

PAPAKURA U3A NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

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SEASONS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL
We wish you a safe and restful time with friends and relatives
See you in 2004

At the AGM this month we farewelled Bill Peddie as our president, a position he has held for the past four years, and welcomed Sandy Bensemann to the position. We will miss Bill's contributions but thank him for his years of service. We all wish Sandy well for the coming year and hope Bill can put his creative writing juices to good use elsewhere!

After the AGM we enjoyed some tasty refreshments and then really special entertainment from Lisa Lorrell. Lisa has a wonderful way of singing across the various genre of music - from songs from musicals to some popular artists and then to operatic arias. I think I can safely say we all enjoyed listening to her. A good choice for our end of year entertainment.

Don't forget our January lunch meeting on 16th January 2024 at the Ardmore Cafe, Ardmore Airport at 12 noon. To give us an idea of how many will attend, could you please let Sally Curtis - 2960661 or sally.gerrycurtis@xtra.co.nz **before 9th January 2024.**

Memorial Service for Yvonne Harrison

Long term u3a member and a former Club Vice President, Yvonne passed away peacefully in Hamilton on Sunday 12 November.

There is to be a memorial service on Wednesday 6 December at 10.30am at East Church, Papakura.

Notice was in the NZ Herald on Saturday 25th November 2023.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

All members are welcome at any interest group. Just contact the Co-ordinator of the group and they will add you to the group's contact list, or roll up at their next advertised group event.

Book Group

Co-ordinator Ruth Bourne Ph: 09 294 9396 Book Group usually meets at 10am on 4th Thursday of each month at Drury Library. Please contact Ruth if you need further information. All are welcome to our meetings at the Drury Library

Film Appreciation Group

Coordinator Rod Baldwin Ph: 298 3842 or email:

rodneymbaldwin@hotmail.com

Monthly date and time arranged depending on film, usually Hawkins Theatre or Rialto, Newmarket. Email Rod to get put on his emailing list.

My suggestion for a film in December, is "Napoleon", screening at Hawkins Theatre: 18 & 20 December at 7:30pm 19 & 21 December at 3:30pm
22 December at 12:30pm

This film is reportedly a typical Ridley Scott spectacular, with a different take by Oscar winner Joaquin Phoenix on "The Little Emperor's" personality and his relationship with Empress Josephine.

For the November movie I suggested "Dumb Money", because I thought it would be an interesting and informative movie, as it is based on a contemporary situation on Wall Street. Into the month, however, i was influenced by a member of our group into thinking that perhaps "MsInformation" might have been a better choice. So I felt I needed to see both movies, and as it transpired I saw them both on the same day, one straight after the other.

"MsInformation" was certainly worth watching, dealing as it does with recent events such as the Covid 19 closedown which affected us all, and the fact that, even as I write, a court case is being conducted with Ms Wiles against her employer, Auckland University, for not providing sufficient protection from threats she received which were highlighted in the movie, and which exposed, sadly, how low some New Zealanders were willing to stoop in expressing their disagreements. Ms Wiles was also a recent speaker at U3A Papakura. However I found the first half of the movie to be too slow moving and largely irrelevant bto the main issues of her public image and the threats against her. I also found the audio to be distorted, and some of the written script of the threats to be too small to be readable-very disappointing!

Regarding "Dumb Money", I was correct in judging the subject to be current, interesting, and informative, but found the dialogue to be largely unintelligible, and, unfortunately, foul mouthed, while it was largely overwhelmed by an intrusive and loud musical score.

International News Group

Coordinator Dena Gilmore belongingvp@inspire.net.nz If you would like to be part of a group that shares and discusses information on international stage, please get in touch

with Margaret Gane. Phone Margaret on 022 158 8064 for more information. We would love to have more members so, if overseas events and 'goings on' are of interest to you, come along and join us. Dena and I are continuing to meet at the Pizza Box, Papakura on the 3rd Thursday of each month. We would love other members to come and join us. Margaret Gane.

Out'n>About Group

Coordinator Helen Higgott Ph: 298-1213 email: higgotth@gmail.com. Monthly date and time arranged depending on event. Phone Helen to get put on the emailing list.

Last meeting. On Tuesday 14th November, four "lunching ladies" took the train into Auckland and caught the ferry across to Devonport. After having a look around Devonport we found a cafe for lunch, which was reasonable and the food was very tasty. We then caught the ferry and train back home. Was well worth the visit and we were lucky with the weather as the rain kept away.

Walking Group

Coordinator Varda Swery varda.swery@gmail.com 09-299 9765 and 021-1827190. Usually meets the first Thursday of the month. Walks organised by members of the group.

Writing Your Memoirs.

Coordinator Gloria Buddle. Contact: Gloria Buddle 092999550 or 0273561220 or guyfawkes48nz@gmail.com. You are all invited to come along to join us at our next meeting.

Last meeting: Eight of us met at Helen's home and after a lovely morning tea we settled down to recount our memories. We covered a wide variety of topics and the time just flew past. Why not come and join us in the New Year.

AUCKLAND u3a NETWORK WEBSITE (Established this year)

Developed and Managed by our Network Committee FOR Network Groups
u3auckland.net

This is an invitation to go into the site and have a look at it!

Click on 'Papakura u3a' and view the details of our group as it stands at present.

While you are on the site, click on other u3a groups in the Network and see what their website looks like!

If you like certain features of a group's website, let our own committee know!

This sort of feedback could be very helpful for the updating and 'refreshing' of our own website.

Margaret (Secretary, Auckland u3a Network Committee)

COMMUNITY NOTICES

SOUTH AUCKLAND CHORAL GROUP - Sunday 10 December, 2.30pm at Crossroads Church, Broadway, Papakura

World Premiere of 'Ocean of Peace', composed by well known NZ composer David Hamilton and written especially for South Auckland Choral. International mezzo soprano Andrea Creighton will be the soloist.

Tickets - \$20 all adults; \$15 - young people 5 to 15 years

A festive afternoon tea to follow. Grab a ticket and come to enjoy a range of Christmas music. Please see attached flyer

WORLD CHOIR GAMES 2024

Volunteers are being sought for this world scale event which is being held in Auckland for the first time 10 - 20 July 2024. This event has been likened to the Olympics for choral music. Assistance is needed for a range of duties from meeting and greeting choirs to carrying flags at the opening and closing ceremonies or helping backstage at a number of venues.

For more information about the event contact www.wcg2024.co.nz To express interest to volunteer contact <https://forms.office.com/r/MfRvEH01rB> or contact Helen Higgott higgotth@gmail.com and I will forward the large file. The email has been sent by Matt Doherty 022 075 3474 or MatthewDoherty@wcg2024.co.nz

HOLDING GROUND - AUCKLAND BOTANIC GARDENS VISITORS CENTRE

From 18 Nov till March 3 there is an indoor exhibition of sculptural work. It is worth a visit.