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## **INTRODUCTION FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Greetings all, welcome to our second decade as a flourishing U3A. Ten years ago, we published a booklet to recognise the achievements since our inauguration in 2000. We are now twenty years old and much has happened in that last decade.

First, I would like to congratulate the team for putting together this booklet. A great amount of work and thought has gone into the compilation of a text that is both interesting and informative.

I would particularly like to take this opportunity of thanking all the Convenors of groups in the past ten years for their contributions in keeping us, as members, informed and entertained. We are also grateful for those who have given their time and energy to the committee and in the various support roles. In particular are our technical people, the newsletter editors and those who found such interesting speakers.

In 2011 under the leadership of Lou Holder we made the move from Mission Bay to Meadowbank. The Bowling Club rooms were too small for us and the facilities inadequate. It was to the credit of Lou and his committee that we found a new home at St Chad's in Meadowbank. Happily, in part due to the larger premises, we were able to do away with the waiting list and accommodate all those who wished to join. We now have a maximum membership of 300.

In 2020 we were brought up short by the 'once in a hundred years' pandemic with Covid19. Consequently, we lost six of our monthly meetings so far, but also learnt the art of communication by Zoom. Terms such as 'Lockdown' and 'Isolation' became common parlance. We learnt how fortunate we were to be living in New Zealand with a government that was able, helped by our isolation, to keep the country with it and ride out the storm far sooner than most of the rest of the world.

Thanks to the support of you all U3A was able to pick up where it left off and continue to pursue its aims. May it keep prospering.

**Cecilie Rushton.**

## **SUMMARY OF OUR FIRST TEN YEARS:**

U3A Meadowbank held its inaugural meeting in July 2000 in St Thomas' Church Hall Kohimarama and forty of the founding members are still active in 2020. We changed venues to the Mission Bay Bowling Club later in the year as we grew in size. Legal incorporation occurred in 2001 with a membership of 160. Starting with 16 groups in 2000 we had 43 groups in 2010 and our membership had grown to 260 with a long waiting list.

Links with other U3As were maintained, and we continued to contribute to the Auckland U3A Network.

Participation in small groups is what differentiates U3A from many other organisations. Most groups, which covered a wide variety of topics, met in members' homes lead by a member who acted as Convenor. Guided by principles suggested by Peter Laslett (Cambridge University) and published in the 1980s, U3A Meadowbank offered groups covering a wide range of topics – providing an opportunity so that “Those who teach shall also learn, and those who learn shall also teach”. Topics ranged from the intellectual and theoretical - languages, art, world religions, architecture, history and geography, to social opportunities such as walking, playing Mah Jong, travelling and lunching together.

Our aspirations at the end of our first 10 years were to: -

- Value the autonomy of U3A structures

- Continue to collaborate with other Auckland U3As

- Ensure new members were always made to feel welcome, and that all members participated

- Ensure U3A remained financially viable

- Value the contribution of quality speakers

- Appreciate the value of our history.

## **OUR SECOND TEN YEARS: 2011 – 2020.**

### **MANAGEMENT OF U3A MEADOWBANK DURING 2011 - 2020**

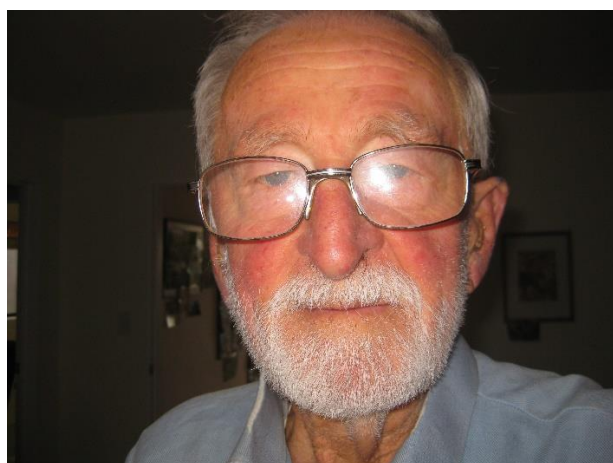
U3A Meadowbank continues to be run by an elected committee, and prepares a programme of group participation for the year.

We keep up with technology as much as we can, developing audio-visual opportunities for speakers, corresponding on line, developing a sophisticated database regarding our members, groups, etc, as well as developing a website.

The following members have held the role of President during this time, supported by Committee members.

### **PRESIDENTS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS**

#### **2011 Lou Holder – President**



Committee: Marjorie Blakeley, Maria Collins, David Colmore-Williams, Robyn Flynn, Jeanette de Heer, Don McGowan, Sue North, Val Penman, Elaine O’Hara, Gay Williams.

#### **Interview with Lou**

Lou Holder was an enthusiastic foundational member of U3A Meadowbank, captivated by Peter Haslett’s philosophy of pursuing learning for its own sake. He was born in New Zealand. His parents were hard working and instilled in him a strong work ethic. While working and living in Australia he met and married Paddy. Shortly after they returned to New Zealand to start a family and Lou developed and sold his first electrical business. They took the young family to

England and worked there for several years before coming home again to restart a long and happy period of business and family activities. Health issues at age 58 led to Lou retiring with Paddy to Cooks Beach for five years before returning to Auckland and discovering Meadowbank U3A.

He was surprised when approached to take on the Presidency in 2011, and doubted whether he had sufficient educational experience. However, although he realised he lacked academic qualifications his background in setting up and developing small businesses had given him considerable organisational and problem-solving experience.

Several issues needed to be addressed in 2011. The Mission Bay Bowling Club venue did not have appropriate technology to match members' ways of presenting. St Chad's was found, with more seating capacity and A-V facilities. Another issue was that the Constitution was no longer in step with several modern issues including banking practice. A Special General meeting was called to obtain the two-thirds of the memberships' approval needed to make changes.

Lou says he was strongly supported by his committee and enjoyed the challenge of responding to such issues. Identifying new replacements for management committee/Convenor roles as well as supporting new group options were an on-going commitment as was managing the waiting list through strict sequencing while seeking to prioritise more active members.

For Lou, the opportunity to serve as president was both a "privilege and a pleasure". He is deeply committed to the ethos of U3A and hopes that "learning by doing and teaching" is encouraged and re-emphasised often to continue meetings U3A Objects and Principles.

He strongly advocates personal learning through independent research and discussion, and would welcome, in some situations, the guidance of group facilitators with expertise in the subject (as exemplified, for example, in the Te Reo group and Lou's request for the committee to consider including Auckland University tutors in the 2020 celebrations.

## **2012 Gay Williams – President**

Committee: Marjorie Blakeley, Maria Collins, David Colmore-Williams, Christine Flemming, Robyn Flynn, Jeanette de Heer, Mary Littlewood, Jenny Marbeck, Don McGowan, Sue North, Graeme Rea,

(Interview see year 2019)

## **2013 Marjorie Blakeley – President**



Committee: Maria Collins, Val Cooper, Robyn Flynn, Anthony Howell, Jennifer Jonejan, Mary Littlewood, Jenny Marbeck, Don McGowan, Sue North, Graeme Rea, Carla Salinger.

### **Interview with Marjorie**

Marjorie was born in New Zealand and grew up in the Wairarapa (a country girl!) Her family was politically aware and her father loved art. Marjorie always wanted to be a writer – writing plays and journals while at school, or an archaeologist (love of history). She also assisted teaching younger pupils at school

On leaving school she went to Teacher's College in Wellington and after two years teaching decided to specialise in speech and language. She is a speech and language therapist (retired.) and has worked in Christchurch, Northland and Auckland, eventually focusing on assisting people who stutter. She continues to work with children who are disabled and need assistance with speech and language.

Marjorie joined U3A in 2003 and was first on the committee in 2011 as Groups Co-ordinator. She is currently Convenor of the short course offered each year called “Art of the Moment’. She agreed to be Vice President in 2013 but due to committee changes she reluctantly agreed to be nominated as President that year.

Her organising skills learned when coordinating speech therapy and working with teams of people prepared her well for a leadership role in U3A. She enjoyed the opportunity to mix with/meet people and work with others which she still enjoys doing.

Marjorie finds that U3A Meadowbank provides her with access to our fascinating monthly speakers who promote much interesting discussion and the opportunity to socialise with others.

### **2014 Terry Lord – President**



Committee: Val Cooper, Sue Fletcher, Jennifer Jonejan, Bernie Leonard, Jenny Marbeck, Don McGowan, Sue North, Carla Salinger, Kathryn Schollum, Sylvia Treister, Pauline Wilderspoon, Noel Young.

### **Interview with Terry**

Terry Lord is a fourth generation West Coaster. He left as an 11-year-old to live in Wellington with his family. Terry moved to Auckland in 1957 where he trained as a Social Studies teacher and began a long career of 41 years in Catholic Education - part of this time with the Marist Brothers. He was Principal of St Paul's Ponsonby, for many years and subsequently headed the Department of Social Sciences at McAuley High School until he retired in 2008.

Terry joined U3A Meadowbank in 2010 and was soon asked to bring his organisational and management skills to the committee. After six months, as there was no Vice- President (unfortunately a common pattern) he took on that responsibility, moving into the President's role in 2014.

One of Terry's major contributions to our association has been his advocacy of effective use of technology. From 2013 he joined Kim Hepner and Bernie Leonard in providing audio-visual support for monthly speakers using St Chad's resources, as well electronic notices at each meeting. Early in his term of office as President, he floated the idea of creating a website for our association. Though accepted in principle by the committee, he was not able to generate sufficient support for this to be implemented. It was not until 2018 that the website was finally developed. Rosemary Lang who was instrumental in developing the database with Jenny Marbeck was contracted to develop the initial concept, and since then has volunteered her expertise to the Web Spinners Group which is mandated to develop the website further.

U3A Meadowbank has provided considerable satisfaction for Terry since his retirement. He continues to enjoy the social contact that the association provides on a regular basis. He has seen the website become a useful platform for informing our membership, as well as archiving our activities and collective experience in study groups. Above all, he appreciates the exchange of new ideas, changing opportunities to work with others and to keep learning.

### **2015 Kathryn Schollum – President**





Committee: Russell Baird, Susan Burslem, Sue Fletcher, Jennifer Jongejan, Bernie Leonard, Terry Lord, Jenny Marbeck, Agi Ryan, Carla Salinger, Sylvia Treister, Pauline Wilderspoon, Noeline Young.

### **Interview with Kathryn**

Kathryn was born in New Zealand and went to school in Auckland. She loved sport excelling in many different sports such as tennis and basketball and, while intending to go to university, she ended up in laboratory services, spending 40 years working with an exciting group at Greenlane and National Women's laboratories. She completed her career as the Chief Technologist.

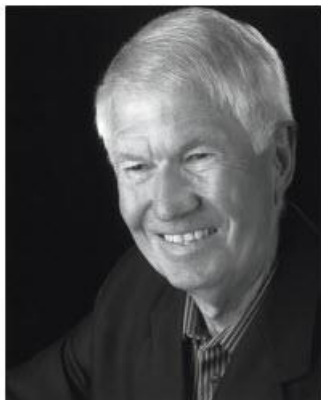
Kathryn joined U3A in 2005 through her best friend Maria Collins, and really enjoyed the concept of continuing education and learning. She has found our choice of monthly speakers remarkable and the variety of interest groups providing something for everyone.

Kathryn joined the U3A Meadowbank committee in 2014 and when the Vice President withdrew found herself in that position leading to accepting nomination as President in 2015.

An extrovert, Kathryn found communication easy and worked with a supportive committee that had good systems in place. When the committee considered a 'winter series' they decided to offer tours at the Auckland Museum instead. In order to attract some younger members and cope with a long waiting list the membership was increased to 300. During her Presidency this was, and still is, a controversial decision.

Today Kathryn feels we still provide worthwhile learning opportunities for us all, offering a wide range and variety of groups. We cope well with societal changes, and continue to be a very successful organisation.

## **2016 Russell Baird – President**



Committee: Val Bringham, Tom Browne, Susan Burslem, Judith McMorland, Gaye McNaught, Agi Ryan, Carla Salinger, Kathryn Schollum, Alison Scott, Sylvia Treister, Pauline Wilderspoon, Noeline Young

(Interview see 2017)

## **2017 Russell Baird - President**

Committee: Val Bringham, Tom Browne, Joan Duncan, Helen Hagen, Linda Lee, Judith McMorland, Agi Ryan, Alison Scott, Diane Strevens, Tom Williams, Chris Hawley

### **Interview with Russell**

Russell was born and raised in Wellington and attended Wellington Technical College. Leaving school, Russell joined the NZ Broadcasting Service as a technical trainee.

Later he moved to Philips and then 3M. With strong skills in problem-solving, strategic thinking and project management, when opportunity arose, he joined Deneefe Signing Systems. He later became Managing Director and developed a strong business with particular links to the management, operations, architecture and systems of health organisations.

Russell's wife Kathy is a Foundation member of U3A Meadowbank, but Russell himself did not get involved until 2015. Kathryn Schollum then President shouldered tapped him to become Vice President mid-way through her term. He was hesitant about this, being fairly new to the organisation. He took on the

Presidency in 2016. A highlight of this successful year was an exciting Winter Series on the theme of 'Challenges for NZ within the Pacific. Alison Scott was Vice President. When Alison was not well enough to take over as President in 2017, he agreed to continue for a further year. Though supported by an energetic committee, there was the on-going problem of finding people to take on positions of responsibility. A contentious decision was taken in 2016 to increase the membership to 300, to reduce a large waiting list and in the hope of recruiting new, younger members who could ultimately take on leadership roles. Increasing the membership roll did not entirely solve the problem of our ageing demographic. Finding people willing to be VP and President is still an on-going problem.

Since his term of office, Russell has continued his interest in several study groups. With wide interests outside of U3A, and spending more time with his family at Lake Tarawera, his two year commitment to leadership was much appreciated.

#### **2018 Judith McMorland- President**



Committee: Tom Browne, Janet Crawford, Allan Davidson, Ruth Humphrey, Lois Kirkbride, Linda Lee, Agi Ryan, Alison Scott, Diane Strevens.

#### **Interview with Judith**

Judith came to Auckland in 1973. After two years teaching in Kiribati (then the Gilbert and Ellice Islands), she completed a Masters in Education at Massey University, and joined the staff of the Centre for Continuing Education with a

mandate to provide courses in community development and the health and welfare sector. She gained a PhD in Organisational Sociology in 1980 and retired from the university in 2007. Her commitment to U3A continues these interests where there are creative opportunities to learn and teach for us all. As Vice President in 2017 and President in 2018 her contribution to U3A includes updating the Committee policy document and rectifying new financial requirements within our Constitution. Along with others she was active in promoting our website.

Judith has concerns for the future of U3A Meadowbank (and other not-for-profit organisations generally.) In particular, she mentions the reluctance of members to step up into more active roles such as group leaders, committee members, or other leadership roles. Ultimately this passivity leads to a culture of dependency and malaise. Other concerns include engaging members' interests in our changing society: rapid population growth, increased diversity, and commitment to Treaty of Waitangi obligations. Use of Whakatauki (Maori Proverbs) is gradually being more widely appreciated and expanded. Interest in Te Reo classes is very encouraging. If U3A Meadowbank is to remain vibrant and challenging, then we need to commit to our purpose of learning and engaging with both past and present, to hearing new voices and engaging with the next generations' concerns. Many groups are enabling more critical engagement with one another which is cause for celebration.

### **2019 Gay Williams – President**



**Committee:** Melda Brunette, Janet Crawford, Allan Davidson, Jocelyn Goodman, Ruth Humphrey, Lois Kirkbride, Stephanie Markson, Cecilie Rushton, Agi Ryan, Judith Stewart, Diane Strevens.

### **Interview with Gay**

Gay previously served as President in 2012, but generously agreed to step into the role in 2019 when no other volunteer could be found. She was amply qualified for such leadership, having a professional background in nursing where she was a nurse educator, and CEO of the nursing professional/industrial body. This work gave her extensive organisational expertise and confidence in local, national and international contexts. As a mature student, she gained her doctorate studying the contribution nurse-leaders gave to their profession. Key to nurse-leadership success, she found, was relationship building, communication, effective decision making and commitment to personal and professional development.

Asked about the contribution she hoped to make as president, she reiterated the goals she set out in 2012, reinforcing the importance of U3A as an opportunity for learning and teaching together. Gay has served as our archivist since 2006. She supports the increasing role that technology can play in our organisation, especially in communication through the newsletter, information about group activities and maintaining an historical record of our activities. She also emphasised the importance of maintaining and improving committee processes and procedures so the organisation would remain effective over the long term. This means addressing the issues of succession, and tapping into the variety and breadth of members' experience. For Gay, U3A Meadowbank offers an opportunity to contribute as a volunteer. She has valued the opportunity to learn in a variety of groups and would like members to be more adventurous in their participation, to broaden their knowledge and enhance the social networks that membership provides. She finds this opportunity significantly life enhancing.

## **2020 Cecilie Rushton – President**



Committee - Melda Brunette, Janet Crawford, Allan Davidson, Jocelyn Goodman, John Kinley, Agi Ryan, Judith Stewart, Valmai Trainor.

### **Interview with Cecilie**

Cecilie was born in Christchurch. Upon leaving school she started work in the Magistrates' Court and attended University part time, studying Law. She qualified in 1963 and moved to Taumarunui where she built her own practice. Subsequently she moved to Rotorua where she first practised as a Barrister and Solicitor and then as a Barrister Sole.

She was appointed to the District Court Bench in 1987. While in practice she was very involved in working towards access to justice for all. She was involved in setting up Citizen's Advice and Duty Solicitor schemes some time before they were officially recognised and funded. A political animal at the time, she became very involved in the legislation coming before parliament affecting women's rights and the division of matrimonial property. She thrived on the battles of the 70's and 80's. Not being athletic she found her niche, first tramping then on the ski fields and later scuba diving. She was able to enhance these activities by combining them with her other passion, travel, into many interesting and seldom visited countries. She still skis (carefully!) and belongs to two of the U3A walking groups.

Cecilie joined U3A in 2011 after languishing on the waiting list for several years. She has thoroughly enjoyed the groups to which she has belonged. The Walking

groups have kept her active and Jazz and the Book Club have furthered her knowledge together with the latest learning curve, Maori Language and Culture. From Vice President in 2019 she moved on to President in 2020. However, it was not to be plain sailing! A ski trip to Italy and USA in February kept her in self-isolation for the March meeting. No sooner had she emerged than the whole country went into Lockdown with the corona virus. With the help of the very able committee the next few months were concentrated on keeping the members informed and retaining their interest in our U3A. The monthly newsletters were our channel of contact with the members who contributed many articles, jokes and notes of inspiration. It was a challenging time with the situation changing from one day to the next. Updates in the newsletter on the situation were usually out of date before they were printed. Mini newsletters became necessary to keep our members informed. By pulling together we were able to weather the storm and emerge ready to face the challenges of a 'Post Corona Virus U3A'.

### **MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS:**

U3A Meadowbank continues to hold monthly meetings with an amazing array of speakers covering an eclectic list of topics. A Speakers group organises the speakers/topics and they are advertised on the website and in the Newsletter.

Each meeting begins with a mini speaker or speakers, and then after a break we share time with our main speaker (see appendix one) and provide members with the opportunity to ask questions. Where possible a summary of the speaker's presentation is made available for the newsletter.

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND ISSUES OVER TIME:**

#### **Constitution review**

Our Constitution was registered in 2001. Since then we have registered minor changes to the Rules (May 2013 and December 2018.) Annual accounts and changes of address are forwarded each year. Details can be found on the website of NZ Incorporated Societies.

## **Membership**

Membership is currently set at 300. The number was raised in 2016 with a view to increasing the number of younger members. It was a controversial issue and some members find the current venue too crowded. At the beginning of 2020 we have just over 290 members with no waiting list

## **U3A Meadowbank Groups**

Over our first ten years we had many groups for members to join – we regard the groups as a key part of our organisation, enabling members to continue to learn and to share their skills.

As Convenors move on or interest wanes, groups come and go. While some 14 groups still continue from the beginning of our existence in 2000 a trend over the past ten years has been the offering of groups for a shorter period of time – for a few months or a year or two. Such groups included the study of Astronomy, Art of the Moment, Computer Talk, Shakespeare.

We have currently 40 active groups (see Appendix two)

## **Website development ([www.u3ameadowbank.nz](http://www.u3ameadowbank.nz))**

In 2014 it was agreed to explore the development of a website for U3A Meadowbank. Assistance was sought from Browns Bay and Takapuna U3As both of which were very helpful. Thanks to Terry Lord, Rosemary Lang and Judith McMorland for their work in getting the website established.

Such developments take time and need to be updated regularly.

Our website includes reference to our Constitution, our 2000-2010 booklet, how to contact us, newsletters, interest groups, speaker summaries, web links, future events, and historical records.

In 2020 Application for membership, and Electronic membership Renewal forms are being made available.



## **Newsletters**

Since July 2000 we have sent out a monthly newsletter edited by members of our U3A. Newsletter coordinators in our second ten years have been

2011 -2012 Elaine O'Hara

2013 -2016 Carla Salinger

2017 -2020 Chris Hawley

We acknowledge the efforts of Elaine, Carla and Chris in the careful preparation of these valuable records, especially Chris Hawley's contribution with a longer informative newsletter during 'lockdown' in 2020.

We tried to encourage members to receive our newsletter by email as early as 2006/7, but this proved difficult to manage and it was not until 2013 that we were able to send the newsletter by email to the majority of members. In 2020 we have only 17 members who continue to request their newsletter by post. (An impressive achievement)

Newsletters are also available on our website.

## **U3A Meadowbank Database Development**

In 2011 Jenny Marbeck was treasurer and realised that the administration duties undertaken by various members of the committee were far more onerous than they need be. Hours and hours each end-of-year were spent by both the Membership and the Groups Co-Ordinators endeavouring to reconcile membership numbers from hand-written paper lists. Our large membership and upwards of 40 interest groups with the various groups' comings and goings made the task impossible.

Some basics we needed to know were the year members joined U3A, whether the newsletter was emailed, whether another member (e.g. spouse) lived at the same address (to save postage when mailing programmes), also gender for statistical purposes. It was also important

to keep a record of subscription payments so reports could be produced for the treasurer.

Every group a member belongs to is recorded on their own form within the database and this enables each Group Convenor to have a printout of their members along with their contact details. Also recorded are the dates people convene these groups so an individual's contribution to U3A can be acknowledged. Each year members have the opportunity to write suggestions and make requests for new groups on their annual membership renewal form and this information is captured in the database and relevant reports sent to the committee.

Once the work on the design of the database and the initial reports was completed, expertise was sought for the actual writing of the database. The first printout of the database was in 2013 and took a further three years to "fine tune" and design the numerous reports which aid the administration of our U3A. The database was up and running with almost no dollar cost to U3A and, seven years on, this is still the position.

In 2016 a comprehensive database Instruction book was written as a reference for future database recorders.

## **Winter Series:**

As part of our contribution for members, in 2012 we started a 'Winter Series'. A series of presentations over three or four weeks with a speaker on a relevant topic each week. Topics were

### **2012 Towards 2020 and Beyond**

#### **Speakers:**

Dr Stephen Hoadley – *New Zealand's evolving place in the International environment*

Dr Paul Spoonley- *Contemporary immigration and the transformation of Auckland*

Dr Gay Williams – *Technology in our lives – now and in the future*

Speakers from Meadowbank U3A – *Celebrating what we can do and continue to do to add extra value to our senior years*

### **2013 Investigating the Media**

#### **Speakers:**

Dr Gavin Ellis Media Consultant– *Print media*

Janet Wilson Journalist – *Radio and TV*

Martin Crocker Executive Director of Netsafe – *Media and cyberspace*

### **2014 After the Millennium**

#### **Speakers:**

Dr Kim Workman – *Law and order*

Raymond Hawthorne – *Arts and culture*

Professor David Cameron Smith – *Health and science*

### **2015**

Winter Series proposed to be offered biennially.

Replaced in 2015 by Special Interest guided tours at the Auckland Museum

### **2016 Challenges to New Zealand from the Asian – Pacific region**

#### **Speakers:**

Associate Professor Yvonne Te Ruki-Rangi-O-Tangaroa Underhill-Sem – *Response to climate. change pressures*

Carl Worker -former ambassador to Beijing *Can the Pacific remain peaceful?*

Assoc Professor Steven Hoadley – *How is New Zealand responding to emerging economic dynamism*

Terence O'Brien – *Looking to the future – how to maintain national independence and effective relationships*

## **2017 and 2018**

No winter series- Difficult to ensure financial viability without enough membership support.

## **2019**

No winter series – decision to support the U3A Network

## **2020**

Twenty years celebration events (and COVID-19)

It is hoped to offer a winter series in the future.

## **Handbook Revision**

A policy handbook for the Committee was first created in 2006 with a major revision in 2018. It has proven to be very important to have policies in one document, as historically we seemed to be 'reinventing the wheel'. Issues that need to be re-visited over and over include the number of members we can sustain without getting that 'overflow' feeling, and the geographical area we accept members from.

## **Facilities for Meetings – move to St Chad's (2011)**

In 2010 with our membership at 260 and the need for better audio-visual equipment we sought a new venue, finally choosing to move in 2011 to St Chad's Church, St Johns Road. Meadowbank. Our monthly meetings are still held at this venue.

This facility enables better access to parking, small rooms for committee meetings, and more space for tea breaks and end of year functions, although coping with over 180 members at one meeting can still be a challenge.

## **Annual Meeting of Convenors**

These meetings began with a breakfast in 2012 to enable the Groups Co-ordinator to assist Convenors with any issues and explain responsibilities. Annual meetings continue and have been helpful especially to new Convenors.

## **Asset Register**

U3A has purchased a number of assets over time but with technology changes the relevance of owning, for example a laptop, has become questionable, with members now choosing to use their own devices.

We are fortunate that the audio-visual resources at St Chad's have enabled us to improve our use of resources during monthly presentations.

## **Paid Hospitality Staff**

Over time it became clear that the provision of morning tea and lunches at our meetings was no longer viable using volunteers or Committee members. We now pay outside helpers to facilitate these events supporting our Hospitality Convenors.

## **Noticeboards**

The use of notice boards to supplement our newsletter provides opportunity for wide distribution of data. We have an information board in the foyer at each monthly meeting that includes a folder of interest group profiles to assist new members choose groups they would like to join.

At the beginning of each monthly meeting, an audio-visual information board is displayed in the hall promoting the day's events as well as future plans.

We thank all those involved in the preparation and maintenance of these resources.

## STORIES FROM A SELECTION OF GROUPS FORMED SINCE 2010

Study groups are the backbone of U3A, made possible by the willingness of people to offer themselves as Convenors. Members are both learners and teachers, drawing on their own skills and knowledge to teach their peers.



Margaret Collie – a foundation member shares her perspective

I joined Meadowbank U3A while still a member at Browns Bay and Devonport U3As, where I belonged to the book & film groups.

With the new U3A I decided to expand into areas that I had no prior knowledge. I had done science subjects at school and at pharmacy college.

One of the first groups I joined was Art Appreciation. I attended hoping nobody would realise I had no knowledge in the subject. I had always come at the bottom of the class in art. Thankfully it was an open and inviting group. 20 years later I have ended up being Convenor of the group. When I travel overseas it is based on visiting galleries and museums. What I have learnt makes these trips so worthwhile and also take me out of what was my comfort zone.

Some groups are very academic. U3A is a “university” only in the most general sense, there are no qualifications to join or any tangible certificate to be achieved, but it is an opportunity to pursue interests that you've never had, or haven't had time to pursue.

Another group I joined early on was a walking group – Gallivanter's'. Some classed this and other groups as just social groups but these groups form an important function in giving people interaction to deepen social contact with others..

Estelle Rose and I ran the Luncheon and Mah Jong groups for many years. A fun way to get to know and enjoy the company of others.

At heart, the U3A is a collective of people who are devoted to learning for its own sake. We study for the pleasure of learning, and the leaders of our groups are called Convenors rather than teachers or lecturers, because learning is seen as a co-operative process.

**A selection of groups formed since 2010 are outlined below.**

**Art of the Moment**

**Dollars and Sense/Financial Literacy**

**Maori Language and Culture for Beginners**

**Poetry**

**Science and Technology**

**U3A Travel Group**

**World Religions**

**Time-poor walkers**

### **The U3A Art of the Moment Group**

The idea of an Art of the Moment Group began in January 2018 when Helen Hagen and I visited some art galleries, mostly dealer galleries, small and 'out of the way'.

We decided after these visits that we would like to share our interest with other members of U3A.

Helen has a long history of studying art and sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject and so is able to suggest galleries that would be interesting to visit.

Often Art of the Moment can appear to be hard to understand but explanations can bring new ideas which lead on to great discussions. The change from looking to thinking can be a way of describing some of the experiences.

As the group grew Carla Salinger joined us as a Co- Convenor and now 2020 is the third year of the *Pop Up Group*. This year the group will run once a month between April and September on Saturday mornings. Members will take turns in organising the visits to the galleries and booking a nearby café. Each gallery visit shows a different aspect of Art of the Moment.

We have discovered a variety of art works, among them digital art, fabrics and clothing, the Walters Prize entrants, social issues, films, figurative ceramics and Billy Apple art.

In 2019 we enjoyed the re-opening of the Gus Fisher Art Gallery. The building had previously been Radio 1YA and now the Ladies' Powder Room was one of the galleries. It still looked like a Ladies' Powder Room, but on closer examination the fittings were all fake, windows, taps and basins, mirrors and wall papers and signs.

We had to document our visit with a photo with some of our members and a tag: 'Only the ladies are real'

The real ladies in the photo are Gaye McNaught, Marjorie Blakeley, Helen Hagen, Jocelyn Goodman, Ev McGowan and Anne Tinson.



Marjorie Blakeley



## **Dollars and Sense/ Financial Literacy**



### **Some members of our \$ and sense group 2020**

One of our early groups was 'Money Matters' which was a large group always well attended and mainly offering a variety of outside speakers. The group closed in 2016 as it was unable to provide a new Convenor. Members acknowledged that understanding financial matters was an important issue for many so two new groups were established "Dollars and Sense", and "Financial Literacy".

These groups enable members to discuss national and international issues, as well as major concepts such as the share market, cryptocurrency and blockchain, artificial intelligence, security, retirement village options, property investment, Reserve Bank statements, tax etc.

Gay Williams and Murray Gatenby

## **Maori Language and Culture at Meadowbank U3A**



Convenors Adele Hirsh and Jenny Marbeck, and our Tutor Val Boyes

Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa.

Long and well gone are the years when te reo Maori was not allowed to be spoken in our schools.

Now the language is celebrated and we at Meadowbank U3A are also celebrating it.

We all know a few Maori words such as hui, marae, kia ora, kai, whanau and so on and when overseas if asked to sing a song in Maori we inevitably sang Pokarekare Ana. Now thanks to Wally Hirsh's perseverance in seeking to add Maori to our list of study groups, and Jenny Marbeck's personal friendship with Val Boyes, a qualified teacher of te reo Maori language classes have become a vibrant reality.

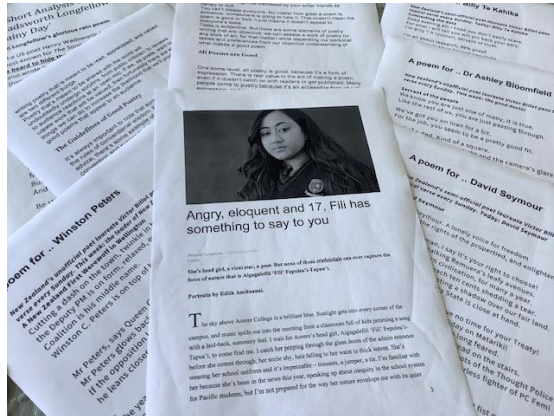
In 2019 we began the year with 20 students, places having been competed for, as well over 30 indicated their early interest. This class has continued into 2020 with 10 students while a new first year class also began. Val Boyes is now tutoring both classes.

Pronunciation, grammar, songs, myths and legends, poi making and other aspects of Maori life and culture are on our packed programme. With the major shift in our country of valuing the Maori language, as demonstrated by its wide spread inclusion in the curriculum, and on the radio and TV we are now beginning to bridge the knowledge gap with the younger generation.

The course is a challenge for most of us but most definitely very worthwhile.

Adele Hirsh

## Poetry



Our group has changed over the last ten years from studying the English poets over the centuries (such as Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, Marvell, Dryden, Pope, Gray, Tennyson, Yeats etc) to individual members choosing a poet or theme to share with the group.

This has meant we have had a very eclectic approach to the topic and have included poets from many lands and some fascinating topics.

We have discussed Irish poets, Poets Laureates, poetry prizes/awards, poems about the World Wars, motherhood, flowers, work, birds, time, Covid-19, politics etc.

A fascinating topic where many poets write about issues of the day. A poem from one of our members (Barbara Hawthorn) is included in this booklet.

Gay Williams

## U3A Science & Technology – History



In October 2005 I went to my first U3A meeting and was told about a *Great Scientific Discoveries* group that had folded and was, possibly, being restarted. "Please see the President at morning tea, if you are interested." So, I saw the President and was told I was henceforth the Convenor. (Be warned of speaking to the President!)

I immediately decided that the older name was too restrictive and that a better name was Science and Technology. I intended to include almost anything from physical and life sciences, to introduce members to the incredible breadth of science, and its derivative technologies.

My own background in physics, computer science and some faculty administration meant I felt I could contribute something. There is also now a real treasure-trove of quality public-interest material, such as David Attenborough's DVDs on the natural world, supplemented by books and DVDs by some of the very best scientists.

As many of the topics we covered were very extensive, they were often shared between several presenters.

In no particular order, topics over the past few years have included --

- Plate tectonics, volcanoes and earthquakes - bridges, lighthouses, windmills, skyscrapers, building cruise ships, aviation. Lots of good science and technology here, and it relates to people's experience.

- Medieval science, Chinese science, Greek science, Islamic science, human prehistory. (Did you know that, 2000 years ago, the Chinese had oil and gas pipelines, or that Alexandria had vending machines?)
- People – Jenner, Maxwell, Henry Ford, Gates, women scientists, Nobel prizes, Numbers and mathematics. (Why do we use decimal numbers rather than Roman numbers?)
- Visits to Museums, the Zoo, NIWA, local factories, Maritime Museum, a plant nursery
- New Zealand science and inventions

We initially had a house group of a dozen or so, but as the group grew, we moved - finally ending up at the Remuera Baptist Church.

I was Convenor for nearly the first nine years and was succeeded by Sylvia Treister.

Peter Fenwick

### **U3A Travel group.**



Take a trip!

In 2008 Wally Hirsh was asked to speak to our U3A about his involvement in the tourist industry. In his early retirement he had written a couple of books about



boutique tramping in Aotearoa and had been involved in educational travel leadership with the University of New South Wales. He had led 18 three to five-week tours of mainly Americans throughout Australia and New Zealand. "What about a tour for us?" someone challenged. Wally happily took the bait and planned an initial twelve-day tour to the deep south of New Zealand; Dunedin to Queenstown and a lot in between. In a survey at the end of this tour the participants ranked Doubtful Sound, the Tuatara breeding programme in Invercargill and Milford Sound as the top three adventures. The top three out of circa 20.

Wally had a detailed plan costed by a local travel company and prepared a registration form for the members of our U3A. Thirty-six, (yes 36) folk signed up within 10 days or so and we took off. It was a wonderful trip with many highlights and at its conclusion the pressure was put on me about where we would go on "our next trip."

And so, it came to pass. The travellers loved it and wanted more and that happened over and over again until members came to expect another tour or two each year.

Wally reports on the tours he and his wife Adele Hirsh planned from 2009 until March 2019 - 16 tours.

"Australia was large on our programme list and we went there several times: The Red Centre, Adelaide and Kangaroo Island, Darwin and Arnhem Land, Tasmania and Brisbane and the Great Barrier

The call of the Pacific was loud and clear. We went to Vanuatu and Tana, the Cook Islands including Aitutaki, the Chatham Islands and we did a cruise of the Marquesas from Tahiti- what a trip that was!

Vietnam and Cambodia were combined to make up our special trip into South East Asia and we did six trips in New Zealand: the Deep South, the Taranaki Rhododendron Festival, the Volcanic Plateau and White Island, the North of the South and Molesworth Station, the West Coast, Nelson, Golden Bay and Farewell Spit, and Marlborough, Kaikoura, Christchurch and Akaroa.

Every trip was full. Tour sizes ranged from 22 to 36 but most were set at 27. Every tour had some very special features which will no doubt remain in the memories of the many participants. It was an honour and a privilege to plan and

lead these tours and to have Adele with me as “camp mother.” We got to know so many of our members so well through this travel. Some came on as many as eight trips and many members travelled with us three or four times.

And at our final dinner in Akaroa in early April 2019, (we always finished with a big dinner event), folk were still asking where are we going next? But alas health and mobility issues have brought this exciting chapter in our lives to a close.

Wally Hirsh

### **World Religions**



For two years I had been putting on my membership renewal form under the title, ‘What group/s would you like to see and we don’t have?’ a World Religions group. When nothing happened, I decided I had to stand on the stage and ask if anyone else might be interested in having such a group. When Meadowbank U3A was formed there was a Comparative Religions group that ran for four years with Rose Benjamin as the first Convenor and then in 2006 Graham Shearer began a group World Cultures and Religions.

On 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 there being sufficient interest we held a first meeting with 20 people to talk about how we would look at the topic of ‘World Religions’. According to some sources there are 12 classical world religions and we have since looked at them all. At the same time it is estimated that there are 4,300 religions in the world, so one could go on forever! I was the first Convenor with

Sao Trinh co-Convenor. We felt that we would take an historical view of religions and began with Australian Spirituality/Religion which is over 60,000 years old and move forward.

We went on to study ancient Egyptians, the Druids, Japanese religion/Shintoism, Confucianism, 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama and others, not necessarily in that order. More recently we have looked at the Baha'i faith. We have had such interesting times and have been warmly hosted by and sometimes shared a meal provided by Hindu people, Buddhists, Sikhs, visiting their temples and being enlightened about their faith. Following interesting sessions on Judaism we were taken on a visit to the Synagogue in the City.

Sheikh Rafat from the Islam Centre welcomed us for a morning of interaction to talk about Islam and attend a prayer session. When the tragic massacre took place in Christchurch in 2019, Peter and Noeline Farley were the current Convenors of the World Religions Group. Noeline was instrumental in having a Book of Condolence signed by many of Meadowbank's U3A members and then a visit was made back to the Islam Centre to present it to Sheikh Rafat.

In 2020 members are again taking turns in planning for studies of a number of other aspects of religious practice and denominations. We are so grateful to all our hosts and speakers and thank them for the opportunity to learn together.

Ruth Humphrey,( First Convenor of U3A Meadowbank World Religions Group)

### **U3A Time-Poor Walking Group**





The group was started in August 2014 by Carla Salinger, to cater for members who could not walk long distances, and members who could not spend a whole day on walking trips.

All of our walks are within the picturesque topography and environs of seaside St Heliers. No pre-planning is required for routes and transport, which is convenient for both Convenors and group members. The group has a stable membership of about 14 people. Several of the members have remained with the group since its inception.

Our meeting for coffee and stimulating conversation after the walk each week enhances the collegiality of the group, and provides the opportunity to give support to any member who requires it.

Every Christmas the group plans a special walk and lunch, when we travel to a more distant location within Auckland for that purpose.

Lois Hill

**The Long Walkers group** -Couldn't resist including this pic!



## **AN EXAMPLE OF A GROUP STILL GOING AFTER TWENTY YEARS!**

### **U3A HISTORY GROUP 2000 -2020**



The History Group, known when it was established in 2000 as the History Study Group, had as its first Convenor Norma Davis who led us most successfully for two years until ill health intervened. I took over from Norma in 2003 and have been the Convenor ever since. Of the original members only Margaret Collie, Maria Collins, Margaret Franklin, Noeleen Shandley and myself are left; others who have been in our group over the years Valerie Bermal, Merv Cohen, Graham Davy, Duncan Ingram, June Kendrick, Graham and Elizabeth Mack, Doug McKenzie, Graeme Rea, Alison Scott and Patricia Talbot (apologies if I have forgotten anyone else).

Being a study group, our members have had to research topics and present them for our monthly meetings which over the past eight years have been held in my home. Over the years we have covered many topics, some briefly, others such as the history of Russia, the Scandinavian and Baltic Countries, Morocco and Spain in great detail; currently we are studying the history of Japan

Yvonne Kennedy

Other groups that began in 2000 and are still active (in one form or another), include

Art history and Art appreciation, Books and Authors, Current events, French, Jazz, Literature, Music, Religious studies, Travel and Wine appreciation.

## INDIVIDUAL STORIES/ CONTRIBUTIONS:

The ten years since 2010 have seen major events in New Zealand – earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, droughts and floods and terrorist attacks.

One of our members produced the following poem after the Christchurch massacre in 2019.

### ***THE MASSACRE: THE AFTERMATH***

*Some people rushed out to buy flowers  
Wove a fragrant wall of appalled regret  
We can never forget*

*Flowers speak when we are too choked to talk.  
Florists ran out of flowers before the end of day  
But even now new buds are growing*

*Some people rushed out to buy guns  
Determined to beat the ban that will surely follow  
That's what we all expect.*

*Understandably they do not want to talk  
Gun shops too ran out of stock; their best trading day  
Incoming mail orders overflowing.*

*Next week all these flowers will wilt in the sun  
Sweep them up with all those shed petal tears  
Shops will have fresh flowers.*

*But all those guns will lurk in brooding menace  
In locked cupboards in secret rooms  
Silently biding their time.*

*Some people bought flowers  
Touching expressions of love  
Even now the fragrance seems to linger,*

*Some people bought a gun  
Obscene symbol of hate  
Over the trigger hovers whose finger?*

*Some people and some people... and yet  
We say we are one.  
We **insist** we are one.*

*Barbara Hawthorn*

## **Technology and social media**

As we become more computer literate, we need to be aware of possible impacts on our daily lives.

The dangers of sharing too many personal details on line

The need to ensure we check information – being aware of ‘fake news’, and scams.

The need to seek advice if you are unsure of how to use your technology, and keeping your systems updated.

For two years we offered a course called Computer Talk which aimed to assist members become more aware of the increased role technology and social media have in our lives.

This ten-year period has also seen the role of technology influencing our lives in major ways, and we are much more aware of our world through social media. The significance of climate change is also impacting our activities and influencing our behaviour. Increasing migration in New Zealand has also been significant

The following comments reflect some of these changes.

Dr Paul Spoonley was a speaker at our first Winter Series in 2012. He shared with us what it means to be an Aucklander in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

In light of recent events, here is a quote with his wish list for Aucklanders then

THAT:

*We acknowledge biculturalism and multiculturalism*

*We provide welcoming committees*

*Our institutions are more responsive*

*We need a city response – leadership and policy*

*We need more social cohesion [belonging, participation, inclusion, recognition, legitimacy]*

## **PLANS FOR THE 20 YEAR CELEBRATIONS**

A Committee was established in 2019 to plan for a series of celebrations in 2020 – U3A Meadowbank's 20<sup>th</sup> year.

Planning included photos of past presidents, plans for future groups, breakfast for group Convenors, acknowledgement of our foundation members who are still part of our U3A, lunch for past presidents, a dinner for all members, an event celebrating the skills of our members, and a 2010-2020 booklet.

Events were interrupted by the onset of Covid-19 with restrictions on allowing meetings of large groups.

We managed to get the photo of Past Presidents, and to have a breakfast for long serving Group Convenors before the country went into 'Lockdown'.

We then reassessed the planned programme to ensure that in the future we could acknowledge our foundation members, enjoy an evening meal together, and publish this booklet.

## **THE LAST WORD.**

Here we are, about to embark on the third decade of our U3A. While we have successfully weathered the latest storm, the last decade saw major disruptions and tragedies in our little country. First were the series of Christchurch earthquakes with a serious loss of life, then the Kaikoura earthquake with a total shift in the shoreline and the isolation of what had been a thriving community. Then there was the horrific mass shooting and the murder of the congregation of two mosques in Christchurch while they were at prayer. Finally, there was

the White Island Whakaari eruption with its death-toll and the terrible injuries inflicted, again, by nature's violence. We did not need Covid19. But our country is resilient. We are picking ourselves up and facing the future with determination and hope that, with lessons learned about the fragility of the earth and its people, we can move on to a better and brighter future for generations to come. Within our own organisation we can help to build bridges and look at our country through the eyes of all, not just our own privileged group.

The coming years will bring their own challenges but, with our solid base we can deal with them. While we need new and younger members, our numbers are at their maximum and we may have to face either restrictions or assisting in the formation of a new U3A. With another generation reaching retirement, and hopefully joining us, we should see new approaches and opportunities to further our studies and enrich our knowledge.

My best wishes to you all and may your membership of the U3A retain your interest and your desire for learning.

Cecilie Rushton

2020

## **APPENDICES –**

1. Speakers over the years 2011-2020
2. U3A Meadowbank groups
3. U3A groups in Auckland

### **1.SPEAKERS 2011 – 2020**

#### **2011**

Robert FYFE	CEO Air NZ – Dare to be different
Prof Dov BING	Turmoil in Egypt – changing of the guard
Dr Cathy STINEAR	Priming the brain – after a stroke
Michael FIELD	Catching a swimming shark
Rosalie NELSON	Telecoms 2011 – a year of deconstruction
Dr Elizabeth PETERSON	Growing up in New Zealand
Robert MATTHEWS MBE	Sight-impaired Para Olympian
Anna CONNELL	Auckland Theatre Company

Roy CLARE CBE  
Peter HUBSCHER MNZM

Auckland Memorial Museum  
Winemaking in New Zealand

## 2012

Bob O'HARA  
Dr Doug CLEVERLY  
Dr Jon VARDELL  
Mr Edward MEE  
Dr Jo HARROP  
Sir Bob HARVEY QSO  
Dr John and Olga HAWKES  
Dr Anna SANDIFORD  
Dr Kira BACAL  
Owen LOEFFELLECHNER  
Helen MEDLYN

Godwits and Miranda  
Argenta – Turning Science into success  
Newmarket viaduct project  
Neurosurgeon - the ageing brain  
El Sistema – Aotearoa  
Waterfront Auckland  
Russia  
Forensic Scientist – Auckland  
Humans in space  
Financial Security transactions  
Crazy game of Show business

## 2013

Barry THORN  
Prof Paul SPOONLEY FRSNZ  
Richard SIMPSON  
Gillian EADE  
Sir Donald McKINNON ONZ  
Judge Simon MOORE QC  
Eva Wong NG  
Prof John BECA  
Rawiri PARATENE ONZM  
Wally HIRSH OBE  
Lynn ORAM

Flying stars and their cars  
Future of Jobs  
Thinking NZ in the future  
What are you doing to protect your memory?  
International diplomacy  
Proclivity, personality, and 'P'  
A reluctant pioneer  
Paediatrics and Starship hospital  
Working at the Globe  
Out of the shadows  
Camino de Santiago walk

## 2014

Sarah WATT  
Dr Gay WILLIAMS CNZM  
Dr Penny LE COUTEUR  
Peter LYONS  
Grant BAYLDON  
Dr Michael KLAASSEN  
John PEZARO  
Michael FIELD  
Sheryll OFNER  
Keith QUINN MNZM  
Dame Judith POTTER ONZM

Critiquing the critic  
Flavours of France  
The Dilemma of Chemicals  
History of economic thought  
Amnesty International  
Sir Harold Gillies and team  
Growing Herbs  
South Pacific issues  
Selwyn College  
One person's lucky life in NZ  
Law – her life

## 2015

RTN Donna COLLINS

Ebola & Sierra Leone

<b>2016</b>	<b>Dr Paul Buchanan</b>	<b>Whither NZ in the world</b>
	<b>Dr Tanya McWILLIAMS</b>	<b>Respiratory Physician – lung transplants</b>
	<b>Pip CHESHIRE</b>	<b>Architect – Post adolescent Auckland</b>
	<b>Darren WARD</b>	<b>Direct impact group – disability</b>
	<b>Dr Welby INGS</b>	<b>Creativity and Disobedience – thinking beyond ritual</b>
	<b>Phil SAI- LOUIE</b>	<b>NZ Place names</b>
	<b>Laurie BEAMISH</b>	<b>Maori perspective Hauraki Gulf</b>
	<b>Simon O’NEILL NZOM</b>	<b>A Tenor – his experience</b>
	<b>Rt Hon Sir James McLAY QSO</b>	<b>A small state at the big table</b>
	<b>Dr Miriam FRANK</b>	<b>Journey: Europe - NZ</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>Christopher HAWLEY MNZM</b>	<b>NZ’s place in the pacific</b>
	<b>Dame Diane ROBERTSON</b>	<b>Auckland City Mission – 22 years</b>
	<b>Dr Waiora PORT</b>	<b>Never too old to learn</b>
	<b>Soana PAMAKA</b>	<b>Principal Tamaki College</b>
	<b>Bruce HOWE</b>	<b>Ports of Auckland</b>
	<b>Graham MATTHEWS</b>	<b>Auckland Airport of the future</b>
	<b>Dr David RICE</b>	<b>Modern understanding of pain</b>
	<b>Dr Miles GREGORY</b>	<b>Pop up Globe theatre</b>
	<b>Dr Francis KASSIR</b>	<b>Plight of Christian communities in the Middle East</b>
	<b>Dr Angus McMORLAND</b>	<b>Brain control of movement</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>David Veart</b>	<b>‘First catch your Weka’</b>
	<b>Judge Cecilie RUSHTON QC</b>	<b>The highs and lows of life – High Court</b>
	<b>Sir David BARAGWANATH</b>	<b>Judging and other activities in The Hague</b>
	<b>Owen SCOTT</b>	<b>Writer – Read, listen and adapt books for radio</b>
	<b>Geoff CHAPPLE</b>	<b>Literary look at NZ Geology</b>
	<b>Dr Johan POTGIETER</b>	<b>Technology and Innovation</b>
	<b>Sir Anand SATYANAND QSO KStJ</b>	<b>The Commonwealth and its Future</b>
	<b>Anna GAILANI</b>	<b>A former refugee’s journey to safety in NZ</b>
	<b>Shamubeel EAQUB</b>	<b>Economics, politics and you</b>
	<b>Warren LINDBERG MNZM</b>	<b>Personal journey – the challenge of public health</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>Lucy LAWLESS</b>	<b>A personal story</b>
	<b>Bob NAREV MNZM,ONZM</b>	<b>70 years on – a journey from darkness to light</b>
	<b>Prof Peter O’CONNOR</b>	<b>The new basic – creativity</b>
	<b>Wendy PRESTON MNZM</b>	<b>Mixit</b>
	<b>Dr Zain ALI</b>	<b>Overview of Islam</b>
	<b>Dr Matt RAYNER</b>	<b>Libraries of life - Museum Collections</b>
	<b>Hal MARRYATT QSM</b>	<b>The Royal family in Tonga</b>
	<b>Dr Jonathan SIMCOCK</b>	<b>Recent innovation treatment of ‘Stroke’</b>
	<b>Rev Dr Allan DAVIDSON ONZM</b>	<b>Pilgrimage: Medieval and Modern</b>



Dr Valance Smith	Maori world view
Mike WILLIAMS	Howard League for penal reforms
Dame Diane ROBERTSON	Privacy in the Digital age.
<b>2019</b>	
Dr Sabine FENTON MNZM	Interpreters helping us understand one other
Judge Lisa TREMEWAN	The drug and alcohol court
Sir Roy AVERY	NZ – the clever country
Dr Gavin ELLIS	‘Fake’ news – how do we know who to believe
Mayurie GUNATILAKA	Leading in NZ – spanning countries and decades
Maj Greg MOYLE	Le Quesnoy
Prof Helen DANESH-MEYER	Glaucoma, the silent disease
Dr David MORRIS	NZ’s 50-year involvement in Vietnam
Dr Catherine KENEDI	Volcanoes in the Remuera and Orakei areas
Diana WITCHEL	Author – ‘Driving to Treblinka’
Judge Arthur Tompkins.	Gentlemen Thieves and Their Art
<b>2020</b>	
Christopher HAWLEY MNZM	Meditation -
Dr Lindsay DIGGELMAN	Fighting for God -
[Pause for Covid – 19]	
Dame MARILYN WARING	“The Political years”

## **2.U3A MEADOWBANK GROUPS 2011 – 2020**

As expected during our second ten years many groups have changed – they close, change their names, and new groups begin. During this time several groups used u3aonline -an Australian website – for short courses (e.g. Astronomy, Shakespeare – Reinventing the Bard) and U3A Meadowbank also offered short courses such as Computer Talk, and Art of the Moment.

**New groups, changes in title, and groups closed or in recess since 2010.** (Apologies for any errors- material taken from Newsletters, programmes, and database).

### **2011**

**New groups:** Heritage Auckland; Antiques and collectables; Classic films 4; Poetry; Astronomy (u3aonline); Music 2. New Zealand History

**Groups closed:** Awakening Humanity.

## 2012

**New groups:** Computer Talk (for two years); Music 2; French Intermediate; Presence Awareness; (short course - u3a online); – Shakespeare - Rediscovering the Bard.

**Groups closed:** Our Natural World – developed from Botanica – 2001); Famous and Infamous – commenced 2003).

## 2013

**Groups closed:** Presence Awareness.

## 2014

**New groups:** Our Pacific Neighbours; Art of the Moment, visits to selected Auckland Galleries (short course); Antiques and their History; Book Club; Classic films 5; Consciousness; Time-Poor Walkers.

**Group changes:** World Explorers now Saints and Sinners; Classic Studies - now Ancient Societies.

**Groups closed/ in recess:** Computer Talk; Astronomy; Philosophy; Geography/Social Studies.

## 2015

**New groups:** Consciousness; Ancient Societies, (was Classical Studies).

**Groups closed:** Classic Films 3; Textile Arts and Crafts; Our Natural World

## 2016

**Groups opened:** English Romantic Poets. World Religions

**Groups closed:** Money Matters; French Intermediate; Antiques and Collectables; Consciousness.

## 2017

**New groups:** Two groups to replace Money Matters (closed 2016)- Financial Literacy; and Dollars and Sense; American Literature (revival); Historic Treasures. Webspinners

**Groups closed:** Jazz 2. English Romantic Poets

**2018**

**New Groups:** Awareness.

**Groups closed:** Italian – formed 2/10/2000 closed 2/11/2018; Historic Treasures; English Romantic Poets.

**2019**

**New groups:** Art Appreciation formed 1/02/2003 closed 9/11/2018 – revamped 2019; Maori Language and Culture; Exploring and Enjoying Music Together.

**Groups closed:** German Language and Culture; Awareness; Bridge; Our Pacific Neighbours

**2020**

**New Groups:** Beginners Maori Language; American literature changed to Modern American Literature

**Groups Closed:** Music 1, Exploring and enjoying music together

### **3. U3A GROUPS IN THE AUCKLAND REGION AS AT 2020**

There are currently 26 U3A groups in the Auckland area that make up the U3A Network group. Representatives from the groups meet four times a year at a Network meeting to share ideas and support the establishment of new groups. A possible new group on Waiheke Island will be discussed when a meeting can be arranged.

Details of these U3A groups can be found on our website.

#### **Auckland North**

Birkenhead  
Browns Bay  
Devonport  
Hibiscus Coast  
Takapuna

Warkworth

### **Auckland East**

Beachlands

Howick

Tamaki-Eastern Bays

Pakuranga

### **Auckland Central**

Auckland Network

Epsom

Meadowbank

Mount Albert

Parnell

Ponsonby

Remuera

St Heliers

### **Auckland West**

Auckland Northwest

Hobsonville

Titirangi

### **Auckland South**

Franklin

Manurewa

Ormiston

Papakura City

Papatoetoe