

HAVELOCK NORTH



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President: Norris Kenwright 877 8412 rita-norris@xtra.co.nz
Secretary: Trish Loye 878 5920 pals.bkh@nowmail.co.nz
Treasurer: Dr Jennifer Hartley 873 7970 mjenhartley@gmail.com

Greetings Everyone,

A glorious autumn day outside as I write this and see the leaves change colour. I am reminded of one of my favourite songs "Autumn Leaves". The original lyrics were written in 1945 by Jacques Prévert in French, and the English lyrics were by Johnny Mercer. I first remember it in 1956 sung by Doris Day and later it has been copied by many others. It captures my mood well.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZMD_2RZrm4

The school holidays saw me in Auckland to see the first of seven grandchildren Logan married to Emily. Never having travelled there for many years I was impressed by the motorways and bypasses. The venue was at St. Andrews retirement village Glendowie where Logan's maternal grandparents live. It was a magnificent venue and a 5 star place to stay. A 100 seat restaurant with its own bakery and chefs. Hot meals delivered to all rooms, a 60 plush seated cinema with a wide screen and three films a week; granite fittings; an underground car park etc. The latest features being installed to the care units were a pressure sensitive underlay which gives an alarm to the nurse's centre if anyone falls and lies still. Also lasers which trigger alarms if anyone falls are being installed in the showers.

I hope that you have had good experiences since we last met and perhaps had happy times with children and grandchildren.

There has been many stories recently in the news and in the press about how criminals are trying to take your hard-earned money by nefarious means. For example I have had three reminders recently that my motor registration is due.

One glance at your licence on the car will show you that this isn't true. It includes a button or link for you to renew online, which takes you to a fake website. That website will ask you for your personal details and gives you a link to pay. Be very wary of any website that asks you for these details and always check by phone to the real sender or go to their real website. With the advent of artificial intelligence scams are becoming more sophisticated to fool you. If you wish to invest money go to a NZ bank and discuss the terms and use a reputable share broker for investments. If you wish to see what all banks are offering for investment terms there is a very good website "interest.co.nz" and here is a link for 1 to 5 year terms.

On the site you can also go to shorter terms. I have checked my links to you to ensure that they are genuine.

<https://www.interest.co.nz/saving/term-deposits-1-to-5-years>

To our great advantage as older members of society we have a great experience of life, we know that if it is too good to be true, it really is and we have something better than all the virus checkers spyware programs and that is a good deal of common sense. Remember that, keep safe out there.

Regards

Norris Kenwright, President U3A 2024

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Our next General Meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd May 2024.

Meet at the Havelock North Function Centre, Te Mata Road, Havelock North commencing at the usual time of 10am. Members and partners are all welcome to attend with just **\$10.00** payable as you arrive in order to cover our costs of morning tea and room hire. This has been subsidised by your committee as the charge would normally be \$11.00 pp.

U3A Havelock North

May General Meeting and Coffee Morning

to be held at the Havelock North Function Centre

Thursday 23rd May at 10.00 am

Norris Kenwright

Will present an excellent and interesting power point presentation on Zealandia (New Zealand) about our formation and future.

\$10.00 per person payable at the door

Includes morning tea or coffee
Spot raffle prizes for members.

Please do let Trish Loye know before 21st May if you are coming along.

Phone: 878 5920

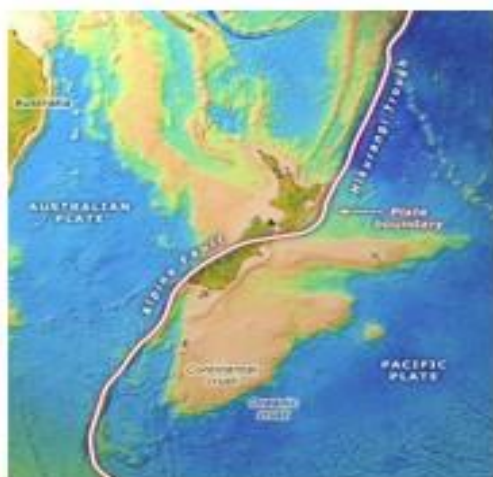
Email: pals.bkh@nowmail.co.nz

Please note: If you find you are unable to attend once registered, PLEASE advise Trish by Wednesday night or before 9 am Thursday morning so as we can adjust the numbers with the caterers. It is very difficult when we find that we could be 10 or 12 short of the numbers catered for and payment is still required.

New Zealand is certainly on shaky ground (Geologically) and has had a remarkable journey through time to where we are now. This is a PowerPoint presentation on how New Zealand has evolved over the ages.



- The story of how New Zealand was formed;
- When dinosaurs roamed N.Z.
- The separation from Pangea & Australia;
- For Millions of years just islands in a tropical sea;
- No mammals; An ecosystem based on Birds;
- The formation of Limestone & Coal deposits;
- The formation of Hawkes Bay
- The coming of volcanos and Earthquakes;
- The uncertain Future



New Zealand Almost Disappeared beneath the Ocean & How It Was Saved.

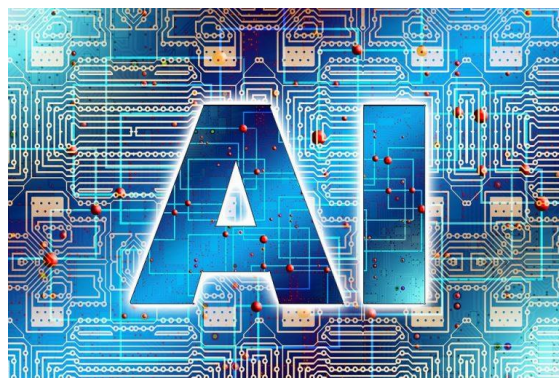
New Zealand spent the majority of its history in a process of creating and destroying land. However, 26 million years ago, New Zealand had almost completely vanished beneath the waves of the Pacific Ocean minus a few outcrops of scattered islands. The major landmass (Zealandia) sank below the surface. An oceanic rift and volcanic activity rejuvenated NZ but it now lies between two continental plates subject to Volcanism & earthquakes and instability of the landmass.

Our quarterly meeting is on the 23rd May and Trish will be accepting your wish to attend. Please advise Trish before Tuesday 21st May to register your attendance. It should be a very interesting meeting.

To attend our activity groups and attend quarterly meetings you must be a member of a U3A. There are two exceptions to this. (1) Your partner, if not a member, can attend but still must pay the cost of the meeting. (2) You may have a visitor from out of town or a possible new member and they also can attend as in (1)

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

There has been much in the news about the advent and uses of Artificial intelligence. This is the ability of a digital computer or computer controlled robots to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. There is a danger that while computer programs are written in code by humans, soon AI will start to write its own code. This will need new huge banks of computers. Few companies in the world can make these.



Still, despite continuing advances in computer processing speed and memory capacity, there are as yet no programs that can match full human flexibility over wider domains or in tasks requiring much everyday knowledge. On the other hand, some programs have attained the performance levels of human experts and professionals in performing certain specific tasks, so that artificial intelligence in this sense is found in applications as diverse as better medical diagnosis, computer search engines, voice or handwriting recognition, and chatboxes.

How can it affect you? On web search engines such as Google & Microsoft Edge you may have seen AI Co-pilot or Chatbox. By asking questions you can receive instant translations, research that could take you hours.

For example if you asked it to write an itinerary of the places to see in seven days if you were staying in Rome it would do so. If you asked it to write a precis of Shakespeare's Hamlet on two pages it will do so. Very handy for students. But there are software checks to see if you actually wrote it and you would have problems in an oral interview.

AI can be a great help but of course some people can abuse it. It can copy your voice style in a few seconds; write you a great investment deal with documents that look identical to your bank. Many people have lost very large sums of money or been fooled in hearing your son or daughter asking for money over the phone. All it means is that you have to be extra careful now and don't take everything at face value. Always check; phone back to a telephone number you actually know. If it is too good to be true it probably is. Just take care and you will be OK.
Norris Kenwright



Early morning walk in the Village by Beryl Grayling. Bubble bath anyone?

Our New Constitution

When I became President in February 2023 I undertook the task of writing a new constitution as required by a new Act of Parliament. This involved research on templates provided by the Government website, reviews of other constitutions; Peer reviews, Committee reviews and finally putting the new constitution to our AGM in February. This was finally approved and Trish and I submitted the document online to the Registrar of the New Zealand Companies Office for Incorporated Societies. Below is the very fast reply we received.

On 07-Mar-2024 we accepted your application to reregister U3A HAVELOCK NORTH INCORPORATED (599372) (NZBN: 9429042898481) under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (2022 Act). Attached to this email is the updated Certificate of Incorporation. You should keep this certificate with your society's records.

We received the Certificate within a few hours and so became one of the first small companies to receive a certificate.
By Norris Kenwright, President U3A

Many thanks to Norris for all the hours, research and commitment to updating our Constitution. This was no small feat and all done at no cost to our U3A. It is very much appreciated by the Secretary, Trish Loye and the Committee.

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Activity Groups

I notice that one of our new groups is doing very well with enthusiastic members.

This is the “**Planes Trains and Autos**” group co-ordinated by Peter Watt. Groups are an excellent way for members to meet and discuss and explore topics in which they have an interest.

Most groups meet in members' homes but large groups meet at local club rooms. It is an excellent way to keep your mind active and also for you to give your time to help others. Groups can be very wide ranging and most people have a topic that they wish to explore. If you could suggest a group activity or even possibly share your enthusiasm with a few others, we will see if there are members who can join you. Please contact our secretary Trish Loye with suggestions.

The **Computer Group** which now shares a Venue with **SeniorNet** meets on every **Monday afternoon** during **school terms** at the **Arohanui Church** rooms at 81 Middle Road. There is good parking. We are there to give you help and advice on **smart phones, tablets, iPads and computers**. There are a wide range of tutors there to give you free help and advice. You can just drop-in from 1 to 3 pm. Newsflashes on activities are sent out on a regular basis. For more information you can contact **Ian Brown** (President SeniorNet) 021655288 or myself 0211519247 **Norris Kenwright**.

Reflections- A possible group

We have a life of experience behind us and many reflections of our life bring us joy and happiness. Often we have no one to share them with. Good memories stimulate our mind. They say laughter is the best medicine. It draws people together in ways that trigger healthy physical and emotional changes in the body. Laughter strengthens your immune system, boosts mood, diminishes pain, and protects you from the damaging effects of stress. Nothing works faster or more dependably to bring your mind and body back into balance than a good laugh. As children, we used to laugh hundreds of times a day, but as adults, life tends to be more serious and laughter more infrequent.

So I am suggesting a group called **Reflections** to tell others about your early life and listen to their happy stories and with a cup of tea. If you are interested please contact our Secretary Trish so we can judge the interest.

Norris

U3A committee

We have an excellent committee but we have two members short. We do need you to seriously consider joining us. I have seen too many organisations go into decline and fail because of lack of committee members. We have a great organisation and I will go to lengths to see that never happens to us. We have a committee system which is now very efficient and takes less than two hours of your time a month to attend. Please contact Secretary Trish or myself about your possibility of joining us.

Our committee for 2024

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|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Norris Kenwright (President) | 877 8412 | rita-norris@xtra.co.nz |
| Trish Loye (Secretary) | 878 5920 | pals.bkh@nowmail.co.nz |
| Jennifer Hartley (Treasurer) | 873 7970 | mjenhartley@gmail.com |
| Ian Brown | 021 655288 | iwbrown0344@gmail.com |
| Margaret Buckley | 844 6393 | gmbuckley@xtra.co.nz |
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