

U3A REMUERA

President's Piece – August 2024

Happy August!

Here we are rushing towards summer again. I lived in Canada for a number of years and since returning, I always feel slightly surprised at the shortness of our winters and the speed with which our bulbs start to flower. Although I would hate to have to go through months of snow again, I still miss the seasonal changes.



Wasn't our last speaker, Pete Morgan, fascinating? I was not sure what to expect and was a little worried that his cows might have to wear the bulky "necklaces" seen on the lionesses in Kenya. They looked a little tight I thought, but then cats can escape out of just about anything I suppose.

Pete uses his much lighter necklaces for many reasons including electronic fencing. As one who has helped move many electric fences in my time, I find the concept of simply moving the fence from your phone intriguing. I was pleased to hear that there are some rebel cows that put up with electric shocks as they walk through the fence line in order to have first grab at what might be tomorrow's pasture. Bravo I thought.

We are very soon going to be looking for committee members for the next year. To date I know of two positions that will be vacant.

- Vice President. The Vice President is responsible for finding speakers for the general meeting. When I was VP, I found it very satisfying and was amazed at how pleased people were to be asked to speak at our meetings.
- The Almoner is responsible for keeping an eye on the health and wellbeing of members

Please give consideration to joining us on the committee. Other positions almost certainly will become vacant as current committee members rearrange themselves for the next year.

Enjoy the approaching spring.

Raewyn Bluck
President, Remuera U3A

2024 Meeting Dates

12th August
9th September
14th October
11th November
9th December

Meeting tasks	August
Greeters	Musical Appreciation
Morning tea	Classic Movies
Mini Talk	N Z History
Group Reports	Monday History
	Current Events

Meeting tasks	September
Greeters	N Z History
Morning tea	AAAA
Mini Talk	Monday History
Group Reports	Use it or lose it
	Foodies

Speaker for August is the Honourable John Priestley

The Honourable John Priestley attended Kings School & College and studied Law at the University of Auckland. John carried out postgraduate study at the University of Virginia and at Cambridge. His doctoral thesis was on “Matrimonial Property Systems.”

John commenced practising Law in 1968 and was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1994 and to the High Court Bench in 2000. Among his many interests and involvement in tribunals was that of being Deputy Chairman of the Refugee Status Appeals Authority and Chairman of the Deportation Review Tribunal.

With the rising number of people fleeing their homes because of war, political upheavals, poverty famine & climate change. refugee numbers are rising. How we and many other countries cope with an influx of people seeking refuge is a problem for us all.

The title of his speech is “What is a refugee?”



Our mini speaker

Karen Yates from the NZ History group will present the mini talk for our August 12th meeting.

The title of her talk is:-

“The lifting of Cornwall Park, the inside story.”



Group Reports

Poetry Group

The Poetry Group enjoys sharing poems in a beautiful venue.

"I'm Nobody! Who Are You?" was written over 130 years ago by American poet Emily Dickinson but has a strong relevance today in the age of celebrity. Would you find it “dreary to be somebody” or would you like to be famous?

The poem is short but powerful and in essence, it is a poem in praise of quiet, individual contemplation of the kind represented by Dickinson and her poetry.

I'm Nobody by *Emily Dickinson*

I'm Nobody! Who are you?
Are you Nobody too?
Then there's a pair us!
Don't tell! They'd banish us you know!

How dreary to be Somebody!
How public, like a Frog
To tell one's name the livelong day
To an admiring bog!

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 1pm to 3pm and welcome new members to the group. Please contact Jim Feist for further information– jimfeist5@gmail.com

Monday History Group

Do you ever wonder how our world got into such a mess and what were the original causes of the major events during our lifetime? If so, you need to join the Monday History group as we study the events and major figures of the 19th century. This year we have studied Florence Nightingale, Karl Marx, Victor Hugo and the Rise of Germany.

We meet at 10 o'clock on the first Monday of the month at St Luke's Community Centre, Remuera. New members are most welcome.

For further information please contact Barbara Smith 027 2707 124 or Piers Davies 5246 927

Current Affairs

We do things somewhat differently at Current Affairs. We do not have presentations. Instead, we all bring to the meeting a topic we have picked up from the news, relevant to current affairs in New Zealand or the wider world. Some members speak to their topic for half a minute and others for five minutes or so and then it is thrown open for discussion. There is no time limit on how long this discussion goes and everyone has the opportunity to have their say, or just listen in.

Numbers have grown and we now have seventeen signed up and we never run out of things to say. Of course, this is not hard with a new government in New Zealand, the pre-election saga in the US and wars in Europe and the Middle East.

We meet on the first and 3rd Monday at 10am at St Chads



For further information contact John Trainor, 524 5907, johnval@slingshot.co.nz

Our speaker for September

Our September speaker is Professor Simon Mitchell, Head of Anaesthesiology at the University of Auckland Medical School. The title of his speech is ‘Rescuing the Thai boys.’

Of Interest

A bad hair day? A hihi chick at Tiritiri Matangi.



In pre-European times, hihi were found throughout the North Island and on several islands such as Great Barrier, Little Barrier (Hauturu) and Kapiti. Sadly, the species became extinct on the mainland with the last recorded sighting in the Tararua Ranges in 1883.

The only naturally surviving population of hihi is found on Little Barrier Island (Te Hauturu-o-Toi) in the Hauraki Gulf. Hauturu was declared a bird sanctuary in 1894 and later a nature reserve, a move that undoubtedly saved the hihi from extinction.

DOC and its predecessor, the New Zealand Wildlife Service, have carried out a series of translocations of hihi from Little Barrier Island to other secure predator-free islands. There are now small managed populations of hihi on Tiritiri Matangi and Kapiti islands, as well as Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in Wellington, Bushy Park near Wanganui, Maungatautari, and hihi have recently been reintroduced to Rotokare.

Did you know?

Hihi are also the only birds known to sometimes mate face to face.

To Contact Remuera U3A

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

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

Remuera U3A Email address: u3aRemuera@gmail.com

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