

# PAPAKURA U3A NEWSLETTER MAY 2023

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## BILL'S BURBLE



This is a rather unusual contribution to the regular monthly u3a newsletter in that for the last few weeks I have been forced to step back and watch the group function at a distance. As some of you may have already heard, my doctor suggested I back away from public functions while I worked my way through an impressive range of pills and potions to deal with some non-threatening pneumonia issues. Coughing and choking in public can be a bit off-putting. While I realize many of our age group encounter such setbacks, what I hadn't quite anticipated was the extent of the friendly support I then received from our u3a. Those who sent greetings were much appreciated.

I was particularly grateful to those who stepped up to cover for the chairing for the last monthly club meeting. I understand that Helen, who presented an end of meeting story, did such a good job that I am now wondering if that task should be shared more widely.

It was also good to note Helen has organized the hosting of a new interest group focusing on the background and understanding of music appreciation. Simon and Pat James (from Manurewa) will run this group for the next six months and the first session was well received.

Keep the suggestions for speakers coming in via the committee members. The wide range of topics has been much appreciated and is in keeping with the aims of our group.

## **MAY 2023 Meeting**

**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 10am, St John's Hall, Ray Small Drive, Papakura.**

**Speaker:** Wendy Deeming & Iris Durney - Tranquebar, South India

**Introducer:** Sandra Bensemman

**Thanker:** Helen Higgott

**Greeters:** Bev Dunn, Margaret Grant, Sandra Bensemman

**Tea Roster:** Bev Risetto, Sue Smurthwaite, Lynette Buchan

**10 Minute speaker:** Colin Cartwright

*A gentle reminder that subs are now due - our subs pay for the hall rental and morning teas. We have kept them at \$30 for this year and they can be paid to Lynette McInnes or paid online at ASB bank account 12-3031-0213766-01. Please check with Lynette, who can tell you if you have paid or not - Ph: 2977195 or [lynettemcinnnes@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:lynettemcinnnes@yahoo.co.nz)*

## 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.

**New group starting in April - Music Appreciation Group.** This group will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month from April to September at 2pm at Helen Higgott's house.

**Registration:** Please email Helen at [higgotth@gmail.com](mailto:higgotth@gmail.com) or Iris at [irisdurney@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:irisdurney@yahoo.co.uk) or just roll up.

**Next meeting:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May Venue: Helen Higgott's house, 34 Clevedon Rd, Papakura. 2pm for a 2 hour session. Afternoon tea is served half way through.

**Last meeting:** Our new Music group commenced with a small number of us gathering at Helen's house. Simon James presented a selection of music from the different eras of music (each with their own examples played for us) starting with Medieval (1000 - 1450). We moved through Renaissance period (1400-1600) to Baroque (1600-1750) with the main master of Baroque being JS Bach. Then came the Classical era (1750 - 1830) with the big guns being Hayden, Mozart and Beethoven, followed by Romantic (1830-1900) with Elgar and Schubert. We finished off with 20th Century era with Orff and Copland and finally Jazz with a wonderful piece from Gershwin.

Thanks to our hostess and presenters for a very pleasant afternoon.

### **Book Group**

Co-ordinator Ruth Bourne Ph: 09 294 9396 Book Group usually meets at 10am on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at Drury Library. Please contact Ruth if you need further information.

**Last meeting:** 8 members met in the refreshed Drury Library. Today's meeting featured some very interesting biographies: Ruby Tui, autobiographical; Frieda, wife of D H Lawrence by Annabel Abbs; Jacinda Ardern by Michelle Duff; The Happiest Man on Earth by Eddie Juki, a holocaust survivor; The Midwife's Sister by the sister of Jennifer Worth who wrote Call the Midwife series in her seventies.

Our other reading covered Historical Popular and Romantic fiction so necessary for light relief from time to time

**Next meeting:** All welcome to our next session meeting on 25th May. My mobile number 027 2771507 if needed. Cheers, Ruth Bourne

### **Film Appreciation Group**

Coordinator Rod Baldwin Ph: 298 3842 or email: [rodneymbaldwin@hotmail.com](mailto: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 the **May movie** at Hawkins Theatre is "My Neighbour Adolf", showing: Wed 3 May at 12:30pm Wed 10 May at 7:30pm Thursday 18 May at 10am Wed 31 May at 10am. "South America, 1960. A lonely and grumpy Holocaust survivor convinces himself that his new neighbour is none other than Adolf Hitler. Not being taken seriously he starts his own independent investigation, which proves inconclusive. He then engages in a relationship with the "enemy" in order to obtain irrefutable proof". I have watched the trailer and it appears to be very funny.

**Last month:** I really enjoyed the movie suggested for April: "Shackleton: The Greatest Story of Survival". Explorer Tim Jarvis presented the true story of the remarkable survival feat of Sir

Ernest Shackleton, when in 1914 on an expedition to across the frozen Antarctic continent, his ship, "The Endurance" is frozen in sea ice and eventually destroyed by the ice pressure, leaving him and his crew, with no hope of rescue, struggling to survive. Showing great leadership, Shackleton maintains morale and leads them on an epic sea voyage in small keel less open boats through cold and rough Antarctic seas to barren Elephant Island. Leaving most of his crew there he and five others continue further across those same seas to the island of South Georgia to seek help from a whaling station on the island. They land on the opposite side of the island from the station, so Shackleton and two others make a trek across the barren and frozen high country hinterland of the island to reach the station and help for his crew. Tim Jarvis has himself retraced the journey and presents the epic story in a combination of modern coloured film and archived black and white original film taken by the Australian cinematographer with the 1914 expedition. There is also a voiceover commentary recorded by Shackleton himself.

Jarvis uses the film to show how climate change has drastically affected the glaciation of South Georgia since 1914, and appeals for greater action to prevent further loss of natural habitat..

Rod Baldwin

### **Walking Group**

Coordinator Varda Swery [varda.swery@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Next walk:** the **May walk** will be on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> of May Description: The walk will be the part of Auckland Original Shoreline walk. We will walk the part starting at Britomart train station towards Judge's Bay and return to Britomart by bus.

The walk goes through the following points and at each point there is a plank with explanation:

- Britomart Place
- Pt Britomart
- Official Bay - Wynyard Pier
- Mechanic's Bay - Te Toangaroa
- Constitution Hill - Te Reuroa
- Augustus Terrace
- The Strand
- St George's Bay - Te Wai o Taikehu
- Campbell's Point
- Judge's Bay
- Parnell Baths

Distance: about 1.5 hours We will be leaving by train: Papakura 9:16, Takanini 9:20

*Please let me know if you are planning to join.*

**Previous walk:** The U3A Walking Group visited the Parnell Rose garden also known as the Dove-Myer Robinson Park. Our walk began at the Gladstone Arch, through the Nancy Steed Garden to the historic St. Stephen Church - still used for weekly worship - looking at the historic graveyard headstones of several well-known Auckland families. The elevated path gave a panoramic view of the Auckland waterfront, Port and Parnell Baths, downhill past huge trees to the Rose Garden, the fragrant blooms still colourful. The enjoyable walk ended with a welcome coffee at Rosies Café. Sally Curtis.

### **International News Group**

Coordinator Dena Gilmore [belongingvp@inspire.net.nz](mailto: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 022 1588064. We meet on Friday morning directly after our monthly meeting. Phone Margaret on 022 158 8064 for more information

**Next meeting:** 19<sup>th</sup> May at Margaret Grant's house

**Last meeting:** No meeting was held in April

We meet every 3rd Friday of the month at Margaret Grant's home, 10am. Contact Margaret Gane on 022 1588 064 We would love to have more members so, if overseas events and 'goings on' are of interest to you, come along and join us. Margaret Gane 022 158 8064

### **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.

**May event:** The activity for May is a 90 minute tour of Eden Park, on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May, from 12 noon to 1:30pm. The cost is \$25 each. The intention is to catch the train from Papakura, changing at Newmarket, and then on to Kingsland Station, a short walk from the park.

It is most likely that the most suitable train from Papakura leaves at 9:36 am, but I will confirm that later by email or phone to those that have put their names on the list to come. If you did not complete the list at the April meeting, and want to come, please email me at [rgbcgb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rgbcgb@xtra.co.nz). Please pay the \$25 into my bank account at 12-3032-0755049-00, or pay me in cash on the train. My wife has done this tour with her PROBUS Club, and assures me that it is a very interesting and worthwhile experience. Rod Baldwin

**April event:** 'Secrets of Stonehenge' was the focus of our outing for April and the 5 members who visited the exhibition were NOT disappointed with what they saw and heard!

The latest research into the area surrounding the Stonehenge circle was presented through video, art drawings, film, touch screens, models accompanied by cabinets filled with artefact used by the people who lived nearby and built Stonehenge.

These people lived in 'henges' made of wood because they were 'for the living' and they built the 'henge' made of stone nearby because it was 'for the dead'. In other words, Stonehenge was a cemetery and cremated remains of human bodies have been unearthed to prove this.

We were presented with diagrams and pictures of HOW the stones were moved from other parts of Britain and Wales to the Salisbury plain and then assembled in an upright position to form a circle. Stones were then placed on top of these to form lintels.

We came away from this most informative exhibition marvelling at what people built using basic materials along with manpower but we also came away with answers to some of our 'burning' questions as well! Margaret Gane.

### **Writing Your Memoirs.**

You are all invited to come along to join us at our next meeting. Below are samples of some interesting stories our members have recorded for family and also just for the pleasure of bringing times in your life back into your life and memory.

**Next meeting** is on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 10am at Margaret Grant's home. Contact Margaret for further information, [jmgrant@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jmgrant@xtra.co.nz)

But, a reminder will be sent out nearer the date.

**Last meeting** on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April was held at Margaret Grant's home. Thank you Margaret and also to those who brought along a plate. A suggested topic for a memoir was an ANZAC story. We had a great turnout and we missed you Dena, Barbara, Sandy and Wendy and look forward to catching up in May.

**Our first speaker** told of an ANZAC parade in Hamilton as a youngster, when she was in the Girl's Brigade. Especially remembers the instructions NOT to march over the bridge but to walk casually, as it was a concern that the stamping of the marching steps/feet to a beat would be a strain on the bridge structure.

**Someone told** of how at 7 years she learned to ride a two wheeler bike, and then the joy on her 8<sup>th</sup> birthday of receiving a brand new bike. However when biking home with her mother from the grocers, and the brown paper and string wrapped parcel coming undone, the 3 toilet rolls were on show to all and sundry.

**Next, hearing** of the preplanning for a family trip to India later in the year. A whirlwind trip recently to plan out the route, which is now in book form, with photos to help. This book is so



valuable to help the family with lots of their mother's/grandmother's memories, but also a preview for them of what sights they will be visiting.

**Another story** of attending a conference in Australia each year and being able to "juggle" things - hotel room etc., to enable her mother to travel from England to stay there with her. They did something different each time after the conference day had finished and the conference trade exhibitors always made her mother feel part of the group.

**Then, to the move** to Auckland from Scotland and arriving to a small temporary accommodation. Then into a flat where they lived for 20 years until settling in Drury where she has been for 32 years. A return to Scotland soon and a 48 hour trip which includes a stopover, (lots more memories will be recorded for sure).

**Our Teacher** and her adventures just before she gave up teaching. This time travelling to Loughton in East London for her last teaching job. All of the Stage shows she went too, none pre booked; she just turned up at the theatre and got a ticket. Mary Poppins was the favourite of all the shows she attended.

**ANZAC parades** - memories of Services/Parades in Drury, Papakura and Summerset Village in Karaka. Then to Australia visiting and marching in the Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide parades. Back to Papakura and helping give out programs and poppies and to help out with the breakfast at the RSA. Making the toast - very important and popular.

### **SHORT TERM (TIME LIMITED) GROUPS FOR U3A**

**Socialise - make friends - Learn something new.**

- *Groups are the lifeline of U3A. We would like to ask members to consider facilitating or organising short term groups that people can join.*
- *Have you got a special interest in learning something or in passing on your knowledge on a particular subject?*
- *Do you know of an online course that you would like to do and invite others to join you eg. coursera courses, U3A on line course?*
- *Do you know of a local expert in a subject who might be asked to run a short series on their subject? eg: music, archaeology, history subjects, Waitangi Treaty etc.*
- *PLEASE consider contributing to the life of our Club by organising and facilitating a group (you don't need to be the expert, just find someone else who is or find the information from an online course!!). These groups could possibly be 4 or 6 sessions either weekly or monthly or even longer if you like and the interest is there.*
- *A venue could be the Drury Library (free) or your home, or any other venue that is suitable, as groups would probably be not too large.*

*Do consider this and contact Helen Higgott ([higgotth@gmail.com](mailto:higgotth@gmail.com)) or Iris Durney ([irisdurney@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:irisdurney@yahoo.co.uk)) with your ideas and plans and enthusiasm.*

### **THE WAY OF THE RAUKURA - A PARIHAKA MUSICAL**

*Bruce Mason Theatre, Takapuna May 18 - 21*

*!880's New Zealand comes to life with engaging characters, climactic events and an evocative set. The Way of the Raukura follows the fortunes of two historical characters (Samuel Crombie Brown and Wiremu Hiroki) who come to Parihaka just prior to the invasion of the village by 1600 soldiers.*

## AGE CONCERN SEMINARS

If you require more information about the following courses, such as location and times, please contact Helen Higgott who can tell you more about them: Ph: 298-1213 or email [higgotth@gmail.com](mailto:higgotth@gmail.com)

Improving Sleep for Seniors: 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June

Scam Alert: 15<sup>th</sup> May

Ageing Mindfully: 23<sup>rd</sup> May

My Home, 24<sup>th</sup> May

Advance Care Planning: 12<sup>th</sup> June

**Papakura Historical Society** - EVENING TALK on Wednesday 3 May, 6.30pm in the Museum.

Speaker is Rob Finlay. Topic - VIRTUAL TOUR OF PAPAKURA TOWN.

Refreshments will be served. ALL WELCOME!

**South Auckland Choral concert** - Sunday 7 May, 2.30pm at Crossroads Church, Broadway, Papakura. Title - 'Show-stoppers'

If you enjoy well known show tunes, then this is the concert for you.

Adults - \$20; Seniors - \$15; Children - \$10

Tickets available from Guys Pharmacy, choir members or at the door.

See you there! Please see attached flyer for more details.

**The Zonta South Auckland Fundraiser** - Join us for a night at the theatre to see Noises Off at Off Broadway Theatre at 41 Elliott Street Papakura. Please see attached flyer for all details of date, time and price.

**MusicaliTea Treat Mum to High Tea** with musicians from the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra on the waterfront at Hilton Auckland. Ensembles from the 'APO Aspiring Musicians' will serenade you and Mum, while you sip beautiful brews and indulge in an exquisite array of savoury delights and delectable sweets All-inclusive treat for \$99.00 per person - including a glass of bubbly! \*Tables of 2, 4 or 8 available. \*Gluten free options not available <https://www.apo.co.nz/concerts-events/mother-s-day-musicalitea/1030am-sunday-14-may/>

The proceeds from this event will directly support our APO Connecting education programme, inspiring a life-long love of music in the next generation of New Zealanders. APO Connecting brings our professional APO musicians into the classrooms of young music makers, connects music lovers of the present and the future, and opens doors to accessible concerts, workshops and tutorials.

**MAY 2023**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
	1	2	3	4 Walking Group	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Out'n'About Group	12	13
14	15 Memoirs Group	16 Club meeting	17	18	19 International News Group  Music Appreciation Group	20
21	22 Committee meeting	23	24	25 Book Group	26	27
28	29	30	31			