



GUEST SPEAKER: Chris Farrelly

Title: The City Missioner.



Chris Farrelly has been the CEO/City Missioner at the Auckland City Mission since June 1st, 2016. Chris has responsibility for managing the Mission's extensive range of health and social services, which work to improve outcomes for the Aucklanders living in desperate need. Advocating for the rights of clients and for social change is also an important part of his role.

Chris has a long history in health management, and prior to coming to the Auckland City Mission Chris had been CEO of Manaia Health PHO, in Northland for 13 years. Chris also spent 10 years working with a community development programme in a South Korean Slum.

Chris has a Master of Theology degree from Berkley, USA and a Graduate Diploma in Dispute Resolution from Massey University.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Browns Bay U3A members
It has been a busy fortnight catching-up on news, events friends and family since returning from Europe. A first PM baby, an expected sporting royalty baby, nurses on strike, teacher shortages, housing crisis, balmy legislation, opposition politics, arguments over free speech, the usual traffic mayhem and chaos, an ex PM acting all nimby and reusable plastic/paper/cloth bags? I need another holiday!

Having immersed myself totally in thousands of years of economic, cultural, religious and political history in five countries bordering the Mediterranean and Adriatic I am acutely conscious of New Zealand's distance and relative newness. We were hosted at Chateau de Rully in Burgundy by the Count who is the 26th continuous line since the first medieval fortress was built in the 12th century. His legacy requires millions annually to maintain but he has already produced three male heirs to ensure the line continues and has faith his acres of chardonnay and pinot noir vines will continue to produce despite a bug attacking the vines and global warming affecting production!

In Zadar Croatia I wandered amidst the evidence of habitations from: Neolithic times, early Indo-European, Illyrians, Liburnians, Romans, Avars, Croats, Venetians, Turks, Austro-Hungarians, French and Italians - who were bombed-out by the allies, then united into Yugoslavia to finally gain independence after the 1991 war with Serbia to again be the capital of Dalmatia. As we wandered amid the ruins of the Roman forum bordered by a 9th century church and Romanesque Cathedral the bells tolled in jubilation and mingled with the voices of a parade of worshippers, many dressed in national costume, as they headed for a high mass celebration for their patron saint. Their faith and pride have restored their city (pop 75,000), created a modern economy and commissioned innovative artworks and architecture. The Croat passion and self-believe was seen by the world in the Football World Cup.

The Basilica of the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona was inspired by a Spanish bookseller after a visit to the Vatican. By 1882 empty wasteland on the outskirts of Barcelona had been purchased and a Gothic Revival church designed. Antoni Gaudi took over the following year and re-designed combining Gothic and Art Nouveau forms. Gaudi devoted the next 43 years until his death in 1926. Progress was based on private donations with intermittent progress until 1882. Now a World Heritage Site the project is to be completed in 2026, a century after Gaudi's death. Mid-afternoon I watched the sun burst through the stained glass windows and play on the great internal columns shaped like tree trunks and branches and I saw Gaudi's vision of an enchanted forest, he believed God's creations are supreme.
Glen Plaistowe

U3A BROWNS BAY NEWS

URGENT: We need someone to volunteer to take over as newsletter editor. Our newsletter will cease in a couple months if we cannot find a new editor. Training will be given.

Rangitoto College is looking for reader-writers to help some senior students 7-17 September. Training will be given 23rd August. Contact Liz Innes 477 0150 ext. 832

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Active Travellers

A background to 12,000 years of Viking history preceded a pictorial presentation of a voyage to Norway, Iceland, Greenland and North America. The photos and videos highlighted stunning vistas formed by ice, waterfalls and volcanoes in each of these countries and experiencing four seasons in one day climbing up the switchback roads in Norway to the mountain tops. The trip included a visit to Thingaviler in Iceland the site of the world's first parliament and one of the few places on the planet where real estate expands by two meters over one's lifetime.

Ancient Civilizations

Geoff made a presentation on the The Silk Road which was a major trading route from Eastern Asia to Western Europe and Vice versa from the 2nd century BCE until 1453 CE when the Ottomans closed it. While the exchange of goods was the reason for the traders traversing this long and dangerous

route the main benefit was civilisation as a whole. The exchange of skills cultures and people made a huge impact on Asia and Europe that is still very evident. And now there is a new 'Silk Road, emerging which will allow a faster way to exchange goods and influences throughout the world.

Archaeology

Barbara gave an account of Ancient Britain, with various developments and discoveries dating back to 9000 years ago. These included the Cheddar Man and Gough's cave. Cheddar man was a hunter-gatherer and his is the oldest complete skeleton ever found in Britain. Gough caves in Cheshire provide evidence of direct links to the distant past, There is a direct genetic link through DNA testing to people living today including a local teacher and two of his pupils! Last month we farewelled Gill Sanders who has moved to Tutukaka We would welcome new members, come along and give us a test drive!

Art History

Patricia gave us a talk illustrated by paintings she viewed at an exhibition in Sydney called Rembrandt and the Dutch Golden Age. In the 1600s the Dutch Republic was a prosperous trading nation and major colonial power and this new prosperity was reflected in an explosion of art aimed at showing off the wealth of the new elite. The paintings were varied from amazing still-life to portraits and scenes. Gloria then talked on an artist unfamiliar to any of us called Christo and Jean-Claude. Christo at present has an exhibit on the Serpentine in London entitled "Barrels and the Mastaba". Christo and his wife have done many interesting sculptured works around the World. This started a lot of interest and chatter amongst the group and going online and looking at their work-- strange and amazing.

Art Pot Pourri

At the July meeting we watched the DVD 'Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse'. This DVD which was filmed in 2016, was based on the major exhibition 'Painting the Modern Garden' held at the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Using the work of Monet as a starting point, this landmark exhibition examined the role gardens played in the evolution of art from the early 1860s through to the 1920s.

Book Group

Books discussed included: *Democracy and its Crisis* (A C Grayling); *The Runaway Species*: how human creativity remakes the world (Anthony Brandt and David Engleman); *Border*: a journey to the edge of Europe (Kapka Kassabova); *A Time to Risk All*: the incredible untold story of Mary Elmes (Clodagh Finn); *The Mirrored World* (Debra Dean); *The Granchester Mysteries* (James Runcie); *The Bookshop* (Penelope Fitzgerald); *The Wife* (Alafair Burke); *The New Mrs Clifton* (Elizabeth Buchan); *Pachinko* (Min Jin Lee); *Dictatorland*: the men who stole Africa (Paul Kenyon); *The Outsider* (Stephen King); *How to Stop Time* (Matt Haig); *All This by Chance* (Vincent O'Sullivan); *Warlight* (Michael Ondaatje); *The Chessmen* (Peter May); *Strange Weather* and *Heart-shaped Box* (Joe Hill); *Robert B Parker's Blackjack* (Robert Knott) and *Robert B Parker's Old Black Magic* (Ace Atkins).

Classical Music

New Zealand is fortunate that Flavio Villani moved from his native Italy to NZ to study at Auckland University and gain his Masters In Piano with First Class Honours. He has performed in many recitals as a soloist as well as in different chamber formations in NZ. We watched a DVD released in 2016 called "Crossing Rachmaninoff" showing the life of Villani to this point. We then saw his first performance with a full orchestra of Rachmaninoff's Concerto Num 2, with the Orchestra Filamonica of Calabria in Italy. We will look forward to hearing

more from him with his Villani Piano quartet which tours extensively in NZ. Our interesting morning was complete, with the listening to some perfect choir performances of the NZ Youth Choir.

Creative Audio-Visual

Creative Writing

Everyone had humour on their minds this month. Elizabeth's character mistook a double size baking tin for a planter. Doreen's colourful charity worker had a strange idea that cotton wool would solve her dusting problems. Ellen 's subject decided that, bird droppings on your shoulder really do bring good luck, while Irene's story proved that while trespassers aren't always prosecuted, they are embarrassed. Our next meeting will be on 26th July and the subject is " a child may have too much of a mothers blessing " all visitors welcome.

Current Affairs

Our discussion commenced with a review of the excellent talk given by Paul Spoonley at the main meeting. The group then discussed the UK's position on Brexit with most believing that the UK having made its decision would have to stick with it. We discussed a number of further topics including Phil Goff's decision on the Canadian far right speakers, the proposal to purchase new surveillance aircraft for the Air Force, the Russell McVeagh report, the effect on profitability for company boards where women are board members and discussed Winston Peters taking National Party members to Court.

Cycling

We were a small group for our ride around Northcote Point this month, like days gone bye e-bikes were in the minority! The wharf and where the 'Fisherman's Wharf' restaurant used to be was our first point of interest, then under the Harbour Bridge to see the Te Onewa Pa Site at Stokes Point. Sulphur Beach was our next stop where we went alongside the motorway to a tunnel that brought us to the Police complex, through Stafford Park and various streets to Little Shoal Bay. Clarence Street was our destination for a coffee before returning to our cars. Ride for August will be Hobsonville.

Exploring Art for Fun

Exploring Art for Fun met at the Boston's to plan the group's mini talk to be presented at the next main U3A meeting. Following much discussion, Roy gave a presentation on the life and work of the well know English painter J M W Turner. Roy explained that Turner, born in 1775, came from humble beginnings as the son of a Cockney wig maker but was articted to an architect at age 12 and invited to join the UK Royal Academy at age 14. He concentrated on Turner's work as a watercolourist and, after showing images of his work, explained the methods of painting that characterised his art. Turner left more than 30,000 drawings and watercolours to the Royal Academy after his death in 1851, as a wealthy man. The recent movie, Turner, starring Timothy Spall, was a very accurate depiction of the man.

Film Appreciation

July and August are NZIFF months so we took a look at some of the 150 films in the catalog, focusing on those accessible by bus (881 goes to the Rialto) and showing in the middle of the day. 13 classic films such as "Hunger," "Orlando," "Raise the Red Lantern" and "The Atlantic" have been filmed in previous festivals. Eleven NZ-made feature films, including six world premieres along with four shorts. Films discussed included "Yellow is forbidden," Celia," "Paul Callaghan: Dancing with the Atoms," "Stray," "Maui's Hook" and "The General". From Cannes are "Birds of Passage" "Shoplifters" and "Girl". Forty-nine of this year's films were made by female directors.

Français pour rire

Our talk from Anna was about the personal life of Napoleon Bonaparte. He was born on the island of Corsica in 1769. His father was from minor nobility and worked as a lawyer. When he was ten Napoleon and his brother were sent to boarding school in France which was where he received his military education. Napoleon married Josephine, a widow with two young children, in 1796. They divorced in 1809 and he married Marie Louise the following year. Exiled to a comfortable situation in Elba in 1814, he escaped in 1815 and governed for the period known as the Hundred Days. He was then defeated by the British and exiled to a much less comfortable situation on St. Helena. He died there in 1821.

History of Europe

We discussed more things relating to the medieval period: Holy days and holidays; the role in people's lives held by the Church, monks and monasteries in particular St. Francis of Assisi. We looked at the terms used in Heraldry. Heraldry came into being partly so that a knight clad in armour could be identified in battle by his own men. Our other topic was the reign of King John and the Magna Carta which the barons imposed upon him. The most famous clauses were 39: *No freeman shall be taken or imprisoned except by the lawful judgement of his equals..* and No. 40, *to no one will we sell, deny or delay right or justice.*

Inventors & Inventions

Probably the most necessary item of all the 'conveniences' in the home is the toilet. The development of the toilet pan and cistern was a great leap forward in the advance of hygiene in the home and cities. Brockie told the story of how the flushing toilet was invented and the different approaches taken in the early 19th century which ultimately led to the modern facilities what we have in our homes today. Followed by a lighter look at the 'history of instruction manuals', bit coin mining, early spy satellites photography, and the additional launch calculations required for a interplanetary rocket launch.

Literature

'You can't judge a book by its cover - continued' was the theme of Patricia's presentation this month. She provided us with further insight into even more absurd and/ or misleading book covers and the publishing rationale behind them. Much hilarity ensued! She followed this with a very thought provoking and challenging quiz on Jane Austen and none of us scored particularly well. Our morning concluded with the usual discussion of books read recently. All agreed we had had a most entertaining and informative morning.

Local History

May Rpt. We had a talk about the history of the Auckland Domain. We learnt, amongst other items of history, that in 1913 the 800 Mounted Police camped there before they marched, with regular police, to the wharves to take over from strikers. In the 1860s, the Domain springs were a source of water for the town of Auckland, while the original swamp was drained and turned into a cricket field.

June Rpt. we learnt about shipwrecks around Great Barrier Island. 1968 the 'Tiri' (Radio Hauraki) was wrecked at the entrance to Whangaparapara Harbour. In 1989 the Rose-Noelle and her four occupants, having floated some 1900 miles, were cast up on to a reef off Little Waterfall Bay on Great Barrier Island. The crew stumbled through water to dry land and after tramping some distance found shelter in an unoccupied house from where they were eventually rescued. The Rose-Noelle, having delivered her crew to safety, was pounded to pieces on the shore. The earliest disaster we heard about was in 1894 - the SS Wairarapa which struck the cliffs at Miners Head on the N.W. Coast. 121 perished.

Mah Jong

Making History

LORENTZ AND ZEEMAN EFFECTS; Lorentz and Zeeman, Dutch physicists, shared the 1902 Nobel Prize for physics. Lorentz became famous for his electron theory of matter; that is the equations that shows how motion deforms bodies. Zeeman became known for his discoveries in spectroscopy, the study and analysis of the spectra of light, which is the light emitted by a particular kind of atom, using a prism which breaks the light into different colours. These are called spectral lines. Thanks to these physicists astronomers can now measure the strength of the magnetic field on the surface of stars.

Medical Science and History

In New Zealand, like many other countries, we have an obesity epidemic – and this is undoubtedly a problem. The main causes appear to be social, biological, genetic and mental. The actions we can take are largely education, intervention - social, genetic or surgical, regulation, drugs or vaccines (currently under development). However, has science got it right? One scientist, Peter Attia, believes that obesity may be the symptom of something else and that maybe, we are treating the symptom and not the primary cause! -- Very interesting concepts in his presentation.

Modern History

Patricia gave a presentation about the Crystal Palace, the marvelous glass and cast-iron building designed to house the Great Exhibition in London in 1851. It was a triumph of Victorian engineering and architecture, loved by the public and earning its creator, Joseph Paxton, a knighthood. Although intended to be a temporary structure, it was relocated to Sydenham until destroyed by fire in 1936. Brian gave a talk about The Cold War – the conflict between Capitalism and Communism when the former wartime allies were vying for international influence. Although immense funds were spent on armaments, the war was eventually won when the Soviet economy collapsed in 1991.

Music Appreciation and History

This month we had the pleasure of watching a video of an evening concert performed by the three tenors - Placido Domingo, Jose Carreras and Luciano Pavarotti in a beautiful outdoor setting in Caracella, Rome. The year - 1990. The famous, expressive Mehta was the conductor. It consisted mainly of well-known songs from opera but there was also a short section with popular English-language songs. The orchestras involved were Orchestra del Maggio Musical Fiorentino and Orchestra dell' Teatro di Roma.

Music – Mainly Classical

The July meeting was held at the home of Roy Boston, who gave a presentation on the eminent German violinist, Anne-Sophie Mutter. Anne-Sophie Mutter, born in 1963, was mentored by the great Austrian conductor, Herbert von Karajan. At age thirteen, she made her debut at the Lucerne Festival and made her debut in the USA at age seventeen. Since then, she has won 33 major awards, world-wide. Roy showed a video interview with Anne-Sophie Mutter followed by a video of the 2017 Salzburg Festival where she played the well-known Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in D, using one of her two Stradivarius violins.

Puzzles, Patterns and Paradoxes

June Rpt: Trisha talked about the Shroud of Turin – an ancient and continuing puzzle, being the most analysed artefact in the world. It is a length of linen cloth bearing the negative image of a man who is alleged to be Jesus of Nazareth. It is kept in **Turin**, northern Italy. The image on the cloth is actually a "negative" so when photographed, your

photographic negative is the 'positive' image. Much research has strongly suggested that the body of a flogged and crucified man was wrapped in this cloth but no one yet can suggest how his image was transferred to the cloth.

July Rpt: John presented Piet Hein, the Danish mathematician, inventor, designer, author and poet. Piet Hein invented grooks (eg 'Problems worthy of attack prove their worth by hitting back) and the game of Hex. He encouraged the use of super ellipses in Scandinavian architecture, road design and furniture. And he discovered the Soma Cube which John demonstrated. The group is planning a trip to the "Escape Rooms" for our end of year celebration.

Renaissance

The theme Patricia chose was 'Renaissance Inventions.' Many innovative ideas, including those by Leonardo da Vinci, were the precursors of later working examples, but the list of actual inventions is long; from the printing press to the flush toilet and bottled beer. She finished with an in-depth look at the invention of eye glasses. What a lot we have to thank the Renaissance for! Fay spoke about the history of the city of Rome, inextricably linked with the Empire and the Pope. It rose and fell and rose again during the renaissance as a centre of culture and faith.

Travel

June Rpt. Navy gave us an in-depth account of her travels in Cuzco and Machu Picchu. Having family living in South America meant interesting trips together. She gave a

comprehensive account of the Conquistadors and their legacy in the area. A trip to the Atacama Desert, was sandy but rich in copper and phosphate and the clear air meant that an enormous telescope is located there. Shirley told of her recent visit to Kaikoura and illustrated the progress made since the earthquake.

July Rpt. Helen went on the West Front Rhine Cruise to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of World War One. There was an Historian aboard and there were many visits to special related sites. She went to her uncle's grave. The highlight was at Villers Bretonneux attended by Prince Charles. Next was a holiday with her daughter in Central France and finally a cruise from Basel to Amsterdam.

Walking

Friday Millennium Walk.

Meet at 9.30am outside the Art Centre in Orewa, Hibiscus Coast Highway. The first car park on the left coming north, just over the estuary bridge. We will walk through reserves, suburbs and on the beach. Allow about one hour for the walk. Morning tea at Art Gallery café.

Friday Kauri Point Centennial Park.

Meet and park at the junction of Chelsea View Road and Onetaunga Road, Birkenhead. Walk through bush tracks to Kendall Bay. Bring your walking pole and your morning tea for a picnic at Kendall Bay.