



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update August 2021

Greetings Everyone

Next meeting

Next meeting is Monday 9th August at the Dowse. Come at 1pm for a cuppa and mix and mingle before the 1.30pm start.

August Speaker

Professor Michael Baker

Department of Public Health, University of Otago, Wellington. Michael is a public health physician who is passionate about opportunities to organise society in ways that promote



health, equity and sustainability. New Zealanders know him as one of the group of trusted experts who have led our country through the Covid pandemic.

His work has been recognised by recent awards including: the Critic and Conscience of Society Award (Universities NZ), the Public Health Champion award (Public Health Association of NZ), being made a Member of the NZ Order of Merit (MNZM), selection as 2020 Wellingtonian of the Year, and the Prime Minister's Science Communication Prize in 2021.

Last month's Speaker - Gail McJorow

Gail led us through a thoughtful session on options for funerals. Gail is the author of "*Better Send Off – The Ultimate Funeral Guide*" which gives tips on saving money, personalising a funeral, and how to leave a green footprint.



She encourages people to plan their funeral. When families are actively involved there are healing benefits in the grieving process.

Her website is www.bettersendoff.co.nz.

Group News

Film Group

The outing scheduled for Monday 2 August has been cancelled. Coordinator Pam Lee is still unwell, and our good wishes are with her. We are looking for members to help organise the monthly film. If you can help contact Catherine Chapman 970 4932.

CATIG's July meeting focussed on water. Ray Manning opened with some key facts:

- More than 97% of it is in our oceans, therefore less than 3% of all water is freshwater.
- Of this 3% freshwater - nearly 70% is ice and snow, and nearly 30% is underground.
- What is left - to fill all of the earth's rivers, streams and lakes - is just 0.3% of the total water on the planet.

This opened an interesting discussion which took many unexpected turns including how water, ice and steam behave and how they are used.

All U3A members are welcome to come and join the lively CATIG. Maybe next month we will talk about AIR!

Walking & Local History Group

Brenda Baker reports:

Perfect weather made for a very pleasant stroll along the Old Shoreline Walk, i.e. Lambton Quay, for the Local History group on 31 July.



Outside Parliament is Waititi Landing, the beach where Maori landed their waka.

From here we explored along Lambton Quay, looking at Masons Lane and Farmers Lane, then Woodward Street where the Kumutoto Stream once flowed.

Plimmer Steps was a point of interest with the sculpture of John Plimmer and his dog, Fritz. At Stewart Dawson's Corner we saw the interesting historic display on the scaffolding around Stewart Dawson's before crossing to the Old Bank Building to see the remains of Plimmer's Ark before enjoying refreshments at Smith the Grocer café.

Theatre Group is going to Bruce Mason's trio of plays "Every Kind of Weather" at Circa on Sunday 5th September. The performance marks the centenary of Mason's birth. \$30 to Christine Williams ph. 568 2342 by 18th August to book your seat.

Book Group

This group meets at the War Memorial library once a month for an interesting discussion. New members are always welcome – ring Sue Topley on 569 6848 to find out more.

Antiques and Collectibles Group recently learnt a lot about the infamous golliwog:

While British soldiers held Egypt in the second half of the 19th century they had Egyptian labourers working for them who wore the insignia W.O.G.S. on their armbands meaning "Working on Government Service". In the late 19th C American cartoonist and author Florence Kate Upton featured gollywogs in children's books and, after teddy bears, golliwogs became the most popular soft toy in the first half of the 20th C.



But golliwog was also used as a derogatory term to mock people of African descent. Attitudes to racism changed and reduced the popularity and sale of golliwogs as toys in the second half of the 20th C.

In March 2021 a "Gollyville" quilt by Whakatane artist, Barbara

Key, was withdrawn from an exhibition after a visitor made a written complaint. The intricately stitched quilt took Key a year to make. It depicts fictional golliwog characters in scenes in the make-believe town of Gollyville, including the Gollyville Fire Dept, Golly Locks Barber Shop, Gollyville Saloon and Gollyville Town Hall.

New Groups?

U3A Hutt Valley is always interested in supporting new groups. Some groups run by other U3A's include art, armchair travel, food, games, gardening, knitting for charity, languages, Maoritanga, music, technology, wellbeing, writing, etc etc.

If you have an interest that you would like to further explore, let us know. Others might like to join you.

Heads Up



U3A Hutt Valley's September speaker is Gill Jolly MA, Geological Sciences; 1991: PhD, Physical volcanology.

Gill is the Natural Hazards and Risk Theme Leader at GNS Science

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U3A Hutt Valley Groups & their contacts

If you would like to know more about a group or to join a group contact the Convenor. The groups are:

Antiques and Collectibles – 4th Tue 2pm.
Convenor – Catherine Chapman 970 4932.

Books – 3rd Thu 1pm. War Memorial Library.
Convenor – Sue Topley 569 6848.

Current Affairs and Topics of Interest Group (CATIG) – 4th Mon 1 pm. Russell Keown House, Queens Drive.
Convenor - Ken Baird 564 2579.

Film – 1st Mon morning.
Temporarily in abeyance.

Theatre – Sun pm several times a year.
Convenor – Christine Williams 568 2342.

Walking and Local History – last day of the month.
Convenor – Brenda Baker 569 5308.

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See you at the Dowse

1pm on Monday 9 August 2021

<https://u3ahuttvalley.weebly.com/>