

April 2025

Remuera, Auckland, New Zealand

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- Next Meeting:** **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 10am**
- Venue:** St Chads Church, 38 St Johns Road, Remuera
- Principal Speaker:** **John Montgomery**, “Approaches to Auckland. The place of the Hauraki Gulf in the oceans.”
- Mini Talk:** **Lesley Gamlen**, convenor, will lead a presentation on poetry, including the reading/performance of a variety of poems by members of the group, some of whom are published poets. What is Performance Poetry? Stay after morning tea to find out!!
- Meeting Tasks:** Greeters      Music Appreciation  
Morning tea      Foodies
- Next Month’s Speaker:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May - **Marama Royal**, Chair Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei Trust, and the history of Auckland.
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**John Montgomery** is emeritus professor at the Institute of Marine Science at the University of Auckland. “Approaches to Auckland” is the classic Hauraki Gulf chart. We can use this chart as a metaphor to highlight the importance of our harbours and surrounding ocean to Auckland’s identity. Through images and background stories he will discuss Auckland’s place in the oceans. Where we came from geologically, the pulse of the gulf as it now is, and how we might chart a sustainable future. People are very concerned about the Hauraki Gulf at present and marine reserves. Professor Montgomery has done a lot of good research on marine topics including fish and neuroscience.

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### Your Vote is Required

The Committee requests your preference for the December 2025 meeting. Usually, there would be a main speaker followed by a Christmas social time with refreshments. In place of a main speaker, would either of the alternatives appeal to you? Or would you prefer a speaker. **Please choose from: A – Quiz or B – Christmas Music or C – Speaker.**

**CAST YOUR VOTE WHEN YOU REGISTER AT OUR MEETING ON MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> April.**

There will be three boxes labelled A, B and C. Put your vote in the box of your choice. Voting slips will be at the registration table.

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## President's Message



### Greetings to all u3a members

It was great to welcome 38 enthusiastic people on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March to visit Pete Morgan on his farm near Te Awamutu, on our first field trip for the year. The group comprised 21 Remuera u3a members, joined by friends and family, plus several u3a members from St. Heliers and Probus clubs. We sallied forth in sunshine but encountered much needed rain on our journey south through the parched paddocks of the

Waikato. Fortunately, it ceased as we arrived at the farm to be greeted by Peter.

He had spoken to u3a last year, explaining the use of electronic halters on his cattle and the use of digital fences, so it was exciting to see at first hand these innovations at work.

Peter is an excellent speaker, and we learned more about the land, food production and how the dairy industry contributes to New Zealand's economy. We were reminded that 95% of dairy production is exported in one form or another.

He showed how the halters work by a click on his mobile phone. Almost as one, the herd, his girls, turned and moved through a gate and into another paddock, or along the road to the milking sheds. He also spoke about the great job the dung beetles are doing improving soil quality on the farm. After an hour out among the cows, we retreated to the barn for a delicious, packed lunch.

All in all, we had a wonderfully educational day. However, organising an outing like this doesn't happen by magic. Jackie Humprey did a great job with the initial planning and making arrangements, unfortunately she became unwell, so our treasurer Karin Hulme took over. I am grateful to them both for organizing such a successful day. Next year we hope to visit the Hundertwasser Gallery in Whangarei, but need members to sign up and PAY promptly, so we can decide early on if such a trip is viable. So, keep tuned for another exciting field trip next year.

Alison Ross



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*"It does not matter how slowly you go, as long as you do not stop."* — Confucius

## From the Director of Studies

There is a change of convenor for SARUS. Dennis Rose and John Malcomson become co-convenors replacing Charles Martin who has given great leadership for many years.

It is good to hear of newer members being welcomed into study groups. Remember to check out information on our study groups on Remuera U3A website. <https://remuerau3a.org.nz/>



Convenors and Co-Convenors of study groups at a recent meeting with the Director of Studies and some committee members.

Wallis Walker

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## Group Reports

### Music Appreciation

This group meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. To me, music is my friend and sharing it with this enthusiastic group gives me great pleasure. I accept that I cannot please everyone all the time and like friends there is great variety. We may listen to a concert, or it may be a documentary with music.

- Recently we watched Stephen Fry's research on the Composer Wagner, a complex man, who many loved or hated.
- Morton Laurensen, a composer of choruses, one of which was played at the memorial service of 9/11.
- Geoffrey Tozer, one of Australia's greatest classical pianists.
- I have two Operas I would love to play as they are performed in an old limestone quarry. 4,700 people attend a performance and over the week 160,000 attend, both are outstanding.

Music is great for the soul, two hours when one can sit back, relax, listen, learn and enjoy.

Gillian West – Convenor Ph 634 3439

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## In Memoriam

It is with sorrow we learn of the death of Dr Ron Jones, u3a member for more than 10 years. He was present at our March meeting and was a member of the Creative Writing study group. He published a book which challenged the practices at National Women's Hospital decades earlier. His funeral is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 11am at St Mary's in-Holy-Trinity Cathedral, Parnell.

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## Science Around Us Group

“Science Around Us” (SARUS) meetings begin with a presentation on a scientific topic by one of our members. The range is broad. Over the past year we have had talks on volcanoes of Auckland, the beauty and elegance of prime numbers, how to make an atom bomb, fungi and more. Presentations are often punctuated with members’ questions and observations, and lively discussion usually follows. We break for morning tea and some members then provide a brief 5–10-minute synopsis of a scientific item. This month one of our members drew our attention to a recent NZ Listener article on possible causes of dementia. In place of a meeting in December, we usually have a field trip.

You don’t need a background in science to join this group. SARUS will suit anyone with questions about our natural world and how we develop answers. The group meets at Grace Joel Retirement Village between 10am and 12pm on the 4th Monday of each month.

Co-Convenors: John Malcomson Ph 021 499 581 and Dennis Rose Ph 022 104 7390

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## Looking Back

The main speaker at the March meeting was Dr Joost de Bruin, Director of the Hundertwasser Art Centre who spoke about the legacy of Friedensreich Hundertwasser, an Austrian New Zealand artist. Hundertwasser visited New Zealand twice in the Early 1970’s before settling in Kaurinui near Kawakawa



There he realised his dream of living and working closely connected to nature. Besides other projects, he designed the "Bottle House" there. He could live largely self-sufficiently using solar panels, a water wheel and a biological water purification plant. His first grass roof experiments took place there. As an environmental philosopher he wrote and advocated for living in harmony with nature, making the natural world part of routine and incorporating these ideas into architecture. He advocated strongly for the protection of wetlands and rain forests.

He was fascinated by spirals and called straight lines "godless and immoral". He was more widely known for his individual architectural designs which use irregular forms and incorporate natural features of the landscape. He rejected rationalism, the straight line and functional architecture. The design of the Hundertwasser Art Gallery in Whangarei and the Kawakawa public toilet are examples of his ideas and work.

The March mini speaker was John Malcomson, co convenor of the Science Around Us group. John gave an enlightening talk about the Falkirk Wheel. The Falkirk Wheel is a rotating boat lift in Tamfourhill, Falkirk, in central Scotland, connecting the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Union Canal. It opened in 2002 as part of the Millennium Link project, reconnecting the two canals for the first time since the 1930s. It replaced thirty locks with just two. The wheel consists of two opposing arms which can lift boats of 500 tons each. They raise the boats 24 metres, but the Union Canal is still 11 metres higher than the aqueduct which meets the wheel. Therefore, boats must also pass through a pair of locks between the top of the wheel and the Union Canal. The Falkirk Wheel is the only rotating boat lift of its kind in the world.

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## Notice Board

### Meeting Tasks for May

Greeters	Travel and Walking groups
Morning tea	AAAA
Mini Talk	Genealogy
Newsletter Group reports	Foodies and NZ History

### Meeting Tasks for June

Greeters	AAAA
Morning tea	SARUS
Mini Talk	Classic Movies
Newsletter Group reports	Philosophy and Earth Science

### Future Speakers

12<sup>th</sup> May at 10am. Speaker: **Marama Royal**, Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei Trust and the history of Auckland.

9<sup>th</sup> June at 10am. Speaker: **Kerry Gibson**, "Youth Mental Health in New Zealand".

14<sup>th</sup> July at 10am. Speaker: **J.R. Rowland**, "Supporting Aotearoa New Zealand's transition to a low-carbon and sustainable future".

11<sup>th</sup> August at 10am. Speaker: **Wendy Hampton**, "Don't Leave a Mess; Leave a Legacy".

### Key Contacts

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### Email Address

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### Website

<https://remuerau3a.org.nz/>

### Study Groups

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



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

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*"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves."*

Viktor E. Frankl