



Members' Update December 2019

Greetings

December meeting

Mon 9th December 1pm.
Light lunch will be served at 1pm and then competitions and quizzes.

Once comfortably fed you will be treated to excellent musical entertainment from Sacred Heart College. Come prepared to make a donation to the group.

There is still time to enter the clerihew competition. Prizes await.

A Clerihew is a 4 line whimsical poem - the first line is the poem's subject, usually a person, and the rhyming scheme is AABB. The rhyming couplets are of unequal length. Mike and Cleswyn are the judges.

Send your creations to Mike at

tradingman66@gmail.com

Last month's Speaker

Dr Phil Lester

Professor of Ecology and Entomology at VUW.

Insectageddon: a global crisis of insect extinction and population decline.



This review of insect populations showed a "dreadful state of insect biodiversity in the world, as almost half of the species are rapidly declining and a third are threatened with extinction". It grabbed media attention around the world.

Some scientists however have been critical of the work and consider the biodiversity crisis to be overstated.

Phil reviewed the evidence and its relevance for New Zealand. He encouraged us to let the grass grow and shoo flying creatures outside rather than spray them.

Looking ahead

Hutt U3A is in good heart achieving its largest membership in 2019. We enjoyed 10 excellent speakers at monthly meetings this year. Our seven ongoing groups flourished - with members enjoying many meetings and outings - thanks to the group organisers.

Your Committee – Allen, Brenda, Cleswyn, Ken, Leah, Maria, Marj, Mike and Pam – have done an excellent job and deserve your thanks too.

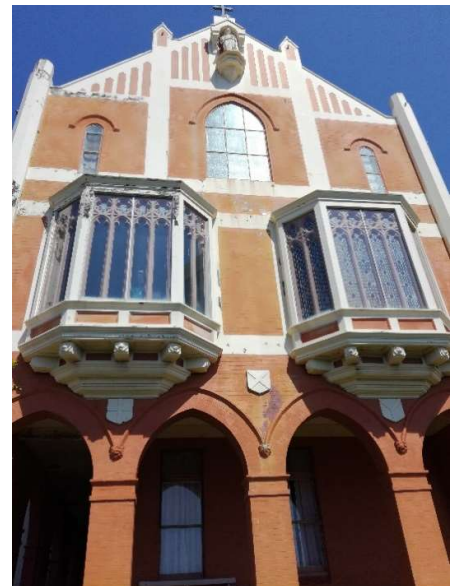
We are looking for new committee members for 2020 - please give some thought to offering to do this or suggesting suitable people.

No particular skills are required except a sense of humour and an enthusiasm for supporting Hutt U3A through another successful year.

Walking and Local History

On 2 November this Group joined a tour of Saint Gerard's Monastery above Oriental Bay.

Brenda Baker reports: "We gathered first in the church where we were able to view the fine stained glass windows before having the opportunity to visit parts of the monastery and grounds and see a video of the history of the buildings. We learnt that the church, built in 1908, was the first in the world to be dedicated to the Italian saint Gerard Majella.



The monastery was completed in 1932.

The buildings are now owned by the Institute for World Evangelism. The church is still used for regular services."

November Word of the Day

eudaemonic

- ▶ *adjective* Relating to or conducive to happiness.
- ▶ From Greek eudaimonia (happiness), from eudaimon (having a good genius, happy), from eu- (good) + daimon (spirit, fate, fortune).
- ▶ Earliest documented use 1832
- ▶ “[Gordon Brown] does not understand that an educational system can be a eudaemonic triumph even if it encourages disciplines that add not a penny to national output.”

Boris Johnson on The Pursuit of Happiness. The Spectator (London, UK) May 23, 2007.

Thought for the Day

Moral certainty is always a sign of cultural inferiority. The more uncivilised the man, the surer he is that he knows precisely what is right and what is wrong.

All human progress, even in morals, has been the work of men who have doubted the current moral values, not of men who have whooped them up and tried to enforce them.

The truly civilised man is always sceptical and tolerant.

H.L. Mencken, US writer, editor, and critic (1880-1956)

Hutt U3A Groups

Most of the U3A Groups have wrapped up for the year and will not meet until February 2020.

Walking and Local History meets next on Friday 31 January and Antiques and Collectibles on Tuesday 28 January 2020.

Contacts for the Groups are:

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

Books – 3rd Thu 1pm. War Memorial Library. Convenor - Pam Lee 565 1716.

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. Convenor – Pam Lee 565 1716.

Scrabble – 2nd Tue and 4th Wed at 1.30pm. Convenor – Pam Lee 565 1716. Meets in members’ homes.

Theatre – 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 for lunch at 1pm on Monday 9 December.

<https://huttu3a.weebly.com/>

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