

# U3A REMUERA

## President's Piece – June 2024

Hi from the Baltics,

I am writing from the wilds of Macedonia. Actually, not all that wild. Today we are in the fascinatingly beautiful city of Ohrid. It is full of ancient buildings, some in ruins and some still being used. This morning, we visited the church of St Sophia, which served as a mosque under the Ottomans, survived communism and is now an orthodox Christian church. The church has amazing icons but we were advised not to take photos, so I shall just have to remember them.

Ohrid is situated on an enormous lake called Lake Ohrid that borders Albania and North Macedonia. So much history between the two countries and I am planning to read up a bit more about the Baltics when I get home. We started our bus tour in Zagreb and end in Sofia. It amazes me how much countries change within a few kilometres of the border and there are many lovely roads and bridges

Amazing to think that while New Zealand was busy developing its flora and fauna this part of the world was watching civilizations come and go.

In Albania we visited a relatively newly developed archaeological site where the plan is to knock down a number of houses to expand and develop a fairly recently discovered site which goes back before Roman times. They take their history seriously.

There are many empty houses, partly because of recent wars and partly because the young all go to the EU to work if they can. Some countries report there are more citizens living outside the country than within. So much of the history involves fighting and conquering. A bit like today I guess except that our weapons are so much more vicious.

It has been encouraging to discover how many people on this tour belong to and enjoy the benefits of U3A. We must do our best to encourage more members and keep our organisation viable.

All the best and see you in June

Raewyn



**2024 meetings**

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

**June**

Genealogy  
 Monday History  
 Use it or lose it  
 Classic Movies  
 Earth Science

**Meeting tasks**

Greeters  
 Morning tea  
 Mini Talk  
 Group Reports

**July**

Monday History  
 NZ History  
 Music Appreciation  
 AAAA  
 Walking Group

**Speaker for June is Sir Richard Faull**

**Sir Richard FAULL KNZM, BMedSc, MB, ChB, PhD, DSc, FRSNZ**

Sir Richard Faull is a Distinguished Professor and Director of the Centre for Brain Research at the University of Auckland.

During his 45 years at the University, he has established an international reputation for his research studies on the normal and diseased human brain (Alzheimer's, Huntington's, Parkinson's and epilepsy) and with the generous support of families, has established an international leading Human Brain Bank to promote worldwide research on human brain diseases. His research group has revolutionised our knowledge of the human brain by showing that contrary to dogma, stem cells are still present in the adult human brain and have the potential to make new brain cells and repair the brain throughout life.

His contributions to research on the human brain have been recognized by his appointment as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand (1998) and he was awarded: the Liley Medal by the Health Research Council of New Zealand in 2005; New Zealand's highest scientific award, the Rutherford Medal, in 2007 by the Royal Society of New Zealand for outstanding contributions in science; and, received the Supreme Award in the 2010 World Class New Zealand Awards. In 2012 he was appointed Distinguished Professor at the University of Auckland and awarded a knighthood by the Queen in 2016 for his contributions to brain research.



## The 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 expectations.



## From the Director of Studies

Two new study groups have started.

Poetry with nine enthusiastic members, with Jim Feist as convenor and Travel with seven members, with Wallis as convenor.

Check our website for more information about these two groups. New members are welcome.

Wallis Walker.

## Our mini talk

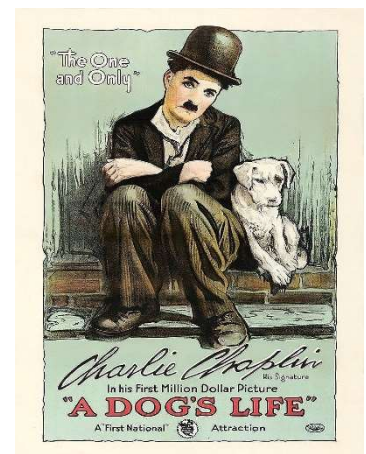
Mini Talk is from the ‘Use it or Lose It’ group and John Berridge will be telling us about the U3A Network

## Group Reports Classic Movies

The Classic Movies group was formed in 2020 and currently we have 25 members. Our monthly meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 7 St Vincent Avenue and residents at this lovely retirement village are also invited to attend the film screening if they desire.

Each month, one of the members chooses and presents the film and afterwards, over a cup of tea, the group enjoy a lively discussion around the movie and share their perspectives.

Classic Films are often distinguished or unique works of cinema that have transcended time and trends, with indefinable quality - universal favourites that hold up after repeated screenings. One article said that for a film to be a true classic, look for these six traits;



1. Topicality – highlighting social issues in contention.
2. Timelessness
3. One great scene
4. A great performance
5. An overarching consciousness or personality
6. A complex finish

The Classic Movies group is relaxing and enjoyable and together we have viewed many good and memorable movies.

Convenor; Lynn Bartram 021 470 176  
Deputy Convenor; Trish Clark 021 244 5545

## **Earth Science**

*Simulating, awestruck, overwhelming* has been the experience in the Earth Science Group this year. Even if some of the presented material is profound and difficult, each of us build on our own knowledge and see more of the wonders of the world.

So far, we have dived into the currents of the oceans and been struck by the biomagnetism that constantly influences the earth, causing the Aurora Australis in the south and the Aurora Borealis in the northern hemisphere. We were confronted to look at the effects of water on the contours and structure of the land affected by the eruption of Mount St Helens, Washington State, USA in 1980.



We invite you to join us and gain a small peep at how our universe works.

We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 2pm, in the recreation room at Edmund Hillary Retirement Village.  
Convenor; Karen Yates.

## **Passing the Baton**

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

### **Director of Studies – Role description.**

- Overall organisation of study groups, convenors and deputy convenors including communication between convenors and our committee.
- Organise mini talk speakers for monthly meetings.
- Contribute to monthly newsletter.
- Assist with the setting up of new study groups.
- Maintain a current list of study groups, convenors and contacts and forward this to membership secretary and web master.
- Organise the February promotion of Study Groups, annual convenors meeting and with the President the convenors/ committee Xmas function.

- Each second year, survey membership involvement in study groups and report on this to committee and members.

Wallis Walker

## **Auckland Network Event – Celebrating U3A in Action**

The annual Auckland Network this year will be held on **Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup>**. 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.u3aauckland.net/>

John Berridge - Network Rep

## **Perhaps of interest**

This is the tomb of Rudolph Nureyev, the Great Russian Dancer, at the Russian Cemetery in Sainte-Geneviève-des-Bois near Paris, France. The tomb is designed to look like a rug, but it is entirely made of bronze and glass. Rudolf Nuréyev was an important dancer born in the Soviet Union and considered one of the greatest dancers of the 20th century.

It's not a canvas, it's not a mantle, it's not a rug. It's a spectacular mosaic of colours resembling the kilim, the hand made rug that covered the coffins of wanderers. The realism achieved in its shape, folds, colour and texture makes it one of the main tourist attractions of this cemetery.



It was designed by his friend Ezio Frigerio, whom he met after one of his performances in the ballet Romeo and Juliet.

## **To Contact Remuera U3A**

These are the email and web addresses for 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](mailto:u3aRemuera@gmail.com)

Remuera U3A Web address

<https://remuerau3a.org.nz>