



GUEST SPEAKER: David Verran

Local historian and former research librarian David Verran was born in Devonport and has lived on the North Shore for most of his life. In 2010 Random House published his 'North Shore; an illustrated history'. That book sold 4,000 copies and won an award for local history writing. Since then he writes a regular column for 'Channel' magazine here on the North Shore on various aspects of local history."

COMMITTEE REPORT

Health and Safety at our main meeting

In line with the guidelines for contact tracing, Committee members will be keeping an "attendance register" of those who attend our main meetings. Sanitiser will be available for you to use. The Catering team will be wearing gloves for preparation of the morning tea.

Last Month's Main Meeting – a Zoom meeting

A big thank you again to Garry Clark and Fay Weatherly for their efforts to enable us to have a club meeting last month. Feedback to your committee was positive with many members relishing the opportunity to add a new skill. I think Elizabeth McNee summed it up for us all in writing to Garry & Fay: "What a fantastic success! Thank you so much for all your work – both preparation and presentation. Enjoyed it all. I thought that the fireworks countdown was an added bonus!"

SIG groups meeting at Browns Bay Community Centre

All affected SIG Conveners have been kept up to date with the requirements for the use of the rooms at the Community Centre. Contact Tracing Sheets are in each room for the Conveners to complete, or attendees can use the QR code.

Tessa Duder

Tessa Duder who was one of our speakers last year was awarded the CNZM in the recent Queen's birthday honours. Glen Plaistowe sent her a congratulatory email on behalf of our club.

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.

Have you got something interesting to share?

Many of our members have led very interesting lives – some in New Zealand, but many from overseas. Also for some, the Covid lockdown has been a chance to try out new skills. If you would like to share this with our club as a speaker, see Glen Plaistowe (contact details below) or one of the committee.

Could you be a Committee Member?

Now is the time to start thinking about how you can assist your club by becoming a member of the committee. Under our current regime many of the responsibilities have been shared out amongst the committee members, or co-ordinators who function outside the committee structure. This has proved to be a successful model, and one which we will continue. Who was it who said (to paraphrase) "ask not what your club can do for you, but what you can do for your club".

U3A network news

We received the latest copy of the Network newsletter – and we are mentioned in it!

U3A Online

As reported in the Network news, the Auckland U3A Network is an "organisation" member of U3A Online. This resource is operated by Australian U3As and provides short courses for Study Groups. Our membership enables U3As within the Auckland Network to obtain a licence for any course at a cost of AU\$20 per course. Have a look at the website, www.u3aonline.org.au to see what's available. Contact a member of the committee if you would like to take part in any of the study opportunities.

Health and Rehabilitation Health Institute

Dr David Rice and his team from AUT are trying to recruit people with hand osteoarthritis to fill in a new survey for them about their pain and any psychological, functional and sleep related problems. This will be used to better understand the main problems people have and help them to design more effective treatments for them.

Its all done online or over the phone so can be filled in from the comfort (and safety) of home.

For more details, check out this link <https://redcap.aut.ac.nz/surveys/?s=L4FX8EEWXH>

Your Covid 19 experience

The club also received a request from a research team at the University of Auckland. regarding a new research project funded by the Auckland Medical Research Foundation that will collect the views and experiences of New Zealanders aged 70+ regarding Covid-19 and lockdown. Participants are invited to write a letter sharing their experience of lockdown that will become part of a permanent archive at Auckland Museum. Contact Dr Lisa Williams on the following link if you wish to take part:

https://auckland.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bl4012ayXtru4gl

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.

SIG information for the website - Attention Conveners

Some of our SIG groups have yet to publish information relating to their 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>) If sending photos, please write a few sentences about the images you send. Remember your phone can take photos.

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 Conveners Co-ordinator Elizabeth McNee. Elizabeth's contact details are listed in the committee members table.

SIG REPORTS

Active Travellers

Maureen reported on their experiences and otherwise of Cruising in the Pacific, on the Maasdam, under the threat of Covid-19 - a cruise shortened from the planned 35 day jaunt to 1-14 March, this year. As the islands of Niue, Tonga, Aitutaki, French Polynesia, Christmas Island (and potentially, the Hawaiian Islands) were closing their borders, our cruise was fast morphing into a month at sea. Saved by Holland America's amazing EXC Lecturers, we were entertained and educated on all types of topics - most of which are currently in the news. It was 'U3A AT SEA', amongst educated and like-minded passengers. Fabulous. We jumped ship in Rarotonga, at the insistence of children. Quite an adventure, one which is fun to reflect on! We shared some of the best 'funnies' which were circulating during the Lockdown - hilarious all over again. PS Our ship stayed 'clean'.

Archaeology

Gloria gave a presentation about the ethics of archaeology and how the rights and wishes of the indigenous people must be respected and consulted whenever there are plans to investigate archaeological sites. There are now international codes of conduct which archaeologists must adhere to when planning such work. We had a lively discussion about how the balance must be achieved, in particular when the spiritual beliefs of the people must be respected and acknowledged even if they appear to be a huge contrast to scientific knowledge. Gloria illustrated this with images from Australia where the ancient dreamtime mythology is still very strong among the people. Lots of ethical issues to be explored here and a huge contrast to the colonial approach of the nineteenth century.

Art History

Anne spoke about the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch (1863-1944), a pioneer in the Expressionist movement in modern painting. He experienced loss at an early age, lost his mother, sister, brother and a younger sister suffered mental illness. He was often ill himself. In his art he portrayed the memory of illness, death and grief. His most famous and well-known work is "The Scream", his "soul painting". The painting rivals da Vinci's Mona Lisa and Van Gogh's Sunflowers. He also painted 22 works for the "Frieze of Life, Love, Anxiety and Death". He had complicated relationships with women and was nervous about commitment to the point of

neurosis. He never married. He willed his large collection of pictures and uncatalogued biographical and literary notes to the city of Oslo.

Art Potpourri

Members enjoyed Brenda Simpson's presentation on the very popular New Zealand artist, Don Binney. He was born in Auckland in 1940 and died suddenly aged 72 in 2012. He is best known for his beautiful bird and landscape paintings. He was an ornithologist and conservationist which strongly influenced his painting subjects. After graduating from Elam School of Fine Arts, he taught at Auckland Grammar School. He developed strong observational skills and used varied media. Many of his works depict Auckland's West Coast. He was awarded an OBE in 1995 for services to the arts. In 2018, 3 of his works fetched \$1.5 million at auction. His works are displayed in many NZ galleries.

Book_Group

We had a meeting in April with just two people, a Zoom meeting in May and our normal meeting in June.

These are the books we discussed at those meetings.

Guilty not Guilty by Felix Francis; *Long Road to Mercy* by David Baldacci; *The Witness* by Simon Kernick; *After the Flood* by Cassandra Montag; *Labyrinth* by Catherine Coulter; *Bruny* by Heather Rose; *The 25th Hour* by David Benioff; *Black Tide* by Peter Temple; *A Madness of Sunshine* by Nalini Singh; *Girls Like Us: biographies of Carole King, Joni Mitchell and Carly Simon* by Sheila Weller; *A Very Stable Genius* by Philip Rucker and Carol Leonnig; *Blue Moon* by Lee Child; *Into the Fire* by Greg Hurwitz; *Star of the North* by D B John; *Extraordinary People* by Peter May; *The Garden of Lost and Found* by Harriet Evans; *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver; *All Who Live on Islands* by Rose Lu; *A Prison Diary Volumes 1, 2 and 3* by Jeffrey Archer; *Letters from an Astrophysicist* by Neil deGrasse Tyson; *The Farm* by Joanne Ramos; *The Other Bennet Sister* by Janice Hadlow; *A House in the Mountains: the women who liberated Italy from Fascism* by Caroline Moorehead; *Unorthodox : the scandalous rejection of my Hasidic roots* by Deborah Feldman; *Funny Ha Ha: 80 of the funniest stories ever written* by Paul Merton; *Love Among the Chickens* by P G Wodehouse; *I Know a Secret* by Tess Gerritsen; *The Lost Summers of Driftwood* by Vanessa McCausland; *Allegra in Three Parts* by Suzanne Daniel; *The Burglar in Short Order* by Lawrence Block; *Resurrection Bay, And the Fire Came Down and Darkness for Light* by Emma Viskic; *The Ruin, The Scholar and The Good Turn* by Dervla McTiernan; *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes; *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi; *After You'd Gone* by Maggie O'Farrell; *Ten x Ten: art at Te Papa* edited by Athol McCredie; *Red Letter Days* by Sara-Jane Stratford; *The Postmistress* by Sarah Blake; *Becoming* by Michelle Obama; *The Meaning of Michelle* edited by Veronica Chambers; *The Leopard* by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa; *A Long Way Home* by Saroo Brierly; *Is She Still Alive?* by Tessa Duder; *My Mysterious Son* by Dick Russell; *Mother of Invention* by H A Pitman; *The Luminaries* by Eleanor Catton; *The Queen's Governess* by Karen Harper; *Homo Deus: a brief history of tomorrow* by Yuval Noah Harari; *Blood Magick* by Nora Roberts; *The Diamond Hunter* by Fiona McIntosh; *The Institute* by Stephen King; *The Book of Dust* by Philip Pullman; *Going Gently* by David Nobbs; *New York to Dallas* by J D Robb; *Truly Madly Guilty* by Liane Moriarty and *The Mirror and the Light* by Hilary Mantel.

Books and Beyond

We enjoyed having a 'real' meeting again this month, hosted by Heather H since the Centre was still closed, and were happy to be able to discuss books face-to-face.

Greta gave us her long-delayed talk about the book *The Other Side of the Coin* by Angela Kelly. It is subtitled *The Queen, the Dresser and the Wardrobe* and tells the story of the author's 25 year working relationship and friendship with the Queen, initially as senior dresser, and latterly as personal advisor, curator, wardrobe and in-house designer. We saw three YouTube clips and heard some anecdotes from the well-illustrated and glossy book, including that the Queen's new shoes are always worn in by someone else, and that her jewelry is cleaned with gin!

The challenge had been to read a book related to 'coin' - not an easy task but some interesting books were discovered.

Classical Music

No report this month.

Creative Audio Visual

We met at Geoff's home to watch each member's choice of a video they had created. We had eight shows to watch and walked the Great Wall of China with Lucy, enjoyed great photos of Vietnam taken by Lois, saw the sights of Amsterdam with Geoff, went with Sheryl to visit family in India, broke the April lockdown to go with Fay to Long Bay, chose our pottery from Penny's photos taken on her visit to Morris and James in Matakana, and travelled by boat with Val for a nature trip to Browns Island. We also turned the clock back to accompany Terry while he toured China in 1993. Great variety of topics and video styles.

Creative Writing

Our subject this time was " Act of kindness"

We all know someone like Brenda's character, the person who just "does" without fuss or fanfare, simply for the good of others. Elizabeth's unsung heroes quietly transporting help to those in need; do as you would be done by their motto. From Kathy we hear, " Don't underestimate us oldies, we are far from finished, we have more to contribute to this planet!" Ellen's message at this time was memories of the days when those who had would share with those who had not. Always remembering those in need From Irene another reminder that we are not in this world to judge or be judged.

Current Affairs

No report this month.

Cycling

10 members of our cycling group, led by Alan Thompson, met at Underwood Park in Owairaka for the first ride since lockdown. The ride was along the upper reaches of Oakley Creek through a series of parks to Mt Roskill Grammar and then over the motorway to Keith Hay park and the source of the creek. The route back was along the Waterview shared path which runs alongside the South-western Motorway. The ride was about 12Km long but some the more energetic of the group with e-bikes continued further along towards UNITEC and found a good coffee shop.

Film Appreciation

At our monthly meeting John Reynolds took us through the classic 1952 Western movie High Noon, which starred Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly. Set in the isolated town of Hadleyville, it tells the story of Will Kane, the town sheriff who is about to leave town with his new bride when he is told that Frank Miller, who has just been released from prison, is coming to town with his henchmen on the noon train to exact revenge. Against his bride's wishes Kane decides to do his duty and face the Miller gang. He tries to gain support from various groups and individuals within the town, but they all refuse to help. He, a man alone, has to face Miller and his henchmen.

As well as highlighting some of the film's cinematic techniques, John also pointed out that the film has an allegorical theme. It was made during the Senator Joseph McCarthy anti-communist witch hunts which targeted thousands of US citizens, among them the Hollywood screenwriters. Many of them were hounded, some jailed, and others forced to leave their country - among them Carl Foreman the screenwriter of High Noon who went to live in England.

At the conclusion of the film Sheriff Will Kane, having killed Frank Miller and his three henchmen in a tense gun battle in the streets of Hadleyville, helps his bride onto the buggy that will take them out of the town forever. The townspeople, who cowered inside their dwellings during the fight, swarm out onto the street and surround Kane who, before climbing onto the buggy, removes his sheriff's star and drops it in the dust. The screenwriter, like the sheriff, had to stand alone and felt betrayed by many of his colleagues who had turned

their backs on him during the McCarthy hearings. High Noon is a permanent reminder of those dark days and of what can happen when the power of the state is used wrongly against its citizens.

Français pour rire

Our Français pour Rire group were able - at last - able to have a "person to person" meeting for the June meeting in the Sherwood Room in Browns Bay. Gareth gave a short talk about the painter Monet, gave the locations in and near Paris where his works can be seen, and then described with pictures his visit around the very colourful gardens at Giverny where Monet painted his famous water lily pictures.

Anna gave a short talk on the French singer Mireille Mathieu, who helped our group in singing the Marseillaise at the monthly meeting. And we read and translated a story about a group of friends on holiday in a rainy Brittany. Next month Sheila will talk about "La Belle Epoque" period in France and we will carry on with our French learning.

International Studies across Countries

The group met at Heather H's flat on our usual day. She gave us a presentation about La Gomera, one of the smaller Canary Islands, and one of the least spoilt. After many different invaders from gauchos to African states, Spain took over the Islands and they still belong to Spain today.

The volcanic islands lie 100 miles west of Morocco in the north Atlantic. They used to be called the Fortunate Islands probably due to the equable climate, in summer and winter. La Gomera is a perfect volcanic shape with the centre high mountains having a rain forest of many species of laurel trees, which is a UNESCO world heritage site. This also provides huge quantities of water stored in the mountains. Christopher Columbus set off from its tiny main port of San Sebastian taking sugar cane from the island as a new crop for North America. All the Canary Islands later grew bananas, called "yellow gold" for export to the rest of Europe. Most of the population live at the coast and European money has improved the infrastructure, enjoyed by the select few visitors. A delight to visit with an interesting history, and welcoming people.

Inventors and Inventions

For June, 13 members met, with 4 apologies, for a live meeting at the EC Bays Community Centre. We were treated to a fascinating talk by John Shears on the history of Radio Corporation NZ Ltd and its formation by a Russian Immigrant who arrived in Wellington from Omsk in 1926. His son took over the business in 1947 manufacturing records under the Tanza label in 1949, and Columbus brand radios. John showed us a 1949 Weekly News film featuring him as a young engineer manufacturing the copper film record masters. Garry took us by video, to the secret World War II code crackers at Bletchley Park in the UK, and the extraordinary people who also broke Hitler's personal code. Finally Peter touched on the advantages and potential disadvantages of current and future nanoparticle products.

Local History

No report this month.

Mah Jong

No report this month.

Making History

No report this month.

Māori / Te Reo

Our first post-Covid meeting was hosted by Glen. We start each meeting with a karakia, share any news for discussion, have a presentation followed by a Te Reo session and learning a song.

This month's presentation explained the role and operation of the Native Land Courts established by the Native Lands Acts in 1862 and extended in 1865. The Courts provided for the conversion of traditional

communal landholdings into individual titles, making it easier for Pākehā to purchase Māori land. Regardless of land size the Court could only rule a maximum of only ten members could be given ownership of the land that had, up until then been held in communal ownership. Tribal members not included were disenfranchised and many incurred significant debt defending their rights. Between 1870 and 1892, 2 million hectare of Māori land was transferred to Pākehā ownership. Another 1.2 million hectare of Māori land would be sold by 1900. Our group would welcome new members. We meet in a member's home in Rothesay Bay in the afternoon of the second Friday each month.

Medical Science and History

This was our third ZOOM Meeting with 14 participants. Geoff gave a presentation on the development of ventilators as a medical tool. The first recorded version of a ventilator was in England in 1670, designed using bellows and bladder to pull in and expel air into and from a chamber causing the occupant's chest to expand and contract. There is no record of it being actually used. This principle became the sole design of ventilators over time and was used for the 'Iron Lung'. Developed in the early '30's, it made its name in NZ during the 1947/48 polio epidemic. Some people have used an Iron Lung for more than 60 years. The latest ventilators are a lot smaller and very sophisticated with computerised systems to control the patient's breathing and the quality of the air delivered. They are invasive however, requiring the patient to be anaesthetised while tubes are inserted into the nose and mouth. Fay showed a TED talk by Tal Golesworthy, inventor of the ExoVasc Aortic root support. Tal, a pipe engineer, [not a medic] with Mafen's syndrome invented a device which wrapped his fragile aorta to prevent it bursting, instead of having a massive heart and lung operation. He is now part of a company making this bespoke device commercially.

Modern History

Colin gave a presentation on the escape of H.M.S. Amethyst down the Yangtse River in April 1949. Also laid out the background to what had occurred in China since the Japanese invasion and the civil war between the nationalists and communists. We enjoyed newsreel clips of the time and a somewhat dated film of the re-enactment. (All very jolly!) This was followed by a general discussion on the impact of the lockdown on members and their community.

Music Appreciation and History

This was our first meeting since the Lockdown so we especially enjoyed our meeting. We had the pleasure of watching a concert performed by the Mozart Orchestra of Salzburg, conducted by Jesus Lopez-Cobos - a conductor with a multinational resume who always tried to promote the classical music of his native Spain, some of which was included. The singers were Placido Domingo, and Ana Maria Martinez, a Puerto Rican. We were familiar with Domingo's voice and enjoyed listening to him again. We found Martinez' singing style to be seemingly effortless, clear, and unforced - a 'find' to add to our enjoyment of music.

Music - Mainly Classical

No report this month.

Puzzles Patterns & Paradoxes

No report this month.

Renaissance

No report this month.

Travel

Shirley and Robin Brown shared with us their adventures in Iran. It was Ashara religious festival time so many things were shut. However, starting in Tehran, they visited the National Museum, Asadi Tower, Tabiat Bridge, the Goleston Palace and the Soleh Mosque. Qom was very strict and no entry was allowed in the huge

Mosque. Kashan was where they were invited into a local's house for dinner. Food generally consisted of rice, kebabs, tomatoes, and peppers eaten sitting on the floor using their fingers. At Yazd, the centre of Zoroastrianism, they visited the Towers of Silence, used to dispose of the dead until about 1960. Persepolis Shiraz and Estefan were also highlights. They found the people very kind and hospitable.

Ukulele

No report this month.

Walking

July Wenderholm Regional Park

Park on the right hand side just after the park entrance near the toilet block at 9.45am. We will cross the road and walk down toward the estuary where we will follow the estuary path back to the road, passing the boat ramp and around to the beach. We will walk along the beach and back to our cars via the grounds of Cauldrey House. There are picnic tables near where our cars will be parked so bring your own morning tea. Some of the ground maybe wet and muddy.

July Mairangi, Murrays, and Rothesay Bays - Streets, Walkways, Bush and Coast

Meet at Mairangi Bay Beach beside the swings at 9.45am Bring walking Poles.

We will walk through suburban walkways and streets, heading for the Speedy Bush Track in Murrays Bay. We then traverse via more walkways and streets, as we head for Rothesay Bay. From there, we head on out to the Coastal Walkways, and back down to Mairangi Bay. Depending on how the group is feeling, we can either take a "half way" coffee break at Rothesay Bay, or else carry on or finish with coffee at a Mairangi Bay Café.