

**U3A MANUREWA NEWSLETTER
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER MEETING**

**(PLEASE NOTE EARLIER START TIME)
at 1.00pm**

TO BE HELD At ACACIA COVE RETIREMENT VILLAGE LOUNGE
131 Wattle Farm Road Manurewa Auckland 2103



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Comprising 7/8 members who take on a variety of responsibilities

President	Bob Falconer		
Secretary	Maureen Abbott		
Treasurer	Gaynor Falconer		
Vice President	Heather Hine		
Membership Sec & Speaker Co-ordinator	Pat James		
Almoner	Pat James		
Network Rep	Bob Falconer		
Newsletter Sec	Doreen Lightfoot		
Refreshments Sharleen Bishop, Christine Bertram and Corrie Patterson			

MANUREWA U3A

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 2023

Last year (September 2021 to August 2022) Covid prevented us from having several meetings, this year (September 2022 to August 2023) one meeting was cancelled due to extreme weather.

The September meeting was about the Story of Eyam and how isolating the village prevented the spread of the plague. There is a lesson for our health authorities in what they did. The supply of water in Auckland is plentiful, but in Kenya it is a problem. Peter and Sharon Crean told us about their work in Kenya, digging wells, supplying water tanks and other water related services. In November Mitchell Pham had to cancel so Pat arranged for Councillor Daniel Newman to speak to us on the council and how it functions. In December we had an excellent Christmas Lunch and listened to Lisa Lorell.

January, we do not meet, and the February meeting was cancelled because of the bad weather. In March Mitchell Pham told us about his life, how he escaped from Vietnam as a 12 yr old, spent time in a refugee camp in Indonesia and then settled in New Zealand and became a successful businessman. Having spent his police career in South Auckland, Ken Brewer gave us a talk about the history of the New Zealand Police with reference to Auckland. Unfortunately, due to a family commitment, Gaynor and I had to miss Colleen Brown's talk in May about her recent book Violet's Scarf. Those who attended told us that we missed an interesting talk.

I worried that the female members of our group might not enjoy a talk about the Falklands War, but having checked with some of them I am glad to say that they thought it was very good. Guy Slocum's talk was very interesting as he was called to back to the Air Force from civilian life, was involved in the planning of the British attack, and then spent a period leading a Harrier squadron there. Paul Moon's talk was about Nostalgia and Utopianism, and how we see only the good things about the past or what we expect in the future. Is nostalgia and utopianism what politicians use when trying to get re-elected? On a lighter note, last month, we finished with Jan Beaumont telling us about her life and how she started writing poetry at the start of Covid lockdown. She is a published author and has been compared to Pam Ayres.

Our membership numbers are stable, some leave and others join, but like all Presidents, I would ask you to spread the word about U3A as five to ten new members would be a good addition to our membership.

Nothing would happen without a hard-working committee, and I would like to thank all members for their hard work. Pat as always can find interesting speakers for our meetings, and even if there is a cancellation she can find another speaker, so thank you for your excellent work.

Maureen Abbot has had to relinquish her position as secretary due to ill health, and Gaynor has stepped in as secretary until the AGM. Gaynor would like to stepdown as treasurer, but no one has been coerced to filling that position. There are always vacancies on the committee, and you can volunteer at our meeting this month.

The number of interest groups has dropped, and I would ask that you support those that are still functioning. Should you have a particular interest that could be the basis of a new group, please discuss this with the committee.

We would like to thank the staff at Acacia Cove for organising the afternoon tea trolley, and for setting up for our meetings

For the next twelve months I hope that the sun will shine during the day, there will be rain at night, and there will be no cancelled meetings.

Bob President

(Please note that a separate email has been sent to all members with the President's Report, Minutes of the last AGM 2022 and the Financial Report.

TREASURER: (Gaynor) FEES AND HOW TO PAY

Please remember that fees can be paid by cash or internet banking to ASB #12-3028-0593307-00. If you wish to pay by cash, please ensure the notes are put into an envelope with your name on the outside.

Host Group:

<i>Roster for Host Groups</i>					
<i>Feb</i>	<i>Book Review</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Movies Group</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Current Affairs</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>History & People</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Card and Board Games</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Music Apprec</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>Current Affairs</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>Book Review</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Christmas dinner</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>Music Apprec</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>History & People</i>		

OUR SEPTEMBER SPEAKER will be PROFESSOR JULIAN PATON

Julian Paton studied at the University of Birmingham, UK (BSc, 1984) and University of London (PhD, 1987). Post-doctoral training was at the Royal Free Hospital (London), EI Dupont de Nemours (USA), University of Washington, Seattle (USA), and as an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the University of Göttingen (Germany).

In 1994, he was awarded a British Heart Foundation Fellowship, which he took up at the University of Bristol, UK, and awarded his Chair in Cardiovascular Physiology in 2001. In 2017, he transferred to the University of Auckland where he directs a multi-disciplinary research programme involving basic and clinical scientists with the aim of finding novel clinical therapeutic approaches for cardiovascular diseases. He is Director of a new heart centre (Manaaki Mānawa) combining experts in the University of Auckland and district health boards. He is Co-Director of the recently awarded national Centre of Research Excellence in Heart Health across New Zealand.

Julian has trained 25 PhD students, published 400 scientific papers and given plenary lectures around the world on how the nervous system regulates the cardiovascular and respiratory systems in health and disease. His work has generated numerous patents and led to clinical trials in patients with heart disease. He has been a recipient of numerous national and international prizes and, most recently, was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand Te Apārangi. He holds honorary professorial positions at The William Harvey Institute, St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, the Department of Physics, University of Bath and the Department of Physiology, University of Belgrade, Serbia.

OUR AUGUST SPEAKER WAS JAN BEAUMONT who was introduced by Pat James

“When Jan Beaumont sat down on her couch in late March 2020, little did she realise how her life would change in the next year. Three days before, the Prime Minister had announced that NZ would go into lockdown for 4

weeks as a result of Covid 19. Jan had never written a poem before but something about the situation inspired her to write 'Let's All Drink to Lockdown'. Within days it had gone viral and was read by thousands of people around the world. And there the story starts. Jan read a selection of her poems which starts. were inspired alongside her personal journey

THANKS, EXTENDED BY: Doreen Lightfoot who thanked Jan for sharing her delightful poems with us, I enjoyed them as I am sure that everyone else did also.


SHARE, SHOW, & TELL -

Remember we only have 10 minutes to fit everyone in, so, if there are 30 of us for example, that allows us about 20 seconds each to share our words of wisdom!!! Not such a daunting task really!! Saying " I have nothing to share " would allow you to use those precious 30 seconds anyway. A win win situation either way!!! Warwick

BOOKS and BOOKS are needed

Warwick gave a small chat on rubber bands, how the ASB are always helpful, Ardmore Reunion 40 years ago etc.

GROUP REPORTS:

	<p>BOOK REVIEW Meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month, 10am. Convenor, Pat James Next meeting will be on the 1st August and 5th September.</p>
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BOOK REVIEW held on 1st August. 4 present and 6 apologies

The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz

Jake Finch Bonner has written one novel with limited success and is now teaching writing to other aspiring novelists. One of these students submits a few pages of his first novel which Jake considers has merit. Jake later finds out that this student has died and so writes the novel himself to great acclaim. Jake becomes famous then someone finds out what he has done.

Rated: 3.5

The Moon and Sixpence by Somerset Maugham

This book is based on the life of Paul Gauguin and is an ode to the powerful forces behind creative genius. Charles Strickland is a staid banker, a man of wealth and privilege who pursues his artistic vision travelling to Paris and Tahiti leaving those closest to him in tatters.

Not rated

A Tale of Two Thrillers both written by authors born in England.

Past Tense by Lee Child

In his wandering around America, Jack Reacher comes across the town his father was born in and decides to see what he can find out about his father's early life. A Canadian couple are being held hostage in a country motel and will become prey for a group of bow hunters.

Rated: 3.5

Hands Down by Felix Francis

Felix is Dick Francis's son and has been co-authority and writing his own books with a horse racing background. Sid Halley, who has had a hand transplant, is an ex-jockey and a retired private investigator. He is asked to investigate corruption in the racing industry


Rated: 3.5

Our reader found both the books formalistic. We learn a lot about how to kill people and win fights.

Still Life by Sarah Winman

A repeat review. Ulysses Temper, a young British soldier meets Evelyn Skinner, an art historian and a woman of a certain age accidentally in Italy for a day at the end of World War 2. This is a meeting of minds that will last through decades to come. There are so many layers in this story and so many people to love. The story starts in the East End with many quirky characters and the rest of the novel is spent in Florence. This is an epic tale full of humour and descriptions of the best of human relationships.

Rated: 5

	<p>CARD AND BOARD GAMES: meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 1.30pm. Convenor: Val Marris Next Meeting Date, 3rd August and 7th September.</p>
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No report this time



CURRENT AFFAIRS: meetings are held on the 3rd Monday, at 2pm. At Jan and Warwick's place.
Convenors: Jan and Warwick May
Meeting Dates: next meeting 21st August, 18th September and 16th October.

Meeting held on 17th July report

Topics discussed were: Quotes, votes, Matariki, people power, light rail and artificial Intelligence.

John was able to come up with a lot more information about A.I. It would appear to be a never ending topic. As always, we managed to chat and enjoy each other's company.

Next meeting, next Monday 21st August at 2pm.

Jan May



HISTORY PEOPLE AND PLACES: are held on the 3rd Tues 1.30pm at Jeanette Cortesi's home.
 Phone: Convenor Jeanette Cortesi and Tricia Jordan.
 Next Meeting 15th August and September. .

Meeting Tuesday 18th July was cancelled due to family commitments.



MUSIC APPRECIATION: meetings, are held on the 4th Friday of the month, 2 to 4pm at Simon and Pat James' place. Convenor: Simon James
The next meeting will be on the 25th August and the 22nd September.

Keyboards

We held our music appreciation session on Friday 28 July. The theme was 'keyboards' so there was music for piano, harpsichord and organ from composers ranging from Bach to Bartok. There were also some excellent performers such as John Ogdon and Lang Lang on piano. Kenneth Gilbert and Michael Tsaika on harpsichord and Philip Ledger on organ.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 26th August, 2 to 4pm at ours.

Let me know if you wish to join us.

Simon.



MOVIES GROUP: dates and time depend on which movie is selected and then make your own way to the Hawkins Centre Papakura and meet there. Contact Heather Hine

U3A JULY MOVIES – 15 AUG 2023

Cairo Conspiracy: - Adam, a fisherman's son, is offered the ultimate privilege to study at the Al-Azhar University in Cairo. When the Grand Imam suddenly dies, Adam becomes a pawn in a ruthless power struggle between Egypt's religious and political elites. A political thriller, this movie was in Arabic with subtitles

My Sailor My Love: - Howard, a retired sailor and widower, lives in a house by the sea. His adult daughter Grace hires a caretaker for her father, Annie, a lady in her mature years. Recluse and stubborn, Howard rejects Annie's company, but eventually gives his final love a chance. Grace finds this difficult, and her father's new love reminds her of the affection she missed as a child, and now as an adult. Annie is caught up in the complex father-daughter relationship, while Howard and Grace had to come to terms with their problems.

The Miracle Club: - Follows the story of close friends Lily, Eileen and Dolly from Ballyfermot, a community in Dublin. When the opportunity arises for the women to win a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, they jump at the chance. With their priest's help, the women win the trip and are joined by Chrissie, who has returned from the USA after a long absence, for her mother's funeral. During the journey, the women confront their pasts and reflect on their own lives as they search for personal miracles.

MARCO POLO

MARCO POLO – PAPA KURA U3A: Next meeting will be held on Wed 19th July at 2pm in the downstairs meeting room at Acacia Cove Lodge.

Contact is Pat James

The next meetings will be on the Wed 16th August and September at 2pm.

10 present, 1 apology

On Wednesday, 21st June Iris Durney from Papakura U3A took us on a trip to **Suzhou**, a city west of Shanghai in China. Iris lived there for over a year teaching English to pre-school children and exploring her surroundings. **Suzhou** is known for its canals, bridges and classical gardens. The Humble Administrator's Garden, dating to 1513 contains zigzag bridges over connected pools and islands.

The Lingering Garden features ornate viewing pavilions and the Crown of Clouds Peak is a striking limestone rockery.

Tiger Hill is home to the 7-story, leaning Cloud Rock Pagoda at its summit.

Hi everyone, I'm confirming that the next meeting of the group will be next **Wednesday, 16th August at 2pm** in the downstairs meeting room at Acacia Cove.

Margaret Gane will give a brief talk about the **Otago Rail Trail** and then will take us to Albany in Australia and discuss whether this is where the Anzacs were born.

There is plenty of room so please come if you are free See you all then Pat

SEPTEMBER 2023						
	TUESDAY	WED	THURS	FRIDAY	SAT	SUN
				1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
4 TH	5 TH Book Review	6 TH	7 TH BOARD & CARD GAMES 1.30PM	8 TH	9 TH	10 TH
11 TH U3A GENERAL MEETING 1.30PM	12 TH HISTORY PEOPLE & PLACES 1.30PM	13 TH Marco Polo 2pm	14 TH	15 TH	16 TH	17 TH
18 TH CURRENT AFFAIRS 2PM	19 TH	20 TH	21 ST	22 ND MUSIC APPREC 2PM	23 RD	24 TH
25 TH	26 TH ST	27 TH	29 TH t	30 TH		
MOVIES Hawkins Centre Papakura and meet there. <u>Contact Heather Hine</u>						