

President's Report Continued: Coming up on the 25th August, we have the return to our U3A of **Paul Buchanan** who is an extremely popular guest speaker. Paul is a former intelligence and defence policy analyst and consultant to US government security agencies who specialises in matters of comparative politics, international relations and security. We are planning to use this high-profile meeting as a recruitment drive to attract new members. Mark this date on your calendar now and start looking for prospective new members **you** can invite along to make this a super successful meeting. To cap all this activity off, we have also plans underway for the "**Festive End of Year Meeting**" in November. We have entertainment already booked and we can assure members of a lovely day to wind up our activities for the year. As you can see, there is lots to look forward to within our U3A with plenty happening for everyone. Make the most of it and keep in mind to keep introducing new members to boost our numbers. See you all at the upcoming meeting on 23rd. Cheers, Murray

Report on last month's Speaker: Our guest speaker Vincent Hardaker. New Zealand Assistant Conductor in Residence for all five orchestras, we were fortunate to have him take time out of his busy schedule to give us an insight into what a conductor does.

Conductors study the score in depth to interrupt and understand the composer's intentions. With subtle use of hands or baton, bringing various sections of the orchestra together on cue and correct tempo. Engaging the musicians and audiences together on an emotional journey into a musical reverie.

Under Vincent's guidance we were given the opportunity to try our hand as conductors, enjoyed by all. Fay

Art Appreciation: Our group is continuing to view the BBC lecture series "Civilisations, Our Story told through Art". In the 15th and 16th centuries distant and disparate cultures met, often for the first time.

The magnificent Benin Bronzes record the meeting of an ancient West African Kingdom and Portuguese explorers.

There was Spain's conquest of Central America, much of the Aztec artworks were destroyed sadly, but some rare Aztec artworks have survived. Even the Japanese could not fully isolate themselves from foreign influence. The Dutch East India Company gained a foothold in Art trading in a 'corner' of Japan.

The lecture ends with the story of the British in India. There is a wealth of history to research here. Patricia Coleman

Exploring History: Throughout her 34 year reign of Russia, Catherine the Great made many changes to the laws and customs of her country, by studying what the rest of the 'modern' world was doing, especially the continent and England. We still have some research and discussion on this Russian Empress before we open another chapter on Russian life: the life and times of Alexander 1st and Nicholas the 1st. Patricia

Our Night Sky: Our meeting on Tuesday the 1st of June started with a review of the Blood Moon event and we took the opportunity to study the Phases of the Moon. The Third Quarter is on the 2nd of June when half the face of the Moon is illuminated. The winter Solstice is on the 21st of June when we will experience the shortest day of the year.

We watched the TV documentary "3 Exoplanets discovered that look exactly like Earth." This lecture considers the possibility of life on other planets, and explores the requirements for life here on Earth during its formative stages.

Our next meeting is Tuesday the 6th of July at Level 3, Grace Joel Retirement Village, when we will view David Butler's "How Far Is It?" New members are very welcome.

Science and Technology: At our April meeting, Ram Ramadas, gave the group an informative presentation about "Essential Bacteria". Ram explained how important it was for us to maintain a healthy diet and practice good living habits. He outlined some of the food groups that assist the good bacteria ward off the negative influences of bad bacteria to keep our bodies in a healthy state and avoid illnesses and disease.

In May, Penny Wilson spoke to the group about detergents. Penny was an industrial scientist responsible for formulating detergents and enlightened us all about the ingredients and development that goes in to such a commonly used product.

This month we have a Technical Manager coming from a company who specialise in protective coatings for cars. He will be telling us all about different paints and coatings and explain how we can keep our vehicles looking bright and shiny to best protect our investment. *Murray Holmes – Convener*

Theatre Group: 'THE REVIVAL' - A well performed play by Dolphin Theatre, was enjoyed by 16 of our Theatre Group Members.

This was another well performed and scripted play by the Dolphin Theatre and was enjoyed by 16 of our Theatre Group. The play was about a cursed play 'SCARED TO DEATH'.

This play had it all, a fanatical, obsessed director on the verge of a nervous breakdown, actors bickering with each other and fumbling their lines, a seance, ghostly happenings, intrigue and lots of laughs, kept us guessing right to the end. Helen Frost

Travel Group: This month we were fortunate to have some REAL travel to delight in. Mary Brindle and her husband had just returned from a trip to Argentina and the Antarctic as the drawbridge was being pulled up for last year's Covid lockdown. We were enchanted by the scenes, first from Buenos Aires, and then from the Deep South. The Argentine port of Ushuaia is the stepping-off point for many Antarctic cruises, and from there we followed the ship's fascinating route. We travelled past islands with the remains of whaling stations, research stations, vast colonies of various types of seals, penguins and sea birds. The icebergs floating by were magnificent, and then there were almost-active volcanoes, vast ice cliffs in varying stages of stability, and a wonderful pair of huge Emperor penguins surveying the camera disdainfully. And then there were the rather scary leopard seals. What a marvellous trip record! And meanwhile, Mary's marvellous husband was concocting our afternoon tea.....Next month we are again lucky to have another real travel report, this time from Ram and Gnani on their South Island travels.

The Industrial Revolution: Our May meeting was very well attended, in fact a full house. We covered the Royal Shipyards employing over 800 people doing a variety of jobs; for example rat killer, keeper of the clock, keeper of the plugs, scavengers and treenail motters. These jobs were highly coveted as the pay was good and usually handed down from father to son, 100 acres of land producing 4,000 mature Oak trees went into the building of just one ship of the line. Rope could be up to 24-inch thick according to use and to make a rope anchor of 24 in diameter required the labour of 200 people.

Glenn's presentation was about the life of Mrs. Gaskill a hard-working lady working for better conditions for the women and children living in slum conditions with bad food, Women and children were preferred employees as they had more dexterity having smaller hands and ability to get into tight spaces.

After our next meeting we are all going out for a "Mid-Winter Lunch" (a bit early but who cares, the company is good). We will need respite this as our lecture will be about coal mining and we all know what a hazardous job that is. Patricia

Music Appreciation: The first meeting of this special interest group was held upon June 11th 2021 at St. Andrews. It was most gratifying to have 14 members arrive for this event. Today we viewed a DVD which featured the Composer George Frederick Handel and his life and works in London. We were able to hear two movements from Handel's "Water Music" performed by the Australian Chamber Orchestra. In July the group will listen to a lecture given by Professor Robert Greenberg, the story of two Germans named George, one of whom became England's greatest musical son and the other, the King of England himself. Music as a Mirror of History !!! Christine

BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN!

U3A HAMILTON GARDENS OUTING

Wednesday 3rd November 2021



–Bookings for members whose names are not already on the list please contact Patricia Coleman Ph 524 6235
asap or e.mail: pat-jack@actrix.co.nz

–Coach departs Madill's Farm Kohimarama 9am returns by 4.30pm

–Cost: \$50 per head includes return coach travel and a light lunch at Hamilton Gardens Café.

–Please pay NOW to ensure your seat on the coach is secure

–Payments can be made by the following methods:

–1. **Online Payments (Preferred Method):**

Pay direct into our ASB account:- U3A Tamaki Drive - 12-3027-0449506-00

Please include your first and last names in the particulars and code fields so the payment can be identified.

–2. **Cash:** to the Treasurer at the monthly meeting. Sorry but cheques are no longer accepted by the banks.

Any questions re payments contact Maree Holmes, Treasurer Ph: 575 0380 or e.mail moree@xtra.co.nz

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE U3A POST OFFICE BOX IS HAS NOW BEEN CLOSED.

Opera: On Sunday the 13th of June members of the opera group visited the NZ Opera production of 'The Marriage of Figaro'. The Opera was based on a comedy play with the same name written in 1798 by **Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais** who was a French polymath. At various times in his life, he was a watchmaker, inventor, playwright, musician, diplomat, spy, publisher, horticulturist, arms dealer, satirist, financier, and revolutionary. The play's denunciation of aristocratic privilege has been characterised as foreshadowing the French Revolution.

With the fabulous music by Mozart and the libretto by De Ponte the production was considered a great success with a clever set design with illuminated panels on wheels which could be quickly be rearranged to create different rooms etc.

The singing of all the main characters was of a very high standard with a stand out performance by Emma Pearson as Countess Almaviva and Richard Ollarsaba as Figaro. Also noteworthy was the superb conducting of the APO by Zoe Zeniodi.

LIST OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Antiques and Collectibles

Convenor: Annette Delugar Ph: 575 6560
Co Convenor: Cherry Hankin Ph: 521 4251
3rd Friday of each month @ 10.00 am

Art Appreciation

Convenor: Patricia Coleman Ph: 524 6235
Co Convenor : Jennifer Black Ph: 575 2068
1st Thursday of each month @ 10.00 am

Classic Films

Convenor: Nancy Crooks Ph: 575 8476
Co Convenor: Janet Shaw Ph: 575 6015
2nd Monday of each month @ 1.15pm

Classic Films 2

Convenor: Cherry Hankin ph: 521 4251
2nd Friday of the month @ 7.15 pm

Exploring History

Convenor: Mavis James Ph: 575 8385
Co Convenor: Patricia English Ph: 570-9733
2nd Monday each month @ 10.00 am.

Geology

Convenor: Ian Simpson Ph: 575 0939
Co Convenor: Jill Goldkorn Ph: 521 8424
1st Thursday of the month @ 10.00 am

Living with the Gods

Convenor: Judy Simpson Ph: 575 0939
Co Convenor: Roselda Stevens Ph: 522 1483
1st Monday of the month @ 10am

Medieval Cities

Convenor: Cherry Hankin Ph: 521 4251
Co Convenor: Patricia Coleman Ph: 524 6235
3rd Monday of the month @ 1.30 pm

Music Appreciation

Convenor: Christine Robinson Ph: 575 1505
Co-Convenor: Toni Howe Ph: 528 1966
2nd Friday of Month @ 10 am

Opera

Convenor: David Colmore-Williams Ph: 528 4158
Co Convenor: Toni Howe Ph: 528 1966
2nd Tuesday of the month @10am

Our Night Sky

Convenor: Martin Ellis Ph: 528 5116
Co Convenor:
1st Tuesday of month @ 10.00 am

Science & Technology

Convenor: Murray Holmes Ph: 575 0380
Co-convenor: Tony Keen Ph: 022 355 1223
4th Wednesday of the month after Gen. Meeting

Theatre

Convenor: Helen Frost Ph: 575 4990
Co Convenor: Fay Nicol Ph: 521 2469
4th Friday of the month @ 10 am
at Meadowbank Village

The Industrial Revolution

Convenor: Patricia Coleman Ph: 524 6235
Co Convenor: Patricia English Ph: 570 9733
3rd Thursday of the month @ 10 am

Travel

Convenor: Josephine Ellis Ph: 027 512 7182
Co Convenor: Gary Robinson Ph: 585 2248
1st Wednesday of each month @1.00pm

Some members of the art group at the Pah Homestead



IMPORTANT NOTICE Re COVID 19 REQUIREMENTS

At monthly meetings, please note that EVERYBODY must be ticked off the list before entering the Meeting Room.

MEMBERS: Please wear your name badges and wait until our check-in staff tick your name off the list.

VISITORS: All visitors must obtain a name badge and enter their contact details in the Visitors Book.

Please arrive early to allow ample time for our meet and greet staff to check you in!

NOTICE TO U3A TAMAKI DRIVE MEMBERS

Please remember when you check in to provide your next of kin emergency contact details and also your mobile phone number at the check in desk.

Also, can you write your next of kin emergency contact details on the back of your membership label. Thank you.

Other Committee Members and Helpers:

<i>Vice President</i> Patricia Coleman	Ph: 524 6235	pat-jack@actrix.co.nz
<i>Speakers:</i> Mavis Haigh	Ph: 534 8891	m.haigh@auckland.ac.nz
<i>Interest Groups:</i> Christine Robinson	Ph: 575 1505	jc-rob@xnet.co.nz
Liz Mitchell		lizmitchell750@gmail.com
<i>U3A Network:</i> Nancy Crooks	Ph: 575 8476	nancymetacrooks@gmail.com
<i>Secretary / Almoner:</i> Annette Delugar	Ph: 575 6560	annette.delugar@xtra.co.nz
<i>Newsletter:</i> David Colmore-Williams	Ph: 528 4158	davidcolmorewilliams@gmail.com
<i>Asst. Newsletter:</i> Bev Collier	Ph: 575 5387	bev.collier@xtra.co.nz
<i>Membership:</i> Patricia English	Ph: 570 9733	patricia.english19@gmail.com
<i>New Members:</i> Patricia English	Ph: 570 9733	patricia.english19@gmail.com
“ “ Terese Phillips	Ph: 570 1816	teresePhillips51@gmail.com
<i>Past President:</i> Judy Simpson	Ph: 575 0939	judyandian.simpson@xtra.co.nz