the son having learnt Te Reo. We all found it emotional and we're impressed with the dignity of the people involved. We then looked at the comparison from Dame Anne Salmonds book *The Tears of Rangi* from the portrayal of life in the movie *Once we were Warriors* with the depiction of life by the early missionaries where life on the Marae was peaceful with Women valued and children encouraged and no corporal punishment.

Current Affairs. At the February Current Affairs meeting, the topic was the housing crisis in NZ. We considered issues such as low mortgage rates (now rising), the failure of various initiatives to build low-cost houses, the impact of low cost housing on suburbs, the Resource Management Act, recent changes in mortgage application legislation and supply chain issues. We also took into account how some of these issues might be resolved in the future with changes such as 3D printing of houses, with a video to illustrate this.

Famous & Infamous 1. Report by Gill Muggleston

Jean Denholm gave us a fascinating insight into the life of Gertrude Bell. Sometimes referred to as the female Lawrence of Arabia, she was an archaeologist, a linguist and the greatest woman mountaineer of her age. In Baghdad in 1921, she helped draw up the boundaries of the country that became Iraq. Her story is best known through the film "Queen of the Desert".

Famous & Infamous 2. Report by Joni Burgess

6 of us met at Allan Reid's place and he gave a very interesting and informative talk about Daphne Park, Queen of Spies. She was a fascinating person and well worth anyone interested looking up her story on Google.

History of New Zealand

- 1) Betty Reid gave a history of Castle-Point, East Cape.
- 2) Alan La Roche presented a story of a blind swimmer rescued at Howick Beach
- 3) Malcolm Booth talked about Abel Tasman's visit to NZ.
- 4) June Barton gave a history of Cook's boat the "Endeavour".
- 5) Dilys Booth gave a history of "The warehouse" in NZ.

Literature group met on Wed Feb 16th, well-spaced, at Judy Wilson's, and were treated to a most interesting presentation by Joy Kirschberg about New Zealand author Ronald Hugh Morrieson. Morrieson was born in 1922 – in Hawera, South Taranaki, and lived all his life in the home of his mother. Until the age of 37 he worked as a casual dance band player around Hawera. Then he became a private music teacher in order to spend his evenings writing for the career he'd always intended – a novelist. He was 41 in 1963 when his first novel – *Scarecrow* -was published. Joy then concentrated her presentation on his third novel *Predicament*, published posthumously in 1974. This is a powerful and disturbing account of the psychological fantasy world of adolescence, with the customary small town setting. He died in 1972 aged 50.

Military History group meeting of Feb 10, 2022

Mike Dubey gave a well-prepared presentation about a missing WW2 USAAF B-24 Liberator bomber called Lady Be Good. Named after a 1941 MGM musical/comedy. Her first, and last flight, for the nine-man crew took place from an airfield near Benghazi, Libya in April 1943 on a night time bombing raid of Naples harbour with 25 other B-24s. Due to poor visibility and sand storm conditions their plane was unable to keep up with the others and had to abort their mission over Naples due to engine problems. Despite the loss of power and direction-finding equipment, the crew decided to return to base.

It failed to arrive.

Over 15 years later in 1959, a British oil exploration team discovered the aircraft 440 miles inland from Benghazi in the Sahara Desert. Inspection found the aircraft landed itself in the sand on the power of one of its four engines. Although the fuselage broke in half, the aircraft was amazingly well preserved in the dry desert. Coffee in the Thermos bottle was still drinkable, most of the machine guns still worked. Food and supplies remained intact. No evidence of crew, however.

On a visit to the site by helicopter a few years later, Mike, as an aircraft technician with the RAF, confirmed what had happened, as earlier discovered by recovery teams.

Lacking navigation aids, the bomber had overflown its home base, and running out of fuel, the crew donned their life vests and parachuted to the Desert, believing they were still over the sea, leaving the struggling aircraft to fly on. Evidence of the incredible attempts by the crew to walk back to the coast was found at various stages up to 100 miles from where they landed in the desert. With no survivors, the daily diary notes of two of the crew revealed a courageously astounding attempt to reach base without proper food or water, and no means of contact.

A very poignant story revealed by Mike.

Nature walks and talks: This month we walked around the Logan Carr Reserve. It was a damp day, but we are neither salt nor sugar so coped well with the rain and enjoyed the walk past bush, streams and a lake which helps filter the rain water. School children have helped with the riparian planting to help protect the stream.

Opera Group 2

On 22nd Feb. we enjoyed Gounod's romantic opera, 'Romeo & Juliette' which was premiered in 1867. Roberto Alagna was a very romantic Romeo equalled by a very passionate Juliette sung by Leontina Vaduva in the title roles from Royal Opera House Covent Garden, recorded around 1994.

Nineteenth century Paris witnessed the birth of 'grand opera', an international style of large-scale operatic spectacle. It was in effect the 19th century equivalent of the Hollywood blockbuster film epic. Dispensing almost entirely with the delicacies of bel canto singing, it vastly enlarged both the orchestra itself and its role in the dramatic events.

In French opera there is usually five acts compared to the Italians three, and a relatively greater importance of drama with stories of greater dramatic interest, and a large place was given to ballet, choruses, and spectacular scenes in general. There was more emphasis on the music throughout to be an integrated whole.

The Italian composers were not so concerned about drama or spectacle as they were about the singer and the aria – they had their recitative which was reflexive, followed by the aria, often with fireworks for the singer. The French on the other hand, preferred short and simple songs as opposed to the elaborate aria. Their singers were not expected to show off their improvisatory skills as the Italians were wont to do. Also, the French recitatives tended to be less speech-like, were more melodic and accompanied by the orchestra. The French music style was more 'through-composed', and the musical introduction to Romeo & Juliette sounds reminiscent to the style Wagner.

Travel: This group met on 2nd March for a very well-presented and documented presentation by John and Heather Savory on their trip to Antarctica.

World of Art 1 has not been meeting, but exchanging on-line art experience opportunities and details of socially distanced events.

Membership:

We have received no applications and no resignations this month.

Out and about:

Have you tried "Wordle" yet? You can find it on: <https://www.nytimes.com/games/wordle>.

There are also various spin-offs such as worldle, where you have to identify countries, and lewdle, which speaks for itself.

Bach Musica NZ; St Matthew in the City Opera Gala. 26 to 28 March: Tickets \$50.00. Book through Eventfinda

Perpetual Guardian Sculpture on the Gulf: Matiatia 4 to 27 March, details on Eventfinda website



Groups (yellow- full)	Date 2022	Venue	Topic	Convenor
Anthropology 1 3 rd Thurs 10 am	March 17	4A Paton's Road	Pot pourri	Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology 2 4 th Mon 10 am	No meeting			Margaret Hieatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 st Fri 10 am	No meeting			June Lamborn 535 8069
Book Discussion 4 th Thurs 1.30	March 24	9A Merino Avenue	Books	Joni Burgess 537 4834
Civilisations 3 rd Mon 1 pm	March 21	38A Uxbridge Road	Egyptian Literature	Cora Young 534 8623
Comparative Religions 4 th Monday 1.30pm	March 28	38A Uxbridge road	Confucianism, Daoism, Shintoism	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Current Affairs 1st Tuesday 2pm	No meeting	April meeting by zoom	Compulsory unemployment insurance	Jan Naish-Wallis 534 4438
Earth and the Universe 4 th Tues 10 am	No meeting			Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 st Thurs 10 am	No meeting			Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Famous & Infamous 2 3 rd Thurs 2 pm	March 17	9A Merino Avenue	Pot pourri	Joni Burgess 537 4834
French 4 th Fri 1 pm	March 25	74A Aberfeldy Avenue Hland Pk	Louis XIV	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 rd Tues 10 am	No meeting			Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 nd Thurs 10 am	March 10	130 Point view Drive	Potpourri	Alan La Roche 534 7366
Literature 3 rd Wed 10 am	March 16	32 Butley Drive, Pakuranga	DVD	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Military History 2 nd Thursday 2pm	March 10	4 Paton's Road	The war in June- 1967 six- day Arab - Israeli conflict	Allan Reid 5349895
Movies 2 nd Mon, 12.30 pm	March 14	2/21 Drake Street, Howick	Discussion of movies seen	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Nature Walks and Talks 2nd Fri 9 am	March 11	Meet Pigeon Mountain Road, just past end of Gill's road	Pigeon Mountain Wetlands and Wakaaranga Reserve	June Poole 021583893
Opera 1 2 nd Tues 9.30 am (not full)	No meeting			Jean Denholm 534 6844
Opera 2 4 th Tues 1.15pm	No meeting			Geraldine Rose 537 1917
Philosophy 1st Mon 10 am	March 7	38A Uxbridge Road	John Dewey/pragmatists By Christopher Nixon	Cora Young 5348623
Science. 4 th Wed 10 am	No meeting			Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2nd Sun noon	No meeting			Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 st Wed 10 am	March 2	Already met this month	Heather and John Savory: trip to Antarctica	David and Adrienne Teape 5336103
World of Art 1 3 rd Mon 10 am	No meeting			Garry Law 271 6505
World of Art 2 3 rd Tues 1.30 pm	No meeting			Philippa Wilson 5342558
World of Music 4 th Wed 1.30 pm	No meeting			Ngairé Taylor 534 8538
Writing 2 nd Tues 1.30 pm	March 15	32 Butley Drive	The Birthmark	Marian Heywood 534 1159