



Tītirangi

President: Heather Tanguay 818 8809
Secretary: Val Wike 827 8693

heathertanguay@slingshot.co.nz
wikeval@gmail.com

Welcome to our March newsletter.

We had a very positive response to our February meeting speakers. Member Peter Nash, in his lively and interesting style, left us all thinking when he noted that what we often think of as our 'absolutely personal details' are not that at all. Our birth certificates and similar are NOT private to each of us -- they're public for all who wish to search them. Except for divorce details - they're kept under legal wraps for 70 years.

Thanks also to health and wellbeing trainer Annie Tausi who specialises in fitness, balance and strength for seniors. A former corrections officer, Annie had us doing simple exercises to help our balance and shared her personal journey to overcome ill health and other issues. Nice to see that she knew some of our members who go to her classes in Blockhouse Bay.

Our March meeting sees another interesting lineup with President Heather Tanguay talking about Pataka Kai in our communities and the astonishing amount of food she and other members of the Glen Eden Residents' Association have saved from landfill this year. A good time to remember that Tītirangi U3A supports Pataka Kai. If you can manage it, please bring a packet of dry food (rice, pasta etc) or canned goods to the meeting for donation.

Our guest speaker is Fiona Leyden (with associate Chrissy Miller) who'll 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.

We are all very aware of the global pandemic that is the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The nature of this virus changes daily - hourly even - and we are aware that members of Tītirangi U3A are in the over-60s 'risk group,' particularly those with lung-related and immune deficiency health issues. Your Committee asks that you DO NOT PANIC. Panic and fear spread panic and fear. We would encourage you use a common sense approach and if you are worried call **Healthline on 0800 358 5453**. They'll be able to give you good advice as a first step. There is a huge amount of information available on the virus - some of it is non-factual opinion and speculation (fake news?)

We suggest you wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Do this often. We now know this is the **most effective way to stop the virus being transmitted**. A solution of hydrogen peroxide or a solution of bleach will disinfect surfaces.

If you have friends visiting from overseas, we ask that you do not bring them to our meetings for the next few months. If you have travelled, please stay away from our meetings unless you have self-isolated for two weeks. Some of you may choose not to come to meetings for now - that's fine - but we feel it is important for us to keep in touch with each other, especially those living alone and who rely on U3A for social activities.

If you attend groups, please contact your convenors to see if they will still hold events in their homes. If you're concerned about group attendance, please talk to our Study Group Co-ordinator, Dianne Deverell dianneu3atqn@gmail.com; phone 027 653 8335.

In the meantime, we encourage members to take advantage of the annual free flu injection. And if you are confined to quarters, U3A has an on-line study programme.

At this stage our March meeting will go ahead as planned on Tuesday the 24th, 1.00 pm at West Lynn Gardens. As the virus situation changes on a daily basis, we will keep you informed of any changes to our usual routine. Do not hesitate to contact any member of the committee if you have any concerns about our activities.

Best wishes.

STUDY GROUPS REPORT MARCH 2020

MAH JONG

Convenor: Peter Nash **Ph:** 817-3520

We welcome both beginners and experienced players of Mah Jong to join. Our intention is to share knowledge and learn together.

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Monday of the month

Time: 1.30 pm

Next meetings: 6 April

Venue Green Bay

QUIZ

Convenor: Ann Whitehouse **Ph:** 816-8812

Our March Quiz teams had a challenging evening of fun with the "A" team forging ahead of the Atomics. We were able to include two members from our Waiting List to join us this month as three members were away! Put your name down if you are interested and we may be able to create another team.

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month

Time: 6.45pm for 7pm start

Next meeting: 7 April

Venue: Bricklane, New Lynn

MUSIC APPRECIATION

Convenor: Pauline Jennings **Ph:** 817-7281/027-2786146

The group decided not to meet in February as the Convenor was away.

Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month

Time: 10am

Next meeting: 7 April

Venue: Titirangi

CHESS

Convenor: Colin Whitehouse **Ph:** 816-8812

The group continued our analysis of chess miniature games. These are games that last less than thirty moves and so don't get into the endgame. Study of miniature game has the advantage of offering the challenge of identifying the early mistake and trying to calculate the winning method from there on. Lots of fun!

Meetings: 1st Wednesday of the month

Time: 10am

Next meeting: 1 April

Venue: Green Bay

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 1

Convenor: Rose Vivien

Ph: 817-8712

Our meeting was held on 5 March. We welcomed a new member, Lynda, to our group.

Our March reading and reporting back was based upon a trilogy we'd read; reading three books by the same author was also an option for this month.

Again, a wide range of genre and authors, including current and historical fiction, memoir and fiction based on fact. At this meeting we also completed our programme overview for the year. A very enjoyable gathering!

Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month

Time: 1.30pm

Next meeting: 2 April

Venue: New Lynn

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 2

Convenor: Shirley Kirby

Ph: 021 205 8999

Focused on the year's theme of 'Wellbeing', the group met at Christa's home for a discussion of March's topic, 'Health'. The breadth of the topic enabled a diversity of genre and perspectives to be shared. The manner in which the topic was interpreted by members certainly enhanced discussion and left us with many reading options for the future.

Meetings: 1st Friday of the month

Time: 1.30pm

Next meeting: 3 April

Venue: Please contact the Convenor for the next venue

NZ AND LOCAL HISTORY

Convenor: Bruce Deverell

Ph: 214-6485/027-4770266

The purpose of our initial meeting was to discover what the interests of the members of the group so that a programme could be set in place. The convenor presented a range of possibilities to the enthusiastic attendees for discussion. There is currently a Waiting List for this group. There will be no meeting in April.

Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month

Time: 10.30am

Next meeting: 11 May - No meeting at Easter

Venue: New Lynn

GENEALOGY

Convenor: Peter Nash

Ph: 817-3520

A helpful group for genealogists, both experienced and beginners.

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month

Time: 10am

Next meeting: 8 April

Venue: Green Bay

ART APPRECIATION

Convenor: Larrie Millett

Ph: 816-8754

The group met at the Sanderson Gallery in Newmarket, for a viewing of Claudia Kogachi's latest series of paintings based on horses. Much debate was held over the interpretation, not all of it positive! Moving on to the Exhibitions Gallery, a completely different and diverse selection of work from a variety of painters. Far more appreciative murmurs were noted. All in all a very interesting morning!

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month (unless otherwise advised)

Time: 10.30am

Next meeting: 8 April

Venue: TBC

SCRABBLE

Convenor: Judy Cronin

Ph: 626-6390

We do have a vacancy or two so if you are keen on language and spelling skills and enjoy learning a new game then join up!

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month

Time: 1pm

Next meeting: 9 April

Venue: Blockhouse Bay

CREATIVE WRITING

Convenor: Pam Sellers

Ph: 817-2176

Our writing topic for March had been The Ides of March and what an amazing variety that produced! We had an interesting informational report, we had a totally wacky March Hare, we had a most powerful short story, we had...riches!

Meetings: 2nd Friday of the month

Time: 11am

Next Meeting: Good Friday TBC

Venue: Green Bay

FILM FANCIERS

Convenor: Pat Labrum

Ph: 827-2415

In March the Film Fanciers outing, for the first time, was a choice of two films from two literary greats. Emma by Jane Austin and The Invisible Man by H G Wells. They were being shown 15 minutes apart at Reading, New Lynn made this possible.

Emma was attended by 3 members who loved this modern version and its beautiful setting and familiar story. Five members saw The Invisible Man and to say enjoyed is probably not correct. Spine tingling, edge of the seat, forgetting to breath stuff, had some out of their comfort zones. Certainly this 21st version of the original 1930's movie adaptation lived up to great reviews. Suspense, great filming, acting and score, all agreed they were very pleased to have seen it.

Meetings: 2nd Friday of the month (unless otherwise advised)

Time: to be confirmed

Next meeting Good Friday TBC

Venue to be confirmed

TRAVEL GROUP

Convenor: Heather Tanguay

Ph: 818-8809

Good number attended and we started with our first Travel Quiz won by Jan, then Brenda and third Ted.

Heather and Jerry spoke about their trip to Greece and the many interesting places they visited. They were glad they took their walking poles as a number of rough paths in historical sites. No problems in Greece, people very friendly.

Handy tip - visit Historical and World Heritage sites early, be there when the gates open, beat the cruise boats tours.

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month

Time: 10am

Next meetings 21 April

Venue: Glen Eden

ETHNIC CUISINE/DINING

Convenor: Eileen Howard

Ph: 8278100/0211789562

What a great start to our year! Lunch at Petra Shawarma Restaurant in Kingsland was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. It is a family-run Jordanian restaurant. The food is varied and extremely tasty, and the waitress was very helpful, spending a lot of time with us, explaining ingredients (particularly sumac) and cooking methods. Lovely meal, with great company.

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month

Time: to be confirmed

Next meeting 16 April

Venue: to be confirmed

BUS ADVENTURES

Convenor: Eileen Howard Ph: 021-1789562
This group explores different places in and around Auckland
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday (March, May, August)
Time 9am
Next meeting Nothing planned for April
Venue TBC

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Convenor: Val Wike **Ph:** 827-8693
In February our topic was the response to the novel coronavirus outbreak at a national and international level. We watched two short videos, one on the WHO praising China's response and the other commenting on the personal cost of speaking up about the virus. We concluded with discussion and morning tea.

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month
Time: 10am
Next meetings: 16 April
Venue: New Lynn
Bus route: 170/171/172

WALKS AND TALKS

Convenor: Marcia Clarke **Ph:** 817-4079
Eight of us met this morning and had a most enjoyable amble along the Orangihina - Harbourview Park walkway and back along some of the waterfront streets to coffee at Fuze. It was rather warm but after walking, chatting and several stops to acknowledge historical sites we arrived back to the city centre none the worse for wear. In fact, several walkers commented that they could have kept going! Thank you to trip leaders Helen & Fiona
Meetings: 3rd Friday of the month
Time: 10am
Next meeting: 20 March/17 April
Venue: (to be confirmed)

HISTORY

Convenor: Colin Whitehouse **Ph:** 816-8812
The group investigated one of the last bastions of the British "Empire" with a video of Southern Rhodesia under the leadership of Ian Smith. It covered their struggle for independence - leading to the formation of Zimbabwe under Robert Mugabe which will be our topic for next month.

Meetings: 4th Monday of the month
Time: 10.30am
Next meeting: 23 March/27 April
Venue: Green Bay

OPERA APPRECIATION

Convenor: Kate Methven **Ph:** 817-9804
This year has begun with a study of Wagner's Tannhäuser lead by Jeannette Heine. We began by viewing the Overture and Act 1 of the Zürich Opera 2003 production. An interesting discussion ensued about the filming techniques used particularly for the overture and we look forward to continuing this study next meeting.
Meetings: 4th Friday of the month
Time: 10am
Next meeting: 27 March
Venue: Matai Room, Pinesong

MYTHS, LEGENDS & FAIRY TALES

Convenor: Pam Sellers

Ph: 817-2176

At our first meeting of the year, the Myths, Legends and Fairy Tales Group considered "what is home?", inspired by the last BBC Reith lecture from Marina Warner, the mythology expert. It was an interesting discussion, participated in by all, and at present we have 4 definitions of "home." They are: your country, with similar people and customs; the house/place you live in; your essential self; and a marae. Any other ideas?

Meetings: 4th Friday of the month

Time: 10.30am

Next meeting: 27 March

Venue: Green Bay

Study Group Co-ordinator's Message (March 2020)

Kia Ora!

By the time you have received this newsletter, our new Bus Adventures group should have had their first trip to the Waikato Heads area! We look forward to hearing from them! We have almost enough members to run each trip on two consecutive Wednesdays. Please add your name to the lists or contact me if you are interested. Thanks so much, Eileen, for taking on this task. It is a great opportunity for those members especially who no longer drive or who are reluctant to do so. (We have a couple of vacancies as this goes to print on the trip on 25th March)

It was also great to meet up with those members of the NZ History group when they had their first planning meeting this month with Bruce. There are unfortunately 5 members still on this Waiting List. At the moment both History groups are full.

We have quite a few new members who have had to be placed on Waiting Lists. It would therefore be great if we have some offers of convenorship for new groups. Suggestions anyone? A Language class? A Science group? Botany? Art History? Do you have an area of Special Interest? Poetry reading and writing? Please let me know.

Thank you, Convenors. Your role is such a valued one.

Dianne Deverell

Study Group Co-ordinator

Email: dianne.u3atgn@gmail.com
