

U3A REMUERA

President's Piece – July 2024

Greetings All

It was nice to come back from my time in the Balkans and find the club is in such good shape. An increase in member numbers, an excellent speaker (Sir Richard Faull) and so many people staying to hear the mini speaker after morning tea. My congratulations to the committee. You are doing a great job.

My time in the Balkans was very interesting. I had not realized that the Balkan wars were only 20 or so years ago so a very short time to get over such trauma. We had a guide from Macedonia for



the entire tour and individual guides for each city tour. The Macedonian guide was sociable, knowledgeable and such a nice man. One day, one of the men on the tour felt emboldened to ask him what he thought of the EU, USA and Russia. His answer was “You will not like this but I am far more comfortable with the Russians. I understand them better.” Then he said he wished to join the EU in the hope that it will help mitigate remaining antipathies from the war.

Other unexpected surprises included bears on the side of the road, everyone smoking and the amount of wood accumulated to keep people warm during the winter. We have become used to a reasonably pristine environment.

We have a very interesting speaker lined up for July. Peter Morgan is going to introduce us to a tech-friendly approach to the changing agricultural landscape. On his dairy farm, GPS tracking, climate-modelling and data analysis are complemented by virtual fencing systems and electric utility bikes. Artificial Intelligence hits the country. Should be intriguing.

We here at Edmund Hillary have robotic lawn mowers. They fascinate me.

I am looking forward to the July meeting.

Cheers
Raewyn



2024 meetings

8th July
 12th August
 9th September
 14th October
 11th November
 9th December

Meeting tasks

Greeters	July Monday History
Morning tea	NZ History
Mini Talk	Musical Appreciation
Group Reports	AAAA Walking Group

Meeting tasks

Greeters	August Music Appreciation
Morning tea	Classic Movies
Mini Talk	NZ History
Group Reports	Monday History Current Events

Speaker for July is Peter Morgan

Pete Morgan, who farms 265 hectares in the Waikato with his wife Ann, is one of a new generation of farmers who are passionate about spearheading a proactive and tech-friendly approach to the changing agricultural landscape.

Nominated as an Agri Star by UBCO, Pete integrates GPS tracking, climate-modelling and data analysis with cutting edge “field tech” such as virtual fencing systems and electric utility bikes.

Pete envisions the future of farming anchored in sustainability and meeting the evolving demands of climate change and societal

**Director of Studies**

A BIG thank you to members who host study group meetings in their homes. Warm, friendly venues and an opportunity to get to know each other is much appreciated.

Wallis Walker.

July Mini Talk

Mini Talk for 8 July will be from Music Appreciation Study Group. Gillian West the enthusiastic, convenor will be giving a talk on an aspect of music.

Group Reports

The Walking Group

Our walking group was resurrected from recess last year. We meet at 9.30 am on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.

Our style is more rambling than tramping, meaning that we stretch our legs, visit interesting places, enjoy good company and finish at a café for tea or coffee and sometimes, a little treat.

Our group has grown over the year and we now have 14 members, although we typically have between 6 and 10 people on any particular day. Our walks have included Cornwall Park, Mangere Mountain, Tahuna Torea, Devonport Naval Museum, Waiatarua Reserve, Botanical Gardens, Orakei Basin.

We welcome new members.
Contact: Merryn Rose 0210 415 714.



Art, Artists, Architecture & Antiques

Known as the 4As, we are a lively group, interested in all things artistic. Each member presents on a topic of their choosing or organises an outing, such as to a special art exhibition. So far this year topics have included ceramicist Clarice Cliff, famous Hawkes Bay architect Richard Hawkes, photographer Ans Westra and a visit to the Auckland Art gallery to view the Robertson Gift and exhibition Paths through Modernity. We meet on 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10am at Grace Joel Village.

New members welcome.
Contact: Mary Gray 021 230 5405

Auckland Network Event – Celebrating U3A in Action

The annual Auckland Network this year will be held on **Saturday July 27th**. Numbers are limited.

The main speakers are Distinguished Professor Emeritus Paul Spoonley MA MSc PhD FRSNZ and Sir Ashley Blomfield KNZM.

Click the link below and then EVENT for full information and to register for the event.

<https://www.u3auckland.net/>

John Berridge - Network Rep

Matariki - perhaps of interest

The following item is from the latest monthly Heritage New Zealand newsletter. Matariki is celebrated on 28 June. With even a small pair of binoculars it is worth viewing. There are many more stars to be seen in addition to the traditional seven sisters. The Pleiades, as they are known in western culture, covers an area of sky slightly greater than the Moon. The stars are grouped in what is known as an "open cluster" or "galactic cluster" and surrounded by a blue nebulosity.

These stars are young, newly born and hot. Puanga, (Rigel in the nearby constellation of Orion) is also blue, hot and therefore young. The star that westerners know as Betelgeuse is intensely red, cool, soon to die in stellar terms. When large stars like this become red giants, and nuclear fusion fails in their cores, the red gaseous envelope has nothing to prevent it collapsing gravitationally into the core. It then rebounds in a spectacular stellar explosion known as a supernova.

Before the arrival of the Gregorian Calendar to Aotearoa New Zealand, life was measured by the sun, the moon and the stars. The rising and setting sun ordered day to day life. Phases of the moon defined the named lunar months. The Maramataka started on Whiro (the new moon) and named nights following its progression through the sky. The turning of the year was marked by the stars. Matariki (Pleiades) rises in the lunar month of Pipiri, and along with Puanga (Rigel) signifies the new stellar year.

Traditionally this was a time to commemorate those who had died, to celebrate being together and to plan for the new year. Matariki and Puanga celebrations lasted into the early 1900s, but like many aspects of mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) were essentially lost.

In 2000, Te Rangi Huata of Ngāti Kahungunu in Heretaunga (Hastings) organised a Matariki celebration and since then the movement to recognise the rising stars has culminated in the new national holiday. Matariki is an example of heritage mātauranga restored and reinvented in the 21st Century. Just as Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga has supported communities revitalising their traditional knowledges through the Mātauranga Māori program. Mānawatia a Matariki, a Puanga, mō te tau hou!

Dennis Ngawhare

Kaiwhakatere Kaupapa Māori | Manager Māori Heritage Recognition

*Tairangahia a tua whakarere, tātakihia ngā reanga o āmuri ake nei.
Honouring the past, inspiring the future.*

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

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Remuera U3A Web address

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