

U3A REMUERA

President's Piece – December 2024

As I look back on the year, I think it has been a good one for us. Increased membership and after every meeting I have had someone come up and say that the speaker was the best ever. Each time a different person which was great, it means that we have had enough variation of speakers to keep the membership happy. I personally have found all the speakers entertaining and interesting.



With Christmas approaching fast, I was amazed to discover that next week is December. I guess as our minds are occupied with buying presents and food for the Christmas dinner, my thoughts also return to Christmas's past. I remember as a child we each had a stocking at the end of the bed, with a ladder or two in it as nylons were too expensive otherwise. I think my mother used to save them

up. In the toe we would get an orange, a great bright marvel for us, a special annual Christmas treat. Also, some Muscatel grapes and a long nose paper whistle and other odds and sods. So different from the stockings the current generations get. In addition, we got what was known as the big gift. Maybe a book, maybe clothes and one year for me, a bicycle. Apparently, my brother had ridden it home from town. He was in on the Santa thing, and at about two on Christmas morning, he and I were happily riding it up and down the verandah. Santa was not pleased and sent us back to bed. As my father had to get up at five to milk the cows, he always woke us up before he left so that he would not miss out on our opening whatever Santa had brought us. Great days.



The AGM went well and I have high hopes for the Christmas morning tea. We have had a pleasing number of people indicate that they will attend. The raffle prizes look good; there is one from New World that I rather hope to win myself. The raffle tickets will be given out on the morning of the meeting. If you have paid, please make sure that you get a ticket.

May you all have a Happy Christmas and holiday season and I look forward to meeting you all again next year.

Raewyn.

2024 meetings
9th December

Meeting tasks	December
Greeters	Use it or lose it
Morning tea	Walking Group
Mini Talk	
Group Reports	Classic Movies

Meeting tasks	February
Greeters	Classic Music
Morning tea	Monday History
Group Reports	Current Affairs
	Travel

Speaker for December is Laurence Melton

A Christmas in Marburg

From 1971 to 1973 we lived in the fairy-tale town of Marburg in West Germany. I was working as a postdoctoral fellow at Philipps University, which had seen so many famous scholars including Otto Hahn and the Brothers Grimm.

The cold war was on and there were tanks and soldiers in the fields with jet fighters overhead. Outside of the towns and cities there was no speed limit on the roads. It was an exciting time. The food was tasty and hearty. German white wine was the best in the world. Christmas was a special time with Christmas markets and lots of good things to eat.

BIO for Laurence Melton. An MSc in Chemistry at the University of Auckland was followed by a PhD in carbohydrate chemistry at Simon Fraser University in Canada and a Postdoc at Marburg University, West Germany.

He was Professor of Food Science at the University of Otago, doing research on Fruit and Vegetables and then Professor of Food Chemistry at the University of Auckland working on how molecules interact to give food its structure and texture. He has also worked as a scientist for Unilever in England and for the CSIRO in Victoria. Until recently he was an Editor for *Food Chemistry*, the world's leading food research journal.

Laurence is currently an Emeritus Professor at the University of Auckland.

He was a long-distance runner, including completing the New York marathon and qualifying for the Boston marathon. Hobbies now include walking and reading everything from Borges to Zizek.



From the Director of Studies

We welcome a new convenor for Poetry – Lesley Gamlen and a deputy convenor for Current Affairs – Anthony Cross.

This year we had enlightening Mini Talks from amazing speakers on the following topics:-

- Lawfare in the USA Presidential Elections
- Capt. James Ninnis
- Tinnitus
- U3A Network
- Why I enjoy Music
- The gifting of Cornwall Park - The Inside Story
- When Cash was King
- Ans Westra
- Gustavas von Tempsky

Wallis Walker

It is now time to pay your sub for the year 2025. This year we have kept the sub to \$50.00 even though the hall rent has increased.

We welcomed several new members in September this year and the sub they paid covers this coming financial year.

The preferred method of payment is by electronic banking.

- The sub due is fifty dollars (\$50).
- Please include your name in the reference box when you pay.
- Please pay into bank account 12 3030 0469700 00

If you do not wish to continue your membership, would you please let either

Lynn Bartram - lynnbartram3@gmail.com or myself know.

Kind regards

Karin Hulme
Treasurer
khulme@xtra.co.nz
Phone - 09 5212 757

Group Reports

Classic Movies

The Classic Movies group currently has 30 members, so we have reached our maximum number at this time. Our monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of the month at 7 St Vincent Ave and residents are also invited to attend the film screening if they desire.

This year we have enjoyed a variety of films from different decades including Citizen Kane (1941), Rebel Without a Cause (1955) and Carve Her Name with Pride (1958).

Citizen Kane regularly features in the top five list of films ever made.

The films we view are enhanced with a presentation prior to screening. A few years ago, I saw a film which I personally found ‘underwhelming’ but when I watched it again at Classic Movies, after listening to the presentation beforehand, I found it far more interesting.

May you all enjoy a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Convenor: Lynn Bartram 021 470 176

Deputy Convenor: Trish Clark 021 244 5545



Our speaker for February is Mathew Hooten

“Principles of Applied Conservatism”

Matthew Hooten will summarise the main findings of his recent PhD thesis (under examination) on principles of conservatism, drawn from ontology, epistemology, ethics, metaethics and political philosophy.

He will then apply them to the controversy over the taniwha Horotiu in 2011, at which time he was an advisor to the Independent Māori Statutory Board, and consider how they may have assisted the board and Prime Minister John Key manage the issue differently



Pete Morgan – Farm Visit

Many of you will recall the talk by farmer Pete Morgan in August about his use of technology and Halter collars on his cows and the sustainable farming practices used on his farm. Pete has kindly agreed to host U3A Remuera and we will visit the farm on **Wednesday March 12th**.

More details about the farm are available here

<https://www.dairynz.co.nz/research/case-studies/pete-morgan-and-ann-bouma/>

We will travel by bus and lunch at the farm is included in the cost, which is expected to be around \$65.00. Numbers are limited. Full details in the February newsletter – please contact me if you have any queries in the meantime.

Jackie Humphrey - jackiehumphreynz@yahoo.com



To Contact Remuera U3A

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

These are the email and web addresses for Remuera U3A.

Remuera U3A Email: u3aRemuera@gmail.com

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