

U3A REMUERA

President's Piece – September 2024

Greetings all.

As I write this winter is well on its way out. I understand that Spring officially starts in September and what a nice spring it promises to be. The daffodils are blooming, the sun is shining, today anyway, and soon all the trees will be coming into their Spring Glory. A lovely time of the year.

Our speaker this month is Professor Simon Mitchell, from Auckland University.

His talk will be about the rescue of the Thai school boys from the caves in the Tham Luang Forest Park. Others who have heard him speak tell me that his talk is absolutely fascinating.

The cave is also known for its impressive stalactite and stalagmite formations, which create a surreal and magical atmosphere. It certainly looks impressive in the picture.



I understand that the caves are still open for adventure tourism with a limit on the group size.

This is the time of year when we are looking for people to join the committee, particularly people keen to be Vice President, Secretary or Newsletter Editor. All positions except for that of President come up each year for reaffirmation but those three positions are currently vacant. I have job descriptions available for anyone interested. Please seriously consider applying.

Being on the committee is a great way for newer members to learn how organizations like U3A function, and to get to know people. Just like the sock joke, we all know the importance of teamwork and working together.

We are still considering a trip, probably in November, to Peter Morgan's farm in the Waikato. I shall be asking for a show of hands at the September meeting, so we know whether or not to go ahead.

Wishing you a happy, warm and dry September.

Raewyn Bluck
President

2024 meetings

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

Meeting tasks

Greeters
Morning tea
Mini Talk
Group Reports

September

NZ History
AAAA
Monday History
Use it or lose it
Foodies

Meeting tasks

Greeters
Morning tea
Mini Talk
Group Reports

October

Philosophy
Current Events
AAAA
SARUS
Music Appreciation

Speaker for September

Our September speaker will be Simon Mitchell, Professor and Head of Department of Anaesthesiology at the University of Auckland.

Simon works as an anaesthesiologist at Auckland City Hospital, a diving physician at North Shore Hospital (Auckland), and is Professor of Anaesthesiology at the University of Auckland. For the last 3 years he has been ranked by Expertscape.com as the world's foremost expert in both decompression sickness and air embolism.



Simon has a long career in sport, scientific, commercial, and military diving. He was first to dive and identify three historic deep shipwrecks in Australia and New Zealand, including one in 2002 which was the deepest wreck dive undertaken worldwide at the time. He was conferred Fellowship of the Explorers' Club of New York in 2006, and was the Rolex Diver of the Year in 2015.

Simon is going to give a talk about the rescue of the Thai school boys from the caves in the Tham Luang Forest Park in the far north of Thailand in July 2019.

Our Mini Speaker

Our mini talk for September is by Piers Davis on behalf of Monday History. The subject of his talk is **When Cash Was King**.

What we have been doing with money over the last few centuries from Tulip Mania onwards?



Group Reports

Foodies Group

Currently we are a group of eleven, and we meet on the 3rd Thursday each month. We occasionally go to a restaurant for a meal together, but our interests are anything to do with food preparation, history and equipment. In February we have a meeting to discuss the activities we would like to do for the year, and each member of the group is allocated one month to organise a specific activity. In the past our activities have included visits to the kitchens of Simon Gault and Sabato's, Chelsea Sugar Works, test kitchens (where we meet at a member's house and each supply a dish), also other meetings at members' houses to meet a cookbook author, or just for morning tea. Last month was a very successful visit to the AUT cooking department, where vintage food was prepared by the students. Later this year we plan a visit to Waiheke, where one member has a holiday home, and a trip to Riverhead on the "Red Boats". We also traditionally meet at a member's home for Christmas lunch. We have vacancies in our group and would love to hear from you.

Gill Macklin, Convenor

Use it or Lose it

We are a congenial group and work together to solve puzzles

New members always welcome

Following is one of the puzzles that we enjoyed solving. You may like to try it

Try and find the names of all the flowers from the cryptic clues

For example, Bill's not bitter,,,,,,,,,,,,, becomes Sweet William

1. Undergarment for a heifer
2. Sad, but it doesn't ring
3. Fat container
4. Flakes fall from the sky
5. Stringed musical instrument
6. Country of automobile owners
7. Used for making chains
8. Fiery gambling game
9. Unite precious metal
10. Amorous when it is foggy
11. Self love
12. Herds of sheep

Janet Barnard, Convenor

Our speaker for October

Our speaker Carmel Claridge may already be known to some of you from her time as Deputy Chairman of the Orakei Local Board. Carmel has an eclectic background - working at various stages of her life as a lawyer, fitness consultant, cleaner, dog groomer, social housing navigator, and now Coordinator of Te Kōti o Timatanga Hou | Court of New Beginnings.

She is passionate about her mahi at Te Kōti o Timatanga Hou and feels privileged to share the TKTH journey with some of our most disadvantaged and vulnerable members of society – the homeless.

Te Kōti o Timatanga Hou | Court of New Beginnings, is a therapeutic specialist Court set up in 2010 in response to concerns about recidivist, low-level, public nuisance offending in the Auckland CBD area. Evaluations of the Court have shown a significant reduction in arrests, nights spent in prison, and accident and emergency visits. Te Kōti o Timatanga Hou is a proven “circuit breaker” for many caught in the revolving door between prison and the street. It offers hope and guidance onto a better life path for those who have the courage to change.



Of Interest

Have you visited the winter gardens recently?

They were designed by the Auckland Architect William Gummer in the early 1900's and were opened in 1913, Two magnificent barrel shaped glass houses with a connecting courtyard and pool. Just before covid hit us, the decision was made to restore and strengthen these houses.

It took 2 years and 5.62 million to complete the work

They are well worth the visit, the temperate house is a blaze of colour and the perfumes heady, The hot house has beautiful, rare and weird plants and the giant water lily under lights is growing daily. The fernery in the centre built into a sunken scoria quarry has many rare ferns and if you look carefully, you will see many native orchids.

Cain and Abel have moved from near to the duck pond to join the many statues in and around the building



To Contact Remuera U3A

We meet at St Chads Church, Meadowbank on 2nd Monday of the month at 10am.

Following are the email and web addresses of Remuera U3A.

Remuera U3A Email address : u3aRemuera@gmail.com

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