



General Meeting for Members: Tuesday 3rd September 10am - 12 noon

GUEST SPEAKER: Hugh Dickey
Title: The Growth of New Zealand Towns



Hugh Dickey started his interest in population studies and demographic research as a young man. His book "The Growth of New Zealand Towns," is a result of decades of interest and research. An accomplished presenter Hugh will give a historical overview of the evolution and the changes in our cities and towns as the country has developed from its colonial beginnings. He will give a general picture of the trends behind the growth or decline of towns and cities from all over the country. Information gathered from the local inhabitants contributes secrets and debunk myths in the over fifty towns and cities that are featured.

"This is a treasure trove of information on the growth of New Zealand towns, graphically presented in interesting ways. This is a very useful reference for anyone interested in the changing profiles of N.Z. towns since early European settlement." Linda Bryder, Professor of History, University of Auckland

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month our speaker John Reynolds shared his interesting life journey and how his perception and cumulative experiences provided material for his writing of stage shows and books, thank you for a humorous and informative presentation. Thanks also to Terry who, on behalf of Music Mainly Classical gave an excellent presentation.

The August North Shore Grey Power Newsletter rues how social clubs are dying because with so much social change demands on time, for all generations, are different. This leads to difficulties with recruiting and fewer people choosing to make a substantial contribution. U3A Browns Bay is trying to do things differently because we have a problem with getting sufficient members to join the committee.

Thanks to the two members who have generously put their names forward to replace the three committee members who have completed their term. In October we have our AGM.

Clubs survive on voluntary team effort. Constitutionally we have a committee, a team of members giving governance. Members of the Audio Visual group work as a team and conscientiously manage our sound and projection at the meeting. All of our special interest groups function independently as a team sharing learning and contribution. For a year now we have not had a hall manager, so the Inventors and Inventions Group provide a couple members a month to help with the hall set-up and put away, in lieu they are not rostered for morning tea and hall set-up, instead they support the rostered groups. This month we invited people to join teams for managing the kitchen, welcoming members and arranging speakers for the meeting. Generously people put their names down. A BIG THANK YOU to those members who have put their names forward. We are arranging rosters based on your date preferences. The sign-up sheets will be at the desk again at the September meeting because we could do with several more people for each team so please consider putting your name forward. The survival and vibrancy of our association depends of everyone contributing. Every member should belong to at least one special interest group thus sharing your knowledge and skill. By being an active member you gain new friendships and keep your brain active.

Glen Plaistowe President

NOTICES

AGM: 3 October is the AGM. Please flag this date in your diary.

Bringing a Guest to our Meeting? Please contact Val and let her know so she can have a name tag waiting and have put their name on the list so the President can welcome them.

Name Badges: Please wear at the monthly meeting.

Use of DVDs at the Community Centre

NOTE: the DVD players at the Community Centre play PAL 4 Region. If your DVD does not have PAL 4 on the back then it probably will not play.

NOTE: ipad and Apple laptops need to have a connector that plugs into your device and has the HDMI connector at the other end so it can connect to the TV.

Wifi boosters have been put into the centre to increase the probability of our laptops and ipads being able to stream directly

Special Interest Groups

All members should be part of at least one special interest group.

If there is a talk on in one of the groups that you would like to attend phone the convener and see whether they are happy for you to attend.

SIG GROUP MEETINGS CALENDAR *

Day	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Mon am	10.00 Photography	10.00 Local History	10.00 Computer Skills	10.00 Français pour rire
Mon pm	1.30 Music Mainly Classical	10.00 Computer Skills	1.30 Archaeology	
Tues am		1.30 Ukulele	10.00 Music Appreciation	10.00 Active Travellers
Tues pm		1.45 Art Pot Pourri	1.30 Inventors & Inventions	1.30 Ukulele
Wed am	10.00 Cycling		10.00 Modern History	10.00 Travel
Wed pm				
Thurs am	10.00 Making History	10.00 Current Affairs		10.00 Puzzles, Patterns & Paradoxes
Thurs pm	10.00 Med Science & History 1.30 Creative Audio Visual	1.30 International Studies 1.30 Art History		1.30 Creative Writing
Fri am	9.45 Walking 10.00 Mahjong 10.00 Classical Music	10.00 Mahjong 10.00 Books & Beyond	10.00 Mahjong 10.00 Film Appreciation	9.45 Walking 10.00 Mahjong 10.00 Renaissance 11.00 Te Reo Māori
Fri pm			12.30 Philosophy 1.30 Book Group	

SIG REPORTS

Active Travellers - (4th Tuesday 10.00am)

No report this month

Archaeology - <http://u3abb.net.nz/archaeology.html> (3rd Monday 1.30 pm)

Last meeting:

Garry's presentation covered two sites in Ecuador. A short drive out of Quito there is a point of reference for the position of the Equator determined by French Explorer Charles-Marie de La Comdamine between 1736 - 1746 and the true position determined by GPS 240 metres away at the privately owned Intiñan Solar Museum. However Comdamine discovered an ancient ceremonial (equator) point position, on the hill nearby, once ruled by the Quitu-cara people who inhabited this region for 1225 years. The question is, were they able to determine the unique effects of a mid-point on earth before the French Geodesic mission. The main part of the talk was the archaeology collection in the Cuenca Museum. Garry showed 100 images of the ancient artefacts gathered from all over Ecuador. There were stone artefacts 13000-1530BC and other periods with pottery, bronze and garments up to 1500 AD. The Museum was very well presented with 8 sections displaying all manner of periods and objects from a metre in size to needles and nose rings. The most startling object, a human skull, had ornamental gold fillings in the shape of the points of a triangle set into the front surface of two teeth. Peter showed us the location where he owned one sq foot of England.

Next meeting:

Fay Weatherly will be talking about her recent archaeology dig in the UK

Art History – <http://u3abb.net.nz/art.html> (2nd Thursday 1.30pm)

Last meeting:

Joaquín Sorolla (1863- 1923) was born in Valencia, Spain. He was very well known in the early 1900s after he won the Grand Prix in the 1900 Paris exhibition. The work was entitled *Sad Inheritance*, and beat both Gustav Klimt and James McNeill Whistler to the prize. He painted other social realistic scenes in the genre of the *Sad Inheritance*. This painting depicts crippled bathers watched over by a black-robed priest at the beach, and was probably a result of the polio epidemic at the time. The other possibly better-known aspect of his work is his impressionist-like style of art. This style is used in his paintings such as *Sewing the Sail* and contrasts strongly with the darker social realism of his earlier works. Monet called Sorolla *Master of Light* but Sorolla considered himself to be closer in style to other painters of his day such as John Singer Sargent, Whistler, and Anders Zorn. These artists shared the Impressionists' interest in light but maintained a more comprehensive approach to the figure and a discipline of line that revealed their rigorous academic training. Recently the National Gallery in London held a special exhibition of Sorolla's work to revive interest in this Spanish artist who hadn't been exhibited in London for over 100 years.

Next meeting:

Our September meeting will be a video on Gaudi

Art Pot Pourri – [http://u3abb.net.nz/Art Pot Pourri.html](http://u3abb.net.nz/Art_Pot_Pourri.html) (2nd Tuesday 2.00 pm)

Last meeting:

This month members visited the Mairangi Arts Centre to view the We ART MAC exhibition of 54 selected art works by MAC members, including one from our group. Paintings, portraits and landscapes, were the main exhibits with some prints and one ceramic piece. Some were award winners. We also enjoyed seeing items like the beautiful glassware and jewellery in the sales display cabinets. Afterwards we met for afternoon tea at the home of our co-convenor Linda which was a very pleasant end to a stimulating afternoon.

Next meeting:

The presentation for September from one of our members will be on the British artist, Dame Laura Knight. This promises to be a very interesting session on an artist that most of our group is unfamiliar with.

Book Group – (3rd Friday 1.30pm)**Last meeting:**

Books discussed in August: *The Reckoning* by John Grisham, *Family Honor* by Robert B Parker; *The Rosie Result* by Graeme Simsion; *Tell the Wolves I am Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt; *A Month of Sundays* by Liz Byrski; *Her Daughter's Mother* by Daniela Petrova; *The Girl With a Clock for a Heart* and *All the Beautiful Lies* by Peter Swanson; *Blood in the Dust* by Bill Swiggs; *The Greater Good* and *State of Fear* by Tim Ayliffe; *Sourdough* by Robin Sloan; *The Talisman* by Linda La Plante; *Educated* by Tara Westover; *Cemetery Road* by Greg Iles; *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion; *The Lost Man* by Jane Harper; *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty; *Frozen in Time: the fate of the Franklin expedition* by Owen Beattie and John Geiger; *A Book of Bones* by John Connolly; *Words of Radiance* and *Mistborn* by Brandon Sanderson; *Hearts of the Missing* by Carol Potenza and *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield

Books and Beyond – (2nd Friday 10.00am)**Last meeting:**

We firstly enjoyed a preview of Margaret's presentation 'You Can't Judge a Book by its Cover' that she will give to the U3A Network meeting. Patricia then talked about the epistolary novel ***Meet me at the Museum*** by Anne Youngson. This charming novel takes the form of letters between an English housewife and the curator of a museum in Denmark, and follows their developing friendship. The Tollund man, the naturally mummified body of a 4th century BC man found in a bog in 1950 and now displayed in the Danish museum, is a central theme in the book.

Our challenge this month was 'epistolary novels' and an interesting selection of books, some familiar and some new, was uncovered and discussed.

Next meeting:

Next month Marion will talk about ***The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle*** by Kirsty Wark, and the challenge will be 'islands', i.e. to read a book with a connection to islands, be it the setting, memories of... life on... in the title.. etc.

Classical Music – (1st Friday 10.00am)**Last meeting:**

Schubert was our composer of this month. He lived a very short life(1797-1828) but was prolific in the music he composed, in the early romantic period. Schubert was the supreme melodist amongst composers. His many German art songs include the Leier group. We listened to a CD of the flautist Uwe Grodd playing the Flute Sonata in A minor and 6 songs from Winter journey. We also listened to a variety of Winter Landscapes by Vivaldi, Rimsky Korsakov, Debussy, Chopin, Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky and Mozart, whilst being warm indoors.

Computer Skills Workshop – (3rd Monday 10.00 am)

No report this month

Creative audio visual – (1st Thursday 2.00pm)**Last meeting:**

At Geoff's we viewed three videos produced individually by Lois, Terry and Val which they had been working on over the last month or so. Each had used the transitions available in Proshow to great effect. Lois' show gave us a glimpse of her forays into some beautiful parts of New Zealand which she has visited in her campervan. Val showed us her visit to Fiji where she visited a number of luxurious resorts to have coffee! A

friend's model of the Endeavour came to life in a Proshow production by Terry. We saw the model emerge from its keel to a rigged ship in Terry's show. Fascinating.

Creative Writing – (4th Thursday 1.30pm)

No report this month.

Current Affairs - (2nd Thurs 10.00am)

Topics are chosen as events and issues occur locally and internationally

No report this month.

Cycling – (1st Wednesday 10.00am. Backup 2nd Wednesday)

Last meeting:

A group of 9 cyclists set off from the Pump House by Lake Pupuke at 9.30 am and headed through a slightly squelchy Killarney Park at the back of the old fire station to Lake View Road, to the busy Taharoto and motorway interchange, then accessed the new bike trail on the wide cycle/pedestrian path along Northcote Rd. We reached Onewa Rd then Queen Street along a new cycle trail, then Stafford Rd to the Harbour Bridge Traffic Control building, through the tunnel underneath the old toll plaza to a boat ramp with wonderful views across the Harbour to the city. Along the back streets to Stokes Point (a historic Maori pa site) where we posed for a photo underneath the Harbour Bridge and then rode past the Northcote Tavern to the Clarence Road Cafe for morning coffee returning to Takapuna directly along Queen St and Lake Rd and finally back to the Pump House. Although this was a fairly short bike ride it was full of interest and perhaps one day we will return to continue the route along the Sky Path over the Harbour to the city.

Film Appreciation - (3rd Friday 10.00-12.00)

Last meeting:

"The Man With the Movie Camera" filmed in 1929 was shown. It has been described by Dziga Vertov, its director, as "an experiment in the language of pure cinema" and has been voted the eighth best film ever made. The film remains a testament to the early days of film making and the commitment to innovation and exploitation of the then-new medium.

Films shown at the NZIFF were discussed with recommendations on some to look out for if they hit the main cinemas. Current films to see are "Palm Beach" and "Late Night".

Next meeting:

The September meeting will focus on David Lean's 1945 hit "Blithe Spirit" which won the 1947 Academy Award for Special Effects. Originally one of Noel Coward's plays it first appeared in 1941 at the Piccadilly theatre starring Margaret Rutherford winning rave reviews. She also performs as Madame Arcati in the film version alongside Rex Harrison.

Français pour rire – (4th Monday 10.00am)

Next meeting:

Our meeting in September will include french comprehension and translation exercises, and a talk, to be confirmed, about an aspect of France.

International Studies across Countries – (2nd Thursday 1.30 pm)

Last meeting:

Rob related her travel to Vietnam earlier this year, a country not well known among those present. Vietnam is a socialist Republic with a population of 92 million, a long "S" shaped coastline abutting the South China Sea and neighbouring countries of China, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. Their Flag is red with a central Gold Star. The major religion is Buddhism and the currency is the Dong. Nguyen Phu Trong was appointed President in 2018 and also holds the post of Secretary General of the Communist Party. HO Chi Minh City, in the south is commonly known as Saigon and for its French Colonial Landmarks. Major

exports are Rice, Cassava, Cocoa and sugarcane, all farmed with the help of water buffalo. Farming is not mechanised.

Next meeting:

September 12 – Virginia will talk about Venezuela. Any other offers of short contributions will always be welcome. 1-30pm in the Sherwood Room of the Council Building, Browns Bay

Inventors and Inventions – (3rd Tuesday 1.30pm)

Last meeting:

17 members of the Group were entertained by a presentation on the 'The Peculiar and Intriguing Inventor' by Eugene Yoon. Dr. Yoshiro Nakamatsu from Japan currently claims over 3200 inventions and is aiming to reach 6000 by age 144 (not a typo !) Amongst his notable ones are bouncing shoes, the Cerebrex brain restorer and an underwater pen and pad. He also claims a large collection of cameras selected by the smell of the camera. Peter Dawson talked on the evolution of batteries and in particular the Vanadium Redox Battery which can store and release on demand vast amounts of energy derived from sustainable sources such as the wind and the sun.

Local History – (2nd Monday 10.00am)

Last meeting:

Our meeting in August created a lot of talking as members showed old kitchen implements they still own but not in use. These included mincers, a quicksie iron, a rolling pin, an icing decorating set, and a teapot (guaranteed not to drip) etc. We also looked at maps of Long Bay - before and after 1850 - to look at the changes including names.

Next meeting:

Next month (September) we do not have a special topic but will have snippets and look at some books of history. Our numbers are static but we could always have more. We would welcome new members to our very friendly group

Māori / Te Reo – (4th Friday 11-1.00pm)

Last meeting:

We continued with Te Reo exercises practising Māori words and vowels and then prepared for the group presentation at the September meeting

Mah Jong – (every Friday 9.30am)

Beginners & new members welcome.
No report this month.

Making History – (1st Thursday 10.00am)

No report this month.

Medical Science and History - (1st Thursday 10.00am)

Our meetings consist of a presentation by a main speaker followed by Morning Tea. "Five" minute Talks on current inventions, concerns and passions follow. All talks are based on information recognised by research bodies and published in recognised journals in the health field.

Last meeting:

Macular Degeneration is an age-related disease of the eye which if left untreated too long can have severe effects on vision. Geoff gave us a brief outline of the disease and what can be done to reduce the possibility of severe effects and what treatment is available. There are not many treatments available and the later the disease is discovered the less effective treatment can be. A good diet and an active lifestyle can be a factor, but Genetics is a major possible cause. Regular eye examinations in older people is recommended.

Maureen's mini talk asked the question "What is fair game in competitive sports?" now that some trans females (XY) have been allowed to compete against females (XX). A vigorous discussion resulted. The physiological advantages contributed by the Y chromosome were outlined and are significant even if the transition was made over a year ago. The problem / unfairness could be solved by having three divisions for XX females only, trans females (XY) , and males (XY) Reference: Prof. of Physiology, Alison Heather, Otago Uni.

Modern History – (3rd Wednesday 10.00 am)

Last meeting:

Bernard spoke on the evolving PRC/China's influence in the wide SE Asia region referring particularly to recent developments in the Pacific Islands with a commentary on the United States positioning in the region. Members engaged in a useful discussion on likely turn of events in years to come. Gordon then presented on the Rise and Fall of Great Britain. The reforms from 1906 to 1909 to reduce dreadful working conditions, ceasing to obtain cheap raw materials due to loss of colonial power made it less competitive, ceasing to be the workshop of the world. WW1 similarly WW2 nearly bankrupted it. Unions rejected modern efficiency in their battles with poor managements greatly reducing production. Excessive and mainly unskilled immigration post WW2 was costly. Inept governments have dispirited much of the population. A lively discussion followed.

Music Appreciation and History - (3rd Tuesday 10.00am)

Last meeting:

At our August meeting we watched a DVD about "Creating The Lord of the Rings Symphony : a Composer's Journey Through Middle-Earth". Composer and conductor Howard Shore has produced this epic score that expresses J.R.R. Tolkien's books and Peter Jackson's films as an immense symphonic work. Six movements for Orchestra and Chorus was realised. Styles, instruments and performers were collected from around the world with their unique musical imprint.

The 2nd DVD played was "Music for George" a memorial concert on the first anniversary of George Harrison's death. organised by Eric Clapton and included Dhani George's son, Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney, Monty Python & Ravi Shankar.

Music - Mainly Classical – (1st Monday 1.30pm)

Last meeting:

Our August meeting was at Terry's home and he explored the range of music videos now available on YouTube. We watched music from the 1950's Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, then a 1956 film of dancing at the Wood Green Jazz Club with Chris Barber's Band, and followed by J N Hummel's Concerto in F major for bassoon and orchestra with Mathis Stier playing bassoon. While having tea we had some Roger Whittaker songs on YouTube. We ended with a preview of the video Terry had put together for our SIG Presentation for the next main U3A meeting.

Philosophy - (3rd Friday 12.30 -2.30)

New members welcome .

Last meeting:

Our discussion was on logic, the study of reasoning and rationale argument. We looked at the process of syllogisms developed by Aristotle as a systematic process for critical thinking. Logic enables us to sort and categorise our world using systemic study to identify patterns, look for cause and effect and other specific evidence and then to deduce a conclusion based on evidence and reasoning. New members welcome.

Next meeting:

Our discussion in September will be on epistemology which is about knowledge – how we know, make judgment on knowledge etc.

Photography - (1st Monday 10.00 -12.00)

New Members Welcome. No report this month.

Puzzles Patterns & Paradoxes – (4th Thursday 10.00 am)

Last meeting:

"With four members away (3 overseas) our group was small. Ian Graham's presentation, was largely about Kinetic Art Patterns, although it briefly ventured into Marble Tracks! After coffee, he also presented an enlightening TED Talk on Brexit and the influence of Cambridge Analytica, which dipped into the area of Paradoxes. After coffee, John introduced us to the Steam Gaming Platform and a couple of interesting games."

Renaissance – (4th Friday 10.00 am)

Last meeting:

Greta spoke about Renaissance Clothing and Sumptuary Law - due to laws prohibiting who was to wear what, and the cost of materials, there was a vast difference in attire between the classes. Upper classes included silk, satin, velvet and brocade. Lower classes were limited to what they could afford, and many would have only one set. Liveries and uniforms, worn by servants, belonged to their masters. The term sumptuary refers to excesses in clothing. A noblewoman would have many layers of clothing, from simple bodice, petticoats, to a brocaded, embroidered bodice, much embroidered skirt, then overall a gown of silk, velvet, depending on season, many ruffs around the neck, and jewellery. Children echoed their parents, similar clothing.

Shona shared information about Dutch (Delft) and World Tiles from the book "Tile Tales". The world of tiles is much broader than many imagine. The book covers Dutch tiles in the period 1580-1800. History, designs, topics, influences from China, Turkey, Britain, types of clay and ceramics, different sizes, frameworks, productions, popularity are all listed in alphabetical order to inform and enthuse readers.

Next meeting:

Shona will be speaking about St Thomas More and Thelma will talk about Donatello.

Travel – (4th Wednesday 10.00 am)

New members welcome.No report this month

Ukulele – www.u3abb.net.nz/ukulele.html Website has tutorials & contact form (2nd & 4th Tuesday 1.30 pm)

Last meetings:

At the two meetings we played and sung popular songs mainly from a 2,400 page songbook and a few other sources. Ginty gave us a tutorial on Tabbing, scales and warm up exercises. At the last meeting this month the group played and sung to MIDI generated backing tracks with the dominance of bass and drums. The response was very favourable. Found this provided a solid foundation for timing. Plan to use more MIDI backing tracks next month.

Next meetings:

Urgently seeking interest to join our group from a male and female singer of modern songs, to lead us Ukulele strummers vocally.

This meeting we will rehearse popular songs. Members have 2 weeks to practice new material between meetings. Our web page has Ukulele lessons for beginners to established players. Whether you are a beginner, with or without a Ukulele, or just a singer, you are welcome. Meeting held at a group member's home. Contact Garry via link on webpage. www.u3abb.net.nz/ukulele.html

Walking - (2nd & 4th Friday 9.45 am)

Next meetings:

Friday September - Westhaven and St Mary's Bay.

Park at the Auckland Harbour Bridge end of Westhaven Drive, St Mary's Bay by the Buoy Cafe. Drive on the far left lane of the Harbour Bridge to exit at Shelley Beach Road. Turn right almost immediately into Sarsfield Street then right into Curran Street. Follow the road along under the motorway into Westhaven Drive. Parking and toilets available. We will walk alongside the Marina and cross the motorway at the pedestrian overbridge, go up Jacobs Ladder (steep steps) into St Mary's Bay and return via Curran Street to The Buoy for coffee.

Friday September – Orewa Estuary.

Meet at Art Centre, Orewa, just over the bridge on the left, going north at 9.45am. We will walk through reserves, suburban streets and beach. .