

U3A GROUP PRESENTATIONS

CELEBRATING WAITANGI DAY



On February 6 every year, New Zealanders celebrate Waitangi Day, a national holiday to commemorate the Treaty of Waitangi, New Zealand's founding document. In 1840, representatives of the British Crown and over 500 Maori chiefs signed what is New Zealand's founding document. The day was first officially commemorated in 1934, and it has been a public holiday since 1974.

Today we celebrate this occasion by acknowledging the New Zealanders that have made a significant contribution through a variety of formats via the generosity of some of our Small Interest Groups.

Leading off is the Medical Science and History Group, followed by the Creative Audio Visual Group.

Then it's your turn fellow members, to be challenged with some trivia all about NZ!

Your reward is a pleasant morning tea/coffee and cake after which we will provide you with the answers!!

The second half of our programme starts with the China Past and Present Group, followed by the Music, Mainly Classical Group and finally the Literature Group.

We trust you will enjoy this celebration on our special national day.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all members!

2018 starts off uniquely as our first general meeting for the year falls on Waitangi Day! This offers an opportunity to hold a different meeting format. Instead of a guest speaker Six SIG groups - Medical Science and History, Creative Audio Visual, China, Past and Present, Music, Mainly Classical and Literature – celebrate New Zealand achievements. We also have a fun group activity and special morning tea.

At our December meeting I announced that we would have a shared lunch. Due to a full programme time no longer permits this so the committee are providing a special celebratory morning tea instead.

Come along, we look forward to seeing as many of you who can attend and share in our special meeting. Meanwhile continue to enjoy the last weeks of January, Anniversary weekend and any further holidays and family times. I have had the privilege of spending a lot of time with my grandchildren over the past weeks and shared their enjoyment of the sun, sand and beach, chess, books and puzzles, art and the delightful movie Paddington 2.

Committee Aims in 2018

Health and safety issues; particularly the demands around setting-up the hall for the monthly meeting and first aid preparedness

Increasing our membership; the club relies on the energy and rejuvenation new members bring. Refer Garry's site up- grade report our website on page 4.

Quality assurance; reviewing our processes to ensure we achieve interesting and meaningful learning and social interaction

Financial responsibility; continue the responsible management while ensuring the resources are available for the club to function

On page three, is a list of the committee members. We welcome your thoughts and look forward to your willing participation in helping us to achieve these aims.

Glen Plaistowe

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Active Travellers

Ancient Civilizations

Anthropology

Archaeology

Art History

Art Pot Pourri

In November 2017 we visited the Mairangi Arts Centre to see the 2017 Hibiscus and Bays Art Awards which is a nation-wide exhibition. We particularly enjoyed the opportunity to see the paintings on display as they included a work by one of our own members, Nanette Randall: Cloud over Westhaven. For our Christmas meeting in December eight members were able to meet for lunch at Armadillo café in Rothesay Bay.

Book Group

China: Past and Present

Classical Music

The appropriate theme for our last meeting this year was Christmas Carols. We listened to a selection of carols from the DVD Spirit of Christmas, two of which were, Once in Royal David's City by the Cambridge Choir and Adeste Fideles by Enya. Another DVD also accessed through U-tube, gave us a concert set in the Royal Albert Hall London. We watched the count-down of the 10 most popular carols in Britain. First was, It Came On Midnight Clear, second, Once in Royal David's City and third Joy To The World. The singers were backed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir.

Creative Audio-Visual

The Creative Audio Visual Group celebrated 2017 with a Christmas lunch at Lois Painton's house. The meal was great, the conversation stimulating, but all was overtaken by the screening of our final challenge! Every member was required to provide four random images from the photo shoot in Warkworth, earlier in the year, and the challenge was to make an A/V story of the 36 wildly differing images. The members responded to this with remarkable creativity - one of the best results so far and one which I hope we can share with the rest of the members of U3A in the future! A happy and prosperous New Year to all members of U3A Browns Bay.

Creative Writing

Current Affairs

Cycling

What a way to start the Christmas season, ten energetic souls headed for Waihi for two nights so we could cycle one leg of the Hauraki Rail Trail. We had a beautiful day for our trip and despite the little train that carries the bikes to Waikino station from Waihi was out of action, we all enjoyed our ride to Karangahake Gorge. We stopped at Waikino station where we had some great coffee and then onto beyond the tunnel where we found an idyllic place for our picnic lunch before heading back to Waihi. We were home and in the swimming pool by 15:30! We visited the Victoria Battery Tramway and Museum on the way -well worth the \$5 spent. Some of us forgot to take off our dark glasses in the 1km long tunnel and wondered why it was so very dark. We all loved wandering on our bikes around the town of Waihi with its exciting gold mining history. We finished the day with a great meal in the RSA at Waihi Beach with its far reaching views. We all decided we would plan another trip next year. Great trip enjoyed by all.

Exploring Art for Fun

Film Appreciation

On the 15th December Trisha Keating hosted our Christmas morning tea and lunch in the lounge at Settlers. We viewed the film "White Lies". This takes on the matters of colonial history and cultural identity, wrapping them up in a story about life and death told through Maori eyes. It is an adaptation of a Witi Ihimaera novella and was written and directed by Rotberg, a film maker who was born, and learned her craft, in Mexico.

Français pour rire

Our first meeting of the year started with Fay doing a comprehension exercise on the much loved French comedian Claude Rich. Penny then did a presentation on Honore Daumier, 1808-1879 French painter, sculptor, printmaker and caricaturist, called "the Michelangelo of caricature." He rose

to prominence as the political satirist of 19th century French politics and society, focusing on its foibles and emerging Bourgeoisie. He chronicled much turbulence and having a life-long sympathy for the poor, the atrocities he often depicted landed him in jail. He died in debt, buried in a pauper's grave. This was followed by Gareth's exercise on Nouns: gender and pluralization.

History of Europe

Inventors & Inventions

Literature

Local History

Mah Jong

Making History

Happy New Year everyone! The theme for our group is the historical events, individual and unforeseen circumstances that shaped and changed history. At present we are concentrating on Canada. We meet in the Chelsea Room, Knightsbridge Retirement Village. New members welcome.

Medical Science and History

Modern History

The group held a very enjoyable Christmas lunch at the Mayfair village. Glasses were raised for Mary who organised the lunch but could not attend due to ill health. Frank will be the group convenor next year and has already organised a number of very interesting presentations. New members are very welcomed, The groups first meeting in 2018 is on the 21st February.

Music Appreciation and History

Music – Mainly Classical

We had our Christmas lunch on the deck at Terry's home to the background music of The NZ Graduate Choir singing carols. This was eventually followed by an extract of a concert from the Gewandhaus zu Leipzig of an amusing arrangement by the Terem Quartet playing Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor on a button accordion, and three balalaikas (including a huge bass one).

Puzzles, Patterns and Paradoxes

Renaissance

Jennifer gave us a tour of art galleries in Madrid, Valencia, Barcelona and Rome showing paintings produced through the Renaissance era by Durer, Caravaggio, Rembrandt, El Greco, Titian and other unknown artists. Jeanette's presentation considered and illustrated the huge, often unrecognized contribution that Medieval Islam made to the advancements achieved during the European Renaissance in fields such as architecture, art, medicine, astronomy, mathematics and chemistry.

Travel

Shirley and Robin gave a very interesting talk about their 40days cruising in the Pacific. The first part was the islands in the New Caledonian group visiting Koufax and Lifou. In Vanuatu they went to the edge of the Tanna volcano to view the spectacular eruptions at night. They also made landings in zodiacs at Espitito Santo, Ureparapara, Vila, Malekula and Ambryn. In the Solomon Islands they saw Honiara, Santa Ana, and Florida Island. They also touched down at Rabaul and a little bit of Indonesia before being diverted to the Phillipines because of pirates! They finished in Japan.

Walking

Friday February. Meet at Armidillo Café in Rothesay Bay shops at 9.30. Bring walking poles. We will walk along Knight's Rd to the water tank then down through the bush to Saddleback drive and Murray's Bay beach. Finally, up the cliff top path to Montgomery Ave returning for coffee at Armidillo's. The estimated time 1hr. Up and down hill but not too arduous.

Friday February

Meet and park at the car parks on The Esplanade, boff Beach Road near Castor Bay at 9.30. A walk up to Centennial Park by roads and tracks, then back through Kennedy Park and Rahopara Pa to Castor Bay. Coffee at Piknic Café on Castor Bay Road.

Submitted by Garry Clark -

NEW BROWNS BAY U3A WEBSITE www.u3abb.net.nz

Have a try, be amazed and explore the new website on any device from a mobile phone to a tablet, laptop or a PC to see that the page presentations are automatically adjusted to providing readable text without zooming. This new web design technology is big advance over the previous format.

The website provides a WINDOW into our organisation for those in the "Gold Card" retirement category, considering their retirement options. To this end there is an opportunity for each of the SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS to provide images for the website to promote their group. "**A picture is worth a thousand words**" - Chinese proverb.

Google Search Rankings are very important for us. It is essential to be ranked on the first page as an organisation. A search for "U3A", we are ranked 5th on the page. This is an excellent result due to regular content change and the number of visitors landing on the website.

We encourage you to make regular visits to the site to maintain our ranking. The site also provides images from the main meetings with photos taken by Bill Ellis. It is good to be able to email family and friends here in NZ and overseas that you have appeared on the website. To copy the page to insert in an email; highlight the address <http://u3abb.net.nz/images.html> CTRL+C then to place in your email CTRL+V The site address will be copied and then pasted in the email.

One sad thing with Google searches is that, no U3A in the world features in the first 20 pages of a web search for "retirement activities hobbies interests". We should change this, any ideas please?

Finally, please take ownership of the website by providing images and content. This SIG groups month featured this month are "Cycling" and "Inventions - Inventors".

Webmaster Garry Clark kiwiclarks@gmail.com

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And here's a tribute to those, who record life's fleeting moments.

"From the moment I picked your book up until I laid it down, I was convulsed with laughter. Some day I intend reading it." -Groucho Marx

Anonymous Singer: You know, my dear,  
I insured my voice for fifty thousand dollars.  
Miriam Hopkins: That's wonderful.  
And what did you do with the money?

"Why are we honoring this man?  
Have we run out of human beings?"- Milton Berle

"I may be drunk madame, but in the morning  
I will be sober, and you will be just as ugly."  
- Winston Churchill (when asked if he was drunk)

Ten men waiting for me at the door?  
Send one of them home, I'm tired. - Mae West

"She has been kissed as often as a police-court Bible,  
and by much the same class of people."  
- Robertson Davies

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter  
saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain

[My meal of cooked mutton] appeared to have  
been killed by a bomb and the fragments of it's  
carcass incinerated in the following fire.  
- Author Eric Linklater

"It's a rotten way of seeing a fine country.. Returned  
soldiers and shrieking people school children are all I  
shall remember. The balls and other functions were  
even less appealing. Half the men overflowing with  
scotch, and the women get on my nerves and none  
of them can dance for nuts..." - Prince of Wales tour  
1920

NEW Year's Resolution – join another SIG Group. Challenge your brain and meet other members!