



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update August 2023

From your Chairs!

Welcoming you all to the next meeting of U3A Hutt Valley is our August Chairman, Kevin Willis, who is also Secretary of U3A Hutt Valley.



August Speaker



Dr Mary McIntyre
Possum & rat eradications are good for human health too!

Dr McIntyre is a (mostly) retired scientist with a

background in ecology and entomology and some microbiology (environment, bugs & germs). She has done research and run graduate programmes in conservation in the Department of Biological Sciences at Victoria University and Environmental Health in the Department of Public Health at the University of Otago campus in Newtown, with which she has a continued affiliation.

Her talk will combine perspectives from both fields which are partly unique to New Zealand, but also reflect some of what is becoming a global issue of emerging and re-emerging environmental and wildlife diseases in humans. Predator Free 2050 Limited is a Crown-owned, charitable company established to help deliver the New Zealand Government's goal of eradicating possums, stoats and rats by 2050. This initiative has not been promoted as bringing benefits to human health but there will be considerable reduction of risk for local transmission of some diseases if this can be, at least in greater part, achieved.

The Covid pandemic greatly increased public awareness of such issues, which will be exacerbated by the combination of ecological disruption and warming climate.

Last month's Speaker

Sir Hugh Rennie
"Send a Gunboat! The turbulent history of the Chatham Islands before 1900"

These are just three of the nine gunboats sent to quell trouble on the Chatham Islands during its chequered history, explained by Sir Hugh Rennie, retired lawyer, director and trustee who has



HMS CHATHAM 1791



HMS GOLDFINCH 1892

been involved in the Chatham Islands for more than 50 years, as solicitor to the County Council and advisor to Islanders and Island interests.

Sir Hugh supported the team of Islanders who built the Enterprise Trust and its companies.



NZGSS HINEMOA 1889

His other Chatham Island projects include working with Air Chathams - now New Zealand's third largest domestic airline.



Membership Benefits

U3A Hutt Valley is always pleased to welcome new members. Put the word out to friends and neighbours about our excellent speakers and interesting groups.

Prospective members are welcome to come to two meetings before committing to paying the \$20 subscription.

Group News

Theatre Group is going to Circa's *Public Service Announcements* - this coming weekend – a presumably hilarious prelude to the General Election.

Film Group is seeing *The Miracle Club* at Petone Lighthouse on Monday 7th August.

CATIG continues to put the world to rights in its discussions and recently welcomed back convenor, Ken Baird.

Armchair Travel has completed its reports on Turkey by Barry Warner.

Their next interesting places are South Africa and Namibia. Ray Manning will cover their history from European settlement times, the deserts, safaris and the Cape. These are his photos of a desert squirrel in Damaraland and the sand dunes of Sossuslvei – both in Namibia.



U3A groups & their contacts

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

Armchair Travel - 1st Tue 1.30pm at Failoa Family Trust Meeting Room, 1st Floor, Woburn House.
Convenor - Ray Manning - 0274 587 565

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 at Lighthouse, Petone.
Convenors Judy & Gordon Heeley - 973 8816

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

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

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For information about U3A Hutt Valley visit our Website

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

**See you at St Marks Church
Woburn Road
Monday 14th August 2023
1pm for cuppa and chat
1.30pm for the speaker**