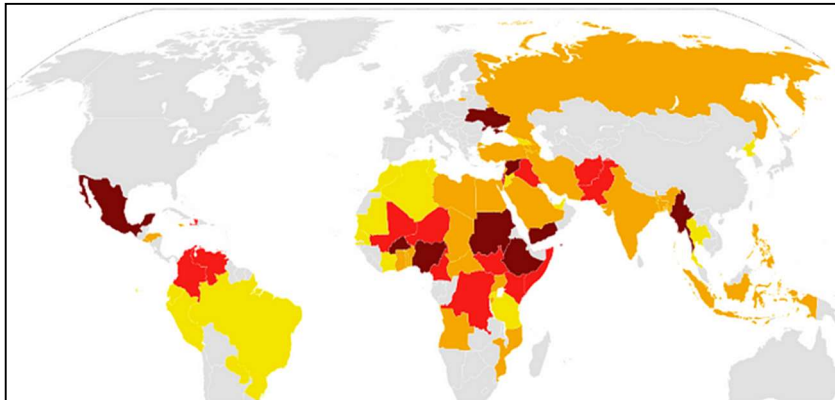


# U3A REMUERA

## President's Piece – March 2024

Greetings All,

What a lovely summer we have had. Hot, dry and seemingly endless, although it is amazing how quickly the days shorten after Christmas. I am always sorry when daylight savings ends. I personally wish it could continue all year so that we might have lighter evenings even in winter.



I am sure that those present enjoyed the talk Professor Hoadley gave us about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. One hopes for an end to the conflict but then one hopes for an end to the conflicts raging all over the world. Sadly, the world map on the left shows most of the world's conflicts. We are lucky to live where we do.

In order to make newcomers to Remuera U3A feel more welcome, we have decided to identify them with a blue dot on their name tag. If you see a blue tagged person standing alone and looking rather lonely, please go up and talk to them. Additionally, committee members will have a yellow dot on their name tag. If you wish to talk to a committee member (or heaven help us) wish to volunteer to join the committee, please feel free to approach any committee member.

We intend to run a series through the year outlining the duties of those on the committee. In general, the duties are not onerous. I will do the first of the series outlining the duties of the Vice President. During my time on the committee, I have found it to be fun and interesting. Perhaps the lowest point was when I first joined as membership secretary and I had to print, address and mail out 180 newsletters each month. Cost a fortune in stamps and took ages to fill the envelopes. I was an early advocate of emails.

This month Professor Laurence Melton is going to talk about Precision genetic engineering (CRISPR), one of the marvels of today's scientific breakthroughs.

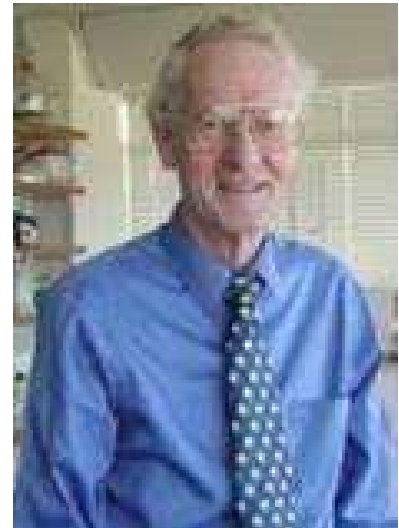
Please come along and listen. And please stay for the shorter talk after morning tea from one of our members. We have had some very interesting short talks from members, all of whom are bright cookies and it is disappointing to see member numbers decrease after morning tea.

Raewyn Bluck  
President Remuera U3A

**Our March speaker is Laurence Melton**  
**Emeritus Professor, Faculty of Science, University of Auckland**

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 to cure 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).



**2024 Meetings**

- 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
- Morning tea
- Mini Talk
- Group Reports

**March**

- Current Affairs
- Philosophy
- Current Affairs
- Music Appreciation & Famous & Infamous

**Meeting tasks**

- Greeters
- Morning tea
- Mini Talk
- Group Reports

**April**

- Current Affairs
- SARUS
- Walking Group
- NZ History & Foodies

**Speaker for April**

Our April speaker is Sue Cooper from Remuera Heritage. Her talk is on "The Great Maori Feast" at Remuera on the 11th May, 1844. The 180th anniversary of this momentous event is coming up soon.

**Our mini speaker**

Mini Talk will be by John Trainor on the topic "Lawfare in the Presidential Election." John is Convenor of our Current Affairs Study Group and will give us insight into the meaning and use of this new word LAWFARE!

## **Director of Studies**

Convenors made their Study Groups sound very interesting in their presentations to the February meeting and I heard that a few members took the opportunity to join a new group. Thank you to all the Study Group convenors and their deputies.

I am seeking more members to get started Study Groups for Poetry and Travel and need at least 5 people for each. The programme for each group, as well as where and when to meet, will be decided at an initial meeting that I will host at my home.

### **Poetry Group**

Share poems and poets each person enjoys.

### **Travel Group**

Share experiences, hints, tips to help each other have successful, enjoyable NZ and overseas travel. Jackie Humphrey, our new webmaster is keen to see our website information on Study Groups have more impact and has asked for input from convenors.

On Monday 29th April there will be a meeting for Convenors, Co-Convenors and Deputies at St Chads from 10.00am to 11.00am. The purpose of this meeting is to share successes and to help each other. Interested members are welcome too.

Wallis Walker

Director of Studies

## **Group Reports**

### **Famous & Infamous**

This group was formerly run by the late Liz Jameson who has sadly passed away. We have started again meeting in private homes. Our meetings consist of talks by our members on people, places and events, which are then discussed and voted on to be famous or infamous. Last year the topics ranged from George Stephenson and British Rail to the Browns Island Drainage Scheme, Saint Catherine of Siena, Adolph Hitler, Alberton House in Mount Albert, King William IV and Mrs Fitzpatrick, the Kon Tiki expedition and the trial of Charles I.

You choose your own topic and volunteer your home hosting.

The group meets on the first Thursday of each month 10am. All are welcome.  
Convenor Elaine Davies - phone 524 6927.

### **Music Appreciation**

What is music? It can make one feel happy or sad, it can heal, give strength, calm one, it comes in many different forms. Classical, ballet, opera, musicals, jazz to name a few. It is to me a necessary tool in life.

Our monthly meetings consist of one or two DVDs. The first may be a documentary about a composer, musician, singer, an orchestra. This is followed by a DVD about what we have just seen. At the end of our two hours, we are a little wiser about music as a necessary tool for life.

The group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 10am. All are welcome.  
Convenor Gillian West - phone 634 3439.



### **A friendly reminder to all members**

Please wear your name badge and if it is lost or broken request a new one of the membership secretary and remember, committee members have a yellow dot.

### **Passing the baton on to a new Committee is standard U3A procedure.**

We encourage members to be involved in the committee at some time during their U3A membership. With this in mind, each newsletter will give a description of what one committee position involves. It is a great way to know each other better.

### **The Role and Tasks performed by the Remuera U3A Vice President.**

Prior to accepting the position last year, I had been asked a number of times to be Vice President. My answer each time was that I had not lived the type of life that meant I would be able to get speakers for the meeting. I need not have worried! Getting speakers was easy, with well over twenty suggestions during the year. Choosing who to ask was the hard part. My experience was that people were only too keen to come and talk to us. I thoroughly enjoyed the year and it was fun meeting the speaker and the duties detailed below were by no means arduous.

#### **General duties for the VP.**

- Stand in for the President in the event of their absence.
- Arrange the speakers for the monthly meeting. There are pro forma letters for seeking speakers, confirming speakers and thanking speakers.
- Ensure that the Secretary and Newsletter Editor have a list of speakers for two months ahead.
- If you are absent for any reason, ensure that someone has been asked to introduce and thank the speaker.
- Be available for the committee meetings held approximately two monthly.

#### **On the day of the meeting**

- Allocate a parking space for the speaker - usually first space in car park. There is a sign that goes in car space for the speaker.
- Put in place our U3A pavement sign, uplift it after the meeting and store it until next meeting.
- Greet the speaker.
- After the President's welcome to the meeting, introduce the speaker. Thank the speaker after their presentation and arrange for a bank transfer of \$100 to the speaker's nominated account, to be made by our Treasurer.

### From the Auckland City Art Gallery



The Auckland Art Gallery is thrilled to have recently opened the *Robertson Gift* at the Gallery. The exhibition features 15 works by major European artists, generously gifted by Julian and Josie Robertson. If you haven't been already, be sure to check it out. Entry is free.

For the fashion lovers, the Gallery is showing the fabulous *Guo Pei: Fashion, Art, Fantasy* featuring a dazzling array of garments by China's leading couture designer.

Unable to visit during regular opening hours? We've got you covered! Every Wednesday in March the Gallery will stay open until 8pm to allow you the opportunity to visit after work or university.

### To Contact Remuera U3A

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

Please share them with anyone you think might be interested in knowing more or thinking of joining us. Visitors are welcome to attend a meeting before committing to membership.

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

Remuera U3A Website: <https://remuerau3a.org.nz>