



Supporting  
Lifelong Learning

Howick Inc.  
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November 2022



#### COMMITTEE 2021/2022

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GRAEME DIVER *Vice-president, Almoner*  
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JAN NAISH-WALLIS *Secretary(0272203777)*  
JONI BURGESS *Treasurer*  
GERALDINE ROSE *Past president,*  
*U3A Network representative*  
JUDITH NEL *Director of Studies*  
MARY KENNEDY *Newsletter Editor*  
JUNE POOLE *Membership*  
JOHN SAVORY *Speaker Convenor*

**Next General Meeting:**  
**Monday 14 November 9.30am**  
**Howick Bowling Club**  
**Speaker: Raewyn Proctor**  
**Ten-minute speaker: Short Story**  
**Tea team: Architecture**

For new members: Annual \$25.00 subscription is payable to U3A Howick bank account: 12 3040 0556154 00, using your surname as a reference.

#### Editorial:

Thirty years ago, when Howick U3A was born, modern technology was in its infancy. Simple mobile phones, clunky computers and DVD players were the order of the day. Since then, everything has become more complex, and more and more activities must be done online. Technology may be amazing but, for me at least, it can be the source of many of life's frustrations.

The other day, when I was trying to book a ticket online, I decided for once, to read the terms and conditions before ticking the box. By the time I had read them, I was timed out.

My new car has a "lane assist" function. If I leave my lane, it beeps and the steering wheel takes on a mind of its own and pulls me back gently – towards the line of parked cars I have pulled out to avoid!

The piece de resistance, though, is my home printer. It speaks only to my old computer, which is so slow that it times out before it can "update" and then spends a further three hours "undoing changes". So I bought a cord, naively thinking I could use the new computer to talk to the printer. But the computer says no. It turns out that I need to put in a CD into the slot. But my new computer has no CD tray!!! Dr google says there are ways around this, but by now we have entered gobbledegook land. So, I unwillingly set aside half a day to do my few pages of printing on the old computer. When mission is finally achieved, printer says no. Out of ink! It isn't out of ink – the ink has dried up from lack of use. By now, my language is unprintable, as are my documents.

In another 30 years, the way things are going, robots will be running hospitals and rest homes. I hope that if things go wrong, and the bot mistakes the patient for a sack of potatoes, some human person will be around to rescue them before they get turned into chips.



## October Speaker: U3A speaker Barry Dreyer

Reported by David Bates



Colonel Barry Dreyer gave a memorable account of the daily life of a New Zealand Royal Artillery Lieutenant during the period 1966-67 of the war in Vietnam. In 1966, as a member of 161 Battery two-field gun unit, he was deployed to Nui Dat in a rubber plantation north-east of Saigon. Their initial task, as part of the defence of Saigon, was to clear the area of Viet Cong (V.C.) within a 5km radius of the unit's base defined by a perimeter of coiled barbed wire.

Barry's role as an artillery staff officer, was to advise on the deployment of the field guns: this included liaising with the American 2/35 th 'A' Battery and Australian artillery units also in the area. Life in the camp was difficult, because apart from being fired on by the V.C. using modern weaponry, including the advanced AK-47 rifle, the arrival of the monsoon caused the guns and tents to be struck by lightning many times, knocking out all radio communications, and causing the guns to sink into the mud. Mosquito borne disease, complete blackouts, bridges being regularly blown up, problems caused by a curious tiger, elephants and snakes added to the unit's woes.

In 1966 Barry was present during the Battle of Long Tan, undertaking 2-hour reconnaissance flights over V.C. controlled territory twice a day in a small, vulnerable, single engine Auster spotter aircraft, in an effort to locate the enemy. His NZ artillery unit fired over 400 shells during the 4-hour battle. The Viet Nam war ended in 1976. Barry recalled some memorable moments of his time in Vietnam. He remembered a small boy in the nearby village of Catholic refugees from North Viet Nam, and found him once more during a family visit to Viet Nam in 2012: upon meeting they both cried, overwhelmed by their shared experience of 1966. He fondly remembers the food parcels sent from NZ by the staff of the Raglan Fire Brigade. The talk gave a very interesting insight into the daily life and traumas of a NZ artillery officer on duty with an active gun battery during an 18-month period during the Viet Nam war.

## November Speaker: Raewyn Proctor



Raewyn founded Resthaven Funerals in the year 2000 and now has branches in South and East Auckland. She has a background in HR and a certificate in Grief Support. Her past experience has given her strong skills in administration and in dealing with people. She lives near Totara Park and loves walking there. Raewyn will be talking to us about Preparation for a Funeral. There are a lot of issues that can be considered well before the event becomes necessary, so that in the future people can make informed decisions around funeral wishes.

## From the Committee:

**Christmas Function:** All members are cordially invited to attend the Christmas meeting on Monday 12 December. As we are catering for this event, we do need to ask people to **RSVP by 1 December**. They can either do this by emailing [collrigby@gmail.com](mailto:collrigby@gmail.com) or texting 027 2916781.

The entry fee is \$5.00. You can pay online to  
**Howick U3A**  
**12 3040 0556154 00**  
before **Wednesday 7 December 2022**, and put your name in the reference field.  
Alternatively, you can pay on the day.

See the invitation at the end of this newsletter for more details.

**Reminder – Raffle Items:** Please remember to **bring an item suitable for a hamper** to the meeting on 14 November 2022. This hamper will be raffled at the Christmas meeting and half the proceeds will be given to the Cancer Society as U3A Howick's gesture of Christmas goodwill. **Tickets will be \$5 each and you are welcome to buy as many as you like.**

**Renaissance:** 5 U3A Howick members have already booked for the Renaissance exhibition on 11 Jan at 5.15pm. Others are welcome to join us.

**Website:** Gary Law has set up a website where interesting power points etc will be available to members. Click on the link to see what's there. [U3A Papers \(lawas.co.nz\)](http://U3A Papers (lawas.co.nz)) Two new talks have been added: one on the Trans-Siberian journey by Colleen and Rob Rigby and one on the workings of the brain by Lenard Nel. We would like to set up a library of talks, so if you are prepared to provide copies of talks that you have presented to your interest groups, please send them to Garry on this email address, so that he can add to this library.

**Interest Groups:** A book for proposing new interest groups will be on the front table at general meetings. So far two new groups – *New Zealand History 2* and *Mobile phone photography* have already started (see timetable) and two further proposed groups, *Writing2/memoirs* and *gardening*. Please contact Judith Nel to put your name down.

## U3A Network Report – Geraldine Rose

Last Friday we had our AGM followed by the bi-monthly General Meeting. U3A Network has a new President, Peter Wright, and for the first time due to the heavier work-load for the President, we have elected a Vice President, Collene Roche. Collene is very happy to take on this role with the knowledge there is no obligation for the VP to become the President when this role is newly elected after 2 years. There is still one vacancy on the Committee for a willing U3a Member.

The Celebrating U3A Event 2023 has been set for Saturday 29th July at the Salvation Army Headquarters in Mt. Wellington. Please mark this date in your diaries.

To those planning travelling to Europe later next year and are interested in having a new experience for a week or two, please read the Flyer attached to this newsletter. i.e. Girton College, University of Cambridge – Lifelong Learning Summer School, 20th August – 2nd. September 2023. Girton College was founded in 1869. I personally am seriously considering attending this Summer School. Who would like to join with me?

## Out and about:

- Freida Kahlo and Diego Rivera: Art and life in Modern Mexico – Auckland Art gallery from 15 October. Book through Eventfinda
- Cherry Festival, Buddhist Temple, 12 November 10am
- Come together – The Beatles White Album, Aotea Centre, November 12, Kiri te Kanawa theatre, Auckland. Book through ticketmaster
- Aotearoa Art Fair – 16 -20 November – the Cloud, Auckland. For details, go to [artfair.co.nz](http://artfair.co.nz). One of the presentations is a hands-on programme for creative exploration, which can be adapted for U3A groups if requested. Go to [www.squiggla.org](http://www.squiggla.org) for details
- Renaissance : The Age of Genius – media production showcasing famous renaissance artists. Aotea Centre 4 to 29 January. Book at Auckland Live.
- Nora: A Doll's House – Herald Theatre 24 November to 3 December. Go to Auckland Live for details
- Howick 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary takes place in November – see [howick175.co.nz](http://howick175.co.nz) for details of events.

*Gone fishing* by Joni



<b>Groups</b>	<b>Date 2022</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Convenor</b>
Anthropology 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 10 am	November 17	BM Theatre	Pot Pourri	Betty Reid 534 9895
Anthropology 2 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon 10 am		55 Rodney St		Margaret Hieatt 534 9131
Architecture 1 <sup>st</sup> Fri 10 am	November 4	98 Beach Road, Howick	Dunedin Railway Station – Theo Surynt	June Lamborn 535 8069
Book Discussion 4 <sup>th</sup> Thurs 1.30	November 24	9A Merino Avenue	Books	Joni Burgess 537 4834
Civilisations 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 1 pm	November 21	55 Rodney Street	Tribal control - Cora	Cora Young 534 8623
Comparative Religions 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday 1.30pm	November 28	55 Rodney Street	Pot pourri	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Current Affairs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed 1.30pm	November 9	39 Devon Road	Major Current Events 2003 to 2013	Jan Naish-Wallis 027 220 3777
Earth and the Universe 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 10 am	November 22	BM Theatre	The Modern multiverse	Clive Bolt 534 2946
Famous & Infamous 1 1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs 10 am	November 3	70 Cantora Avenue	Lady Hamilton/Sojourner Truth	Gill Muggleston 534 9863
Famous & Infamous 2 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs 1.30 pm	November 17 1pm	4A Paton Road	BYO lunch/Prince Leopold	Joni Burgess 537 4834
French Circle 4 <sup>th</sup> Fri 1 pm	November 25	Origine Restaurant Commercial Bay	Christmas Lunch	David Dwerryhouse 534 4829
History 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues 10 am	November 15	B M Theatre	Pot Pourri	Judy Lee 535 8547
History of New Zealand 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs 10 am	November 10	130 Point view Drive	Pot pourri	Alan La Roche 534 7366
History New Zealand 2 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 1.30 (new)	November 22	39 Devon Road	Anzac retreat from Crete doco	Graeme Diver 0274728033
Literature 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 10 am	November 16	32 Butley Drive, Pakuranga	Ian Cross by Dene McConnochie	Judy Wilson 576 6340
Military History 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 2pm	November 10	39 Devon Road	Pot pourri	Allan Reid 5349895
Mobile phone 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 2pm	November 16	1/19 Butley Drive	Exposure and live photos	Colleen Rigby 0272916781
Movies 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon, 12.30 pm	November 14	2/21 Drake Street , Howick	Discussion of movies seen BYO Lunch	Margaret Nicholls 536 6709
Opera 1 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 9.30 am		BM Theatre		Rosemary Ovens 5343429
Opera 2 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 1.15pm	November 22	BM Theatre	Die Fledermaus Johann Strauss from ROHCG	Geraldine Rose 537 1917
Philosophy 1 <sup>st</sup> Mon 10 am	November 7	55 Rodney Street	Ayn Rand, John Rawls, Simone de Beauvoir	Cora Young 5348623
Science. 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 10 am	November 23	BM Theatre	Pot pourri	Jim Hine 534 4259
Sunday Discussion 2nd Sun noon	November 13	Dannemora Gardens Cafe		Joan Clarkson 537 6397
Travel 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 10 am	November 2	159 Pah Road, Cockle Bay	Our visit to Spain	David and Adrienne Teape 5336103
Walks and Talks 2nd Fri 9.30 am	November 11	9am Lloyd Ellsmore crpk or 9.30 crpk bridge end of Coronation Road	New and Old Mangere Bridge	June Poole 021583893 Goeff 0211154560
World of Art 1 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mon 10 am	November 21	TBA	Visit to Art gallery – Kahlo and Rivera	Garry Law 0275665764
World of Art 2 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues 1.30 pm	November 15	BM Theatre	Hitler vs Picasso and others	Philippa Wilson 5342558
World of Music 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 1.30 pm	November 23	261 Bleakhouse Way	Robert Schumann	Julia Forsyth 021 164 1664
Writing 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 1.30 pm	November 15	144/795 Chapel Road	What the kids don't know	Marian Heywood 534 1159





**You are invited to**  
**U3A HOWICK'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVENT**  
**12 DECEMBER 2022 at 9.30AM**  
**AT HOWICK BOWLING CLUB**



As we are catering for this event, could you please  
RSVP by 1 December 2022 by emailing  
[collrigby@gmail.com](mailto:collrigby@gmail.com) or texting 027 2916781  
**\$5.00 for event**

If you want to **pay your \$5.00 online, deposit the money** into U3A  
Howick  
12 3040 0556154 00  
before Wednesday 7 December 2022, and put your name in the  
reference field.

*(If you prefer to pay on the day, please pay in cash.)*

We also have a wonderful **Christmas  
Hamper Raffle.**



**\$5.00 per raffle ticket (or 5 tickets for \$20)**

(Half of the money raised will go to the **Cancer Society**)

**Make sure you bring cash to purchase raffle tickets.**



