



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

GUEST SPEAKER: Hilary Arrowsmith

Title: How you can access eResources at Auckland Libraries

Hilary Arrowsmith, Senior Librarian for Programmes and Events, at Remuera Library, will present an interactive session to update us on how to install and use the latest library-related apps.

Hilary will demonstrate a number of apps that work on both android and Apple devices; computers, tablets and smartphones. Projected on our screen Hilary will demonstrate where to go and find the apps, how to load them and then use them. You will then be shown the range of eResources available in the Auckland Library system and how you can explore all the option links available.

Hilary will demonstrate how, using our devices can find out: "What's New," "What's Popular" and "What's Available" and how to use "Borrow Box" to access a selection of eBooks and eAudiobooks. She will also demonstrate the range of eMagazines you can borrow that are free.

Using eResources removes parking hassles, carrying books, distance and late fees! Bring a paper and pen to make notes.



COMMITTEE REPORT

U3A network

Gloria Ward and John Ewen attended the most recent meeting of the U3A network on our behalf. Gloria reports that mention was made there of the Girton College Summer School (at Cambridge) which is taking place 16-29 August 2020. For further information contact Gloria or go to www.girton.com.ac.uk/summer-programmes/lifelong learning summer school.

Subscriptions

Many thank yous to those of you who have already paid their subscriptions which were due from 1st September - \$30 per person. However some members have still to pay. SIG convenors can you please check that all members of your SIG have paid. There is a simple renewal form at the end of this newsletter that can be filled in and enclosed in an envelope if you pay by either cheque or cash OR if you have changes of address, e-mail or phone.

Cheques: please make out to U3A Browns Bay, & either hand in at the meeting or post to P.O. Box 35-851 Browns Bay.

Cash: Place in an envelope with the renewal form from the end of this newsletter and bring to the meeting.

Internet Banking: ASB Browns Bay **123059 0424848 00**. Please put your full name in the reference. (Sorry guys – there was a typo in the bank account number written previously. It has now been corrected)

Speakers. Heard someone great?

Many of our members report having heard an excellent speaker at another organization they belong to. Do pass on the details of any such speakers to Glen Plaistowe and her team. Glen's number is recorded in the table below.

December Meeting

Our December meeting will consist of a guest speaker, **LIVE entertainment** and of course our Christmas lunch. If your surname starts A-P please bring a savory dish of finger food to share. Those whose surname falls between Q-Z bring a sweet dish. Be advised that there are no facilities to heat food up.

Next Meeting

Our first meeting of 2020 will take place on Tuesday 4 February.

NOTICES

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 person chairing the meeting can welcome them.

Name Badges: Please wear at the monthly meeting.

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.

Change of Contact details

Please let the Membership Manager know if your contact details change so that our database can be kept up to date.

Photos for the website - Attention Conveners

For the Christmas season there is an opportunity to take Special Interest Group images of your group. Photo Images can be sent to Garry Clark (Website Manager) via webpage <http://u3abb.net.nz/mail.html>
Please write a few sentences about the images you send. Remember your phone can take photos.

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 Ukelele
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 International Studies		1.30 Creative Writing
	1.30 Creative Audio Visual	1.30 Art History		
Fri am	9.45 Walking	10.00 Mahjong	10.00 Mahjong	9.45 Walking
	10.00 Mahjong	10.00 Books & Beyond	10.00 Film Appreciation	10.00 Mahjong
	10.00 Classical Music			10.00 Renaissance
Fri pm			12.30 Philosophy	11.00 Te Reo Māori
			1.30 Book Group	

POP UP SIGs

Feedback from the recent highly popular Pop Ups, was most positive and it is felt there is room for us to continue with this initiative. Margaret Scrymgeour and Colin Tindall who ran last month's Pop Ups on China reported that a number of people made clear that they like the concept of shorter and even one-off types of session. Some of the suggestions they received were for: Introductory sessions for possible new SIGs; Ted talks plus discussion; Drama short course; outside speakers (or even our own members) with interesting experiences; panel discussions; repeats of some excellent SIG presentations and so on

If you wish to organise a pop up please contact the Convenors Co-ordinator Elizabeth McNee. Elizabeth's contact details are listed in the committee members table..

SIG REPORTS

The close off for the next newsletter is **Friday 24 January 2020**

Active Travellers

No report this month.

Archaeology <http://u3abb.net.nz/archaeology.html>

Sylvia Dixon explored for us the archaeological site at Star Carr which was occupied during the Mesolithic period in Yorkshire, not far from Scarborough around 9300 - 8500 BCE. Since the site was discovered in 1948, it has been studied by a number of universities as the site has proved to be a very rich resource of artefacts from the period,. She followed this with a video which showed how man has been altering the landscape since those early times. Sylvia found the information she used on a website Futurelearn which offers free short term courses in a variety of topics. Maybe something to follow up for all of us.

We then took a short while to look at other quite different topics, Fay with new Roman discoveries at Arles and then Peter presented material from a New Scientist article which described an ancient people living in Siberia who may have been the ancestors of those who crossed the landbridge on the Bering Strait to become the people who settled the Americas. New discoveries all the time!

Art History

Sylvia gave a talk on Paul Signac, a French painter of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Paul Signac collaborated with Georges Seurat in developing a new style of painting in which dots of pure colour were applied to the canvas, rather than being mixed beforehand on a palette. Colours were carefully chosen so that when the painting was viewed from a distance, the dots of paint would blend together in the eye to form the colour intended. Complementary colours were often placed next to each other enhance their intensity, as perceived by the viewer. This style was called 'pointillism' or 'neoimpressionism' and was adopted by a number of other artists who were interested in light and colour and wanted to achieve bold colour effects.

Art Pot Pourri http://u3abb.net.nz/Art_Pot_Pourri.html

No report this month.

Book_Group

We started with a PowerPoint presentation on the author Chris Hammer and his two excellent books: *Scrublands* and *Silver*. The following books were then discussed: *The Rich Man's House* by Andrew McGahan; *The Nowhere Child* and *The Wife and the Widow* by Christian White; *Snake Island* by Ben Hobson; *Good Girl, Bad Girl* by Michael Robothan; *Man at the Window* by Robert Jeffries; *The Complete Short Stories* by Roald Dahl; *The Surgeon* and *The Apprentice* by Tess Gerritson; *Bluebird, Bluebird* by Attica Locke; *The Whisper Man* by Alex North; *Big Sky* by Kate Atkinson; *The World of Chas Addams* by Chas Addams; *Cilka's Journey* by Heather Morris; *The Room of White Fire* by T Jefferson Parker; *Cari Mora* by Thomas Harris; *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens; *Careful What You Wish For* by Hallie Ephron; *Frozen in Time* by Owen Beattie and John Geiger; *Erebus: the story of a ship* by Michael Palin; *Superior: the return of race science* by Angela Saini; *The Black*

Echo by Michael Connelly; *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean; *The Chestnut Man* by Soren Svestrup; *The Clockmakers Daughter* by Kate Morton; *Jacinda Ardern* by Michelle Duff; *The Great Successor: the divinely perfect destiny of brilliant comrade Kim Jong Un* by Anna Fifield; *Sapiens: a brief history of humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari and *A Higher Loyalty: truth, lies and leadership* by James Comey.

Books and Beyond

Monette talked about Australian political journalist, Chris Hammer, who has created an exciting new career as a crime fiction writer after being made redundant in 2017. The novel "*Scrublands*", written in his spare time over five years, became an international success in 2018 and has just won the prestigious 2019 Dagger Award for best debut crime novel published in the UK. The newly published sequel, "*Silver*", continues the story of troubled journalist, Martin Scarsden, but the setting moves from the drought-stricken isolated country town of Riversend to Martin's old home town of Port Silver on the NSW coast. Martin's back story is gradually revealed as the secrets of Port Silver start to unravel. Chris Hammer is already busy writing the third Martin Scarsden novel which will, no doubt, appear in time for Christmas sales next year. The 'challenge' this month was to read a book with a colour in the title and produced a variety of interesting fiction and non fiction books - perhaps an even greater variety than usual!

Classical Music

We watched a DVD titled "In Search of Chopin". Phil Grabsky brings us the music and life story of Chopin, one of the greatest of all time. For 4 years he travelled the globe recording performances by world class musicians and conversing with respected historians and musicologists in a quest to discover new insights into Chopin the man and his musical genius. This we greatly enjoyed listening to such talented pianists.

Computer Skills Workshop

The computer skills workshops have now been completed for this year.

Creative audio visual

No report this month.

Creative Writing

This month writers took their inspiration from a painting by William Adolphe Bouguereau entitled "The Broken Pitcher". We wrote mostly about the lives we felt might have been lived by the subject, around the year 1891. The stories were varied as always; from hardship to romance. Another photo has been chosen for this month, a random character. I look forward to hearing all the different interpretations; As they say "looks can be deceiving" This will be our last meeting till February 2020 .

Current Affairs

At the penultimate meeting for 2019 there was much to discuss from troubles at Tiwai Point, MediaWorks (TV3) and Donald Trump's possible impeachment to the continuing saga of Boris, Brexit and the UK General Election. With discussions including the Local Body Elections, how to improve our voting figures, and the possibility of a cashless economy. There is always plenty to think about and talk about, plus the monthly quiz.

Next meeting:

Next meeting is at 10.00 on Thursday 12th December at the Sherwood Room. We look forward to the December meeting and our Christmas lunch.

Cycling

Our November trip started at the motorway end of Tauhinu Rd in Greenhithe, where we parked our cars and then whizzed down the cycle path beside the motorway over the Upper Harbour Bridge to Squadron Drive and into Hobsonville township.

Along Buckley Ave is the entrance to a coastal path/boardwalk which encircles the perimeter of the township and leads eventually to Te Onekiritia Point and the old munition stores, taking us over mangrove swamps, past historic points of interest and several cafe options as well as a farmers' market. At this point we debated the choice of retracing our path or completing the loop through the township. Completing the loop was chosen, and we stopped at the Catalina Cafe for a drink and a chat.

We all discussed and admired the design of the layout and facilities that give this area a really self contained and communal feel, and remarked on the (mostly) well designed terrace houses and street planting. Sue Dobson led this ride, and she was impressed by the number of mothers with children and babies in pushchairs using the coastal walkway, which is safe and quiet, and has lovely views out over the upper harbour. She felt it is a perfect place to take her grandchildren for scooter rides over the summer.

Film Appreciation

No report this month.

Français pour rire

Last meeting end of October: We practised our SIGS presentation, which we were to give at the main meeting in November. We were helped greatly by John and Monette Ewen whom we thank most sincerely for all their skill and support. Gareth presented La Marseillaise, sung by Mireille Mathieu with our accompaniment! and talked about some of his most interesting experiences in France from his recent trip. We then had a power point about one of the famous sons of France, Philippe Petit, who navigated a tight-rope between the Twin Towers. Helen concluded the presentation with an illustrated talk about Alsace, North-east France, highlighting the 180 km. long Route des Vins, whose hectares offer “une symphonie d'ors et du lumières” at harvest.

Then at the end of November we had an extended talk from Gareth about his recent trip in Alsace (he went to many of the villages that Helen also visited) and one of his most interesting experiences was viewing the Tour de France as it passed by. He then took us through some French exercises, following which we left earlier than usual for our lunch at the Black Cottage – a lovely atmosphere and very enjoyable.

Next meeting:

We meet again at Settlers on the 27th January, Anniversary Day, for our first meeting of the new year. Trisha will be presenting a You Tube relating to France, and we will have our usual translation and comprehension exercises.

International Studies across Countries

No report this month.

Inventors and Inventions

For our November meeting 14 of our Group visited the factory of Buckley Systems Limited in Mt Wellington for a presentation and tour to see the manufacture and assembly of a wide range of types and sizes of electromagnets (up to 30 tonnes) used in medical and scientific devices throughout the world and in space. The company, who now have a staff of 400 and operate 24/7 is expanding by 20% each year. It is the brain child of Bill Buckley who still owns the business. He has many NZ honours such as Entrepreneur of the Year as well as being the driving force behind the Western Springs Raceway.

Next meeting:

Our final 2019 December 17 meeting will be a group Lunch at Palmers Garden World Café in Albany at 12.30 pm. Current attendance is indicated at 16 members.

Local History

We met at the Vaughan Homestead (Long Bay) for our final meeting for this year, where we continued with our study of origins of N.Z. areas. We also looked at how districts in the Wellington area got their names. We had a pot-luck lunch and enjoyed the weather and the surroundings.

Next meeting:

Our next meeting will be in February

Māori / Te Reo

No report this month.

Mah Jong

Beginners & new members welcome.

No report this month.

Making History

No report this month.

Medical Science and History

Maureen played the announcement from Sweden of the three 2019 Nobel prize winners (Drs William Kaelin - Harvard, Peter Ratcliffe - Oxford, Greg Semenza - Johns Hopkins) in Medicine for advancements in physiology or medicine. Working largely independently they discovered how cells sense and adapt to the availability of oxygen. "The seminal discoveries by this year's Nobel laureates revealed the mechanism for one of life's most essential adaptive processes," the Nobel Assembly at Sweden's Karolinska Institute said in a statement on awarding the prize of 9 Million Swedish crowns (US\$913,000). Scientists are focused on developing drugs that can treat diseases by either activating or suppressing the oxygen sensing 'trigger'. Such manipulation could help in attacking Ca cells and boosting production of red blood cells in anaemia. A fascinating topic and people easily available on the internet. Denise discussed two unexpected results of research. First, the osteoporosis drug Zoledronate (Aclasta) has unexpected benefits. 2000 women participated in an 8 year double blind study of the drug at Auckland Medical School. Half received infusions of the drug and incidence of heart disease and cancer appear to be greatly reduced in those women. Studies specifically designed to test these outcomes are now needed. The research team, led by Professor Ian Reid, has received the Health Research Council's Liley Medal for their work. Second, immune amnesia caused by measles. This has been widely reported in scientific and medical journals and is based on research carried out on blood samples from unvaccinated Dutch children. This had been suspected for about 100 years but is now proven. A new blood sample analysis method showed that measles lowers the immunity to diseases that children had previously suffered from. It can take up to 5 years to restore healthy immunity, but the average is 27 months. Measles vaccine reduces the impact of measles amnesia and the subsequent secondary infections that are associated with this measles virus phenomenon.

A message from Fay: If you are in good health, a hip operation can be the opportunity to donate bone to the Bone bank. Procedures to reduce infection for such operations are constantly evolving. One, see-through dressing which lasts for 10 days without changing is one of these devices.

Modern History

Dave.C. presented the dvd " Stealing a Nation" by John Pilger. This film recorded the disgusting treatment of the islanders of Diego Garcia. The UK and US governments colluded in removing the islanders from this British territory in the Indian Ocean so as to build an American air base in the 1960's. This was at the height of the cold war and the perceived need for the UK to cosy up to the major world power. Even though the UK High Court found that the UK had acted illegally successive governments have ignored this decision and banned the islanders from returning through deceit and treachery. The islanders were removed to Mauritius and have lived in abject poverty to this day. This year the UN and the International Court of Justice have ordered the UK to hand the control of the Chagos Islands which Diego Garcia is part of to Mauritius, Pope Francis has given his support to the islanders. Members then discussed the actions of " Perfidious Albion" in this and other parts of its colonial past.

Music Appreciation and History

Our Christmas themed meeting was hosted by Denise wearing a North Sea fisherman's shirt . We watched a DVD of a Dutch Christmas concert with 2 choirs, several vocal soloists with orchestra, and piano and organ accompanying them. The audience joined in some carols. The Urk male choir was founded in 1897 on an island in the former Zuider Zee, now the freshwater Lake IJssel . After the Enclosure Dam and land reclamation project was completed in 1939, Urk became linked to the European mainland but fishing vessels can still access the North Sea . The other choir of mixed voices was from Huizen, a former fishing village now part of the Amsterdam municipality . We heard a mix of familiar, glorious English and European carols, favourite Dutch ones and classical pieces. The concert ended with rousing spirituals and then The Battle Hymn of the Republic .

Music - Mainly Classical

Our November meeting was held at Pat's home and she presented a DVD of "An Alpine Symphony, Op. 64", which is a tone poem for large orchestra written by German composer Richard Georg Strauss in 1915. It is one of Strauss's largest non-operatic works; the score calls for about 125 players and a typical performance usually lasts around 50 minutes. The DVD started with a descriptive rendition of the music, combining its artistic theme of poetry and landscape viewing. This was then followed by a performance of his Alpine Symphony.

Philosophy

The November introductory session looked at Idealism, Realism, Pragmatism and Aesthetics. Through their senses humans take-in the world and events around them. The sensory responses get interpreted into ideas which, over time, form our thoughts, memories, creativity and desires. These are reflected back enhancing our ability to interpret the world around us. Over time and experience we each develop a philosophical stance that can influence us having a more realistic, pragmatic or idealistic view point. Aesthetics deals with questions of art, beauty and artistic taste, the creation and appreciation of beauty, and the theories and conceptions of beauty or art. Aesthetics is in the “eye of the beholder” as we develop personal tastes on what is pleasing to the senses.

Photography

New Members Welcome. No report this month.

Puzzles Patterns & Paradoxes

No report this month.

Renaissance

Patricia gave us a presentation on Tulip Mania. It is the story of the first major speculative financial bubble that took place in the 17th century in the Netherlands. Contract prices for some bulbs of the recently introduced and fashionable tulip reached extraordinarily high levels and then dramatically collapsed in 1637. Tradition has it that many purchasers went bankrupt and the economy of the Netherlands into a decline, but recent scholarship maintains that few people suffered financially, and those that did, could afford to. Tulip Mania was actually a relatively minor economic event that took on a life of its own as a morality tale. Comparisons of Tulip Mania, however, are still being made today with more recent financial bubbles, such as the dot-com bubble.

Anne showed a TED talk which was an unauthorized history of the Sistine Chapel, the Pope’s private chapel — yet it’s covered with paintings of nudes. Renaissance art historian Elizabeth Lev guides across the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and its depiction of the creation of earth in the Christian tradition. The artist, Michelangelo, tells this story through massive, muscular and very naked figures, contrary to the sedate style of the day. Why so many nudes? Lev suggests an answer: to show the active ideas of the High Renaissance in very human form.

Travel

No report this month.

Ukulele www.u3abb.net.nz/ukulele.html Website has tutorials & contact form.

Meeting held at a group member’s home. This meeting we rehearsed popular Christmas songs and other favourites. Our web page has Ukulele lessons for beginners and advanced exercises for established players. Whether you are a beginner, with or without a Ukulele, or just a singer, you are welcome. Do come and join us if you are interested in singing, playing a Ukulele or have a Guitar.

Walking

Next Walk December

This will be our last walk for the year. Meet at 9.15am in Woodhams Crescent near Brown’s Bay Bowling Club. We will car pool and drive to Warkworth. Our walk will be alongside the Mahurangi River. Coffee/lunch at a place of your choice after the walk.

POP UP SIG REPORTS

Pop Up SIG China

China’s ‘One belt one road’ project was the topic for the second session on ‘China today’. Announced by President Xi Jinping in 2013 this project is regarded as being one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects of all time. Costing trillions of dollars ‘the road’ segments will modernise not only the old Silk Road linking China to Europe but extend into many other countries on the way. The ‘belt’ refers to the massive port developments around Asia and into the Pacific. As usual Colin did a brilliant job of explaining this complex development and giving some foresight of what might lie ahead.’

It was agreed at this session that no one was keen to form a permanent China SIG.

Subscription Renewal due 1st September 2019.

You can pay by cash, cheque or internet banking.

Single \$30, double \$60.

Please let us know any changes to your contact details

If paying on-line please put your name in the Particulars box and U3A Sub (19-20) in the Reference box

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