

**Feel free to bring a guest.**

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Last month our speaker was Cindy Sullivan, Principal of Kaipara College. Lack of time meant the topic of the NZ history curriculum wasn't covered. It has been arranged that the Head of the Faculty of Social Sciences will come and discuss this with our NZ History group which is convened by Tony Silvester-Clark. Contact Tony if you are interested in attending that meeting.

We always give some kind of gratuity to our speakers and it was pleasing to be able to donate \$100.00 to Kaipara College. They have asked that their gratitude to be passed on to our members.

As promised, we move into our new venue at our next meeting. Our hope is you will find it more spacious and the kitchen set up will make our morning tea much easier to access. We are working on getting a loud speaker system.

**Almoner Role:** Please advise **Sara Newsome**, our almoner, of any of our membership who may be very unwell or coping with a bereavement.



Covid is certainly still active in our area so we do hope you will feel comfortable wearing a mask at our meetings, if you wish. We will continue to have our cuppa outside if weather permits.



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**April 4th 10.00 -12.00**

**WHERE : Note venue change** Catholic Church Hall, Kowhai Street, Helensville

**MAIN SPEAKER: Tim Dangen**  
West Auckland Beef Farmer and the 54th FMG Young Farmer of the Year.

**MINI SPEAKER:**  
Bev Silvester-Clark



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### **SOUTH KAIPARA GOOD FOOD**

See the latest edition of Helensville News for the amazing work being done by Good Food. Above volunteers are packing this weeks bags, 220 bags going out to 110 households. Be assured those who receive food are supported towards independence. But sadly, every week more employed parents are applying for help. Our donations each month are gratefully received.



It is with sadness that we acknowledge the death of another of our greatly valued members. Tony Morrison died on 26th February after a long illness. U3A South Kaipara is greatly indebted to Tony. It was his initiative to restart U3A here in Helensville, and here we are into our 4th year and out growing our venue. U3A is in good health this time round thanks to Tony. There were many familiar Helensville faces at Tony's funeral where we learned much about his rich and varied life from his family. This was followed by a gathering at \_\_\_\_\_ where the story telling continued in the garden that he and Rhiannon had created. It was such a lovely way to farewell Tony. A card was signed at the March meeting and sent to Rhiannon from our membership.

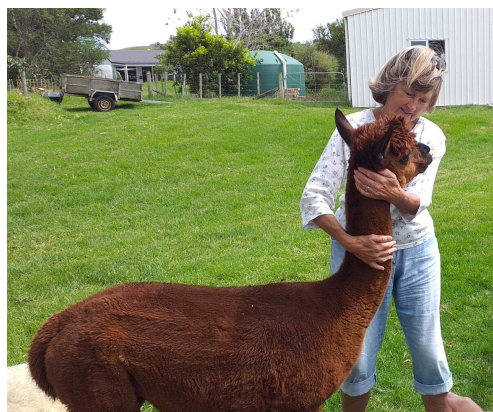


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### **GOAT ISLAND MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE**

**Friday March 10th 2023 - We finally made it!**

Thanks to the Kaukapakapa Garden Club and various other local groups, we filled a 48seater bus plus 4 others came by car. We had a little drama with the bus driver refusing to take us the last 2 k to the Discovery Centre, but in great Kiwi fashion the problem was solved by ferrying everyone down and back up again in cars and vehicles from the centre. The visit to the centre was excellent. Very informative and entertaining that left us encouraged by the work being done, and disturbed about the condition of our coastal waters. Well worth the effort it took to get there.



### **BBQ AT KATHIE AND CHUCK'S ON 16TH MARCH**

Many thanks to Chuck and Kathie for their hospitality. It was a total love fest - their Alpacas are gorgeous! They shared their experience of becoming Alpaca breeders and introduced us to their 'girls'. Then a great BBQ - Chuck is quite the cook!

## CURRENT INTEREST GROUPS

Interest groups are the great strength of U3A. As members we step up and convene small groups that offer rich opportunities for growing knowledge, skills and friendships. The following interest groups are offered by our members for our members. If you are a current U3A member and are interested in knowing more about a group feel free to contact the convenors direct. If you would like to join U3A South Kaipara or renew your membership please contact

Bev Silvester-Clark (Secretary)

or

Gloria Middleditch (Chair)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Out and About</b> <b>Any day or</b> <b>time that suits</b> <b>Doreen Hogan</b>	<b>1st</b> <b>Tuesday</b> <b>General</b> <b>Meeting</b> <b>10am at</b> Catholic Church Hall, Kowhai Street, Helensville	<b>Mahjong</b> <b>every</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>10.00</b> <b>Janice</b> <b>Webster</b>		
		<b>2nd</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>2pm Shared</b> <b>Reading</b> <b>Bev</b> <b>Silvester-</b> <b>Clark</b>	<b>2nd Thursday</b> <b>2pm Critical</b> <b>Thinking Verna</b> <b>Healy</b>	
<b>3rd Monday</b> <b>10am</b> <b>Gardening,</b> <b>phone Heather</b> <b>Hyland</b>  <b>currently full</b>	<b>3rd</b> <b>Tuesday</b> <b>10am Ted</b> <b>Talks ph</b> <b>Barbara</b> <b>Carter</b>	<b>3rd</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>2pm Book</b> <b>Club,</b> <b>Rhiannon</b> <b>Herrick</b>	<b>3rd Thursday 12</b> <b>midday Food &amp;</b> <b>Wine Group</b> <b>Gloria</b> <b>Middleditch</b>	
<b>4th Monday</b> <b>1.30.00 U3A</b> <b>Committee</b> <b>Meeting</b>			<b>4th Thursday 2-</b> <b>4pm</b> <b>NZ History</b> <b>Tony Silvester-</b> <b>Clark</b>	<b>Last Friday of</b> <b>month 10am</b> <b>Needles and</b> <b>Stitches Wendy</b> <b>Daniel</b>

More about our interest groups.

**Needles and Stitches.**

Last Friday of month 10.00-12.00

**Convenor:** Wendy Daniel

**Venue:**

This is a group of like minded people interested in knitting, patchwork ,crochet, embroidery, appliqué or any sort of sewing or mending who like to meet in a casual atmosphere for a couple of hours or so each month. There is room for about 6-8 people and space for a person to bring a sewing machine.

**NZ History**

4th Thursday 2.00-4.00

**Convenor** – Tony Silvester-Clark

**Venue** –

This is a monthly self-study group where members pursue their line of interest through reading and sharing their discoveries and learning in the group. As an adjunct to this activity we also arrange guest speakers, view other media (films, documentaries, theatre), organize site visits (trips – local and further afield).

**Out n About**

**Convenor:** Doreen Hogan

As ideas of places, shows or movies to go to arise, Doreen is available to organise a group trip. Do contact her if you have an idea for such an outing.

**Gardening** (currently full)

3rd Monday 10.00

**Convenor:** Heather Hyland

**Venue:** Varies

Our group focuses on practical gardening and knowledge sharing. The group includes a wide range of experience levels and garden styles. We meet at each other's homes or occasionally at a garden centre cafe. Over coffee we report back on the month's gardening, ask for any advice, and share friendship and laughter as well as surplus plants.

**Ted talks** (currently full)

3rd Tuesday 10.00-12.00

**Convenor:** Barbara Carter

**Purpose:** To stimulate our minds and provide the opportunity to learn something new or expand existing knowledge by watching a TED talk together. The group offer free and open discussion on the topic chosen by a different member of the group each time. We find we discuss many aspects of not only the topic but other areas that it directs us to move to. It is a fun group where we often laugh together and learn a lot from the collective background of everyone.

**Critical Thought Group**

2nd Thursday of the month 2pm – 3.30pm (and no later than 4pm)

**Convenor:** Verna Healy

**Venue:** but may rotate to different homes.

This is the old Philosophy group with a new format.

Each group member has a turn at choosing the topic, researching it, and then leading subsequent discussion.

**Book Club**

3rd Wednesday 2.00-3.00

**Convenor:** Rhiannon Herrick

**Venue:**

We have an enthusiastic group of readers. We follow a simple format where each person



gives a brief description of a book read recently. This has become a rich resource for reading ideas for the members. A list of the books presented is then shared by email and some books are passed on to others. We usually have about 8 attending and our hour long meeting goes by very quickly.

**Mahjong**      **Convenor:** Janice Webster

**Venue:**

10.00-12.00 every Wednesday

Apart from lockdowns this keen group has been meet weekly for three years. We welcome learners.

**Food/Wine Group**

Lunch 3rd Thursday each month

**Convenor.** Gloria Middleditch

**Venue:** Various restaurants and eateries

We comprise of between 8-15 persons enthusiastically coming together from very varied backgrounds to learn about and enjoy foods or wines from around the world that are available or made in NZ. There are a few interesting older buildings that have been repurposed from homes or business' now adapted for use as a restaurant with very interesting histories. We can carpool if necessary all to be organised through Gloria Middleditch

**Shared Reading**

2nd Tuesday 2.00-3.30

**Convenor:** Bev Silvester-Clark

**Venue:**

Shared reading is a process developed in UK which encourages the reading and discussing of literature, short stories and poetry. We read out loud a short story and a poem, pausing throughout and discussing what the story is evoking for us. To know more see <https://www.aucklandfoundation.org.nz/the-reading-revolution> Helensville library supports this group with discounted photocopying.



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Warm wishes

**U3A Sth Kaipara Committee**

Gloria Middleditch Chair 021 1658428

Tony Silvester-Clark Treasurer

Bev Silvester-Clark Secretary 0274316205

Sara Newsome Almoner

Nigel Dempster

Doreen Hogan

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Or email Bev Silvester-Clark [bev.s-c@outlook.com](mailto:bev.s-c@outlook.com)