

# U3A REMUERA

## President's Piece – February 2024

Welcome back from your holidays, those of you who have been away. I still have to have my Christmas break. Taking later holidays comes from years of working in the hospital, being needed over the Christmas period and thus being able to take advantage of the lovely early Autumn weather when less people are at the beaches and resorts. Plus, I have always liked Auckland over the Christmas periods when the roads and beaches are empty and the weather usually is settled.

Two weeks before Christmas I spent a week in the Coromandel. What a lovely time to be there, both red and yellow pohutukawa blooming in profusion. It was a wet but lovely week. Interesting people, lovely landscapes.

This year, our first speaker will be Professor Hoadley. He will give his opinion on the Israel/Gaza problem. When I asked him to speak last year, I rather hoped the war would be over by now. Sadly, this is not the case.

Study group convenors will also talk about their groups and encourage you to join. Please attend if you can.

One of the unexpected pleasures of becoming President is that I have inherited a number of folders of historic data about our U3A. Later in the year, the committee is going to have a look and see what needs to be kept and what is now redundant. If there are any budding historians out there, please get in contact with me and perhaps we can go over them to decide what is of interest.



Finally, I am lucky in that I have a great committee, to help me throughout the year. As the year unfolds, please consider becoming part of next year's committee. Last year I was vice president and my role was to get a speaker for the monthly meeting. At the start I was pretty uptight about the role but I would like to say that the year unfolded like a dream. Suggestions for speakers from all sides, speakers were so happy to contribute and so pleasant to meet. So many nice people in the world. My experience is that being on the committee has been fun, interesting people and learn a lot.

I shall be a little sad when I am put out to pasture at the end of the year.

I wish you all a happy New Year for 2024.

Raewyn Bluck  
President Remuera U3A

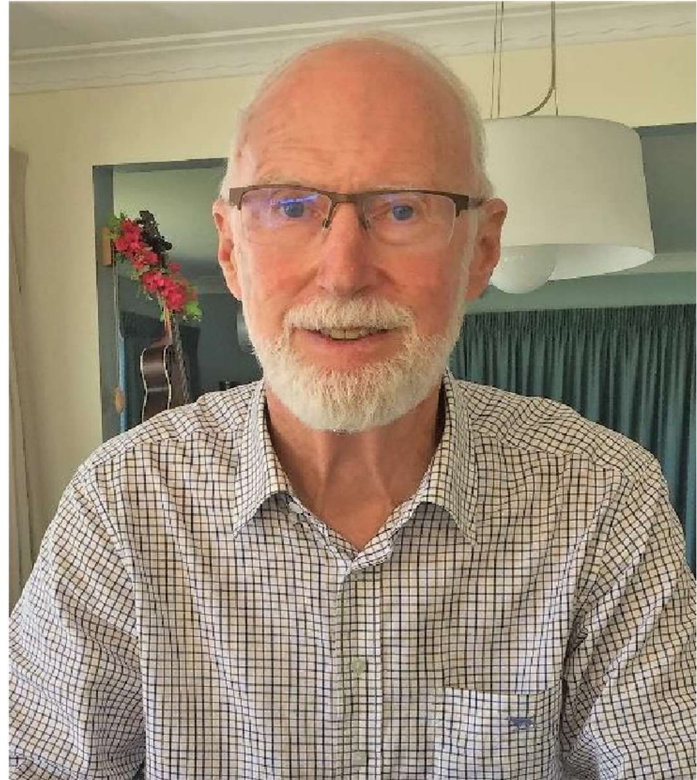
## Our February speaker is Professor Stephen Hoadley

### Israel versus Hamas: An Update

Hamas's brutal terrorist attack and Israel's heavy military response are the latest episodes of a history of antagonism. This slideshow will sketch the causes and flare-ups prior to the current conflict, describe the current aims and tactics of the two sides, and assess the prospects for a stable Israeli-Palestinian coexistence.

Conflicts with Hezbollah, Houthis, and Iran, and relations with the Gulf emirates and the US, will be touched on.

Questions and comments will be welcome. For background reading the following link is recommended: <https://www.thepost.co.nz/nz-news/350113942/israel-winning-militarily-losing-political-war>



### 2024 meetings

12<sup>th</sup> February  
11<sup>th</sup> March  
8<sup>th</sup> April  
13<sup>th</sup> May  
10<sup>th</sup> June  
8<sup>th</sup> July  
12<sup>th</sup> August  
9<sup>th</sup> September  
14<sup>th</sup> October  
11<sup>th</sup> November  
9<sup>th</sup> December

### Meeting tasks

Greeters	AAAA
Morning tea	Genealogy
Mini Talk replaced by study group recruitment	

### February

### Meeting tasks

Greeters	Current Affairs
Morning tea	Philosophy
Mini Talk	Current Affairs

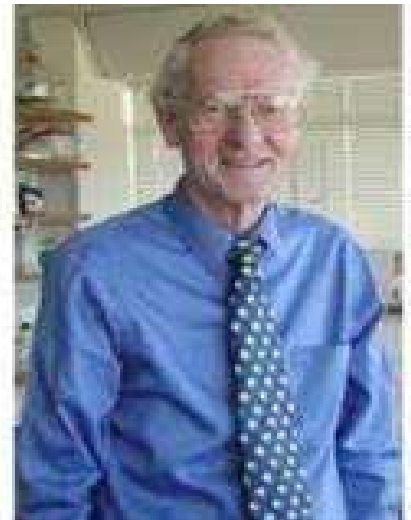
### March

## Speaker for March

Laurence Melton, Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Science, University of Auckland will present the March Talk.

His subject will be Precision genetic engineering (CRISPR), one of the most important scientific breakthroughs of the 21st century so far. It has the potential of curing many serious diseases such as cystic fibrosis, Huntington's disease, haemophilia. Cures for sickle cell disease and thalassaemia have already been developed.

Further, it is being used to breed crops and animals to deal with climate change (e.g. cows that fart less, produce more milk and cope with increasing temperatures).



## Director of Studies

As a new U3A year starts it is an opportunity to join study groups, stimulate your brain and widen your social contacts, both known to assist with the quality of life.

The first half of our meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup> will have each of the Study Group Convenors present a brief talk aimed at recruiting new members and letting us all know the quality of the study undertaken by our groups.

Please make sure you register your name and contact with the convenor/s of groups you wish to join.

No Mini Talk in February as all convenors will be speaking briefly about the work of their Study Group and recruiting new members.

Current Affairs Study Group will give a mini talk at our March meeting.



## Wallis Walker.

**It is now time to pay your sub for the year 2024.** This year we have had to raise the sub to \$50.00 to cover the cost of hall rent and morning tea and biscuits. The sub has not increased since 2011. The preferred method of payment is by electronic banking or you may pay in cash at the monthly meeting.

- The sub due is fifty dollars (\$50).
- Please include your name in the reference box when you pay.
- Please pay into bank account 12 3030 0469700 00

If you do not wish to continue your membership, please advise either Membership Secretary Lynn Bartram - [lynnbartram3@gmail.com](mailto:lynnbartram3@gmail.com) or Treasurer Karin Hulme - [khulme@xtra.co.nz](mailto:khulme@xtra.co.nz) Phone - 09 5212 757

### Message from a past member, Lee Goffin now living in Bluff.

The Law Commission is currently conducting a Review on "Decision Making for Older People." Please draw this to the attention of Remuera U3A. I made submissions to the first round and have on request, received copies of the feedback so far. A second summary will be sent in January and a final call for submission 10 weeks after that.

You know of my interest in this issue and I have continued doing my talk "Legal Issues for the over-50s/Time to Learn to Count Backwards by Sevens"

I am really worried that most of the submissions are from organisations and institutions whose mission is part of "tidying away" older people.

The voices of us oldies need to be heard.

Lee Goffin

Note:

Wallis Walker is happy to collate or collaborate with any submissions from our Auckland friends or assist in any way.



## Timeless taonga! Only known customary sail Te Rā on loan from British Museum

Many of you will have seen this sail but worth a trip to the Auckland Museum if you haven't.

A team from the Royal Society Te Apārangi Marsden fund project, was created to become the first team to systematically study or document the sail They said it had been a long process to get it to Aotearoa, but "for us, bringing Te Rā home, it's just amazing".

Made of harakeke, along with weka and kererū feathers, and a tiny piece of dog hide – a native kurī used only in kākahu (garments) for those of the highest ranking. No tribal provenance was found, so the piece will be returned to the British Museum.



It was a mystery how it came to be in British hands . It was first recorded by the British Museum in 1890, but had likely been in storage there a lot longer.

The team speculated that it came from Captain James Cook's collection in the 1700s, "but we can't say for sure". It is thought that it came to have been gifted to Tupaia, the Polynesian navigator on the ship.

From what is understood so far, it was not an across-ocean sail, but rather used on waka travelling the coastline.

### **To Contact Remuera U3A**

Listed below, the email and web addresses of Remuera U3A.

Please give them to anyone who you think might be interested in knowing more or thinking of joining us.

Remuera U3A Email address : [u3aRemuera@gmail.com](mailto:u3aRemuera@gmail.com)

Remuera U3A Web address : <https://remuerau3a.org.nz>