



## No main meeting this month

Our main meetings are cancelled until further notice due to the Covid 19 crisis.

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

#### Keeping in touch

Your Committee met this week to discuss the way forward in both the short and long term. We appreciate that U3A gives us opportunities to socialize as well as to learn. We want to see this continue as we work our way through the Covid 19 crisis. Your committee and several SIG groups have turned to online meetings using a programme called Zoom. Gloria Ward our Network Representative also reports that the U3A Network knows of several other U3A clubs in Auckland who are also using Zoom.

Our ability to once again have our main meetings in the church hall will depend on several factors all aimed to keep us safe – when the government allows people of our age group once more to congregate, when the church will allow us to meet, and what will be the rules for physical distancing in the future. To that end, your committee recommends that we focus on the SIG aspect of our club in the short term. With the exception of the walking group and the cycling group (for obvious reasons), other SIGs can still hold meetings if they turn to technology to help them. Fay Weatherly and Garry Clark have upskilled themselves in this programme. As Fay says “aided by our own wits, our grandchildren and children, more and more of us are getting on the ball. Not only are we continuing with our education, but experiencing joy, satisfaction and fellowship as well.”

There is also the possibility that in the near future we could start having presentations on Zoom – sort of “pop up” presentations. This might be by a SIG group or even an outside presenter. People would be given the topic and the start time via email, and it’s a simple matter just to log into that “chat”.

#### Wanting to learn more about getting started with Zoom?

Many SIGs are holding meetings on line during the lockdown with video clips, power point etc using Zoom. Contact Fay Weatherly or Garry Clark for help to get started.

#### We want your feedback

How do you feel about using technology to keep in touch? Many people welcome the challenge, many others hate the very thought of learning a new programme, and others are ambivalent. Your committee wants to hear your views. Are you a “starter” or a “thanks but no thanks” or do you have other ideas on how we could be running this club during the current crisis. You can send your views to the Newsletter Editor

### SIG meetings. Report from our SIG Convenors Co-ordinator

Our SIG Convenor Co-ordinator Elizabeth McNee reports that she contacted all SIG convenors to check on their well being and to enquire how they were keeping in touch with their various members. Some groups (with Fay Weatherly's support – thank you Fay) had been successful in having Zoom meetings, some were keeping in touch per email, and others were keeping in touch through phone calls. (Editors note: some of us are keeping in touch by passing on the numerous Covid 19 jokes that continue to flood our emails!) Elizabeth also reported that Debbie Russell (the Bays Community Centre) had contacted her asking how our members were getting on.

### SIG meetings at the Community Centre

Our Convenors Co-ordinator will be liaising with Debbie from the Community Centre, who will advise her when the community centre will again be open for business.

## 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 Convenors

With some 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 Clark (Website Manager) via webpage <http://u3abb.net.nz/mail.html>

## 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.

Day	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Mon am		10.00 Local History		10.00 Français pour rire
Mon pm	1.30 Music Mainly Classical		1.30 Archaeology	
Tues am	<b>10.00 Main meeting</b>		10.00 Music Appreciation	10.00 Active Travellers
Tues pm		2.00 Art Pot Pourri	1.30 Inventors & Inventions	1.30 Ukelele
Wed am	10.00 Cycling	9.30 Te Reo Māori	10.00 Modern History	10.00 Travel
Wed pm				
Thurs am	10.00 Making History 10.00 Med Science & History	10.00 Current Affairs	9.30 Philosophy	10.00 Puzzles, Patterns & Paradoxes
Thurs pm	1.30 Creative Audio Visual	1.30 International Studies 1.30 Art History	Late afternoon walking	1.30 Creative Writing
Fri am	9.30 Mahjong 10.00 Classical Music	9.30 Mahjong 9.45 Walking 10.00 Books & Beyond	9.30 Mahjong 10.00 Film Appreciation	9.30 Mahjong 9.45 Walking 10.00 Renaissance
Fri pm			1.30 Book Group	

## SIG REPORTS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

As reported earlier, some SIGs are still continuing to meet on line via programmes like ZOOM & Skype. If you are still meeting, please send in your reports as usual. Close off dates are published in the Convenors Notes.

### Active Travellers

No report this month.

### Archaeology

Eight of us met together on ZOOM this month. Yes we were up with the play thanks to Garry leading us gently into Zoom. Two practice meetings and we were ready to roll when our scheduled meeting took place.



Fay mastered the share button to give a very interesting power point presentation about the Horsdorf prince, buried in 550BC in Germany near Stuttgart. Who would have thought that an ancient prince had such a grand tomb with all he needed for a grand and rather boozy send-off! Due to a massive 50 tonne stone barrier, his unlooted tomb, containing his couch, 9 drinking horns, 9 golden bowls and a massive 500 litre cauldron were all intact .

Residue shows that the cauldron was just over half full of mead at the time of his burial - ready for a big celebration in the after life. An iron-clad wagon had completely rotted away but its 1320 iron plates are still in existence. Everything is preserved in the local museum, including the rebuilt wagon. The most impressive items are his shoes - the glorious golden 'uppers' still exist despite the rest of the shoes having disappeared.



Peter talked about Khuwy's tomb, which was uncovered in Saqqara on the Western banks of the Nile south of Cairo as one of the most ten important discoveries in the world in 2019. It is dated around 2300 BC. The tomb belongs to a man named Khuwy who was one of the nobles living in the era of the fifth dynasty in the Old Kingdom. It was discovered by an Egyptian mission headed by Professor Mohamed Megahed in 2019. His tomb consists of a superstructure with an L-shaped offering room, extensively decorated from floor to ceiling with the best preserved coloured reliefs ever discovered. They show in detail the life of the tomb's owner and his treasured possessions.

A lot of fun with interesting backgrounds for all and virtual biscuits being the only offering - at least we saved having to put a dollar into the Council's coffers!

### Art History

#### *Last meeting:*

The April meeting for Art History was successfully held via Zoom. Gloria, Patricia and Penny gave a joint presentation about their visit to Lopdell House in Titirangi to view the Portage Ceramic exhibits. Patricia first talked about the the history of Lopdell House and then a background of the Australian, and world renowned judge, Merron Esson. Gloria followed this by showing a selection of some of the fifty five works on show, with an explanation by each of the artists on how to interpret their work. Penny finished the presentation with an overview of this annual event. There followed a discussion about the exhibits and some of the techniques used in ceramics. It was decided that next year we will again visit this annual event. The meeting lasted almost an hour and a half and the eight members present all felt that under the present circumstances this was an ideal way to both maintain our interest in Art, and also to socialise with each other. Our thanks go to Fay for helping with the technical setting up of this new medium of communication.

## **Art Pot Pourri**

No report this month.

## **Book Group**

No report this month. (Editor's note: I bet John is reading up a storm during this period. Thank goodness for e-books from the library eh John?)

## **Books and Beyond**

We had no meeting in April but are making the most of lots of spare time for adventurous reading while we are in lockdown. We look forward to resuming our discussions when possible.

## **Classical Music**

No report this month.

## **Computer Skills Workshop**

If there is interest, these will recommence

## **Creative audio visual**

We had our usual meeting at the usual time - a new feature was using "Zoom" to meet online. Congratulations to everyone who managed to appear at the right place and the right time. Our challenge was to create a show using the song 'Nature' as a theme. Sadly the AV's we tried to show came through with very patchy images and sound but that might have been caused by too many people using Zoom at that time. So we have a lot to learn about using Zoom. We managed to see some of the shows using Drop Box and/or Google Drive. The quality of the shows was very good and we will probably use one of these media to show the videos in future and discuss them using Zoom. Our thanks to Fay for organising the Zoom meeting.

## **Creative Writing**

No report this month.

## **Current Affairs**

No report this month.

## **Cycling**

Some of the cycling group members got involved with a 'where am I' quiz, with a few people responding; perhaps because the prize was a virtual one it wasn't so interesting. Here's a picture - can anyone guess?

One group member set up a BB cycling 'Whatsap' group, and some great responses have been posted, people have been cycling in their bubbles or individually around: Long Bay and Torbay, Browns Bay, over the Red Bridge to Pinehill, Massey University and Kells Park, Orewa, and Albany. We have been lucky, for the first 3 weeks anyway, with great weather. We hope to keep cycling.



## **Film Appreciation**

No report this month.

## **Français pour rire**

At our Zoom meeting today, the comprehension was an article from "Paris Match" about whether cats and dogs can carry Covid 19. We also saw a short video about Paris followed by questions about the buildings we saw and a translation of street signs, included icecream flavours.

## Inventors and Inventions

### **Last meeting:**

15 Members successfully joined a Zoom meeting On Wednesday 22 April thanks to Garry setting it up.



April is World Inventors month and we noted that in this month roller skates were patented in 1869, the milk cream separator in 1881, electrolytic production of aluminium in 1889 and the first new life form to be created was a genetically altered mouse in 1988. Necessity is the mother of Inventions and the Covid-19 pandemic is no exception. Peter showed a Power Point of a few on the net out of Jamaica, Morocco and Wales. The latter being a 3-D printed door hook to open doors with ones elbow rather than touch the handle. This followed with a PP presentation on the history of discovering antibodies and antigens culminating with the ELISA test that is now used in thousands of medical and microbiological labs around the world including those testing for Covid-19.

### Local History

No report this month.

### Mah Jong

No report this month.

### Making History

No report this month.

### Māori / Te Reo

No report this month.

## **Medical Science and History**

### **March meeting**

The main presentation was on Covid-19, this covered the origin and development of this Corona Virus. The second part of the meeting also was on this topic and included a video showing graphic comparison of Covid-19 with other Epidemics: SARs, eBola, Swine Flu and MERs. Interesting discussions followed on many aspects including: myths, economic effects and travel implications

### **April meeting**

We met at the usual time but this time on "Zoom", an on-line meeting programme. Fay spoke about a recent trial of a procedure to treat Parkinsons' and showed a power point with two video clips about the trial. Congratulations to everyone who got themselves on to Zoom and took part.

## **Modern History**

No report this month.

## **Music Appreciation and History**

No report this month.

## **Music - Mainly Classical**

No report this month.

## **Philosophy**

No report this month.

## **Puzzles Patterns & Paradoxes**

No report this month.

## **Renaissance**

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

Thanks to the magic of Zoom, we were able to have our April meeting online with eleven participants. Patricia's presentation, illustrated by PowerPoint pictures, was entitled *Food in the Renaissance*. It took a comprehensive look at peasant food, food for the nobility, what people drank, and how the intellectual culture of humanism and current medical thought affected both diet and the preparation of food. We looked at cookery books of the era, the design of kitchens, and discussed the invention of table manners. Voyages of discovery to the 'new world' introduced new foods as well as innovative new products such as tobacco, tea, coffee and chocolate. We heard how the increased availability of sugar changed European diets for ever, and we ended by investigating how Catherine de Medici not only brought the fork to France, but became the mother of French gastronomy.

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

Heather will speak about the Mary Rose and Ruth on Cabot, navigator and explorer.

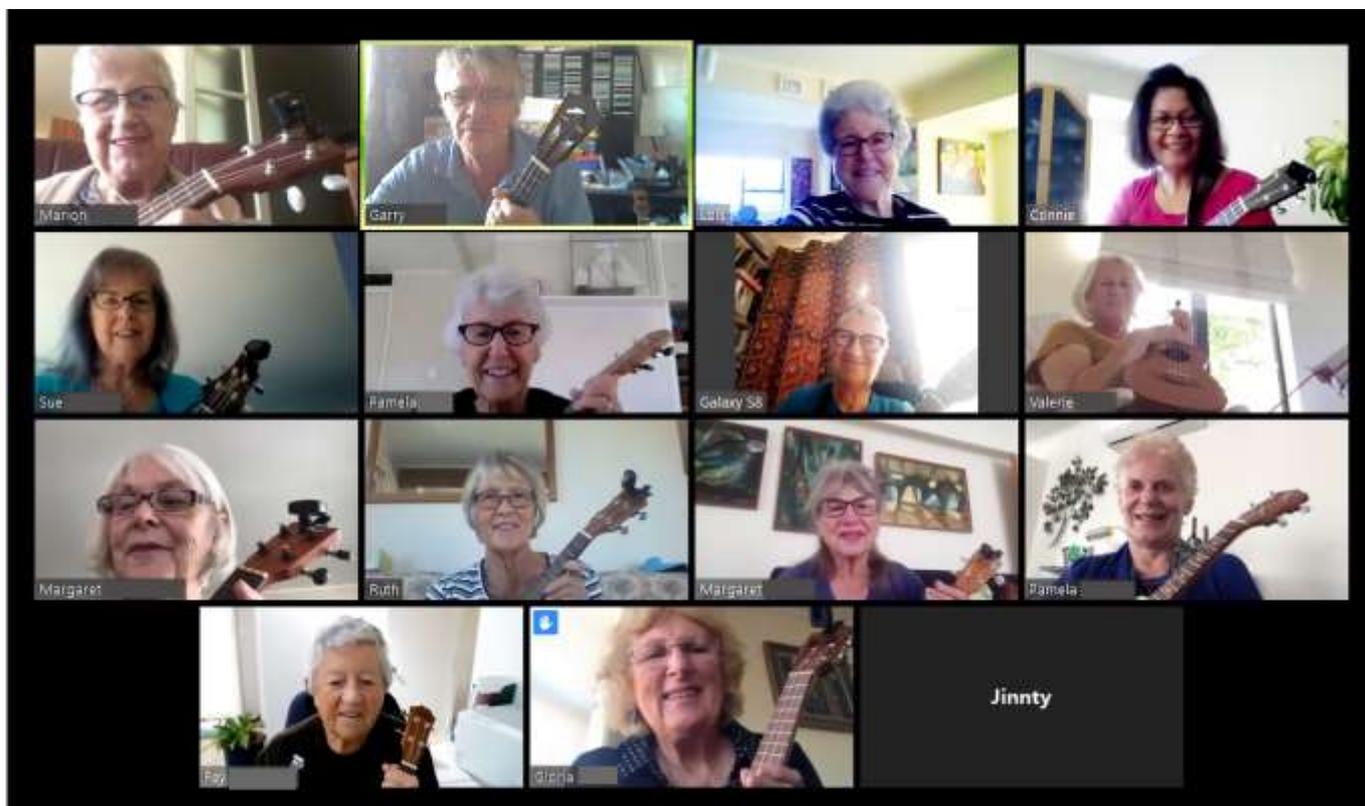
## **Travel**

No report this month.

## UKULELE

### **New online Meeting times Every Tuesday and Friday 2pm - 3pm**

Our ZOOM April Meetings, have increased in size and enthusiasm has meant we have gathered more Ukulele players from other U3A eg Gisborne and Ponsonby as well as players outside U3A who have UKULELE expertise. Everyone is enjoying meeting on line, and its a way to share our individual skills and tips. Anyone interested in joining the sessions should contact Garry: <http://u3abb.net.nz/mail.html> for an invitation ZOOM link.



## Walking

No further walks planned due to pandemic: