



HIBISCUS COAST U3A NEWSLETTER

March / April 2016

www.u3ahbc.co.nz

Next meeting: ...AGM Monday 21 March 2016

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall, 32 Waiora Road, Stanmore bay.

Doors open 9.40 am for a 10 am start, and end at approx... 11.45

Tea duties.....Book review & Card, games & puzzles.

Conveners of these groups please contact each other to arrange kitchen duties.

Please take note of the instructions for the new dish washer.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I write this with a tinge of sadness as I finish my President role at the next General Meeting in March, which is the AGM.

The role has been enjoyable helped by the support of a very efficient and talented Management team, dedicated Convenors and members who have encouraged and appreciated the hard work that goes into running a smooth and successful University of the Third Age.

What I have learned: - We have a very large membership, over 200 with new members joining every month, the second largest in the Auckland region which incorporates fourteen groups. The variety and number of learning groups is very healthy, with new topics being introduced and changes made to continue subjects needing help ie: World -Today and Ethics have combined, Music has found a slightly different format and new venue, Art Appreciation is going strong as is Anthropology, both new groups. At the February Convenor meeting, all the feedback was positive and enjoyable to listen to.

I suggested to the Management team and it was agreed, that we add more secondary positions to lighten the load, these have been listed, please consider helping as most of the requirement is for the general meetings

.It was also noted in the Constitution that the President role is for one year with the option of staying in the position for two years. As our average age is over seventy years, this should be more of an incentive to find a Vice President, one-year tenure, then onto President for one year.

The Wenderholm picnic was again very much enjoyed and is becoming a yearly event, photos enclosed to verify!

The speaker for the AGM is Julia Parfitt, currently our Local Board Chairperson, whom will share information concerning the Hibiscus Coast, where managing growth so that our special coastal village character is not lost, being her most important issue.

Julia works extremely hard on our behalf and is an excellent speaker.

Please attend the AGM and support myself, Chris Curtis the new President and the newly elected team who will ensure the smooth running of HBC U3A for the next twelve months.

I wish each and every one of you enjoyment in the learning and socialising that is offered, often shared with members who become firm friends and supporters.

Trish Litherland
President

This Month's speaker....

Julia Parfitt is passionate about our ward, which is where she was born and raised her family. She is currently the local board chair and also a Justice of the Peace. A former teacher, she now serves on the Northcross Intermediate Board of Trustees. She is also a former councillor and a previous electoral college member of the Auckland Museum and Motat, Water-care and the Regional Land Transport Committee



Some of the questions often presented to Julia are.....

What do you regard as your three most important achievements during your current term?

What is the single most important issue facing the Hibiscus Coast?

What other issues are you concerned about and what do you plan to do about them?

What skills can you bring to local body politics that other candidates can't?

Important notice..

**Nominations are open for the role of Vice President.
This, as well as the President's role, will be for a one-year term.
The GM's will still be held bi-monthly.**

Other positions open for nominations are...

Secretary

Treasurer

Membership secretary

Newsletter editor

If you're keen to know more, contact the President.

Also, this year the committee feel that by spreading the load out an easier run club could be achieved with the minimum of effort.

With this in mind we're looking for offers of members willing to accept the following.....

Guest Speaker sub committee

To assist the President source and book guest speakers at the bi-monthly GM's

Club speaker coordinator ..

This would involve locating current members who can give a short presentation of a life experience or memory.

Venue set up...

To open up the church prior to members arriving and supervise those groups on morning tea duty.

Hostess's.

To meet and greet members as they arrive, giving special attention to new members who may not know anyone.

This month's feature....
HBC U3A picnic



The vacant pink chair was for absent friends.



Are you *sure*
it was this
big???



Ms U3A 2016

News from the groups...

*Contact details for all groups and general meetings
Can be found on the group's schedule page.*



REGIONAL NEW ZEALAND. The first meeting of our group this year commenced discussing the Wellington Region. Amongst the topics we covered were – an unusual item for Wellington - “the wind” and certainly not the lack of it - early history, the iconic cable car, Pencarrow Heads Lighthouse, Soames Island and the interisland ferries to Littleton.

Unfortunately, we now have a full complement of numbers in our group, but if vacancies occur, I will let you know through this newsletter.

Barbara Tucker, Convenor.

The Humour group. Our group is back after a long break and inviting others to join us. We are still meeting in a home and there is always plenty of laughter. Each one of us provides the humour so it is good brain exercise too! If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact...

Jacqui Driscoll, Convenor.

Short film making group. The group is doing very well and looking forward to another year of fun film making, if you're keen to join or even keen to 'test the water' before joining contact the convenors. Click on this link to view the film making group 'in reverse'

<https://youtu.be/02121imVZaU>



Note from the convenor. The group could do with a few more men! Just to balance the casts.

Convenors, Ian and Nancy Miller.

World Mythology. We have a group of enthusiastic 'mythologers'. We'll take turns in 'chairing' the meeting and providing morning tea.

In the mythology of Oceanic peoples, forever has always existed. So has Darkness, and so, too, the Sea. Soaring over the endless sea, The Old Spider found a giant clam and opened it and crawled inside. It was totally dark, and cramped inside but she found a snail, whom she asked to open the shell a bit so she could have more room. The snail obliged. Then the Old Spider took the snail and placed it in the west and made it into the Moon, shedding some light into the darkness. With the help of another snail, The Old Spider pushed very hard on the top of the shell, raising it up, and it became the Sky, called [Rangi](#). With great effort, the Old Spider then pushed down on the lower part of the clam shell, and it widened and became the earth. The earth was called [Papa](#), or Mother Earth.....

Our February meeting also covered mythology of Tuna god of eels, Waitere, the enchanted stingray, Matariki and the Pleiades star cluster also known as the seven sisters. Mythology of the coconut tree and the legends of Hanmer springs, to name a few. Our numbers are healthy but we could take another one or two.

Judith Lilley, Convenor.

The Writers. Our group has started the year in good heart and with much enthusiasm. We welcome Itita Rusk to the group bringing the number of members to 11. The optimum number for the group is twelve so that we can still meet in members' homes. If there is further interest, we would be looking at starting a satellite group with help from present group members.

The 2015 Anthology is still selling with requests from as far away as Dunedin. There are still a few books available, don't miss out as we are not planning a reprint. They can be ordered through the *Convenor, Cheril Clarke.*

The Out & About group had a very enjoyable outing to Warkworth Museum in February. A place that most of us had visited in the past but we were all surprised by the extensive exhibits now on display. One poster that caught our eye was for a "flea circus" with performers being brought out from England! Afterwards we walked through the Parry Kauri park. It was cool going through the native bush on a very hot day. In March we are going to the Sculpture Trail in the Harbourview Peoples Park, Te Atatu. The group goes on outings the second Tuesday of the month.
Sheila Hussona, Convenor



The Book Review Group. This group is friendly, entertaining and a great source of information on books we have yet to read. We meet in members' homes 10.00am the third Friday of the month.

We share and present books we have read and think would appeal to others. We operate a book exchange but also introduce library books or books off Kindle E-readers. At the moment there are 6 members and we could accommodate at least 4 more so if you are interested phone.....
Cheril Clarke, Convenor

2016 Subscriptions.....

2016 Subscriptions are now over due.

You need to be a fully paid up member to use your voting rights

**Financial year January to December 2016.
Single \$25 couples \$40**

3 Payment options as shown below

To the treasurer at the January GM (cash or cheques only)

**By mail to the Treasurer....John Tucker, HBC U3A. PO Box 314, Orewa 0946.
(please enclose a stamp addressed envelope if you require a receipt)**

**On line to the HBC U3A acc at ... ASB 12-3046-0275951-00
(include your initials and full surname as the reference)**

Treasurer's note.

***non-payment by the AGM date will result in members being from the register
and deemed to have resigned.***

"Our Flag"

Sent to a USA member from a friend

*Our Flag bears the stars that blaze at night
In our southern skies of blue.
And that little old Flag in the corner,
That's part of our heritage too.
It's for the English, the Scots and the Irish
Who travelled to the ends of the earth.
The traders, the schemers, the doers and dreamers
Who gave modern New Zealand birth.
And those who are seeking to change it,
They don't seem to understand
It's the Flag of our law and our language
Not the flag of a faraway land.
There are plenty of people who'll tell you
That when Europe was plunged into night
That little old flag in the corner
Was their symbol of freedom and light?
It doesn't mean we owe allegiance
To a forgotten imperial dream
We've the stars to show where we're going
And the old Flag to show where we've been.*

Lost property.

Silver box chain 45 cm (18inch), possibly at the last GM.

Contact Nancy Miller

Interesting sites for you

Brain fitness ...

www.brainfitness.co.nz

a mass of information on brain health.

Driving test...

www.drivingtests.co.nz

how well do you know the rules of the road?



SCHEDULE OF THE CURRENT GROUPS.....As at March 2016

Group meeting times and dates as stated,

General meetings meet bi-monthly, being the 3rd Monday morning of January, March, May, July, September and November at 9.40 am.

Ancient History: As its name suggests, this group studies ancient civilizations
Convenor: Ayad Hussona Meetings on the fourth Tuesday at 10.00 am.
Venue: The Peninsula Club.....call convenor for directions.

Art appreciation: Meet to discuss various Artists, Genres and History in selected Countries. It is not required that you are an artist, just an appreciation of excellence and a love of learning and sharing.
Convenor: Trish Litherland meeting the 3rd Thursday at 2 pm to 4 pm
Venue: The Pohutakawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library

Books East & West: We each read the same two selected books every month and then we have good discussions about them. Some of us like the book and others don't - makes for a lively and interesting morning.
Convenor: Lesley Newling Meetings on the second Thursday at 10.00 am.
Venue: in each other's homes.

Book review: As the title suggests, a group discussion on books read by the members.
Convenor: Cheril Clarke Meeting the third Friday at 10.00 am
Venue: In each other's homes.

Cards games & puzzles: (formerly card playing for fun). "This is a cheerful, fun loving group who meet on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Pohutakawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library.
Convenor: Elizabeth Ingram 12.45 for a prompt 1 pm start
Venue the Pohutakawa room, Whangaparaoa Library

Cinematique

This groups meets in the morning on the forth Monday of each month to visit a Cinema together. We try to choose a Movie with a good story which will lead to interesting discussion.
Convenor: Trish Litherland
Venue: Kowhai Room – Peninsula Club

Discussion: Topics discussed by this group are chosen on an ad hoc basis, based on whatever its members currently find of interest or concern.
Convenor: Barry Dale Meetings: on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 10.00 am.
Venue: Hibiscus Coast Retirement Village..... call convenor for directions.

Famous & Infamous/ Origins: This combined group covers a wide range of topics, whether it's famous and infamous people, places, items, cars, sport - you name it we can make a topical meeting from it.
Convenor Judy Lilley Meetings: on the third Thursday at 10.00 am.
Venue: in each other's homes.

Film Discussion: We discuss any films we have viewed together, plus any others deemed suitable.
Convenor: Trish Litherland
Venue: The Kowhai Room – The Peninsula Club
Convenor Trish Litherland Meetings on the last Friday of the month at 10.00 am:
Venue 'Kowhai Room' - Peninsula Club

History: This group is for anyone who has a keen interest in history. It covers all aspects and reads interesting papers on a wide variety of topics.

Convenor: Allen Crosby) Meetings on the first and third Tuesday at 10.00 am

Venue: Peninsula Club...call Convenor for directions.

Humour: We share jokes, humorous poems, stories etc., as well as testing our brains on various set written tasks. If laughter is the best medicine then surely this is the healthiest group around

Convenor: Jacqui Driscoll Meetings on the second Wednesday at 10.00 am

Venue:

in each other's home

Mah-jong: Our group is a friendly group who strive to achieve as many different hands of the seventy-seven available to us. It can be a frustrating game but offers plenty of challenges in order to work out which of the many hands you could try at each stage of the game. It certainly keeps the brain alive!

Convenors: Geoff or Sheila Taylor Meetings on the first and third Tuesday at 2.0pm.

Venue: in each other's homes

Music Group

For members who have a love of music from classical, opera, jazz and easy listening. The first hour is spent listening, tea break follows and then lively discussion.

Contact: Jack Wolf

Venue: Meet the 4th Wednesday of each month in the Hibiscus room. Peninsula Retirement Village, Whangaparaoa

Out & About: This group organises 'outings' to places of interest, new and old, in and around Auckland

Convenor: (Sheila Hussona

Meetings on the second Tuesday Times and locations vary.

Regional New Zealand: This group takes specific regions of New Zealand and studies each from an historical, economic and demographic perspective. Members with a special relationship to a region often provide insightful or humorous aspects about the area under study. A learning experience about our own country.

Convenor: Barbara Tucker Meetings on the fourth Thursday at 10.00 am

Venue: Whangaparaoa library

Short Film Group: This group is comprised of members with an interest in the art and craft of making short films. The group has, of necessity, no set time or venue for its meetings.

Convenors: Ian and Nancy Miller:

Times and locations vary.

The World Today: The Group's aim is to help members gain an understanding of the background and implications of what is happening on the world stage. Members are asked to research particular aspects of a topic and to then share what they learn with other members.

Contact Neal Burgham

Meetings on the first Friday at 9.45 am.

Convenor: Ria Kamerbeek

Venue: Whangaparaoa Library

The Writers: (formerly Scribbles) A group for people who enjoy writing. We are now trialling a set but optional theme for the month and positively critiquing those who want to improve their writing.

Convenor: Cheril Clarke Meetings on the first Friday at 10.00 am.

Venue: in members' homes

Travel Group: The travel group meets every month to discuss aspects of travel. At most meetings a member gives a talk, usually accompanied by a slide presentation, on a trip they have been on. The range of amazing places people have visited makes this a very interesting group and promotes lots of questions from other members.

Convener: Noel Newling Meetings on the second Monday at 2.00 pm.

Venue: Whangaparaoa Library

Writing your memoirs: This group encourages members to write down the stories from their lives. The changes we have seen, the experiences we have had, told in our own voices. Writing our memoirs is also helpful to understand our lives, a looking back, a reminiscence. We can share and reflect, and provide a pathway for our descendants to understand us and their roots."

Convener: Bev. Gomez meeting on the second Friday at 2.00pm

Venue - Whangaparaoa Library

World Mythology: Looking at all aspects of World mythology, each member presenting the results of their homework.

Convener: Judy Lilley meeting the 4th Monday morning at 10 am.

Venue: Pohutukawa Room, Whangaparaoa Library.

Timetable as at March 2016

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st week am		History 10am			The writers 10am World today 10am
Pm		Mahjong 2pm Cards, games & Puzzles, 1 pm			
2nd week am	Short film making 11am (time varies)	Discussion 10am Out & about (times vary)	Humour 10am	Books east/west 10am	
pm	Travel 2pm				Writing your memoirs 2pm
3rd week am	**General** meeting 9.40am	History 10am		Famous & infamous / Origins 10am	Book review 10am
pm		Mahjong 2pm Card, games & Puzzles 1 pm		Art appreciation. 2 pm	
4th week am	Cinematique (Venue varies) World Mythology 10am	Discussion 10am Ancient history 10am		Regional New Zealand 10am	Film discussion 10am (last Friday whether it be the 4 th or the 5 th Friday)
pm			Recorded classical music 2 pm		