

February 2021



Browns Bay Newsletter



GUEST SPEAKER

Dr Ian Smith

"Living with Volcanoes"

On graduating with a degree in geology from Victoria University of Wellington, Ian Smith took up a job as volcanologist at the Central Volcanological Observatory in Rabaul, Papua New Guinea. This was followed by a research fellowship at the University of Toronto in Canada studying some of the oldest volcanic rocks on the planet and their role in the formation of the Earth's early crust. In 1980 Ian took up a teaching position at the University of Auckland where he remained until retirement.

The study of volcanoes and their eruptions has taken on renewed significance over the last 40 years as major eruptions around the world have impacted communities and disrupted patterns of human activity.

In parallel with that, there has been an extraordinary development of techniques focused on understanding of how volcanoes work and how the potentially dangerous impact of their eruptions can be mitigated. Ian's research has focused on volcanoes of the 'Pacific rim of fire' particularly the southwest Pacific islands and New Zealand.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy New Year to all members!

After a momentous, one-in-100 year pandemic event in 2020, 2021 starts off more hopefully, at least for us lucky enough to be living in New Zealand. We are able to travel to catch up with friends and family at a time we traditionally wish to, and enjoy tourism – at least around New Zealand, and the sun is shining. While 2021 is not guaranteed to be Lock-down free, it really depends upon all of us to stop the spread of virus through good hygiene and following clear guidelines. Not too hard we may think? Funny how regulations and sensible guidelines still provide a challenge for some people.

Committee aims in 2021 will include continuing to record attendees at our meetings for Health and safety reasons. Reviewing and updating our publicity material for BB U3A and continuing to promote participation in interesting and meaningful learning and social interaction; continue the responsible management while ensuring the resources are available for the club to function.

We include a list of the committee members in this Newsletter. We welcome your thoughts and look forward to your willing participation in helping us to achieve these aims. Val Lloyd

NOTICES

Shona Cooper

It is with regret that we note the passing of one of our original members, Shona Cooper. Shona was the second President of our Club. RIP Shona.

New Inquiries to join U3A

If you know anyone who is interested in joining our U3A, please pass their names onto our Membership Liaison Myfanwy Van Hoffen. Your committee has prepared a whole “interest pack” for any such inquiries. Contact via contact page on this website.

SIG REPORTS

Active Travellers - No report this month

Archaeology - No report this month

Art History - No report this month

Art Potpourri – No report this month

Book_Group – No report this month

Books and Beyond – No report this month.

Classical Music – No report this month.

Creative audio visual – No report this month.

Creative Writing – No report this month

Current Affairs – No report this month.

Cycling

The cycling group travelled to Napier on 23rd November for their annual 'away' trip. Tuesday the group rode from Clive to Clifton along dedicated cycle trails, enjoyed lunch in Clifton at a café called 'Hygge', (which means in Danish 'enjoying the good things in life with good people in a comfortable environment! All that for one word), and back to Clive again. We cycled on the tops of stop banks, so our views were excellent, until we reached coastal areas where we passed alongside some houses that have been almost washed away by the tide. Wednesday's weather was wet and windy, so we visited the museum and other tourist areas and lunched at 'The Mission'. Thursday we got back on our bikes again to ride to Puketapu from the 'Atea arangi' - 'The Star Compass' navigation installation at Awatoto, Napier.



We stopped at the Puketapu Pub for refreshments, then back to Napier. The Hawkes Bay area has built many cycling/walking trails, almost all off road, and in excellent condition. We found they were being well-used, and tourism in Napier and Hastings was booming. We left for home - or other places – on Friday. A great area for biking.



Film Appreciation

The first meeting for 2021 will be held on February 19 at 10.00 am at the Heart of the Bays Community Centre, Browns Bay. New members welcome.

Français pour rire

Our first meeting of the year was held on 25 Jan, we had a few absences due to holidays but still had ten at our meeting. Barbara gave us some details of life in the Seven Valleys, an area near Calais in Northern France. And also close to Agincourt as the English spell it. The French plan to have annual celebrations there re-enacting the battle - but they don't say who won! She also spoke of a Spa in the Ariège in South-west France where one can luxuriate. Fay introduced a new aspect of French life - with Covid-19 around should the French carry on with the longtime tradition of "faire la bise" greeting people by a couple of pecks on each other's cheeks!

Gareth rounded up with a continuation of the story of a French girl and an American guy meeting up in Paris and their adventures.

International Studies –

At a recent Christmas lunch we discussed changing our name to International Affairs. I will do more consultation before changing this.

Our format is simple. A member will present us with their research about a country of their choice; questions and discussion follows and then a wider ranging discussion about what is going on world-wide. New members welcome

In February Bill will conclude his talk about Albania to bring us up to 20th Century

Inventors and Inventions – No report this month

Local History – No report this month

Mah Jong – No report this month.

Medical Science and History - No report this month

Modern History

Margaret and Shirley kindly agreed to be co-conveners for 2021. The group watched the first episode of James Belich's DVD The New Zealand Wars. This was followed by sumptuous snacks and drinks supplied by the group.(minus the juices which the outgoing convener left in his fridge!!) Members are looking forward to a more tranquil 2021 and would warmly welcome new members. Persons with a knowledge of operating DVDs, computers, putting the switch on, would be especially welcomed and entitled to extra biscuits at smoko.

Music Appreciation and History – No report this month

Music - Mainly Classical

Our Christmas lunch was held at Terry's home where we feasted on our communal supply of finger food, with suitable drinks, background music and a good chinwag. When we finished Terry gave a survey of some of our favourite music and musicians via YouTube. This included Susan Boyle, James Hill, Jamaican steel bands, Lonnie Donegan, the bagpipes, the Sistine Chapel Choir and Lisa Batiashvili playing Bach's Air. What could be termed as a rather eclectic selection!!

Puzzles Patterns & Paradoxes – No report this month

Renaissance

Patricia spoke about Elizabethan 'prodigy houses.' These were large and showy country houses built during the reign of Elizabeth I by nobles and courtiers in order to host the Queen during her annual summer progresses. Vying to outdo one another kept the nobles from plotting against her, but in return they hoped to beg favours, grants or offices. It was an expensive exercise though - as well as housing the monarch in style there could be up to 150 other people in her retinue to be housed and fed. We looked at a few examples of 'prodigy houses', including Montacute House, Burghley, Hardwick Hall, Kirby Hall, and Holdenby. Though many have been destroyed, there are eighteen still essentially intact and are masterpieces of architecture that continue to amaze and bedazzle. Heather talked about Literature in the English Renaissance period of 15th and 16th Centuries. When the printing press came to England it opened up the written word to many, and encouraged others to learn to read. The Shakespeare company performed in pub yards, open spaces and later at the Globe theatre. Many companies also toured. She quoted from Marlowe, Ben Johnson, Edmund Spenser et al. A timeline of dates was useful.

The Maori World – No report this month.

Travel – No report this month

Ukulele

Those of us who met for a Pot-Luck Christmas Lunch had not bargained on playing a game called "Ladder Toss" with 7 sets of two tennis balls at the ends of a piece of rope and to throw them at a 3 bar ladder with each rail providing different points. The session ended with Christmas Ukulele songs.



The first Ukulele get together will be on Wednesday 13th Feb. at 1.30pm, then every Wednesday until further notice.