

# HIBISCUS COAST U3A



## HIBISCUS COAST U3A NEWSLETTER July/August 2018

[www.u3ahbc.co.nz](http://www.u3ahbc.co.nz)

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<b>Webmaster Editor</b>	<b>Gerard Straka</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Judy Lilley and Chris Curtis</b>	<b>424 3080 428 4866</b>

**Next meeting:** Monday, 16 July 2018

**Salvation Army Hall, 32 Greenview Lane, Red Beach**

(Doors open at 9.40 am for a 10 am start; meeting ends at approx 11.45 am)

**Morning Tea Duty:** *Short Film Making and The World Today* Groups

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Greetings to you all

I think that the majority of our groups have now come to some decision regarding the venues for their meetings. It may be that they have decided to meet in each others' homes - a solution for small groups only - or they may have decided to pay the extra for a room at the library. I believe that other U3As are also facing this dilemma so the network president, Heather Baigent, has decided to put it on the agenda for their next meeting.

In spite of this we would still like to have more groups. To this end our committee member, Gerard Straka, has come up with the following suggestion:

*Being a convenor is a big commitment and people sometimes get landed with a job they often cannot get rid of. What if a member could start a group with a limited life. After a short time (say six months or a year) it would simply dissolve.*

This got me thinking and for the past little while I have been working on possible subjects which might interest some people. So I am offering a single session which I have called "Aspects of

Scottish Architecture” covering Athens of the North; castle styles and The Granite City. This is very much for amateurs by an amateur.

Unfortunately I doubt if I could do more than the one session but someone else might decide to extend it, maybe to Architecture in general. So if any of you are interested, please contact me. When I see what the response is, I can then discuss a possible day and time. The venue would probably be in my home.

If any other member feels able to offer a short course or even a single session we would be delighted. I know that many people have a passion for something but would not feel able to take it month after month but one session may be just what we want. You may be able to inspire someone else to do the same and who knows where it might lead. So well done Gerard for lighting a fuse!

Thank you to the groups who, so far, have invited me to attend their session. I have found them extremely interesting and next year, when I give up the post of president, I will be lining up to join more groups! It also gave me the opportunity to say “Hello” to people who otherwise would not know who the president is. I cannot pretend to remember them all but they, at least, may remember who their president is for the moment. It is easier to remember one person.

#### ***Vice-President Position***

We are still looking for a vice-president. I think we have managed to find someone to back up each of the other members of the committee or at least to stand in in an emergency but the year will soon pass and you will need to find a replacement for me. I have to keep reminding you.

#### ***Mid-Winter Lunch***

I'm sorry there is no mid-winter lunch planned for this year.

However, I would like to invite any member who wishes to join Ian and me at the RSA on Tuesday 7 August at about 12.15 for lunch. This will be just an informal time for socialising. Whether it develops further, remains to be seen. The RSA put on a \$10 lunch on a Tuesday as well as the usual menu and the prices are very reasonable. So you should find something to suit your pocket. Please contact me if you are interested, if you are not a member of the RSA, and I can arrange to sign you in.

Winter is moving on. I hope you are all keeping warm and safe.

Kind regards **Kay McLean (President)**





## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### Art Appreciation

As we have lost our meeting room and the library is booked for the year, we decided to visit the Bridgeway Theatre to view an art film, *Carravagio*. This was much appreciated not only for the historical and artistic content but the filming of the art was superb, depicting the genius of this 15th century Italian Great Master.

The future of this group is in jeopardy as we require a good computer-aided screen on which to view the art we have chosen to discuss. No member has the room required to host the numbers in the group and the idea floated that we visit various locations is also in doubt due to the reducing number of members able to offer transport, resulting in a few to taxi other members.

Convenor: Trish Litherland

### Cinematique

This month we saw the movie *The Book Shop* which was used in a number of fundraisers for Rotary etc, having had the popularity of a book based on a true story. The feedback was mixed which always leads to good debate. This group is reliant on suitable films showing locally on an ad hoc basis.

Convenor: Trish Litherland

### Discussion

There have been two new members come along to see if they would like to join our group. There are always varying opinions in our discussions and it is good to hear other points of view. The feeling of friendship is our most valuable asset.

Convenor: Barry Dale

### Famous, Infamous and Origins

The group is going well. We alternate between the two topics and this has worked well for the past few years. This month, under the Origins topic, we are presenting anything, anyone or anywhere beginning with the letter S. We still meet in our homes, taking turns to host. Even so we could take a couple more members. Contact Judy on [bjlilley62@gmail.com](mailto:bjlilley62@gmail.com)

Convenor: Judy Lilley

### Film Discussion

We enjoyed a meeting at a member's home due to other members being away. This will only work when we don't have a full house. So, again, a room is required to host at least twelve people. Any suggestions? Please contact the Convenor.

Convenor: Trish Litherland

### History

It seems our members are always on the move! For the main part they are making the most of being retired by travelling for pleasure but occasionally we have to farewell someone who is packing more than a suitcase and cabin bag. Whilst we wish Stephanie Blennerhassett much happiness in her new home in Katikati, we will miss her insightful contributions to our fortnightly meetings. Stephanie's papers were always beautifully written and impeccably researched; her ability to present a cohesive picture of a highly complex topic was a great strength. She will be missed! Since the last newsletter it is heartening to report that we have welcomed three new members to the group. I am also delighted to observe that more members are following Cynthia Green's example by making use of available multi media to enhance their presentations. Once more, we acknowledge the generous help we receive from the librarians in ensuring that the technology is firmly under control.

The history of the Marquesas Archipelago, a biography of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch entrepreneur in Southern Africa and a longitudinal account of the Inuit peoples of the Arctic engaged and informed us at our last meeting. Our following discussions gave us much food for thought on the common problems, in vastly different populations, of the impact of several centuries of European expansion.

After every History Group meeting I come away having learned something new and valuable about the world we inhabit today. As Confucius so wisely stated:

Study the past, if you would divine the future.

New members always welcome!

Convenor: Caryl Hayley

### **Mahjong**

The mahjong group are continuing to challenge themselves to get a hand they have not managed before. Recently, one of the ladies got a hand which nobody in the group has ever achieved. This is not an easy thing to do and a great feeling of satisfaction was felt. We have very enjoyable afternoons and are a friendly group.

At the moment we have two vacancies. Why not come along and give it a go; we will teach you to play if you can't already. We meet at the convenors' home and members take it in turns to bring afternoon tea.

Convenors: Sheila and Geoff Taylor

### **Regional New Zealand**

Our next meeting will be held in the Pohutukawa Room of the Whangaparaoa Library at 10 am on 26 July. We will be discussing the Waikato and South Auckland areas - and considering items of interest in the greater Auckland Region.

OUR GROUP WILL NOT BE MEETING DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST. Next meeting will be in the Pohutukawa Room of the Whangaparaoa Library on 27 September, usual time.

Convenor: Barbara Tucker

### **Small Film Making**

The group is still filming the Web Series and we welcome new member, Richard Saysell, who has joined us. I would like to give a BIG THANKS to the people who volunteered as extras on two Sunday mornings.

Convenor: Nancy Miller

### **Travel**

A good attendance at our last meeting and the addition of two new members means we are at near capacity for the venue. The library is perfect for our group and, with the financial assistance of the club, members are happy to subsidize the cost to stay there.

At our last meeting Bev gave us an informative talk about her trip to Croatia, accompanied with a slide show of her holiday. A very interesting place to visit even if it is becoming too popular.

At our next meeting, Monday 9 July, we will travel by river boat from Switzerland. Should be great.

Convenor: Noel Newling

## SCHEDULE OF THE CURRENT GROUPS

as at July 2018

### **Ancient History**

As its name suggest, this group studies ancient civilizations.

Meeting on the fourth Tuesday at 10.00 am

Venue: The Peninsula Club (call convenor for directions).

Convenor: Ayad Hussona

### **Art Appreciation**

We meet to discuss various artists, genres and history in selected countries. It is not required that you are an artist, just have an appreciation of excellence and a love of learning and sharing.

Meeting on the third Thursday at 1.45 pm (for a 2 pm start) to 4 pm.

Venue: The Peninsula Club

Convenor: Trish Litherland

### **Book Club**

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.

Meeting on the second Thursday at 10.00 am

Venue: In each other's homes.

Convenor: Dee Davies

### **Book Review**

As the title suggests – the group discuss books which have been read by the members.

Meeting on the third Friday at 10.00 am.

Venue: In each other's homes.

Convenor: Cheril Clarke

### **Cards, Games and Puzzles:** (formerly "Card Playing for Fun")

This is a cheerful, fun loving group.

Meeting on the first Wednesday at 12.45 pm for a prompt 1 pm start.

Venue: The Pohutukawa Room – Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Diana Pipke

### **Church History**

Discussion topics include: interaction between Christianity and other faiths, the influence of other religions and the spread of Christianity into the Gentile world. This may sound rather intellectual and deep but, in fact, is a fascinating subject for anyone, whether belonging to a faith or not.

Meeting on the first Friday at 2 pm

Venue: [13 Panorama Court, Red Beach.](#)

Convenor: Ian Mclean

### **Cinematique**

This group visits a cinema together. We try to choose a movie with a good story which will lead to interesting discussion. The group runs on an ad hoc basis, ie: when there is a movie showing at Hoyts Whangaparaoa that we deem worth viewing, an email will be sent to members who have listed their names.

Convenor: Trish Litherland

### **Discussion**

Topics discussed by this group are chosen on an ad hoc basis, based on whatever its members currently find of interest or concern.

Meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 10.00 am.

Venue: Hibiscus Coast Retirement Village (call convenor for directions).

Convenor: Barry Dale

### **Famous and Infamous Origins**

This combined group covers a wide range of topics, whether it is famous or infamous people, places, items, cars, sport – you name it, we can make a topical meeting from it.

Meeting on the third Thursday at 10.00 am.

Venue: In each other's homes.

Convenor: Judy Lilley

### **Film Discussion**

We discuss any films we have viewed together, plus any others deemed suitable.

Meeting on the last Friday of the month at 10.00 am.

Venue: The Kowhai Room – The Peninsula Club

Convenor: Trish Litherland

### **History**

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

Meeting on the first and third Tuesday at 10.00 am.

Venue: The Pohutukawa Room - Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Caryl Haley

### **Mahjong**

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!

Convenor: Geoff or Sheila Taylor

### **Meditation (This group will not be meeting during 2018)**

### **Music**

This group is in recession until a suitable location can be found.

Convenor: Jack Wolfe

### **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.

Meeting on the fourth Thursday at 10.00 am.

Convenor: Barbara Tucker

### **Short Film Making**

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. Meeting times and locations vary.

Convenors: Ian and Nancy Miller

### **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 then to share what they learn with other members.

Meeting on the first Friday at 9.45 am.

Contact *Pauline Wetton*

Venue: *Whangaparaoa Library*

Convenor: Ria Kamerbeek

### **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.

Meeting on the first Friday at 10.00 am

Venue: In members' homes

Convenor: Cheri Clarke

### **Travel**

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.

Meeting on the second Monday at 2.00 pm

Venue: Whangaparaoa Library

Convenor: Noel Newling

### **Ukulele**

This group is for beginners – no prior experience required. Once five simple chords have been mastered, approximately 100 well-known songs can be played. We also welcome members who would just like to come along to listen and sing along.

Meeting on the first and second Wednesday at 1 pm

Venue: First Wednesday at Whangaparaoa Library: Second Wednesday at 6A Roberts Road, Matakatia **(Until 20 June 2018)**

Convenor: Lorna Robinson

### **Writing your Memoirs (This group will not be meeting during 2018)**

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## Group Meeting Timetable

as at May 2018

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1<sup>st</sup> week am</b>		History 10 am			The Writers 10 am  World Today 10 am
<b>Pm</b>		Mahjong 2 pm	Cards, Games & Puzzles, 1 pm  Ukulele 1-3 pm		Church History 2 pm
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> week am</b>	Short Film Making 11 am (time varies)	Discussion 10 am		Book Club 10 am	
<b>pm</b>	Travel 2 pm		Ukulele 1-2 pm*		Memoirs* 2 – 4 pm
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> week am</b>	<b>*General* Meeting 9.40 am</b>	History 10 am		Famous and Infamous Origins 10 am	Book Review 10 am
<b>pm</b>		Mahjong 2 pm		Art Appreciation 1.45 pm	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> week am</b>	Cinematique (Venue varies)	Discussion 10 am  Ancient History 10 am		Regional New Zealand 10 am	Film Discussion 10 am (last Friday whether it be the 4 <sup>th</sup> or the 5 <sup>th</sup> Friday)
<b>pm</b>			Recorded Classical Music 2 pm		
<b>Every Wednesday</b>		Meditation <b>This group will not meet during 2018</b>		<b>*Up until 20 June 2018</b>  <b>*This group will not meet during 2018</b>	

**General meetings are held bi-monthly, on the third Monday of  
January, March, May, July, September and November, at 9.40 am  
at the Salvation Army Hall, Silverdale**

