

# Marlborough U3A

## Newsletter May – July 2022

Locally owned, modern premises & family focused...



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# Monthly Meetings



Monthly Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the Month at 2.00pm at Cloudy Bay Funeral Services, Boyce Street, Blenheim

*Please note: The wearing of masks is required during the General Meetings. Meeting arrangements may change subject to any Covid restrictions in place at the time. We will do our best to notify you in this case. Please make sure your contact details are current.*

## Monthly Meeting Dates

- ◆ May Richard Sweetzer (change to speaker previously advised)
- ◆ June 13 Hamish Thomas
- ◆ July 11 TBC
- ◆ August 8 TBC



**Afternoon Tea Roster - Duty Groups will be advised when we recommence serving afternoon tea.**

President	Gwyneth Lowe	578 8878
Vice President/Editor	Helen Hannay	578 1574
Secretary	Paul Stanley	579 2521
Treasurer	Angus Welsh	577 9114
Groups Co-ordinator	Ann Moore	927 3754
Catering	Jackie Hall	579 3355
Historian	Jacqui Buttle	579 4821
New Members	Lyn Coates	578 5273
Speakers	John Craighead (resigned)	

## Email addresses:

President - [gwyneth.lowe@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gwyneth.lowe@xtra.co.nz)

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**Bank Account No: ANZ 010 598 0033084 01**

**Life Members: Jacqui Buttle, Charles Riley, Ann MacDonald, Murray MacDonald, Lindsay Moir.**

# *President's Report*

*Kia ora, Greetings to you all*

It has been one of those weeks ---- some ups and some downs. On the upside the most glorious golden autumn days ---- Marlborough looking its best. Along with that U3A continues to hold regular monthly meetings despite the challenges of the pandemic and with somewhat reduced numbers but with a great feeling of positivity and camaraderie - a joy to be part of.

April's meeting (as one member put it) began with a touch of "Fawlty Towers" . . . microphone grief led to some interesting moments but then there were some great presentations to follow. A particularly poignant poem from Gavin Kerr reminded us of the dire Ukraine situation and just how fortunate we are to be in this great little country.

We seem to have followed a theme of good works this year as our first three presentations have covered topics related to service to others in far-flung places . . . Papua New Guinea, Darfur and from Nepal to outback Australia!

The other part of the week was more downs than ups with an inordinate amount of time spent dealing with a phone problem - calls dropping out. After time spent on the telecom website, numerous trips to town, a new phone (subsequently returned) and new cable to the wireless router I have settled for the original phone with no extension at all. Probably a cop-out but a cell phone fills the gap. Technological advances have been amazing but I can't help feeling that we have left behind a lot of good, accessible, prompt service.

Meetings will continue as scheduled, with afternoon tea to be considered on a month by month basis. Attendance at meetings has been satisfying and thank you to all those who have expressed gratitude for our continuing these gatherings in these challenging times. Thanks also to the committee who do so much to keep the "show on the road".

Keep well and busy and take care of yourselves. With best wishes,

*Gwyneth*

gwyneth.lowe@xtra.co.nz

# ***Course Coordinators' Report***

## *Greetings to you all*

In spite of the uncertainties of the pandemic, U3A courses in Marlborough have made a very pleasing start to 2022. Of the courses offered three new ones have started up. These are:

- The Wonders of Weather and Science of Extreme Weather
- Comparative Religion
- Da Vinci and the Italian High Renaissance

In addition to the above we are also repeating several courses that some members have done in past times. These include:

- Foundations of Eastern Civilisation
- Geological Wonders
- Winston Churchill
- From Monet to Van Gogh

All of the above courses were eagerly signed up for and I have heard many enthusiastic comments about them.

Of course, many of the old favourites are still running, including Classical Music, Great Ideas of Philosophy, The Celtic World, Battles and Blunders of World History, Photography, Painting, Social Lunching.

The Garden group has started a precursor - "Ambles and Afters" - a gentle amble followed by morning tea. This has been well received, and new members are welcome to join.

Some courses such as Understanding Genetics are reaching the end of the series but as we own the programmes they can be run again for a new group of members.

Several of the forms put out in the foyer did not have enough members sign up for them so were not viable. However, as they are put out again more people are signing up so some of them can get started. We have a maximum number of 10 but will run a course with 5+. This means that Thermodynamics can get underway although it would be great if another couple of people signed up for it!

# ***Course Coordinator's Report***

It is getting increasingly difficult to find hosts for groups as many members do not have DVD players or large enough rooms to seat people with sufficient spacing. However, now we are, as a country, at Orange Level I'm hoping we can be more relaxed about space. We need Hosts to offer their homes and/or to be Conveners for our groups.

Please continue to enjoy what we have to offer. We also welcome suggestions for new courses.

Ka ako tātou ka tipu ahakoa te pakeke!  
(We learn and grow whatever our age!)

*Ann Moore*

**Courses Coordinator** [anncm09@gmail.com](mailto:anncm09@gmail.com))

**U3A Marlborough has the following resources for our small groups. If you are interested in any please let our Course Coordinator, Ann Moore, know or come along to the Monthly Meeting and sign up.**

- ◇ Comparative Religion
- ◇ The Science of Extreme Weather
- ◇ Leonardo da Vinci and the Italian High Renaissance
- ◇ 102 Classical Music DVDs
- ◇ European Art History
- ◇ Continents on the Move
- ◇ Foundations of Eastern Civilization
- ◇ Everyday Engineering
- ◇ Geological Wonders
- ◇ Masterpieces of the Imaginative Mind
- ◇ Masterworks of Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature
- ◇ Maya to Aztec: Ancient Mesoamerica Revealed
- ◇ My Favourite Universe
- ◇ Renaissance Italy
- ◇ The American Civil War
- ◇ The Great ideas of Philosophy

# ***Course Coordinator's Report***

- ◇ The Great Tours - From Athens to Istanbul
- ◇ The Great Tours – England, Scotland, Wales
- ◇ The Odyssey of Homer
- ◇ The Shakespeare Collection
- ◇ Understanding Genetics
- ◇ Voyage of Charles Darwin
- ◇ The Secrets of Great Mystery and Suspense Fiction
- ◇ How Winston Churchill Changed the World
- ◇ Museum Masterpieces
- ◇ Monet to Van Gogh
- ◇ The Celtic World
- ◇ The Decisive Battles of World History/History's Great Military Blunders and the Lessons They Teach.



**Thank you to all who have paid your 2022 annual subscription. At \$10 per annum this amounts to \$0.90909 per month! Excellent value we think.**

**A reminder when paying by direct credit the bank deposit number is: ANZ 010 598 0033084 01. Please ensure you include your name when making payments by internet banking.**

**Don't forget participation in our Interest Groups is only open to Financial Members of Marlborough U3A.**

# Poetry Corner



## I'M JUST A HOUSEWIFE

(An oblique tribute on International Women's Day)  
Gavin Kerr 2022 Copyright: Printed with permission of author

**I wanted to write a poem  
but.....**

There was  
Washing to be done  
Washing to be hung  
Sweeping to be swept  
Preserves to be kept.  
Ah me! Housework!

**I wanted to paint a picture  
but....**

There was  
Shopping to be shopped  
Fighting to be stopped  
Kids to be fed  
And then put to bed  
Ah me! What's new!

**I wanted to write a novel but.....**

There was  
Garden to be gardened  
Transgressions to be pardoned  
Beds to be made  
Bills to be paid  
Ah me! Managing!

**I wanted to write a song  
but.....**

There were  
Emails to catch up on  
A sit-down (just a soupcon)  
And it's neither here nor there  
But some gossip I need to share  
Ah me! Communication!

**I wanted to compose a sonata  
but....**

There was  
A meal to prepare  
And the cupboard somewhat  
bare  
School lunches, jam and honey  
Other treats cost too much  
money  
Ah me! Being frugal!

**Then at last a breather**

A bit of time now just to heave a  
Sigh of relaxation  
A snatch of meditation  
Thinking "What's all this for?"  
I'm feeling washed out, grubby  
When, in the door  
Comes loving Hubby  
Who slumps down with a whisky  
Anything but bright and briskly  
And says,  
Yes HE says....  
"You just don't know what a  
sh...ty sort of day I've had".



# *Seldom Used Words*

Here are some more words you might like to your repertoire. How many are you familiar with? Try slipping them into your conversation!

- ◆ **Amorphous:** without a clearly defined shape or form
- ◆ **Nillionaire:** Someone having little to no money
- ◆ **Minimus:** Your tiny toe or finger
- ◆ **Callipygian:** Having large, round, succulent buttocks
- ◆ **Limerance:** The state of being infatuated with someone
- ◆ **Axicolous:** Something that lives on rocks
- ◆ **Pauciloquent:** Concise
- ◆ **Laodicean:** Indifferent
- ◆ **Cacoethes:** Bad idea
- ◆ **Zoilism:** Criticism
- ◆ **Mephitic:** Smelly
- ◆ **Dysania:** The state of finding it extremely difficult to get out of bed in the morning
- ◆ **Kenspeckle:** Recognizable
- ◆ **Tergiversate:** Equivocate
- ◆ **Pulchritudinous:** Physically beautiful.
- ◆ **Consanguineous:** Of the same blood or origin; descended from the same ancestor

**ALWAYS WALK  
THROUGH LIFE  
AS IF YOU HAVE  
SOMETHING  
NEW TO LEARN  
AND YOU WILL**

*-vernon howard*

**Live well, learn plenty, laugh often, love much.**



# Monthly Meetings

**14 FEBRUARY 2022**

President Gwyneth Lowe welcomed approximately 90 members including 10 guests. She then reported the deaths of three of our members over the summer so far: Rennie Dix, Doug Stafford (the 'founding father' of U3A Marlborough) and Po Chue Sue, and expressed our condolences to their families.

## Speakers



Paul Watson and Pat Sutherland gave a joint presentation about their time working for Red Cross/Red Crescent providing aid to Papua New Guinea, and specifically Rabaul and Bougainville, between 1994 and 1998.

First, though, Paul - who has been a member of Red Cross NZ for over 80 years - read his diary entry from the very first day he ever spent on the ground with Red Cross overseas aid: in Angola in 1988. He was running an aid station feeding 250 severely malnourished children two meals a day - mainly a porridge made from maize. The evidence of the effects of that malnutrition on the children, who were all desperately small for their age and very weak made a very moving - and lasting - impression on him. Many were unable to feed themselves but were lovingly assisted by older siblings, themselves in little better condition.



Paul subsequently arrived in Rabaul in June 1994, using it as the base for controlling support of the Red Cross operations in Bougainville, just to the East, which was riven by 12-year civil war over mining rights at the time. He was followed in September by Pat; 16 days after Pat's arrival there were 24 hours of continuous earthquakes followed by a major eruption of the volcano, Tavurvur, at 6 am, and a secondary eruption by a smaller volcano,



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Vulcan (the main port of Rabaul, which is where they were based, sits on the edge of a submarine caldera, with seven volcanoes above ground round its perimeter). Paul played several videos showing the eruption and its after-effects, with large areas devastated.

Paul and Pat had been staying in separate accommodation at the time of the eruption and it took them 28 hours to find each other - all while not knowing if the other had survived! Pat had evacuated with the family she was staying with and spent part of the next night sleeping at the foot of the altar in a small cemetery chapel. Having found each other they lived for a few weeks in a plantation house with a group of other expatriates before being evacuated to Port Moresby so that Paul could continue to run the Bougainville relief operations from there.

He and Pat described the many difficulties of living and operating in PNG, with its multiple languages (750), fierce tribal rivalries, and propensity for dramatically escalating revenge-taking for perceived wrongs. They also stressed how delightful most of the people there and in the outer islands were as individuals.



Paul had to make frequent visits to Bougainville and described some of the many ambushes he encountered while negotiating the treacherous roads, which had been totally neglected during the fighting and had reverted to jungle, often overgrown with elephant grass. In the first four ambushes he was allowed through because of his Red Cross vehicle and status, though soldiers in vehicles behind him were killed; the fifth one was more serious with lots of small arms fire being directed towards him and his vehicle - he attributes the fact that they all missed to the rebels' desire not to damage the vehicle, which was what they were actually after!

Subsequently, after six months at home, Paul was asked to go back to Bougainville again and organise the Red Cross relief operation there. Food was not a problem, as Bougainville is extraordinarily fertile, but clothing and tools were, so he developed a system of 'family packs' containing clothing, household necessities, tools,

# *Monthly Meetings*

seeds etc all in cardboard containers small and light enough to be carried by one person (often children carrying them on their heads). One preliminary challenge had been to identify how many people were in need, so he and Pat carried out a rudimentary population survey, which turned out to be remarkably accurate (either that, Paul said - tongue in cheek - or the government just used his results when they subsequently published their own population figures!).

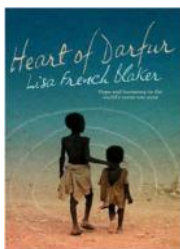
Later still, Paul was asked by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to go back again, but this time as a NZ Government representative to organise and oversee our aid efforts. A major contribution was to set up a training programme for carpenters, including supplying successful trainees with their own tool kits so that they could go back to their villages and start constructing basic buildings.

Pat and Paul complemented their presentation with a display of photographs and artefacts from PNG and Bougainville.

## **14 March 2022**

President Gwyneth Lowe welcomed approximately 55 members and 1 visitor. She then reported the recent death of one member, Val Chamberlain, with condolences being expressed.

### **Speaker**



Lisa Blaker spoke about her experiences in Sudan as a nurse with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) (Doctors without Borders) in 2005/6 - the subject of her book, 'Heart of Darfur'.

Darfur is the western region of Sudan, which is Africa's third-largest country, with 7.5m of its 44m population. There are three seasons: Hot/Wet/Windy. In the three-month wet season most of the terrain is virtually impassable, in the two-month windy season there are sandstorms every couple of days.



Lisa was part of a medical team of 12 looking

# *Monthly Meetings*



after approximately 12,000 people - victims of the 'tribal' conflict between the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum and the predominantly Negro population ('Bila a Sudan' literally translates as 'Land of the Blacks' as the people are extremely dark-skinned).

Most of the fighting is over land and oil and water, between the rebel soldiers and government-sponsored militias. The medical team worked 12 hour days, six days a week, and lived in their own individual grass huts in the main base. They 'tried not to treat soldiers', but it was often impossible to know.

The people in Darfur 'are lovely', said Lisa: very clean, friendly and supportive of their families, but desperately poor and most suffering from malnutrition with a staple diet based on groundnuts (peanuts). There are three main religious groups: Muslim, Christian and Animist, but they get on well together and all celebrate each other's holidays and festivals.

For adults with families, life is a constant struggle dealing with impossible choices: do I try to take all my children on a three day walk to get medical treatment for the one sick one, or do I leave the rest here alone for a week? She commented that life is particularly difficult for mothers who are also pregnant and recently widowed.



Chronic diarrhoea is a particular problem for children, though it could be cured and the child returned to good health with three weeks of treatment. An even more common problem was Bilharzia - caused by a parasitic worm and characterised by blood in the urine, so easily diagnosed, and curable in a couple of days given the right treatment.

Language was a constant problem, as there were many local tribal

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dialects and the only common tongue was basic Arabic, with occasional English speakers, so each member of the medical team had their own interpreter with them constantly.



While simple cases could be treated at the mobile clinics more serious cases needing surgery were taken back to the base, where there was a hospital and surgeon - but even there, conditions were very primitive. Repeat visits for the clinics were often frustrated because villages had been cleared in between, and there was no knowing where the inhabitants had gone.

The 'war' officially ended about six years ago, though some skirmishes continue. For most people, Lisa feels life probably hasn't changed significantly.



Finally, in response to a question, Lisa recounted how difficult it was to be accepted for work with MSF and how she faced a series of hurdles - none of which were forewarned!

- Having applied as a 'normal' Registered Nurse, she was told she need to have a speciality - so she qualified herself in intensive care;
- Next she was told she needed experience in a third-world country, so off she went and did that;
- Then a new requirement was added for working in the tropics, that she needed a qualification in tropical medicine, so she studied and got that too;
- Finally, she was told she needed experience in teaching nursing at a higher-education level, and after meeting that requirement, she was in!

Asked where she wanted to be posted, and having replied Africa, her first tour was to Sri Lanka! She finally made it to Africa, spending time in Tanzania as well as in Sudan, and completed three tours with MSF altogether (6-9 months each).

Lisa's talk was very well received, and we were very grateful to her for making space in her busy schedule to speak to us.

# Monthly Meetings

**12 April 2022**

President Gwyneth Lowe welcomed approximately 62 members and guests. She explained the reasons for the short notice rescheduling of the meeting - which itself explained the relatively low turn-out and some of the organisational difficulties.

## Speaker



Our main speaker was Sari Lewis, a member who lives in Ngakuta Bay but has spent most of her life in disadvantaged corners of the world applying her nursing and public-health expertise and also indulging her love of adventure; her main emphasis was on the latter.

Born in Japan, raised in New South Wales and qualified as a nurse there, she came to NZ to find her qualifications weren't recognised so she found other work in the health sector. She met and married her Kiwi husband Norm, who introduced her to mountaineering and tramping. When Norm went to Nepal with the Edmund Hilary Trust to do some building work, Sari went too but quickly found she could achieve more applying her nursing skills.

Back in NZ she enquired about working with disadvantaged communities and her first job overseas was in the Australian Northern Territory, then at Wyndham in Western Australia. There, as the only child-health nurse for hundreds of km, she realised the advantages of travelling around Australia in light planes and so got her pilot's licence. Flying herself for work visits wasn't practical, but she and



Norm flew around a lot and used the plane to spot tramping routes which they could subsequently explore on the ground.

Four years of 3-month trips to Nepal each year followed, where she learned Nepali and to read/write Sanskrit, and often trekked for one or two days to visit remote outposts. They were then invited by Edmund Hilary to stay on year-round, which they did for several years.

Two years followed as a remote-area nurse in the Torres Strait, then back to Ngakuta Bay, but commuting over to Wellington as a Junior

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Research Fellow at the University of Otago Medical School while earning a Master's Degree in Public Health. Then two years were spent in Vanuatu before returning 'permanently' to Ngakuta Bay in 2000.

Her wanderlust proved hard to beat though! In 2006 she went off for two years in the Canadian Arctic, at the remote outpost of Gjoa Haven on King William Island which is over 68° N - 200 km North of the Arctic Circle and 3 hours flying from the nearest major airport which was at Yellowknife (itself hardly a major metropolis, with a population of 20,000).



To get around in winter she bought a snowmobile and a towed sledge so she could go camping! On one of Norm's visits they fulfilled his desire to camp in the middle of the ocean by travelling half way to the mainland and camping there - on 2 m thick sea ice.

Ngakuta again, then off to Lao - based on the bank of the Mekong River at the Thai border, but taking a cycling holiday with some of her women friends across to the Ho Chi Minh Trail on the Vietnam border, down that part way, back across the country and back up river.

Her last two overseas postings were to Tonga and then to WA near Caernarvon - but she thinks she may have settled down now, confining her adventuring to NZ (Watch this space!).

It certainly makes most of our lives seem relatively colourless and lacking in excitement, doesn't it?

*Editor's note: Some the photos in the meeting reports are representative only, however those illustrating Lisa Blaker's talk were supplied by Lisa.*



# ***Interest Group Happenings***

## **Ambles and Afters Group**

Although we have a small group at this time this new group has got off to a great start with three walks concluded so far.

Our first walk was around Pollard Park - a lovely way to start off as the grounds were looking beautiful. As we enjoyed our cuppa at the end of the walk we heard about the history of the park and how it came into existence. Pollard Park is named after William Pollard, owner of the Delta Sheep Station, who donated £4,000 to the Blenheim Borough Council in 1914 for the purchase of part of the then Waterlea Farm for development as a park. Initially the park was known as Waterlea Park, however on his death William Pollard left a further significant bequest and in recognition of his generosity, the Blenheim Borough Council renamed the park in his memory.

We also learnt that at one time there had been a fish hatchery in the park. In 1937 coronation acorns from the Royal Park at Windsor were planted to commemorate the coronation of King George VI and in 1958 the first rose was planted in the Centennial Rose Garden. On February 13, 1963, Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Pollard Park, where they were welcomed by a crowd of 12,000.

Our second trip took us along Purkiss Street and thence onto the riverbank where we enjoyed a lovely walk with stops to check out the different trees and birds we encountered along the way. Our destination was the old mill remains and to learn about their history. These ruins, which are mostly intact concrete foundations, are the remains of the flax mill built by Philip Vercoe. Vercoe arrived in New Zealand in February 1842 and moved to Nelson in 1862. He built a brick works on the section in 1888 and added the flax mill in 1890. This was the largest mill in the area at that time. The mill was dismantled in the early 1920's.

Marlborough had perfect growing conditions and was noted for the excellent quality of its flax. Native flax (*Harakeke/Phormium tenax*) grew in swampy land and on the low foothills and, by the 1870s, the province was a principal exporting district.

Native flax was used by Māori for a range of purposes. Māori were



# *Interest Group Happenings*

skilled in 'dressing' flax (stripping fibre from the leaves) and bartered flax ropes and weaving for European goods and also for muskets and gunpowder.

The flax trade declined in the 1830s and it wasn't until the 1870s that improved flax stripping technology and a rise in its overseas price saw the industry revived. In March 1870 a bountiful flax harvest was recorded in Marlborough with yields of 30-50 bushels per acre. At one time flax mills from Northland to Southland processed the fibre for ropes, woolsacks and carpets.

Flax grew to perfection in the swampy, peaty soils around Tuamarina where hundreds of acres were grown. The first mill at the Marshlands estate, near Tuamarina, was built by Captain Samuel Bowler in March 1870. In 1888, John Chaytor rebuilt a mill at Marshlands which operated well into the twentieth century. There were several flax mills in the Havelock area where there was abundant flax. The industry's peak was between 1901 and 1918.

During the Second World War, linen was urgently needed for aircraft fabric and other goods and the New Zealand government promoted the growing of linen flax. In the 1939-40 season a superior crop of 100 acres of linen flax was grown in Marlborough and processed by Chaytors. A further 1000 acres was planned for the 1940-41 season and farmers were encouraged to grow the crop on any spare land. Processing plants were set up in Alabama Road, Blenheim and at Seddon. Between 1941 and 1948, more than 10,000 tons of fibre were exported from the South Island. However, Marlborough's linen flax industry declined after the war.

Our third walk took us to McKendry Park, well known for its orchard of plum trees. This land originally was owned by the Clouston family and contains not only plum trees but also walnut trees around the perimeter and some quince trees. In the spring it is a picture with "hordes of golden daffodils" to be enjoyed. The original 10,000 daffodil bulbs were imported from Holland in the 1930s by Stewart Clouston, . A variety of other bulbs are also found in the reserve. We look forward to welcoming more members to join us and more interesting walks to come.

*Contributed by Helen Hannay*

# ***Interest Group Happenings***

## **The Great Tours, England Scotland & Wales**

We have now completed The Great Tours, England Scotland & Wales which was greatly enjoyed by all and I would certainly recommend it as a repeat some time.

It was entertainingly and interestingly presented by Professor Patrick N. Allit. Although a born and bred Englishman, he is now Professor of American History at Emory University.

The course begins with prehistoric Britain and follows on through Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Viking Britain to Medieval Castles and Cathedrals, Industrial and Victorian Britain, then different topics including its Writers, Poets and Painters. We also were told about Britain's Estates and Gardens and much, much more.

The course encourages visitors to be adventurous and not to confine themselves merely to the best-known or most "touristy" places. It begins and ends with practical advice on when to visit, how to get around and various pitfalls to avoid. It encourages visitors to get out into the open as much as possible - to walk, cycle and to interact with the people they meet.

Our group enjoyed seeing places they had visited or would like to visit in the future. As armchair travellers, it was a great way to see the country and learn some of its fascinating history..

*Contributed by Gillian Buttle, Course Convener.*

## **Garden Group**

Our Garden Group is thriving under the leadership of Jan Richardson and Mary Wightwick with around 20 friendly members. We meet on the 1st Friday of the month at 10am starting with a cuppa and sharing handy successful ideas for gardening etc.

The wonderful gardens we visit are both big and small and all have ideas that we can take away to our own gardens.

What I also enjoy about being in this group is that everyone is friendly, positive and I am made to feel welcome each month.

*Contributed by Ann Turnbull*

# *Interest Group Happenings*

## **Memory Lane Music**

After a break of four months we began our meetings again on 31 March. About twenty or more items are scheduled for each session.



We usually try to include a couple of pieces from lesser-known artists or composers. This month we listened to an acoustic recording (blemishes removed digitally from the original 78rpm) from c.1917 of “If You Were the Only Girl in the World” by the Canadian-born tenor Henry Burr (1882-1941). His picture appears on the left.

His recording career began in 1902 and lasted into the late 1920s with sales reaching into millions.

Our second choice was a from a recently-produced CD of a much later musical, “Anne Veronica” – based on the H.G. Wells novel. Cyril Ornadel wrote the music, the clever lyrics were written by David Croft (of “Dad’s Army” fame) and Mary Millar, Hy Hazell and Arthur Lowe starred.

This show had the bad luck to be staged at the time when the over-hyped (and inferior) “Hair” was grabbing all the headlines. Reviews of “Anne Veronica” were mixed and the show survived only some 44 performances on the West End in 1969.



The original cast LP was reproduced on CD in 2015 by Stewart Nicholls. His sleeve notes – and a very complimentary Google description – have brought this neglected musical to our notice again.

*Contributed by John Best*

**Be kind, work hard, stay  
humble, smile often, stay loyal,  
be honest, travel when  
possible, never stop learning,  
love always.**

# ***Interest Groups & Contacts***

Please get in touch with the listed Group Contact Person if you are interested in joining any of the following groups.



**Ambles and Afters:** 2nd Friday of each month at 9.30am.  
**Contact is Mary Wightwick, 578 8747 / 027 440 2047.**

**Armchair Travel:** 4th Friday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact is Wendy Cannan, 027 348 3283. In Recess**

**The Decisive Battles of World History combined with History's Great Military Blunders and the Lessons They Teach:**  
4th Thursday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact :** Angus Welsh, 577 9114.

**Books and Authors Group 1:** 2nd Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact is Jackie Hall, 579 3355.**

**Book and Authors Group 2:** 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact is Wendy Cass, 578 9144.**

**Card Making:** 1st Thursday of the month at 10.00am.  
**Contact is Gloria Mitchell, 577 7833.**

**Classic Films Group 1:** 4th Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact is Bruce Dale, 578 9672.**

**Classic Films Group 2:** 3rd Thursday of each month at 1.30pm.  
**Contact is Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.**

**Classical Music:** 1st Monday of each month, at 10.00am.  
**Contact is Ann Moore, 9273754.**

**Current Issues:** 1st Tuesday of each month at 9.45am.  
**Contact is Lindsay Moir, 578 5262.**

# ***Interest Groups & Contacts***

**Comparative Religions:** 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2.00pm  
**Contact** is Paul Stanley, 579 2521.

**Documentary Films:** 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact** is Lindsay Moir, 578 5262.

**Foundations of Eastern Civilisation:** 3rd Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Lyn Coates, 578 5273.

**Garden Group:** 1st Friday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact** is Jan Richardson, 578 0989.

**Geological Wonders:** 3rd Thursday of each month at 10.30am.  
**Contact** is Trish Johnson, 027 241 7021.

**Great Ideas of Philosophy:** 4th Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Paul Stanley, 579 2521.

**History:** 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm.  
**Contact** is Margaret Fairhall, 578 2507.

**How Winston Churchill Changed the World:** 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Mike Mitchell, 577 7833 or 027 339 7584.

**Leonardo Da Vinci and the Italian Renaissance:** 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Dorothy Hasseldine, 578 1769.

**Life Writing:** 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm.  
**Contact** is Lis Davys, 579 3167.

**Luncheon Plus:** 2nd Thursday of each month at 11.30am.  
**Contact** is Lyn Coates, 578 5273.

**Mah-jong Group:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Evan Wood, 578 2093, [evin42@hotmail.com](mailto:evin42@hotmail.com)

# ***Interest Groups & Contacts***

**Memory Lane Music:** Last Thursday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact** is John Best, 578 0595.

**Monet to van Gogh:** 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact** is Helen Hannay, 578 1574.

**Museum Masterpieces:** 3rd Monday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Wendy Cannan, 579 4946.

**Play Reading Group 1:** 4th Monday of each month at 9.30am.  
**Contact** is Margaret Jarman, 578 8805.

**Play Reading Group 2:** 4th Tuesday of each month at 9.30am.  
**Contact** is Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.

**Poetry Appreciation:** 2nd Friday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Jan Poswillo, 578 9834 or 021 142 6931.

**Photography:** 1st Monday of each month at 1.30pm.  
**Contact** is Charles Riley, 578 0109.

**Scrabble One:** 1st Monday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Pam Taylor, 578 8816.

**Scrabble Two:** 3rd Thursday of each month at 1.30pm.  
**Contact** is Lorraine Jensen, 027 365 862.

**Secrets of Great Mystery and Suspense:** 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact** is Jenni Walker 021 133 0582.

**The Celtic World:** 1st Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.  
**Contact** is Gloria Mitchell 577 7833.

**The Wonders of Weather and Science of Extreme Weather:** 1st Thursday of each month at 10.00am  
**Contact** is Paul Stanley, 579 2521.

# ***Interest Groups & Contacts***

**Ukulele:** 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact** is Neville Lawson, 021 480 073.

**Understanding Genetics:** 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10.00am.  
**Contact** is Paul Stanley, 579 2521.

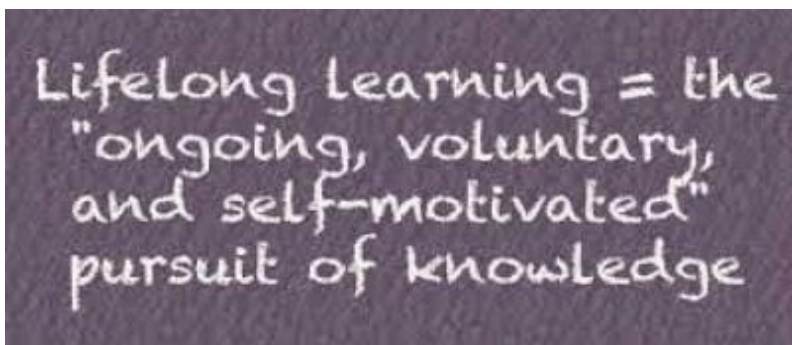
**Water Colour Painting:** 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month at 9.30am.  
**Contact** is Gavin Kerr, 572 7238.

**Wine Appreciation 1:** 3rd Friday of the month, usually at 11.00am.  
**Contact** is Murray MacDonald, 579 4844.

**Wine Appreciation 2:** Last Friday of each month at 11.30am.  
**Contact** is Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.

**Writing for Grandchildren:** 1st and 3rd Mondays at 9.45am.  
**Contact** is Gladys Sloss, 578 3191.

***A gentle reminder - you must be a financial member to take part in these groups. Please check with Secretary Paul or Treasurer Angus if you aren't sure whether your subs are up to date.***



***"never stop learning"***

**Return Address:**

8a Purkiss Street  
Springlands  
Blenheim 7201



**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE**

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