

U3A REMUERA

President's Piece – October 2024

Greetings All,

I am writing this early as I am off soon to Australia for three weeks. I am visiting New South Wales and Northern Victoria. Last time I did this trip was in autumn and the English (deciduous) trees were stunningly beautiful. I am hoping springtime will be just as magnificent.

I am very pleased to say that we now have a full complement of committee members for the new year. Lorraine Jackson has agreed to be Secretary, Laurence Melton will be the new Vice President and Peter Buckland is taking on Newsletter Editor.

I get put out to pasture as Immediate Past President. I have enjoyed the various roles I have had on the committee. Being on the committee is a good way to learn how U3A runs and the committee members have all been a joy to work with. I seem to recall that I produced the newsletter fairly early on, back in the pre digital days, when I had to print and snail mail about 170 newsletters each month. It was quite a task. I was very enthusiastic about getting email addresses from members and going digital with our newsletters and records. It made the job so much easier.

As you probably aware we are fast approaching the Annual General Meeting on November 11th. The AGM should only take about ten minutes, then we will have a speaker.

This year we are hoping to hold a raffle at the Christmas morning tea. The idea is that members donate an item from their pantry or bathroom etc. and we organise the donations into an attractive prize for some lucky person. If you are able to donate anything please bring it with you to the October general meeting. Please make sure that the item donated will not spoil and is within use by date. We will set up a collection box by the sign in desk.

Have fun and see you all in October.

Regards

Raewyn Bluck
President

2024 Meeting Dates

14th October

11th November

9th December

Meeting Tasks	October
Greeters	Philosophy
Morning tea	Current Events
Mini Talk	AAAA
Group Reports	SARUS & New Zealand History

Meeting Tasks	November
Greeters	SARUS
Morning tea	Foodies
Mini Talk	Famous & Infamous
Group Reports	Philosophy
	Music Appreciation

Speaker for October

Our speaker for October is Carmel Claridge. Carmel 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.

Carmel 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 guidance and hope to a better life path for those who have the courage to change.



Our mini speaker is from the AAAA Group

Mary Gray, speaks about Ans Westra, photographer

Ans was a notable New Zealand photographer and her speciality was capturing the everyday life of New Zealanders.



Her photos tell stories of life in NZ through the sixties up until her death in 2023. She ranged far and wide in NZ, travelling the length of the country, often sleeping in her VW.

Later, she received commissions for her work and produced several books, including the notable 'Washday at the Pa' which caused controversy at the time.

Group Reports

SARUS (Science Around Us)

Our current membership stands at 16 with 12 - 14 members attending our monthly meetings which are held at Grace Joel Retirement Village on the 4th Monday of each month.

To-date this year we have enjoyed 7 meetings with a diverse range of topics including:-

- Volcanoes Around Auckland
- The History and Science behind the Atomic Bomb
- Genetics
- Alan MacDiarmid – a Kiwi scientist who won a Nobel Prize
- Artificial Intelligence
- Diabetes
- Oxygen and the Ozone Hole

Our members are from diverse backgrounds: many are non-scientists and our talks do not include high power science. After the main topic, we enjoy morning tea and some short topics on general points of interest. Each December, we visit a place of interest. This year we will be visiting the Auckland refuse re-cycling unit at Hendersen. Some places are available for interested U3A members who are not currently members of SARUS.

New members are most welcome and will be warmly welcomed into our group.
Charles Martin - Convenor.

New Zealand History

The New Zealand History Group meets at 2pm on the second Thursday of each month in the theatre at Meadowbank Retirement Village.

Recent talks include:-

- The Cleghorns - an early settler family in New Zealand
- The sinking of the Niagara
- The social history of drinking in New Zealand
- The history of Yates Seeds Ltd
- What happened to the Moa?

We currently have 20 members in the group - new members are welcome.
Mark Wotton - Convenor.

Foodies at AUT

The delicious ‘High Tea’ provided by the patisserie students at AUT.



Our Speaker for November is Professor Emeritus Peter Lineham

Peter Lineham is a Professor Emeritus, meaning he has retired from his role as Professor of History at Massey University and Regional Director of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. However, he remains associated with the University in an honorary role.

Peter is a respected scholar whose interests cover a range of subject areas that can loosely be categorised under history and religion. He was awarded Membership of the Order of New Zealand in the New Year Honours list in 2019. He has written articles on many aspects of English and New Zealand religious history and his books include *There we found Brethren*, *No Ordinary Union* and *Bible and Society* and he co-edited the standard text on New Zealand’s religious history, *Transplanted Christianity*.



In 2013 his book on Brian Tamaki and the Destiny Church, *Destiny; The Life and Times of a Self-Made Apostle* was the first full and independent account of the church and its personnel.

The topic of Peter’s speech is:-

Justice Martin, the first Chief Justice of New Zealand and his friend

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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