

General Meeting for Members: Tuesday 5th February 10am - 12 noon

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr Mels Barton

Title: Kauri Dieback Disease?



Dr Barton has a degree in Geology and Physical Geography and PhD in estuarine sediment transport processes. She worked for Environment Agency Wales for 9 years, culminating as the Water Quality Consents Manager for Wales. She emigrated from Wales in 1999 and now lives in Titirangi.

An environmental scientist, campaigner, organiser, networker and environmental advocate, Mels works with many community organisations and not-for-profits including The Tree Council, Friends of Regional Parks, Revive Our Gulf and Living Wage Aotearoa New Zealand. She is Chair of the Titirangi Residents & Ratepayers Association and the Combined Waitākere Ranges R&R Group and is a former Trustee of Ecomatters Environment Trust and the Weedfree Trust. She has been the National and Auckland Coordinator of NZAEE Seaweed since 2011 and is a leading member of the Waitākere Rāhui campaign and the Kauri Rescue project team.

Mels runs her own consultancy business Subliminal Ltd which enables her to work on many environmental projects including Seaweed, and the citizen science initiatives Kauri Rescue and Marine Metre Squared. She recently spent 5 years working for Te Atatu Labour MP and Housing Minister Phil Twyford as his Issues Assistant.

2019	SIG presentation	Hall Seating	Morning tea
5 February	U3A Network Speakers. topics – Le Quesnoy & Vincent van Gogh	Local History	Art Potpourri
5 March	Book Group	Patterns, Puzzles & Problems	Cycling

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to our first activity for 2019. The committee hope you have all had a relaxing break and look forward to another active year at U3A Browns Bay.

The guest speaker at our final meeting in December was Jan Gow, an expert in genealogy who gave some step-by-step advice on how to get started. If you would like to start researching and writing-up your family history Jan generously allowed us to put some of her resources onto our website so take advantage of her generosity and expertise and get started. Over the break I have continued with the writing-up of my own family research, which I started about twenty years ago. My New Year's resolution is to keep going steadily and be like the tortoise and win the race!

Sir Richard Faull, our November speaker who enthralled us with his talk “The Magic of the Human Brain” mentioned that the university had cut the funding substantially for the Centre for Brain Research at the University of Auckland. Working alongside community organisations these teams of leading neuroscientists and clinicians have undertaken ground-breaking research on the ageing-brain and age-related neurological disorders such as stroke, Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s disease and sensory loss and were the first to identify that the adult human brain has the ability to create new cells. So I was delighted to read in the Herald December 8th that Sir David Levene has donated \$5 million to the University so Sir Richard and his team can continue their research programme.

New Special Interest Groups for 2019: In March we will start setting up some of the new SIG’s where a strong interest shown. Members who expressed interest will be emailed with some suggested times. When there is sufficient consensus we will guide the set-up. It is not too late to express interest on the form below.

Reminder - Unpaid Subscriptions: If you have not paid you are not eligible to participate in the monthly meeting or the study groups. Reminders have been sent out.

Glen Plaistowe

Proposed new Study Groups for 2019 - TICK any group(s) you are interested in.

Name:.....**Ph:**.....

Email.....**Day & time to be arranged with members**

Photography: digital photography on cameras, cell phones and tablets. Working with photos	Ukulele: form a group and learn together
International Studies across Countries: Political, historical, economic and social impacts	Late afternoon Walking Group: Fitness and socialising, sharing thoughts
Engineering: Exploring the great engineering projects, engineers, impact of technology, future trends	Te reo/Māori Studies: Introduction to basic language, culture, history
What’s on in Auckland? Attending current displays, shows, events etc., with others	Philosophy: Explore matters such as existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind, the nature of human thought and the nature of the universe
Increasing Computer Skills: Short courses to increase essential skills	China Present: A study of the dramatic development of China in recent times and its impact on world affairs.

To book: hand-in form at the monthly meeting Elizabeth

COMMITTEE REPORT

Treasurer: Thanks to Piers Hamid for persisting with the bank to get things set-up so U3A accounts outstanding can be paid to our creditors on-line.

Speaker Manager Urgently Required: We need a Speaker Manager to join the committee for 2019, ideally a male to support Pier’s male voice on committee decisions. The speakers for the first four months are already organised. Please contact Glen 027 5412241

Membership Numbers: Over 70 members have still not paid. They are ineligible to attend our activities.

Promotion: We have purchased new 4 colour brochures that have been redesigned by the Network with contact details specific to Browns Bay. Members will be encouraged to take some and hand them out to friends.

Newsletter: Reminder for a brief entry for the calendar about the next meeting activity / place and identify open to new members if your SIG has space available.

Reports accepted: Conditions for inclusion email by the closing date, Maximum: 150 words and can be transferred directly without requiring re-writing.

Reminder: We have stopped mailing out newsletters. The newsletter is on the website.

Visitors Attending Interest Group Meetings: Prospective members are allowed to attend one session so long as the convenor has been contacted. Some groups are full so will decline. A U3A member from another club may attend a group meeting as a guest but again must contact the convenor first. If a U3A member from another local U3A wishes to continue attending they will need to enrol with U3A Browns Bay and hold a dual membership.

Convenor Folders: Elizabeth has worked hard to review and up-date the procedure notes given to the convenors. They will be ready for hand out at the March meeting

Change of Time for Main Speaker: The first three speakers arranged for 2019 have all asked to start at 11.00am.

SIG REPORTS from previous month

Active Travellers- Gabrielle Graham

☎ 479 2650 (4th Tuesday 10.00am)

Penny Walton gave a talk on waking up on a Winnipeg Winter's morning at -40 degrees and one of the biggest blizzards to ever hit the area. She also spoke of life in general growing up there at the time when children walked everywhere, mothers did not drive or have cars and Summers were often Swelteringly hot! Frying an egg on the road was a Summer trick to see how hot it was. "I'm bored" was never in our vocabulary then.

Mary Howlett spoke on her recent visit to Quebec City, Canada. This city is a world heritage site as it is the oldest walled city in North America. Quebec City has an old world French feel and stunning scenery as it overlooks the Saint Lawrence river.

Archaeology – Evelyn Ross

☎ 479 4299 (3rd Monday 1.30 pm)

We celebrated the end of 2018 in November with a wonderful relaxed BBQ at the home of Peter and Natalie Dawson. Lots of discussion and wine and a general good time and looking forward to starting up again on the 18th February 2019!

Art History - Helen Bull

☎ 476 0024 (2nd Thursday 1.30pm)

Our last meeting of the year was a delicious BYO lunch eaten on a gorgeous sunny day in Fay's garden. After that Gloria spoke about the New Zealand artist Gordon Walters who has had an exhibition in the Auckland Art Gallery last winter and spring. His work specializes in arrangements of stylized koru and the exploration of space using rectangles.

Cycling – Val Lloyd

☎ 414 5529 (1st Wednesday)

Riding the Te Awa trails from Hamilton

Fifteen hearty souls headed off on Tuesday 4th December for a three night stay in Hamilton, two days dedicated to bike riding. Having chosen a motel close to the river and the CBD we were able to start our first day ride from our motel. After breakfast we headed down to the mighty Waikato river and rode 23 kms along the river all the way to Ngaruawahia - what a beautiful, mostly flat, ride stopping at newly built green and blue 'Perry Bridge', one of the longest cycle bridges in New Zealand. This was a photo stop to examine the beautiful mosaic designed by students from Ngaruawahia High School to symbolise the Mighty Waikato River as a food source and an important trade and war route.

The first people we met in Ngaruawahia, while looking for a place to have coffee, were the local police! They were very worried we might cause problems because of our age!! We asked about coffee - "you are in Ngaruawahia" was the reply and suggested we try the BP station. We returned on the same trail and some rode onto the "Hamilton Gardens" - what a wonderful asset the gardens are to Hamilton! There are so many beautiful themed gardens with the 1922 Katherine Mansfield 'The Garden Party' garden being the star attraction.

The following day we drove to the Avantidrome near Cambridge and rode to Lake Karapiro - 16kms each way - another beautiful ride despite the odd shower! We encountered one diversion that took us up a very very steep

hill into Cambridge town. We stopped at the Podium cafe beside Lake Karapiro for lunch during a heavy downpour. However, we all managed to get back to our cars before the thunder rolled in!
Two great rides and even better company!

Film Appreciation – Lyn Kerridge

☎ 478 9793 (3rd Friday 10.00am)

At our last meeting we viewed the film "The Women He's undressed" (a documentary about the life of the Australian costume designer and three time Oscar winner Orry-Kelly). Over lunch we decided to revisit some of his many films this year.

Français pour rire – Sheila Bagby

☎ 413 8618 (4th Monday 10.00am)

For our last meeting of the year - before our annual luncheon - Gareth described his trip through Burgundy, having left Provence behind. First of all Cluny, with its abbey founded in 910, before arriving in their cottage deep in the Burgundian countryside. Day-trips to historical towns and markets followed with of course the food and wine for which the region is famous. A highlight was Beaune with its hospice founded in 1450 and still in use up until 1970's. Finally through Nuits-St.-Georges (a very famous wine town) to Dijon the capital of Burgundy notable for its mustard. In all these towns large areas are pedestrianised making sightseeing and shopping so easy. Would that we could have the same in Browns Bay!

Local History – Bill Ellis

☎ 479 9245 (2nd Monday 10.00am)

Recent Local History Group topics have been varied and interesting - from 'caving' to Devonport Museum where we visited for our final meeting of 2018. We had watched the TV program on the work done at the museum before visiting. The museum is well worth the visit.

Medical Science and History – Jeanette Gillibrand

☎ 478 3192 (1st Thursday 10.00am)

In December the presentation and discussion was on the topic of ultra sound--- its history, development and current usage.

Music - Mainly Classical– Terry Dale

☎ 473 5172 (1st Monday 1.30pm)

We had our Christmas lunch at Terry's home to the background music of a selection of modern jazz favourites. After much chatting, this was eventually followed by a DVD of a 2017 Festival Concert from the Semperoper, Dresden, Conductor: Christian Thielemann. They played Reznicek Overture to *Donna Diana*, then Nikolaj Znaider, played Bruch's Concerto for violin and Orchestra, No.1 in G minor. This was then followed by Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture.

Travel– Anne Gough

☎ 415 8820 (4th Wednesday 10.00 am)

This month Evelyn Ross told us about her "misadventure" in China last year. We learned of the ordeal of having an accident in a non-tourist area of China where no English was spoken and what she experienced in the hospitals. She needed to hire a caregiver for her hospital stay and for someone to get food for her. Doctors and everyone were lovely people but everything sooooo different to NZ hospitals. She was eventually transferred to a major hospital in Beijing where she received the best of care. It re-emphasised to us all the importance of Travel Insurance