

August 2025

Remuera, Auckland, New Zealand

Next Meeting:

Monday 11th August 2025 at 10am

Venue:

St Chads Church, 38 St Johns Road, Remuera

Principal Speaker:

Wendy Hampton, BA LLB. Lawyer, Speaker and Author.
“Don’t Leave a Mess; Leave a Legacy.”

Mini Talk:

Foodies Group

Meeting Tasks:

Greeters: Earth Science
Morning Tea: Genealogy
(Genealogy Convenor, please contact Gillian West 09 634 3439 to confirm duties and time.)

Wendy has more than 30 years’ experience as a lawyer primarily working in property matters including Residential and Commercial Conveyancing, Wills, Estates, Trusts, and Relationship Property Matters. Over the years Wendy has gained extensive knowledge and experience in Estate Administration.



In her experience Wendy has found that one of the reasons it can take longer to finalise an estate is the time it takes for family to find the information needed about the deceased. If all the information was at the Executors’ fingertips from the start the estate administration process would be far smoother and much less distressing for grieving loved ones left behind.

Wendy’s talk will explain why you need to create a comprehensive record of your details and what information you should record.

To assist her clients with their estate planning Wendy created **The Estate Planner** Book which is an easy-to-follow record book which enables all the important information to be kept in one place. She recently had the book published and made available to the public.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Remuera u3a is delighted to have welcomed 27 new members so far in 2025.

Lakshman Abeynaike, Neila Abeynaike, Catherine Atchison, Sally Atwell, David Brook, Janette Chin, Liz Ferdinands, Marilyn Groves, Dr Cherry Hankin, Elsbeth Hardie, Sue Heyes, Bill Holmes, Lindsay Holmes, Ronnie Kay, Alison Lamb, Rosamonde McMillan, Katie McRae, Dianne Morton, Brynyce Owen, Tina Plank, Jacki Richardson, John Roke, Frough Samiei, Val Scott, Kushlan Sugathapala, Dawn Tatham, Takayo Yanagisawa.

Remuera u3a now has more than 150 members. We hope you all enjoy our monthly meetings and study groups. Please let us know if you have any suggestions regarding future monthly speakers, new study groups or other activities which could be added to our programme.

President's Message



Greetings to all u3a members

Greetings to u3a members on a mild winter's day. I extend a special greeting to new members. Thank you for choosing Remuera u3a. We hope you'll join one or more of our study groups and experience the pleasure of meeting new people and embarking on a journey of life-long learning. That is the aim of u3a the "University of the Third Age", founded in France in 1972 and brought to New Zealand by John & Marjorie Stewart. They started Remuera u3a in 1989, the first club in N.Z. Unlike other service groups, u3a is not only a place to hear excellent speakers delivering on their specialised topics BUT a venue for continued study. The older I get, the more I realise how little I know! It's a great country we live in, tucked away at the bottom of a mighty ocean, sometimes forgotten from world maps. Those of us who have been able to travel have marvelled at the splendid cities we have visited, and stood in awe at monuments, fountains, sculptures and cathedrals that make each town or city unique. Study groups enable us to learn of ancient civilizations, their philosophy, language, art and cultures. I urge all new members to join a study group that challenges one's knowledge, but also as a means of making new friends.

On July 26th 15 Remuera u3a members met at the annual u3a Network event. Twenty seven u3a's from throughout the Auckland region were represented, giving a total of almost 300 attendees. We heard from two keynote speakers. Prof Allan Blackman gave a hilarious run through the Periodic table. Having never studied chemistry, it was an eye opener for me; he opened with the statement "everything we have and do is bound by the elements found in the Periodic table. It all comes from planet earth!" Four speakers from various clubs gave excellent mini-talks. The talk on Food Safety and how to prevent food poisoning was riveting. The final speaker, Prof Lynette Tippett, spoke on Reducing Dementia risk that covered her research into this dreaded ailment that is not only restricted to old age! She had lots of tips and advice for us to keep our minds & bodies healthy.

Joining u3a is high on the list of preventative measures!

I'm hoping that at next year's Event we may have someone from our u3a to contribute a mini talk.

Don't forget the AGM at the end of the year; we're looking for new faces to join the committee. We're especially looking for a new Treasurer to replace Karin Hulme who has given 7 years excellent service. If you're an accountant or bookkeeper and can run an excel spreadsheet, we'd love to have you on board. Either speak to me at coffee time or email me ea.ross@xtra.co.nz

Alison Ross

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."
Helen Keller



u3a Remuera was well represented at the Auckland Network meeting last month.

The Lost Heritage Lecture Series - Highwic House, Spring 2025

Highwic will be hosting a lecture series this spring dedicated to the theme of Lost Heritage which we believe would be of great interest to many. The three speakers presenting at the Highwic Spring Lecture Series will bring to light the complex and rich stories of Tāmaki Makaurau's lost heritage sites.

Lecture 1

Douglas Lloyd Jenkins - Saturday 30 August, 1pm

The Lingering of His Majesty's Theatre in the Auckland Imagination

Any talk of heritage or demolition in Auckland will spiral back to the demolition of His Majesty's Theatre in 1988. Why does this single event resonate so strongly in the imagination of Aucklanders? Join writer and historian Douglas Lloyd Jenkins as he looks at the history of His Majesty's and its ongoing role in the imagination of Aucklanders.

Lecture 2

Tania Mace - Saturday 6 September, 1pm

The Lost Neighbourhoods of Central Auckland

Tania Mace will provide a glimpse into the history of three lost central Auckland neighbourhoods during the city's first century – Chancery Street, Greys Avenue and Princes Street – and the people who made them home. Mace is a freelance historian and author, with a Master of Arts with Honours in History from Auckland University. Her talk is based on research she has undertaken as the 2024/2025 recipient of the prestigious Auckland Library Heritage Trust John Stacpoole Scholarship.

Lecture 3

Richard Wolfe - Saturday 13 September, 1pm

The Changing Face of Auckland: a personal perspective on the city's past

The series will finish with an illustrated talk by author and curator Richard Wolfe as he provides a personal perspective on the changing face of Auckland City. Wolfe has written and co-authored 38 books covering aspects of New Zealand art, history and popular culture including the 2013 publication *New Zealand's Lost Heritage: The Story Behind Our Forgotten Landmarks*.

Cost: Normal entry Adults \$10, Children free (Free for HNZPT Members)

Bookings: Please email or call Highwic to book highwic@heritage.org.nz

"Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself." George Bernard Shaw

Group Reports

Classic Movies Group

The Classic Movies study group was formed in November 2020, and we currently have 29 members.



Our meetings are held at 7 St Vincents in Remuera at 1 pm on the second Friday of the month and residents of this lovely retirement village are also invited to join us.

Each month, a different member will choose and introduce the film and after the screening we have afternoon tea. At this juncture, the presenter is encouraged to engage the group in a discussion about the film.

We have shown a variety of enjoyable films this year, amongst them Philomena (2013), Singin' in the Rain (1952) and The Doctor (1991).



Convenor; Lynn Bartram 021 470 176 lynnbartram3@gmail.com

Deputy Convenor; Trish Clark 021 244 5545

Current Affairs Group



Current Affairs does not have presentations on issues of interest. Instead, we are all asked to bring along a topic we have picked up from the news that is relevant to current affairs in New Zealand or the wider world. Some talk to us for half a minute and others for a good bit longer as they introduce their topic and then it is thrown open for discussion. There is no time limit on how long this discussion takes and everyone has the opportunity to have their say or just listen in. Numbers have grown and we now have seventeen signed up and we never seem to run out of things to say.

We meet twice a month at St Chads and new members are welcome.

Convenor; John Trainor on 524 5907 johnval@slingshot.co.nz

SEARCH FOR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The AGM will be held in November 2025, when a new committee is elected. There are 2 vacancies:

- Vice President who is responsible for finding speakers for the monthly meetings
- Treasurer who manages the finances of the club.

Anyone who would like to volunteer, please contact the President, Alison Ross ea.ross@xtra.co.nz



The Foodies group enjoying a tippie before sharing their French lunch.

Looking Back

Professor Julie (JR) Rowland, Pro Vice-Chancellor Global and Graduate Research at the University of Auckland, spoke about **Universities in the 21st Century: relic or relevant**. She stated universities have always been, and still do, serve as critics and the conscience of society. They are, therefore, more relevant today than they have ever been.



After a brief description of her background and graduation as a Structural Geologist, she has since become the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science Administration.

There are 300 doctoral students at the University of Auckland which is one of the top 100 universities in the world, offering quality education and research opportunities. Since the 1980's there has been exponential growth in the number of university students which is likely to peak in 2028. The cost of university education places a burden on governments and the public, which is not sustainable. Some have stated the golden age of universities has passed. However, society still needs critical thinking skills, and universities hold the role of teaching these.

The increased criticism of universities, the rise of Artificial Intelligence, political attacks on free speech and academic freedom, all present challenges to the university sector in the 21st century.

She identified four generations of universities. From the 11th to 18th centuries universities were taught and influenced by churches and monasteries. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the focus was research to create new knowledge. The late 20th century taught knowledge transfer, innovation, problem solving research with co-created knowledge. The concept of "fourth-generation universities" describes a model where institutions integrate education, research, and innovation, aiming for significant societal and regional impact. This model emphasizes proactive engagement with the local community and economy, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and driving tangible change. Essentially, these universities act as "engines of change," actively shaping their environment and addressing pressing societal challenges. Professor Rowland presented two current research programmes as examples of such research: Professor Julian Paton's research to develop a unique heart valve, and Dr Sarah Foster-Sproull research on freedom through dance movement. The latter highlighting the importance of retaining Humanities as part of university education.

Laurence Melton gave a mini-presentation on “Putin – a philosophical understanding”. Putin is strongly influenced by the former Soviet empire which crumbled in the early 1990’s. His invasion of the Ukraine is a key element to restore the Empire. The Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, has a long association in the history of the Russian people and with the Russian Orthodox Church. Russian history starts at Kyiv with Ukraine having been part of Russia for much of the previous 1,000 years.

Russia wishes to become a great power, like the United States of America and is threatened by the expansion of NATO on its western frontier. However, economically Russia has an economy equivalent to Spain so has limited economic resources. Putin has relied on the West’s ambivalence to his invasions of Georgia, Crimea and Chechnya and believed they would ignore his invasion of Ukraine.

Notice Board

Meeting Tasks for September	Greeters	Foodies
	Morning tea	Philosophy
	Mini Talk	Travel
	Newsletter Group reports	Walking and Monday History

Meeting Tasks for October	Greeters	Genealogy
	Morning tea	Walking and Travel groups
	Mini Talk	Current Affairs
	Newsletter Group reports	Use it or Lose it Famous and Infamous

Next Month’s Speaker 8th September at 10am. **Michele Leggott**, New Zealand Poet Laureate 2007 – 2009. Emeritus Professor of English, University of Auckland.

Future Speakers 13th October at 10am. **Michael Littlewood** will talk about publishing his latest book.
10th November at 10am. **Troy Churton**, “The Pathway to a Fairer Retirement Village Regime.”
8th December at 10am. **James Duncan**, “Infant Sparks; Auckland’s early electric trams.”

Key Contacts	President	Alison Ross	ea.ross@xtra.co.nz
	Vice President	Laurence Melton	l.melton@auckland.ac.nz
	Director of Studies	Wallis Walker	wallis.walker@xtra.co.nz
	Almoner	Raewyn Bluck	jrbluck@xtra.co.nz
	Membership Secretary	Lynn Bartram	lynnbartram3@gmail.com
	Treasurer	Karin Hulme	khulme@xtra.co.nz

Email Address u3aRemuera@gmail.com

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

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, 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.
