U3A Meadowbank

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NEWSLETTER – APRIL / PAENGA-WHĀWHĀ 2025

Greetings from the President

I heard somewhere that the warm and sunny weather was forecast to continue to the end of April. Having said that, there is some rain expected this week, and a good thing too. Lovely weather but too dry.

At the March monthly meeting David Thompson, the President of U3A Auckland network replaced our usual mini speakers, much to the relief of our group convenors.

After morning tea, we were expecting to hear from Rob High, the philanthropy officer from the New Zealand Red Cross. However, it turned out that he had left the organisation, so Nigel Pounds and his assistant Lauren stepped, or flew, into the breach, coming all the way from Wellington, for which we are all very grateful. We learned about the origins of the Red Cross; the symbols, the red cross (dating from 1864), the red crescent (recognised since 1929) and the red crystal (recognised since 2005) (which was new to me); the difference between the ICRC (which focuses on protecting and assisting victims of armed conflict and promoting international humanitarian law) and the IFRC (which coordinates cooperation between national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, supporting the foundation of new national societies and works with National Societies in responding to catastrophes around the world); and the work of the New Zealand Red Cross, one of 191 national societies.

A convenors' breakfast was held before the March meeting. The convenors of our interest groups are unsung heroes and heroines of our organisation, and their work is vital and much appreciated. Some ideas for small organisational changes were canvassed, some welcomed, others not so much.

We are very pleased to welcome new members this year so far, Elizabeth Clarke, Katrina van Boheemen, Graham Atwell, Linda Skala and Oliver Newland. Please join with me in welcoming them and please make sure all new members and visitors are made to feel at home. Having a reputation as an organisation which is friendly and welcoming is very important for us, now and in the future, so I would urge you all to work hard at ensuring this.

Our April meeting will be one week later than usual because of Easter. I look forward to seeing you all then. In the meantime, enjoy the glorious weather and welcome the autumnal changes.

John Goodman

Who's Who for Monday 28 APRIL 2025 meeting: 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start at St Chad's Church, 38 St Johns Road, St Johns 1072.

Greeters: Book Club
Mini Speakers: Time Poor Walkers and Madeleine from Digital Seniors

Guest Speaker: Emeritus Professor Laurence Melton, University of Auckland

Topic: Ways to feed the world with its growing population and the challenge of climate change.

Who's Who for Monday 19 MAY 2025 meeting: 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start at St Chad's Church, 38 St Johns Road, St Johns 1072.

Greeters: Literature
Mini Speakers: Modern American Literature and History

Guest Speaker: Peter Lester

Topic: The America's Cup

A Warm Welcome

to our new members

Elizabeth Clarke, Katrina van Boheemen, Graham Atwell, Linda Skala and Oliver Newland

We wish you many happy times and a wealth of experiences as part of U3A Meadowbank

Our March Meeting:

Chris Dee introducing David Thompson who spoke on U3A history and the U3A Auckland Network

David Morris introducing Nigel Pounds

Whakataukī / Words of Wisdom

Change your thoughts and you change your world - Norman Vincent Peale

It always seems impossible until it's done - Nelson Mandela

Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do - John Wooden

Manage the difficult while it is easy, manage the great while it is small. All difficult things start from the easy, all great things in the world start from the small. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step - Tao Te Ching

Books of the month: Gay Williams

The biggest night in our literary calendar - The NZ Ockham book awards 2025 ceremony will be held on Wednesday 14 May in the Aotea centre between 7-9pm.

I can't include all the participants so have chosen to highlight
1. The Jan Medlicott Acorn prize for fiction
2. The Mary and Peter Biggs award for poetry

The Convenor of judges for the fiction awards stated these are " dazzling works that address our moments most urgent concerns.
Climate change, race relations, mobility, sexism, immigration and ageing"
WOW!

Laurence Fearnley - *At the Grand Glacier Hotel;*
Kirsty Gunn - *Pretty Ugly*; a short story collection
Damien Wilkins - *Delirious*
Tina Makereti -*The Mires*.

The judges of the poetry awards stated "this selection was a very tough task pitting militant language poets against militant identity poets, spiritual poets, polemical poets, experimental poets, and careful traditionalists"

C.K. Stead - *In the Half Light of a Dying Day*
Emma Neale *Liar, Liar, Lick, Spit*
Robert Sullivan - *Songcatcher: Poems from the Maramataka*
Richard von Sturmer - *Slender Volumes*

Do go along to this event if you can - always a great night

Gay Williams

Notices:

STAMP COLLECTORS

I am sorting out a stamp collection and wonder if anyone still collects stamps and would like me to send them a list of the stamps I have.

They include first day covers, Stamp packs for the years 1970 – 1986.

Many stamp sheets etc.

If interested I can send you a list

Gay Williams (Bgaywilliams@gmail.com)

Glasses

U3A Meadowbank owns 59 wine glasses which are available for members to borrow.
The description is "Everyday flutes, 170 ml". If you are looking for crystal or to impress your guests, these are not for you, otherwise contact the president.

Glasses **must** be returned intact and clean.

Something Interesting:

Report on Senior Living Expo - held at the RSA hall in St Heliers 13th March.

As part of our marketing drive, we responded to an invitation from Jo from St Heliers Library to have a stand at this expo to promote our organization.

We were joined by several community groups including:

- St Heliers Men's Probus Bay Audiology
- St Heliers Library
- The Men's Shed
- St Heliers Community Centre Digital Seniors
- Neighbourhood Support Real Reflexology
- Home Instead Harbour Sport - Community Health
- Senior Swans
- JP Association Age Concern
- Live Stronger Organisation NZ

The hall looked great, clean, bright, and inviting, and there was a free raffle and delicious morning tea. Our stall looked interesting and attracted attention from the people who were there. We managed to get a small list of names from interested parties. Jocelyn will follow up these prospects and send out an information pack.

The number of attendees was small - around ten for each session, but we had the opportunity to connect with the other service providers and many of them had not heard of us, so we were able to do some promotion. We had plenty of time to talk to people, and a bit of fun along the way.

This was a successful start to our marketing campaign. We have several ideas to follow up at this stage - having a presence on Neighbourly, being part of the festival at Meadowbank Mall organised by Tiffany Crombie - Community Activator for Neighbourhood Support, and further meetings with Jo Lawton from Meadowbank Mall who has offered us a space to have a publicity stall at the Mall.

All of this will raise our profile in this community and attract like-minded people.

It was a lot of fun; we clarified our ideas about how to initiate a marketing initiative and raised

our profile amongst this group of people.

A good start.

Judi Higginson

An Offer

Hi there U3A lifelong learners

If you haven't seen Gibbs Farm, it's a must, if you have, it's even better the second time round.

We are running a great fundraiser event for youth arts and I wanted to let your group know about our upcoming outing to Gibbs Farm on Thursday 10 April. $95 per ticket is the general price, however we are offering a special for groups of 5 and more at $20 discount per ticket. Use discount code GROUPS to redeem this discount at checkout.

Link to tickets is below:

https://events.humanitix.com/gibbs-farm-fundraiser-for-youth-arts?discountcode=GROUPS

With thanks

Kim

Ngā mihi / Kind regards

Jennifer Boyd

Centre Manager

Did you know?

Meadowbank and St Johns Residents Association recycling initiative at St Chads Church

It's been great to see such good use of the cap, lid and food and beverage cartons recycling drop-off point at St Chads. Just a reminder about the details....and if you are recycling food and beverage cartons *please make sure they are clean and cut open.*

What Can You Recycle?

 Metal Lids & Caps: Bottle caps, jar lids, food tin lids, and more!

 Plastic Lids & Caps: Milk bottle caps, shampoo lids, ice cream container lids, and more!

 Food and beverage cartons: Juice, milk, and Up & Go cartons! Cut open and washed.

Drop-off Location: St Chads Church, Monday - Friday, 9am - 3pm.

Important: Please ensure all items are clean, dry, and sorted before dropping them off.

If you change your personal details, OR LEARN OF THE BEREAVEMENT OF A U3A MEMBER, please email the change to u3ameadmemb@gmail.com. Please include YOUR full name, physical address, phone number and email address.

TO CONTACT COMMITTEE MEMBERS please use the correct gmail addresses below:

Secretary: u3ameadowbank@gmail.com	Membership Coordinator: u3ameadmemb@gmail.com
Treasurer: u3ameadtrea@gmail.com	Newsletter Coordinator: u3ameadnews@gmail.com
President: u3ameadpres@gmail.com	Groups Coordinator: u3ameadconv@gmail.com

Next Monthly Meeting: Monday 28 April at 10 am at St Chad's

Don't forget to send in your U3A news to include in the next newsletter. We rely on your contributions.
Deadline for the MAY 2025 newsletter items is FRIDAY 02 MAY 2025. Expect receipt confirmation.

Something Amusing