



## No main meeting this month

**Our main meetings are cancelled until further notice due to the Prime Minister's announcement recommending that people aged 70+ should stay at home**

The following is from the posted schedule. We will advise you when the Main Meetings will recommence.

Month	SIG presentation	Hall Seating	Morning tea
When we recommence	Creative writing	Te Reo /Maori	Books & Beyond

### COMMITTEE REPORT

#### Non payment of Subscriptions

A reminder that after 31 March of this year, those who are still "non financial" members of the club, will be withdrawn, and not be eligible to take part in meetings or attend SIG groups. SIG convenors can you please check that all members of your SIG have paid.

#### SIG meetings

Earlier this week the committee decided to cancel the main meeting until further notice. Since then, the Prime Minister has advised that people in our age group should be staying at home. Some SIG groups have made investigations into holding SIG meetings using products like Face time, Skype or Zoom, while others have decided to postpone meetings until the situation changes. This is at the discretion of the individual SIG.

#### Catering \_Help please

Our Co-Ordinator Trish Keating will have done three years at the end of this year and says she will not be able to continue on, so a new convenor/leader must be found by then.

The main thing for the leader to do, apart from co-ordinating the SIG who is on duty that day is to see the urns are taken from the corner cupboard and filled up and the water brought to the boil. Also plastic cloths taken from the cupboard for the tables. (Trish takes the cloths home to wash them.)

One of her helpers always buys the cups as she has a source for them. The convenor buys the milk (2 quarts), the tea when necessary, coffee ditto and biscuits.

#### Covid 9

I'm sure that like me, you have all been inundated with news about the virus, so I don't intend to reiterate any of it. However .Glen Plaistowe passed on an interesting article from a member of the Stanford Hospital Board that I think is worth reading. In brief it reminds us that a runny nose and sputum is a sign of the common cold, whereas the coronavirus pneumonia is a dry cough and no runny nose. As the virus doesn't like warmth, drinking warm water or hot drinks rather than drinks with ice in them, is more effective. Don't let your mouth or throat get dry. Up your intake of liquids. If you would like to see the whole article, then drop me an email or call me and I'll pass it on, courtesy of Glen:

## NOTICES

### 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.

### SIG information for the website - Attention Conveners

With most groups choosing not to meet, this is an ideal time slot to prepare information relating to your group on our website. Garry needs to keep the website updated with current material otherwise we lose website ranking with Google. Information can be sent to Garry (Website Manager) via webpage <http://u3abb.net.nz/mail.html> If sending photos, please write a few sentences about the images you send. Remember your phone can take photos.

## SIG GROUP MEETINGS CALENDAR \* ^^

*\* For the list of convenors & contact numbers, see the next section of this newsletter labelled SIG reports.*

*^^ This information is the latest recorded by our Convenor Co-ordinator Elizabeth McNee. Any amendments to times and convenors to Elizabeth please so we can update it for our next newsletter .*

## POP UP SIGs

Some of the suggestions we have received to date for Pop Up SIGs include: 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.

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 this newsletter would normally have been on Friday 24 April. However this newsletter has gone out early, so not all SIG reports have been posted for inclusion.

Once we know where we are at in relation to normal life again, being able to attend meetings we will advise the close off date for the next newsletter.

### Active Travellers

No report this month.

### Archaeology

#### ***Last meeting:***

It is never is a good idea to be late for a meeting! I arrived to find all our group engrossed in Peter's presentation ***Treasures from the wreck of the unbelievable***. Amazing treasures found on an submerged ship somewhere in the Indian Ocean. Peter then revealed that the whole film was an elaborate hoax planned by renowned artist Damien Hirst! Lots of discussion about well known archaeological hoaxes from the Piltown Man onwards. Just goes to show that seeing is always believing!

#### ***Next meeting:***

Next month Fay will no doubt surprise us again!.

### Art History

#### ***Last meeting:***

At our March meeting Sheila talked about NZ artist, Jacqueline Fahey, and showed many of her paintings in chronological order. She married Fraser McDonald, well known as the Superintendent of several Psychiatric Hospitals in New Zealand. While living with her family as the Superintendent's wife, Jacqueline painted life among the "chaos" of her domestic life. Later her paintings branched out from the domestic to include a Karangahape Road

series and early on she painted buildings. She greatly admired the work of Rita Angus, her friend, and she won a QE11 Arts Council Award to New York for three months in 1980. Now 91 years old, she lives in Grey Lynn, where she has painted a series of work involving skate-boarders and graffiti called *Down in Grey Lynn Park*. Fay showed a picture of a garment with a Frida Kahlo pattern and pictures of the just concluded sculpture exhibition at the Botanical Gardens, Manurewa.

## **Art Pot Pourri**

### ***Last meeting:***

Group members were privileged to meet the award winning artist Peata Larkin when we visited her spacious, purpose built studio. Peata works with varied media and amalgamates her Maori and European heritage in her creations. She has developed a unique technique which pushes paint through the rear grid surface of mesh, building up 10-20 layers so it beads up to create intricate and fascinating geometric abstract "pixels". This painstaking and very talented artist, who works with mathematics and science in her designs, is recognised nationally and internationally for her notable public works. Her creations may reference patterns in Maori weaving (taniko or tukutuku for instance) or natural elements such as the sky and water, the Pink and White Terraces or Maori history. When designing commissions for buildings, Peata ensures that her works harmonise with the works of the other artists. Pike Ake Rise Up is the beautiful 2.4 X 2.9 m. work in the ANZ Centre foyer in Albert Street installed in 2013. The Park Hyatt in Halsey Street has a large "light box" in the foyer. Her largest work (and one of the biggest in the country), is the gigantic 3 dimensional tiled walls on the exterior the Sky City Convention. It is 158 m. wide and is made from over 14,000 custom made Spanish tiles. It survived the recent fire fortunately.

## **Book\_Group**

No report this month.

## **Books and Beyond**

### ***Last meeting:***

At our March meeting Shona reviewed and recommended *Rules for Visiting* by Jessica Frances Kane. This is a smart and funny novel about friendship, trees, and the art of being a good houseguest. It is the story of May Attaway, a university gardener, who sets out to reconnect with four old friends over the course of a year.

Not surprisingly, our reading challenge was 'friendship' and we had some interesting suggestions for books, both fiction and non fiction, that had that theme.

## **Classical Music**

We listened to a selection of Mozart overtures and arias from Marriage of Figaro, Don Giovanni and Cosi fan Tutte. Then a DVD Spirit of Mozart, with the Vienna Radio Symphony orchestra playing excerpts of Mozart concertos, symphonies and some modern interpretations of his work with a selection of singers and musician soloists. It was something different and enjoyable.

## **Computer Skills Workshop**

If there is interest, these will recommence

## **Creative audio visual**

No report this month.

## **Creative Writing**

No report this month.

## **Current Affairs**

No report this month.

## **Cycling**

### Unsworth to Albany

Ten keen cyclists rode through Unsworth and Rosedale reserves, along Rosedale Rd and the Albany Highway to

reach the landing. We enjoyed coffee in Albany Village and returned to our departure point via a similar route. Over the years, we have made many visits to Paul Matthews Road off the Upper Harbour Highway in Albany totally unaware that nearby is the huge Unsworth Reserve with the Alexandra Stream flowing through. The Alexandra Stream is thought to be named after Princess Alexandra who married the Prince of Wales in 1863.



A board walk/ cycle way has been completed. Obviously we have no idea what was here previously, and can't imagine how much the project would have cost, but it certainly looks impressive. We hope that it will get a lot of use by recreational and commuting cyclists, pedestrians and joggers. As the many plants and trees grow, it will become a beautiful oasis in the middle of suburban housing.

Along the boardwalk are boards – informing us of ways that water quality is being improved, the past fruit cultivation, ways to reduce erosion and plants – the weeds and natives. And we are impressed with the sign posting.

It was fabulous to cycle among many silver ferns, ponga ferns and manuka trees beside the untouched paths along the edge of the reserve. We were delighted to spot a pair of adult ducks swimming and feeding among the reeds in the wetlands of the storm water catchment Omega Pond.

## Film Appreciation

No report this month.

## Français pour rire

No report this month.

## International Studies across Countries

### *Last meeting:*

A small group of five met to talk about Japan, its past and present history, culture and economics. Japan is located, like New Zealand, along the ring of fire which leaves it vulnerable to earthquakes and tsunami. Its predominantly homogenous population of 126 m. is around 97.8% Japanese. It remains the third largest in the world for GDP and the fourth largest by purchasing power parity (PPP). The factors behind Japan's post WWII prosperity included technology and quality control.

## Inventors and Inventions

### *Last meeting:*

Our group met on Tuesday 17 March when 14 members watched a most interesting presentation from Tony Laird on the current state of solar panels and the work being put into improving their efficiency. Currently around 20% power output from solar radiation it could theoretically be possible to increase that up to 30 or 40%.

After a coffee break Stu Russell took us all on an entertaining journey aboard Aladdin's magic carpet from the stage show of the same name. How did the 'carpet' levitate and soar across the stage with Aladdin and the Princes on it? By incredible stage-set technology that takes 3 months to set up for each venue.

To conclude Peter paid tribute to GlaxoSmithKline drug researcher Gertrude Elion who in 1988 won the Nobel Prize for immunosuppressant and antiviral drugs. In 1991 she was the first woman to be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

## Local History

No report this month.

## Mah Jong

Beginners & new members welcome.

No report this month.

**Making History** - No report this month.

## **Māori / Te Reo**

### ***Last meeting:***

Jinnty gave a presentation on Māori music. Singing was very important to Māori as they didn't have a written language. To accompany their singing they played instruments such as flutes, trumpets and carved gourds. Jinnty told us about a workshop she attended run by Jerome Kavanagh who had a collection of unique and rare musical instruments which included the Nguru, a whale's tooth nose flute and the Kōauau Toro, an albatross' wingbone flute.

We would like to announce that we have a new time and date for our meetings. We now meet on the second Wednesday of the month and the meeting is from 9.30 - 11.30am. Besides the presentations, we spend time on exercises learning to speak and understand Te Reo and the Māori culture. If this sounds interesting to you, do come and join us for we currently have vacancies in our group.

## **Medical Science and History**

No report this month.

## **Modern History**

### ***Last meeting:***

Dave.C. gave a brief resume of the lives of Te Ruki Kawaiti, James Busby, Hone Heke, William Hobson, Tamaki Waka Nene, and Henry Williams. Especially their involvement in the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. A lively discussion followed.

## **Music Appreciation and History**

No report this month.

## **Music - Mainly Classical**

### ***Last meeting:***

This month we looked at the history of the ukulele an amazing instrument which can be played to produce a very diverse range of music. It is usually thought that the ukulele comes from Hawaii but it actually originated in the Portuguese Madeira Islands and when some people from this region immigrated to Hawaii, they took their instruments with them. Up until the 1960s the ukulele was very popular with many musicians but then it was pushed aside by the guitar. That is up until now when it has returned to what appears to be a ukulele revolution. The uke brings people together unlike any other instrument, bringing together like minded amateur musicians. Music self played is happiness self made.

## **Philosophy**

No report this month.

## **Puzzles Patterns & Paradoxes**

### ***Last meeting:***

Fay spoke about the scrolls of Herculaneum which were carbonised in the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD [the same one that buried Pompeii]. This precious, ancient library has waited since 1752 for the invention of the technology to read its books and they are not completely "decoded" yet!

John introduced us to Kenken and Ian set us a number puzzle. Ian's number puzzle and Fay's talk about the scrolls were also given at the main meeting in March.

### ***Next meeting:***

We will be doing some practical problem solving. Of course everyone is welcome for a morning of thoughtfulness and fun.

## **Renaissance**

### ***Last meeting:***

Thelma spoke of the importance Guilds had in Renaissance times, as they controlled all business, imposing long periods of apprenticeship, followed by time spent as journeymen, before becoming masters of trade. Her example was the Guild of Saint Luke, being the guild of painters and talking about the Dutch golden age of painting. She then spoke of the London Livery companies, especially the Vintners Company and its responsibility with the Drapers Company and the Queen to perform Swan Upping on the Thames. Fay spoke on The Spanish Armada which was launched by Phillip of Spain in 1588 with the aim of invading England and restoring the 'true church'. It was defeated by the weather, the English 'fireships' and their superior fighting methods. Many Spanish ships and lives were lost as the fleet returned home via the North of Scotland and the West of Ireland – for which the Spanish had no charts. Spain was ruined for many years but England was barely "scratched".

### ***Next meeting:***

Patricia will be speaking about Food in the Renaissance.

## **Travel**

No report this month.

## **Ukulele**

We have suspended our meetings due to the Corona Virus Pandemic. It's a good time to keep up ukulele practise and trying more tutorials from here. [www.ukulele.u3a.nz](http://www.ukulele.u3a.nz)

## **Walking**

***No further walks planned due to pandemic:***