



The Secretary - U3A Tamaki Drive  
1/18 Walmsley St., St Heliers 1071

**MAY 2021**

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**ISSUE No. 195**

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**MEETING WEDNESDAY 26th MAY 2021 at 9.30 AM**

**May Meeting Speaker: . Vincent Hardaker - New Zealand Assistant Conductor-in-Residence**  
“What Does the the Conductor Even Do?”

**SIG Responsibilities for 26th May 2021**

|                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Introducing the Guest Speaker: | Antiques & Collectibles   |
| Written Report on Speaker:     | Theatre group             |
| Morning-tea:                   | Geology                   |
| 5-10 minute Speaker            | The Industrial Revolution |
| Verbal Reports 1               | Science & Technology      |
| Verbal Reports 2               | Famous & Infamous         |

**President’s Report:** Hello Members

This report has been sent from a farm in NSW. Maree and I flew to Australia once the border became open. Maree has family here and we had booked flights last year prior to Covid breaking out. The bubble may be open but flying under Covid conditions was a new experience. There we’re heaps of car parks available at the airport and check in was a breeze. The usually bustling terminal was calm and quiet, less than half the shops in the duty free area were still closed down and the whole place had a eerie atmosphere about it. In the gate lounge I wondered where all the other passengers were. It turned out that there were only approximately 30 passengers on our flight spread throughout the 200 seat aeroplane. It felt very odd. (I don’t think Qantas made any money on that flight!) The meal came in sealed cardboard cartons and all utensils were in sealed packages. We made it to Sydney and found the same atmosphere over there. All passengers on our flight disembarked and were gone within half an hour of landing. We see that our Hon PM closed the bubble when two cases of Covid popped up in Sydney and we wondered if we were going to be stranded. At this stage, things are open again and we are hoping that we can return in time for our next monthly meeting. For any of you contemplating a holiday in Oz, the bubble might be open but from our experience travel ain’t what it used to be.

Thanks to those of you who have shown an expression of interest in the planned trip to Hamilton Gardens in November. We still need a few more to make the trip viable so please let Patricia Coleman know if you are likely to come on this outing.

Also, please register if you are going to attend the Celebrating U3A event on the 29th July. We look forward to seeing you all at the next monthly meeting - hopefully! Murray

**Written report on speaker:** Our guest speaker in April was Lauren O'Sullivan from NPH (which translates as "Our Little Brothers and Sisters"), an organisation which helps vulnerable children and families in 9 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. They support orphaned and abused children, caring for them and helping them reach their full potential and break out of the cycle of poverty.

A New Zealand primary school teacher, Lauren volunteered for a position with NPH in Honduras. She gave an interesting account of her 2 years there. She described her experiences, the work the organisation does there, and told us heartwarming stories about individual children she had worked with, and what they are doing now. She has returned to New Zealand and continues her work for them by giving information talks about NPH and fundraising for them. Penny Wilson

**Antiques and Collectibles:** Lace making began in the early 15th and 16th Century in Europe, England and in Ireland. There are two main methods of making lace: one with a single thread (needle lace) and with multiple threads (bobbin lace). The making of lace continued in the 17th, 18 and 19th century and has had a revival in the 20th century. Historically, lace was only worn by aristocrats due to the cost of making it. It was used in clothing on collars and cuffs, and in dresses, and in wedding gowns. Queen Victoria wore a lace wedding gown which gave impetus to lace fashion and to the industry generally, particularly in Great Britain. Lace comes in variety of different patterns from needlepoint to Bobbin lace and both the latter are examples of handmade lace, and in Brussels today, they are still making handmade lace. Brussels has been a centre of excellence for lace making from the earliest times and remains so today. Lace is still used in the clothing industry in the 21st Century due to its beauty and durability. New members always welcome. Annette.

**Art Appreciation:** The art Appreciation Group visited 'Van Gogh Alive' at the Spark Arena for an amazing sensory treat this month. The entrance room had many panels which told about Van Gogh's life, and there was a replica of his bedroom, so we had a photo there before entering the main auditorium to view his stunning artwork. The paintings on huge, split multi-screens totally surround you with colour and light. They came to life in vivid detail, with stars sparkling, clouds floating past, birds flying away. The images continually flowed showing the story and struggle of Van Gogh's life through his incredible paintings and many quotes, 'I dream of painting and then I paint my dream.' All this was set to a powerful classical score which intensified the whole experience. After a photo as we walked through the sunflower room, we relaxed with coffee before heading home. Jennifer Black



**Classic Films: (April report)** Our group watched the director George Cukor's 1933 version of Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women". This Civil War-era tale with Katherine Hepburn playing the part of Jo March as its central character, was filmed in black and white and won several Academy awards in 1934.

It has been described by TimeOut as the definitive version and perfectly cast. We found it charming and the photography magnificent, nearly 90 years later!! Sheila CB

(May Report) The Classic Film Group watched the 1948 film The Red Shoes this month. The film marked the debut of Moira Shearer, an established ballerina and features Robert Helpmann, Marie Rambert, and other renowned ballet dancers. Based on a fairytale by Hans Christian Anderson it features an 18-minute ballet of the same name within the film and tells the story of Vicky an aspiring dancer, Julian a composer and Lermontov a ballet company impresario. Lermontov creates a starring role for Vicky in The Ballet of the Red Shoes and Julian composes the music. Vicky and Julian fall in love and marry but Lermontov resents the romance and fires Julian, Vicky also leaves the company with him. She is convinced by Lermontov to return to dance in the ballet again and he and Julian contend for Vicky's affection. Torn between her love for Julian and her need to dance, she chooses the dance. Broken hearted Julian leaves for the railway station. Vicky puts on the red ballet shoes and, under their influence, she runs from the theatre to the station, leaps from a balcony and falls in front of a train. Suicide or murder (by the red shoes)? is left ambiguous. As Vicky bleeds to death, she asks Julian to remove the red shoes which seemed to have possessed her. Mary Alexander

**Exploring History:** Peter the Great ruled Russia from 1682 - 1725. A man of huge stature being 6 foot 7 inches tall with simple tastes, but a bully, a tyrant, having fits of temper where he would lash out at the members of his court then be contrite. But Peter achieved Muscovy's expansion into Europe and its transformation into the Russian Empire by reorganisation of the army and navy and developing metallurgical and textile industries. He also reorganised government structure along the lines of Europe, sending his countrymen to be educated there and therefore bringing what they had learned back with them to teach others. We will now research Catherine the Great to see if she was a more able ruler and was able to keep Peter the Great's legacy going and improving. pat english

**Living with the Gods:** We meet at 10 am on the first Monday of each month. We have only 2 more topics/meetings to complete our study. Allowing for Queen's Birthday these will be on **Mon. 05 July** and our final meeting "Living with the Gods in the current century" on **Mon. 02 August**.

Patricia Coleman has very generously offered to lend us her DVD Great History Course: "**Understanding Russia: A Cultural History**". Group members please let me know if you wish to continue with this study. (Judy Simpson.)

**Music Appreciation:** The first meeting of this group will now be held upon Friday June 11th at St. Andrews Retirement Village , at 10 am. All prospective members will receive an email nearer the date with specific details of the location we will be using, parking availability etc.

Throughout the remainder of the year a mixture of DVDs from several sources will be viewed which will provide music to listen to, as well describing the ways in which history has inspired the creation of certain musical works. They are : Classical Destinations 11, The Great Composers [Mozart, Beethoven, Hayden and Chopin ] and a series of " The Great Courses" , lectures from" Music as a Mirror of History ." The lectures are narrated by Professor Robert Greenberg, who is currently Music Historian -in- Residence with San Francisco Performances. He has lectured for some of the most prestigious musical and arts organisations in the USA, including the San Francisco Symphony, the Lincoln Centre for the performing arts, the Van Cliburn Foundation, and the University of British Columbia.

Please phone me [575 1505] should you need further information.

Christine Robinson [convenor]

**Opera :** Our group have now concluded the study of the life of Verdi and the prodigious volume of his work. How to understand Opera is our next focus, a series of 34 DVD lectures addressing the works of major composers, Mozart Wagner Bizet etc The APO's magnificent presentation of Beethoven's Fidelio was superb as were our NZ singers and we looked forward to seeing more NZ Opera at the Marriage of Figaro. ALL who are interested in music are welcome to our meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. Toni

**Our Night Sky:** Meeting Tuesday 4th May

At this meeting Martin took us upon a launch of the Soyuz Satellite Rocket from the most impressive Russian facility. We marvelled at the size and complexity of the launch site and the structure of the rocket itself. Blast-off was spectacular, taking the payload of small communication satellites into orbit.

An introduction to David Butlers video's "How far away is it" was also viewed and promises to provide good follow-up for future meetings.

The group plans to continue the year with members making their own contributions to Astronomy studies with material they have found in newspapers, magazines, youtube clips and of course the "Net." Our next meeting will be upon Tuesday June 1 at 10am and members who would like to join us will be most welcome. Christine.

**Theatre:** Theatre Group had a lovely afternoon at Howick Little Theatre. The play was " The Girl on the Train ".A well known novel by Paul Hawkins, also made into a movie and brilliantly adapted to a stage play by The Howick Theatre. The play was brought to life by amazing cast of dedicated actors. Katie Fullard was outstanding in the lead role. Set in a suburban English town the story of Rachael Watson a lonely young woman who has become addicted to alcohol after a marriage breakup. Everyday she travels to work on the train even though she no longer has a job to go to. She longs for a different life and fantasies about the perfect couple she sees through the train window each night seemingly so happy and in love. But when the young woman suddenly disappears she finds herself both a witness and suspect of murder. Enjoyed by all --Looking forward to the next play at the Dolphin on 13th June. FAY

## The 'Celebrating U3A in Action 2021' Web site is now open for registrations

<https://www.u3anz.com/event>

A Registration Receipt including your details and our bank details will be sent to your email address on successful completion of your Registration.

- Unfortunately we are no longer able to accept payment by cheque, Please use Internet Banking and Bank deposits only.
- There is now an option to select Vegetarian meals
- Scrolling down to the 'How to get there' button will display the address and location map
- Printing of any of these pages can be achieved by selecting the 'print' function in your browser
- Help is available if needed by contacting [u3a.network@outlook.com](mailto:u3a.network@outlook.com) or those emails listed on the Registration Page



## 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.

### Famous & Infamous

Convenor: Christine Robinson Ph: 575 1505  
3rd Monday of the 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:  
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

**Geology:** This month the Geology Group had a field Trip to the Mangere Mountain volcano which was active about 50 thousand years ago. An interesting features was a large basalt plug which had been extruded into the main crater by gas pressure in remaining liquid magma. The gas was vented in three small craters around the plug. We viewed some large volcanic bombs but many of the smaller ones are now hidden by long grass.

Pits and terraces are prominent on Mangere Mountain which was the site of more than one Pah in pre European times. The lava field from the mountain is very extensive covering Ambury Park and flowing under the Manukau Harbour near Mangere Bridge. The Mangere Lagoon volcano was active a little earlier and is an explosion crater with a castle and moat formation (small basalt mound in the center of the lagoon). It was formally an oxidation pond but has been returned to its original state. As usual, we had a very pleasant coffee and snack at Ruby Red Café at Mangere Bridge to finish the morning. At our next meeting at 10am on the 3rd of June there will be a presentation "Why does SA have more gold and diamonds than NZ?" . Visitors are welcome. Call Ian 5750939.

## Great Views from Mangere Mountain



## 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 | <a href="mailto:pat-jack@actrix.co.nz">pat-jack@actrix.co.nz</a>                   |
| <i>Speakers:</i> Mavis Haigh                | Ph: 534 8891 | <a href="mailto:m.haigh@auckland.ac.nz">m.haigh@auckland.ac.nz</a>                 |
| <i>Interest Groups:</i> Christine Robinson  | Ph: 575 1505 | <a href="mailto:jc-rob@xnet.co.nz">jc-rob@xnet.co.nz</a>                           |
| Liz Mitchell                                |              | <a href="mailto:lizmitchell750@gmail.com">lizmitchell750@gmail.com</a>             |
| <i>U3A Network:</i> Nancy Crooks            | Ph: 575 8476 | <a href="mailto:nancymetacrooks@gmail.com">nancymetacrooks@gmail.com</a>           |
| <i>Secretary / Almoner:</i> Annette Delugar | Ph: 575 6560 | <a href="mailto:annette.delugar@xtra.co.nz">annette.delugar@xtra.co.nz</a>         |
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| “ “ Terese Phillips                         | Ph: 570 1816 | <a href="mailto:teresephillips51@gmail.com">teresephillips51@gmail.com</a>         |
| <i>Past President:</i> Judy Simpson         | Ph: 575 0939 | <a href="mailto:judyandian.simpson@xtra.co.nz">judyandian.simpson@xtra.co.nz</a>   |