

February 2025

Remuera, Auckland, New Zealand

- Next Meeting:** **Monday 10th February 2025 at 10am**
- Venue:** St Chads Church, 38 St Johns Road, Remuera
- Principal Speaker:** Matthew Hooton. Political Commentator.
"Reflections on Politics since 1984 (and why a Ferrari is better than a PhD in philosophy)"
- Meeting Tasks:**
- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Greeters | Classic Movies |
| Morning tea | Monday History |
| Group reports | Current Affairs and Travel |

Next Month's Speaker: Monday 10th March Joost de Bruin, Director Hundertwasser Art Centre. **Title: "Hundertwasser's Legacy: Art, Architecture, Ecology and the Vision of the 'Five Skins'.** In this presentation, he will reflect on Friedensreich Hundertwasser's legacy and how it is represented in the Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery. He will discuss Hundertwasser's vision of the 'Five Skins' that articulates how we are all defined by our bodies, our clothes, our homes, our identity and the earth on which we live.

Matthew Hooton is one of New Zealand's most experienced and best-connected strategic consultants, policy-advisors and lobbyists. He is well known for his regular column in the NZ Herald and articles in Metro and The Australian. Matthew is completing his PhD in philosophy at the University of Auckland on Groundwork and Principles of Applied Conservatism.



He will talk about how politics has degenerated since he first tried to join the Remuera branch of The New Zealand Party as a 12-year-old in 1984. He draws on that background as the country's leading centre-right political commentator and conference speaker since 2004. He will also speak on his recent PhD thesis on Principles of Conservatism.

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

C.S. Lewis

President's Message

Greetings to all u3a members for 2025.

I hope that this new year brings health and happiness to you and a keen intention to renew your involvement with Remuera u3a.



I've been fortunate to have had Xmas and New Year and almost a month at Waiheke Island. The weather has been gloriously sunny and the nearby beach was a great place to cool off in Oneroa's clear waters. We have such a lot to be thankful for in this beautiful country we call home. Often it takes visitors from abroad to remind us of the paradise we inhabit.

The incoming committee has several new members and we'll meet for the first time to plan for the year ahead. Hopefully we can add some more 'interest groups' for members to join. U3a was founded in France as an association of retired people keen to continue learning and hence the University of the 3rd Age was founded to address this need. Joining smaller interest groups and researching topics for presentation is at the core of u3a's activities. Learning, keeping one's brain active and making new friends is essential for fulfilment as we age.

I'm hoping that this year we can expand our knowledge of the digital age and learn about 'artificial intelligence'. What does A.I. mean and how can we benefit from it? Do we learn in order to come to grips with new technology, or do we prefer to give up and rely on the grandchildren. Surely, we don't wish to be labelled "Luddites" rebelling against innovation!

I look forward to meeting you at our first meeting on February 10th at St. Chads, Meadowbank.

Best wishes,

Alison Ross

'Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts.'

Winston Churchill

CONGRATULATIONS to **Olly Newland** who was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2025 New Year Honours list for services to real estate and the community. Olly has been a member of Remuera U3a for the past five years.

Olly is perhaps one of the most knowledgeable property gurus in New Zealand, having a half-century career in real estate and written six books on real estate. From 1979 to 1982, he was an Auckland city councillor and Olly helped to found the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra in 1980. He was the orchestra's inaugural president.

Working in the Jewish community, he was chairman of the Auckland Jewish Aged Homes Trust Board which oversaw the rebuilding of Shalom Court, a rest home and hospital in Meadowbank.

From the Director of Studies

After a holiday break some groups are already underway for 2025.

The first half of the 10th February meeting will be "Recruitment of Members to Study Groups" Each Convenor will speak briefly on their plans for 2025. The month's schedule of group meetings will be projected on the screen.

On **Monday 31st March** from 10 am to 11 am at St Chads, there will be a **meeting for Convenors and Deputies**.

There have been two changes to Study Group leadership. Poetry – Lesley Gamlin replaces Jim Feist as convenor. Current Affairs - Anthony Cross is deputy convenor.

New topic for a Study Group; where members with some digital 'Know How To' will share what they know with members who 'Would Like to Know How To.' On 10th February Wallis will make a list of members willing to be part of such a group and will assist with getting the group underway. The committee support's such a group as they believe this is a way members could help each other in the spirit of u3a. Suggested title for the Study Group is **Sharing Digital Know How**.

Wallis Walker

Group Reports

Current Affairs Group

We do things somewhat differently at Current Affairs. We do not have presentations. Instead, we are all asked each meeting to bring along a topic we have picked up from the news, or where-ever, that is relevant to Current Affairs either from New Zealand or the wider world. This is not compulsory. The topics are listed on a white board and are introduced and then discussed in turn. Those who have brought along a topic introduce it either by talking about it briefly or might read from an article – then it is thrown open for discussion. There is no time limit on how long the discussion takes and everyone can have their say or just listen in.

Numbers have grown and we now have fifteen signed up and it has surprised me that we never seem to run out of things to say. Topics should not be hard to find in 2025 with the New Zealand government introducing controversial changes to our country, a new Administration elected in the US, and wars in Europe and the Middle East.

John Trainor, Convener

Travel Group

Travel Group welcomes new members interested in sharing experiences and tips on how to get the best out of travel in New Zealand and the world. We don't yet have any space travellers.

Discussions on best tour groups, river cruises, airlines have been held, and we plan to explore best museums, art galleries, walks, castles, as well as Bee-card and Te Huia in 2025. Recent travellers talk about their experiences. Sage Travel tours to UK Universities, Italian Monasteries, Spanish Castles and Mekong River Cruise in 2025. Their tours attract u3a members in Australia and NZ.

Wallis Walker, Convenor.

REMINDER – Your Annual Subscription is now due

Some members have yet to pay their 2025 membership subscription. The subscription for the year 2025 was due last October. This year we have kept the subscription to \$50.00 even though the hall rent has increased. We would appreciate those still to pay, to give immediate attention to this.

The preferred method of payment is by electronic banking.

- The subscription is fifty dollars (\$50).
- Please include your name in the reference box when you pay.
- Please pay into bank account 12 3030 0469700 00 in the name of U3A Remuera Inc

If you do not wish to continue your membership, please let either of us know:

Lynn Bartram - lynnbartram3@gmail.com Membership Secretary

Karin Hulme – khulme@xtra.co.nz Treasurer

Bus Trip to Pete Morgan's Farm

In August, dairy farmer Pete Morgan was our guest speaker and gave us a fascinating insight into the use of technology on his 265-hectare farm at Pokuru, near Te Awamutu.

Pete is passionate about spearheading a proactive and tech-friendly approach to the changing agricultural landscape with the use of "field tech" such as virtual fencing systems, electric utility bikes and Halter collar technology. He will host our visit to his farm on **Wednesday March 12th** and it promises to be a most interesting day, both for those who grew up on a farm and for townies like me. We aim to be back in Auckland around 4pm.

The bus will leave from the Woolworths/Meadowbank Mall carpark on Gerard Way. Please turn left immediately on entering the car park and you will find the bus waiting in the lower car park. The mall management has given permission for us to leave our cars in this seldom used area of the car park.

Depart: 8.30am

Cost: \$70.00 per person including bus travel and a healthy and delicious lunch.

Numbers are limited so please email me, so I can put your name on the list. Please make payment to U3A Remuera Inc - 12 3030 0469700 00, include your name in the Reference box and the word FARM in the Code box when you pay. **The last day for payment is Friday 28th February.**

If you have any queries, please contact Jackie Humphrey – 021 167 4253

jackiehumphreynz@yahoo.com

Notice Board

Meeting Tasks for March

Greeters	Famous and Infamous & Poetry
Morning tea	New Zealand History
Mini Talk	Earth Science
Newsletter Group reports	Poetry & Famous and Infamous

Meeting Tasks for April

Greeters	Music Appreciation
Morning tea	Foodies
Mini Talk	Poetry
Newsletter Group reports	Music Appreciation & SARUS

Future Meetings

10th March at 10am
14th April at 10am
12th May at 10am
9th June at 10am

Key Contacts

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Study Groups

<https://remuerau3a.org.nz/study-groups/>



u3a Remuera meets at St Chads Church, Meadowbank on 2nd Monday of the month at 10am. u3a provides a place for those in the 3rd stage of their life journey. A chance to come together in their local community, a chance to socialise, a chance to participate in interest groups to learn something and keep the mind active