

September 2025

Remuera, Auckland, New Zealand

Next Meeting:

Monday 8th September 2025 at 10am

Venue:

St Chads Church, 38 St Johns Road, Remuera

Principal Speaker:

Michele Leggott, New Zealand Poet Laureate 2007 – 2009. Emeritus Professor of English, University of Auckland.

Mini-Talk:



Have you wanted to tour the UK, become steeped in its history and places of interest? Did you know you can stay at universities in a room complete with ensuite, at a single rate. **Wallis Walker** will take you on her illustrated journey through the UK for 3 weeks with u3a members from Australia and NZ as your companions. Photos of Oxford, London, Cambridge, John Constable country, Holy Island, University of Edinburgh and many other places illustrate her talk on behalf of the Travel Study Group.

Meeting Tasks:

Greeters: Foodies
Morning Tea: Philosophy

Michele Leggott is a poet and editor with a consuming interest in archives and the poetics of memory. She has published 11 collections of poetry and was the New Zealand Poet Laureate 2007–9. Her archival work spans anthologies, critical editions and web projects that address New Zealand and



Modernist American poetry. She received the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in Poetry in 2013. In 2017 she was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Her most recent books are *Face to the Sky* (Auckland University Press, 2023) and *Groundwork: The Art and Writing of Emily Cumming Harris* (Te Papa Press, 2025) with co-author Catherine Field-Dodgson.

Michele's talk is entitled "The Way Back: Two kinds of writing that helped save my life." *Face to the Sky*, my poetry book, and *Groundwork* are

the two faces of the writing that saved my life emotionally and intellectually as the Malaghan scientists transformed my immune system so that it could find and destroy the cancer and give me a shot at a second life.

President's Message



Greetings to all u3a members

Just recently I sneaked a week away with a girlfriend for a relaxing break in Fiji. What a joy, basking in the warmth while a cold snap hit New Zealand. She had lived there a couple of times over the years as part of the ex-pat community who ran Nadi Airport and the Met office. It has been over 40 years since I was last there, so I couldn't help noticing the expansion of commerce in and around Nadi. When I was last there, it was known as a duty-free post, the best place for buying watches, cameras and transistor radios! What a change has taken place over the years, with tourism now a big part of the economy, although sugar cane growing and refining is still a big employer. Swimming in those warm waters was such a pleasure and enjoying the many eating places serving local food. I tried octopus' salad on a couple of occasions as well as baby octopus in an aromatic sauce. Walu and Wahoo are local fish and feature on many menus. For anyone into spicy food there's a wide range of Indian dishes. I came home with a range of local spices to try. I must admit to "turning off" to news from the outside world and basking in the relaxed atmosphere of this tropical haven.

It is most heartening to see such good numbers attending our meetings each month. I believe this is due to the high calibre of our speakers. Last month's speaker, Wendy Hampton gave an excellent presentation on Estate Planning. Her book, "The Estate Planner" and soon to be published "Don't Leave a Mess: Leave a Legacy" are good reads and a great guide on how to leave one's affairs in 'good order.' This month we look forward to hearing Michele Leggot, NZ Poet Laureate. However, we also enjoy the mini speakers who give a short presentation after coffee break (please stay on and hear them). Each month, one of the Study groups is responsible for presenting a mini- talk. This can be on any subject, and we've heard some very interesting topics. So, when your Study group convenor challenges you to give a mini talk, say yes, and take up the challenge. You can always get help from Wikipedia or use AI and ChatGPT to help!

The AGM will be held in November when we elect new members to take office. The committee meets four times during the year and works efficiently. But some members have been giving their time for several years and wish to move on. We need a vice-President, whose role it is to find speakers for the monthly meetings. We're also searching for a treasurer; someone who can run an Excel spreadsheet and keep an eye on club finances. So, if you've run a business or have some financial know-how, please offer yourself to fill this role. Karin Hume who has done the job for several years needs to step down. I look forward to being 'rushed' with applicants during the coffee break at our next meeting on September 8th! Or perhaps you would like to email me before the meeting. ea.ross@xtra.co.nz

Alison Ross

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

u3a Remuera welcomes two new members this month, **Ann Nelson** and **Mila Stojadinovic**. We hope you will explore one or more of the study groups and find your experience fulfilling as well as meet new friends.

Increasing the membership is vital to sustaining the viability of u3a Remuera. All members are asked to keep a look out for and invite new people who will consider joining.

Think about BRINGING A FRIEND.

Director of Studies

It's time to abandon indoors and get more involved in study groups. Spring into joining new groups and making more friends. Our convenors are waiting to hear from you. Visit Remuera u3a website to find out more about our study groups, when and where they meet and who to contact.

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

Digital Know How Study Group had to cancel its June and July meetings. We hope our August and September meetings receive more support. For a notice of our meetings at 10.00 am on 24th September and 22nd October, contact Wallis Walker, email address below. We welcome new members.

Convenor: Wallis Walker wallis.walker@xtra.co.nz

Group Reports

Monday History Group

The Monday History Group meets on the first Monday of each month, March to November at the Community of St Luke, 130 Remuera Road. There is usually parking available. Our topics are many and



varied and usually encompass the Victorian age into the 20th century. We have also looked at the convict settlements of Australia. So far this year we have looked at Sir Stamford Raffles – Singapore, the great Czech writers Kafka and Hasek, the development of the cotton industry, the four-month battle for Monte Cassino in 1944, and the Sudetenland emergency of 1938. We have included archaeology in the late 1800s and King Tutankhamun, and the development of the typewriter. In other words, topics of interest to all.

If you want to understand the current events and crises of today, it helps to study history. We are a small group and welcome anyone who is interested.

Franz Kafka

Convenors: Barbara Smith bs.smith@hotmail.co.nz and Piers Davies piersdavies153@gmail.com

Walking Group

Our group continues to grow, and with new members, we have more suggestions for walks. Recent walks have included Orakei Basin, Rotary Park walkway in Pakuranga, walks in both directions from Point England Reserve along the Tamaki River, Eden Gardens, Mangere Mountain, Ambury Farm, Cornwall Park, and the Botanical Gardens.

We almost always adjourn to a nearby café for coffee, conversation, and calories. Our most recent walk was around Panmure Basin where we explored the newly constructed bridge and visited the shag colony.



If the opportunity for a ramble and stimulating conversation tempts you, join us – 2nd and 4th Fridays each month at 9.30 am.

Convenor: Merryn Rose merryndennis@gmail.com

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 takes responsibility to find speakers for our 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

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE AGM

The Committee proposes to amend Clause 6.1(iii) of the Constitution to alter the term of office served by the President at the discretion of the committee and with the consent of the sitting President. Currently the Constitution prescribes a one-year term for the President. The Committee recommends changing this to a period of up to three concurrent years, should the sitting president be willing and able to do so. The Committee believes this would provide greater continuity to the governance of the organisation.

The Committee also proposes to amend Clause 3.3(i) of the Constitution to shorten the period of time for which it may terminate membership for unpaid subscriptions and fees from 6 months to 4 months.

Further, the Committee will recommend that the annual subscription to u3a Remuera is increased from \$50 to \$55. As you will hear at the AGM, we have incurred a small loss this financial year. Rent for the hall is increasing as are costs to maintain the website. Without an increase, the Committee will need to draw on the small reserve fund of \$5,000 which has been accumulated over several years and will be difficult to replace if depleted. The reserve fund is there for unexpected costs such as an overhaul of the website, which is our principal source of promoting u3a Remuera. Without it we would not attract new members which is essential to sustain the viability of the organisation.

The proposals and recommendation will be formally presented with the Notice of the AGM.

"One of the lessons that I grew up with was to always stay true to yourself and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals." —Michelle Obama

SCAM ALERT

Recently, a number of emails have been sent to various committee members, supposedly emanating from Alison Ross, the President. As with other scams, the emails are very general and ask for an immediate email response to her. To date, this has only involved emails from Alison to other committee members,

However, we take the precaution of alerting all u3a Remuera members to be cautious about emails from u3a asking for an immediate response. They are most likely scams.

Looking Back

At our previous meeting, **Wendy Hampton** a retired lawyer with 30 years' experience in legal practice, provided an informative talk about preparing an Estate. She has written about Estate Planning in her book, "The Estate Planner," and regularly presents at speaking engagements on this topic.



Out of her experience, she found it difficult and time consuming to gather all the required information from relatives of the deceased person to apply for Probate. Her book was written to aid this process.

Her book is a "workbook" which lists all the information required to obtain Probate. As potentially it could take between 3 to 6 months to receive Probate, advance planning will shorten the period of finalising a deceased estate.

She commented that the deceased's final Will document must be in pristine condition, otherwise this could lead to delays. Ensure there is an Enduring Power of Attorney in place for Personal Care and Welfare as well as a separate one for all Property.

An Advance Directive is useful to convey a person's wishes regarding their health condition and circumstances. Medical professionals will most likely follow these wishes particularly when the person is unable to speak for themselves.

Overseas assets need to have Probate processed in each country and a separate Will is required for each country where assets are located.

Wills should name the Executors or Trustees to manage and administer the Estate and should provide a directive whether a burial or cremation is preferred. Record gifts to be made and keep legacies simple. Specify if chattels are to be gifted to a particular person. Legacies to children should be on an equal basis. She emphasised **Do not leave any money to beloved Pets**.

Finally, cancel membership cards and social media accounts in advance.

Gill Macklin, convenor of the Foodies Group, provided an entertaining mini talk on two well-known Kiwi personalities who have influenced the food industry:

Aunt Daisy, a New Zealand radio broadcaster from 1930 to 1963, published a cookbook in 1968 which has had 20 reprints.

Thomas Edmonds, a businessman and philanthropist, created and manufactured Edmonds "Sure to Rise" baking powder and the Edmonds Cookery Book, first published in 1907. He introduced the 5 days, 40 hour working week in 1930's.

Gill also spoke about the changing status of food in New Zealand. Traditionally, Māori lived off fishing which were bountiful in surrounding seas and rivers. When Pakeha arrived in the 19th century, they regarded fish as food for the poor, and preferred beef and lamb. Crayfish were regarded as the food for drunkards, today it's a luxury food, illustrating this change over the past 200 years.

Notice Board

Meeting Tasks for October

Greeters	Genealogy
Morning Tea	Walking and Travel groups
Mini Talk	Current Affairs
Newsletter Group Reports	Use it or Lose it and Famous and Infamous

Meeting Tasks for November

Greeters	Monday History
Morning tea	Famous and Infamous and Poetry
Mini Talk	SARUS
Newsletter Group reports	Poetry and NZ History

Next Month's Speaker

13th October at 10am. **Michael Littlewood** will talk about publishing his latest book.

Future Speakers

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.

Editor: Peter Buckland, contact peterlbuckland@outlook.com 0274764873