



*Titirangi*

*President: Heather Tanguay 0276995480 heathertanguay@slingshot.co.nz*

*Secretary: Val Wike 827 8693 wikeval@gmail.com*

## **NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2020**

Summer holiday greetings and best wishes for a happy (and hopefully less challenging) 2021. It was so good to see so many members attend our AGM (and fabulous afternoon tea) and it was a real pleasure seeing everyone meeting up with old friends and enjoying themselves after some difficult times.

And so to 2021 for Titirangi U3A - where we will see some minor changes to our warm and friendly group interested in fostering lifelong learning, sharing experiences, useful ideas and information, and nurturing friendships.

Thank you to our Committee who have stood for office this year. To be successful an organisation must have a fully functional committee to ensure our club runs smoothly. We always need more people to help out and high on our list is a designated First Aider. Are there any first aiders, nurses or doctors among our membership who are prepared to take on this role. If so, we would very much like to hear from you.

For 2021 we will see **a change to our meeting time** at West Lynn Gardens, starting with our Tuesday, 26 January meeting. Our new start time will be **1.30pm** (not 1.00pm) so please note that in your diaries. It is a situation beyond our control.

Our first meeting of the year (26 January 2021) will see us hosting Fiona Leyden and her associate, Chrissy Muller, from the Salvation Army. They will share the Past, Present and Future of the Salvation Army. Most of us know of the "Sallies" and the extensive community work they do around the world. Founded in the East End of London in 1865 by preacher William Booth and his wife Catherine, the pair worked initially with alcoholics, morphine addicts, prostitutes and "other undesirables." Their ministrations featured the three Ss - soup, soap and salvation.

Fiona, a former bank manager who left her banking role in Christchurch following the 2011 earthquake, stresses her presentation is not of a religious nature. She is not a Salvationist herself and comes to us with some terrific information and even film footage of the Sallies, going back to the 1800s. She and Chrissy are promising fun and chocolate!

Our member speaker will be Carol McCarroll who will share some fun times she experienced when teaching in England.

Other points of interest for the New Year:

- Subs are due by the end of January 2021. We will take cash payments at the meeting on 26 January 2021 (see our Treasurer, Jan). Cheques will no longer be accepted but you can make payment online (Titirangi U3A Account 12 3034 0162597 00) tagged 'Sub & (your name)'.  
• We are asking \$2 for afternoon refreshments from 26 January 2021 so please bring a coin with you if you would like a cuppa and a biscuit after our general meetings.  
• If you are responding to an email regarding a group activity, please ensure your response is sent to the **Convenor** and not the other recipients as well!

- We have not inserted a date against next Study Group meetings in the following report, so we suggest you call the convenor to check the date and time.
- A new Study Group, called "Five Hundred" will start on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 7pm in New Lynn. This is a trick-taking card game that is easily learnt by beginners
- The timetable for the 2021 online Lifelong Learning Winter School (11-22 January 2021) is available through the 'Academic Course' section on their website:  
<https://girton.cam.ac.uk/lifelong-learning-online>

For your diary ...

- Pop Up swimming will continue this year and the first will be at 10am on 9 February 2021 at French Bay. To fit in with the tides, we will have a shared morning tea instead of lunch.
- Down the track, our June and July meetings will be held at the Glen Eden RSA.

Happy New Year everyone and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

**Heather Tanguay (President) and your Titirangi U3A Committee**

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## **STUDY GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S MESSAGE**

I attended both Study Group evaluation meetings and was pleased to hear such positive comments about their group activities despite Covid interruption. It has obviously been a disrupted and disjointed year and the meeting reports reflect this. January will be a quiet month and we can look forward to regular meetings resuming in February.

All the groups will be resuming with very few changes. Helen Grant will take over the Mah Jong convening with meetings to continue at the Titirangi Community House.

The general meeting in September indicated that U3A Titirangi has some incredibly talented members and as Dianne Deverell suggested they, and others, might be persuaded to offer shorter, or longer, craft style courses. I would appreciate any suggestions for such new groups for 2021. If the idea of convening a group seems frightening, let us first get interested members together and then look at a possible convenor.

Best wishes for the holidays.

Carole Craighead  
Study Group Co-ordinator  
Email: [carolecraighead@gmail.com](mailto:carolecraighead@gmail.com)

## STUDY GROUPS REPORT NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

### ART APPRECIATION

**Convenor:** Larrie Millett

**Ph:** 816-8754

No meeting held this month

**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month

**Time:** 10.30am

**Next meeting:** tbc

**Venue:** to be confirmed



### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 1

**Convenor:** Rose Vivien

**Ph:** 816-8712

We enjoyed lunch together at Deco, in Titirangi, as a Christmas get-together in place of our usual meeting.

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month

**Time:** 1.30pm

**Next meeting:** tbc

**Venue:** New Lynn or Green Bay



### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 2

**(New) Convenor:** Carol Dean-McCarroll **Ph:** 0211054153

Shirley Barker-Kirby, the outgoing convenor, said that for the last meeting for the year participants in the group met for a delightful lunch and conversation at Deco Restaurant in Titirangi. Being able to gather, socialize and eat out has taken on even greater pleasure, this December. A fitting conclusion to a very intriguing year.

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month

**Time:** 1.30pm

**Next meeting:** 5 Feb, 2021

**Venue:** Please contact for location



### BUS ADVENTURES

**Convenor:** Eileen Howard

**Ph:** 021-1789562

We had a full bus for a day trip to Mangawhai. We visited 'That Shop' on the way to Puhoi, where we stopped for morning tea by the river. Cheese tasting at Kaiwaka was delightful, and then we continued to the Mangawhai Museum café for lunch. We stopped and admired the Mangawhai Heads before heading home, incorporating a side trip to a waterfall near Warkworth.

The other half of our group did the same trip a week later.

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

**Time:** 9am

**Next meeting:** tbc

**Meeting Place:** Kelston Community Centre



## CHESS

**Convenor:** Colin Whitehouse

**Ph:** 816-8812

For our last meeting for the year the group studied a game by Jose Casablanca. Casablanca was a Cuban who was world chess champion from 1921 until 1927. He is generally considered to be one of, if not the best strategical players of all time. Then the group played a couple of rapid "rotational" games against a computer program where each player takes a turn of choosing a move. We ended our session with morning tea and Christmas mince pies.

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month

**Time:** 10am



**Next meeting:** 3 February 2021

**Venue:** Green Bay



## CREATIVE WRITING

**Convenor:** Pam Sellers

**Ph:** 817-2176

We met a week later than usual so more could attend. Our writing "assignment" had been to write about HAPPINESS, and as usual, it is a pleasure to hear what everyone has come up with. In addition, we really needed to talk and reconnect after this extraordinary year we've all been through, so there was time for that.

**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month

**Time:** 11am

**Next Meeting:** tbc

**Venue:** Green Bay



## CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Convenor:** Val Wike

**Ph:** 827-8693

Our topic for the November meeting was the US electoral system. Given the recent election in the US we had all gained a greater appreciation of the use of electors in the various states. We watched a short video on the US Electoral College and then discussed some of the unusual aspects of the US system. We concluded with morning tea.

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month

**Time:** 10am

**Next meetings:** tbc February 2021

**Venue:** New Lynn

**Bus route:** 170/171/172



## ETHNIC CUISINE/DINING

**Convenor:** Eileen Howard

**Ph:** 021-1789562

In spite of all difficulties, we actually managed to meet seven times this year. We welcomed 2 new members this time.

Six of us met for our last lunch of 2020 at Bikanervala in Henderson, where the menu covers many regions of Indian cuisine, all vegetarian. Most of us chose a Thali, which is like a platter with a variety of dishes. Everyone enjoyed their food and the company of the group.

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month

**Time:** midday

**Next meeting:** tbc

**Venue:** tbc



## FILM FANCIERS

**Convenor:** Pat Labrum

**Ph:** 827-2415

For our first outing since July seven members saw "Rams" on 13 November 2020 at Reading Cinema, New Lynn. This was a delightful film starring Sam Neill and many familiar Australian actors about an outback community facing a contagious sheep disease. It included some dramatic bush fire scenes. This was followed by lunch at Bricklane and rounded off what was our final outing for 2020.



**Meetings:** usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month **Time:** tbc

**Next meeting:** tbc **Venue:** tbc

## FIVE HUNDRED Card Game

**Convenor:** Pat Labrum

**Ph:** 827-2415

Membership is best in multiples of 4, with a maximum of 12.

The aim of the study group is to give members the opportunity to learn or improve their ability. Basic rules would be covered and a general discussion afterwards of tactics and where play could have been improved.

**Meetings:** 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month **Time:** 7pm – 9.30pm

**Next meeting:** tbc **Venue:** 22 Sheridan Drive, New Lynn



## GENEALOGY FOR BEGINNERS

**Convenor:** Peter Nash

**Ph:** 817-3520

We spent some time exploring Ancestry.com family trees. This was followed by discussions on divorce records, electoral rolls, the Australian equivalent of the website Papers Past and general discussions.

**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month **Time:** 10am

**Next meeting:** tbc **Venue:** Green Bay



## HISTORY

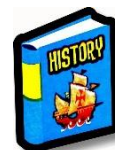
**Convenor:** Colin Whitehouse

**Ph:** 816-8812

The group continued their study of Indian history looking at the rule of the Moghul empire which began with the first emperor Babur in 1526. There followed his son, Humayun, who relied largely on astrology in his decision making. His son, Akbar, is considered the greatest Moghul of all and regained and expanded all the territories lost by his father, Humayun. We will continue the study of India at the next meeting.

**Meetings:** 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month **Time:** 10.30am

**Next meeting:** 25 January 2021 **Venue:** Green Bay



## JAPANESE STYLE Study Group

**Convenors:** Bev and Julian Cole

**Ph:** 021-0873223/817-8682

Rose Vivien gave an interesting and informative talk with photographs from when she visited Amuse Museum, Asakusa, Tokyo; 1 November 2018 The exhibition was called Miraculous Textile Art. BORO, Chuzaburo Tanaka Collection, which was the practice of stitching & patching with both cotton and hemp thread (Sashiko) old Japanese garments. Bev Rae brought along the late Peter Selwyn Japanese pottery books which he brought back from his visit to Japan, thank you Ila (Peter's wife) for giving us the pleasure of exploring these wonderful books. Julian explored Japanese modern architecture from the book Contemporary Japanese Houses



**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month **Time:** 1pm

**Next meeting** 3 February 2021

**Venue:** 4 Otitori Bay Rd, Titirangi

## MAH JONG

**(New) Convenor:** Helen Grant

**Ph:** 0225674306

The group will now meet on a Thursday afternoon twice a month at the Titirangi Community House. Since the venue is not restricted in size there can be room for more so come and join us. We do not score our games. We are not experts but a very friendly group enjoying learning the basic playing of the game. We have an expert or two but we are mostly beginners.

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month

**Time:** 1.00pm

**Next meeting:** tbc

**Venue:** Titirangi Community House



## MUSIC APPRECIATION

**Convenor:** Pauline Jennings

**Ph:** 817-7281/027-2786146

The Music group met in December for a pot-luck programme - we each contributed about 5 minutes of music of our choosing - no set theme. We heard pan pipes, flamenco guitar, vocalists historical and present day, classical and modern. Along the way we learnt about the composers and performers, but also a little about each other as we shared anecdotes about our choices.

We so enjoyed ourselves, that we have decided to have another pot-luck programme for our next meeting. From that we will discuss a direction for our listening for the coming year.

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month

**Time:** 10am

**Next meeting:** 2 February 2021

**Venue:** Titirangi



## MYTHS, LEGENDS & FAIRY TALES

**Convenor:** Pam Sellers

**Ph:** 817-2176

We had 2 new prospective members join us for this, our last meeting of 2020. We brought a shared and festive morning tea and did a round of brief autobiographies for our newcomers. This is always so fascinating, because no one says the same thing they did last time we did this. Then we shared our research on topics related to this festive time of year: what a windfall of wonderful information!! Where did St Nicholas start off and how did this tradition develop? What does "wassail" actually mean and how do you do it? How did Christmas begin and develop? Plus more: unicorns, Melusina, a beloved poem, and Anguish Languish--a wonderful array.

**Meetings:** 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month

**Time:** 10.30am

**Next meeting:** tbc

**Venue:** Green Bay





## NZ AND LOCAL HISTORY

**Convenor:** Bruce Deverell

**Ph:** 214-6485/027-4770266

Our end of year celebration consisted of a trip to Taurarua, also known as Judges Bay, where after an exploration of the reserve above Fred Ambler Park, we were introduced to some of the history of the area. A handout provided us with helpful details, illustrations and our homework research task. So it was on down to the waterfront by St Stephens Church where we had a marvellous shared picnic lunch. We then climbed up to the church and cemetery; and helped each other find the grave of the person we were having to research. Thanks to all members for a stimulating and most enjoyable first year.

**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month      **Time:** 10am

**Next meeting:** 14 February 2021      **Venue:** New Lynn



*St Stephens Church*



*Members of the NZ History group at Taurarua*

## OPERA APPRECIATION

**Convenor:** Kate Methven

**Ph:** 817-9804

Alison O'Grady reviewed what we had seen last month and reminded us of some key points about Verdi. We then watched Acts 2 and 3 of the English National Opera's productions of Rigoletto at Covent Garden in 2001. The curse, earlier placed on the Duke of Mantua and Rigoletto the court jester, plays out. We witness Rigoletto's daughter Gilda (who has fallen in love with the Duke of Mantua) observing him betraying her. Rigoletto tries to organise the Duke's death as an act of revenge but Gilda, rather than see the Duke die, sacrifices herself. This was a powerful morning's viewing which was followed by a look at a DVD of Pavarotti in another version of Part of Act 3. Great to see the differences in the three versions we had looked at. Thank you, Kate, for the experience and reminding us about the changes to Opera that were occurring in Verdi's middle masterpieces. A large group of us enjoyed the social occasion of an end of year lunch together at Pinesong cafe.

**Meetings:** 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month      **Time:** 10am

**Next meeting:** 26 February 2021      **Venue:** Matai Room, Pinesong



## POP UP SWIMMING and Shared Morning Tea

**Convenor:** Heather Tanguay

**Ph:** 818-8809

You do not have to swim, just come along and bring a shared morning tea.

**Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday during summer      **Time:** 10am

**Next meeting:** 9 February 2021      **Venue:** French Bay

## QUIZ

**Convenor:** Ann Whitehouse

**Ph:** 816-8812

For our last quiz of the year 12 of us met for a meal at Bricklane before the quiz, then 16 of us made 3 teams. The combination of the delicious afternoon tea at the U3A general meeting followed by the lovely Bricklane food added our brains and all 3 teams did badly! However one team managed to bag the coveted 2<sup>nd</sup> to last prize of \$25 and it was a very enjoyable evening.

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month

**Time:** 6.45pm for 7pm

**Next meeting:** 19 January 2021

**Venue:** Bricklane, New Lynn



## SCRABBLE

**Convenor:** Judy Cronin

**Ph:** 626-6390

Although this group is currently full, you are welcome to add your name to the Waiting List if you are keen on language and spelling skills or want to enjoy learning a new game.

**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month

**Time:** 1pm

**Next meeting:** tbc

**Venue:** Blockhouse Bay



## TRAVEL GROUP

**Convenor:** Heather Tanguay

**Ph:** 818-8809

The Travel Group had their final meeting today and what a fun time we had. Each member was given 10 minutes to talk about a Special and Sensational place they had visited. We travelled around the world, some places Japan, Bath, Sweden, Sulawesi, Belize, Khyber Pass, Istanbul, and others. What stories, what laughs we had. We finished with a beautiful, shared Christmas Lunch.

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month

**Time:** 10am

**Next meetings:** tbc

**Venue:** Glen Eden RSA



## WALKS AND TALKS

**Convenor:** Ann Whitehouse

**Ph:** 816-8812

The Deverells led a most enjoyable "walk of 4 halves" in November around Point Chev. Plenty of variety, including beautiful beaches, lots of local history and anecdotes, and a wonderful lunch in the Beach Café.

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month

**Time:** 10am

**Next meeting:** 15 January 2021

**Venue:** tbc

