



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update December 2022



Greetings everyone!

From President Ray Manning

In our last Update for 2022 I must thank our Committee members for an interesting year, and the leaders of our interest groups who have delivered a variety of programmes. Looking ahead, I encourage members to consider taking a turn on the Committee in 2023. It's an interesting but not arduous task. Our AGM is in March so please think about joining us then. We'd also welcome ideas for new interest groups.

Last Month's Speaker Max Rashbrook Reviewed by Malcom Law

Max Rashbrooke, of the Institute for Governance & Policy Studies, gave an informative talk where he evaluated the Labour Government's success at achieving economic equality in New Zealand.



He looked at incomes and how the bottom 50 percent of households compared to the top one per cent of households, then examined their net worth. As he has explained in a range of radio interviews and newspaper columns, there has been a widening disparity between the incomes of these two groups since the economic reforms of the 1980s (often called Rogernomics).

This gap is still increasing.

He also looked at how the Government has introduced policies to raise minimum wages and to reduce childhood poverty and examined what the result has been.

He pointed out that information from Treasury which shows us what is going on, is usually as much as a year out of date making such comparisons not as useful as we might hope.

He felt however, that the results of these policies have been mixed; there has been some improvement in the incomes of lower paid workers but this has not been even, or as radical as the Government may have wished.

December meeting at the Dowse

Our final get together for 2022 is for members only. A delicious and entertaining meeting is planned for 12th December – come and join us from 12:45pm. We'll start with a cuppa and some eat treats from 1pm.

Then we'll be amused by your **paraprosdokians** – see overleaf. Get cracking on them – there's fame to be won!

And finally we'll settle in for highly entertaining music and satire from Andrew and Kirsten London.

Andrew London Songwriter and satirist

U3A Hutt Valley is delighted that Andrew and his wife Kirsten will entertain us again on 13th December.



Andrew is a songwriter and satirist who performs most often solo or a duo with Kirsten London on bass.

His songs explore social and political themes and although humour and satire is very much to the fore, poignancy and pathos are often not far away.

He plays at festivals, and functions all round New Zealand, and also in Australia, Norfolk Island and even Saudi Arabia.

He has released over a dozen albums of mostly his own original material – and some with a trio called Hot Sandwich.

In responding to U3A Hutt Valley's invitation he wrote: *"I'll bring a salvo of frivolous satire. I'll bring Kirsten to provide some backup bass and vocals, and she has a decent uppercut in case there's a riot."*



Andrew will have CDs available for us to buy on the day, so come prepared.

Christmas Competition

This year we're inviting you to come up with a **paraprosdokian!**

Derived from a Greek word meaning "beyond expectations" a paraprosdokian is a sentence with an unexpected shift in meaning created by a pun, a deliberate misunderstanding, or a witty juxtaposition.

Some examples are:

- "War does not determine who is right—only who is left." — *Bertrand Russell*
- "On the other hand, you have different fingers." — *Steven Wright*
- "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read." — *Jim Brewer, sometimes attributed to Groucho Marx*

Be in to win a no bell prize! Send your entry to catherinechapman100@gmail.com or read it to her on the phone 970 4932. Must be received before the December meeting begins!

Group Activities

Antiques and Collectibles

A purse or bag was the last 2022 topic for this group. Interesting examples included this "Hume Sweet Hume" purse hand-crafted by sisters Lissa and Jenna Hume inspired by the sea around their Orkney Island home.



Armchair Travel

The first Armchair Travel meeting in the New Year will be on Monday 7 Feb at which Dr. Les Molloy will present on "The Mysteries of the Yellow River in China". New members are welcome. Contact Ray Manning.

Local History

Report from Brenda Baker

Local History group's final 2022 walk took us to Pukeahu National Memorial Park. We had visited the western side of the park earlier but this time we focused on the east.

We passed the Basin Reserve which was once a lagoon but became a swamp



when the earthquake of 1855 raised the land. But by 1866 it was Wellington's main cricket ground. We visited the memorial to victims of the Influenza Pandemic which started in 1918, then walked



through the Pacific Island section of the park to Mount Cook School which has a display of historic photos in its entrance.

Unfortunately, some problems with public transport meant that we reached the park much later than planned, so we had to hasten back to Courtenay Place to the Grand for lunch. The Grand is also a place of historic interest with many photos lining the walls.

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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 (CAIG)
–4th Mon 1 pm. Russell Keown House, Queens Drive.
Convenor - Ken Baird 564 2579

Film – 1st Mon morning at Lighthouse Cinema, 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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See you at the Dowse
1pm on Monday 12 December 2022

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