



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update December 2023

From your Chairs! December Chairman Malcolm Law

Christmas Greetings to all members!



At our December meeting we will have a little more than the usual cup of tea or coffee for you to enjoy!

As well as something to eat, it is our privilege once again to have the Arohanui Strings come to play for us.

A Sistema-inspired early intervention music education programme, they are a registered charitable trust, running groups in Taita, Stokes Valley, Wainuiomata, Mt Cook, Miramar and Newtown.

They say, "We are part of a visionary global movement transforming the lives of children through music. Each year we work with hundreds of children who would likely not otherwise learn an instrument and play in an orchestra. All children aged 6 to 18 are welcome – we do not audition."



Please come prepared to make a donation to their Sistema-inspired music education programme which has groups in Taita, Stokes Valley, Wainuiomata, Mt Cook, Miramar and Newtown.

www.arohanuistrings.org

November Speakers

Last month we heard from New Zealand novelist, Kate De Goldi, and her publisher, Susan Paris.

Born in Christchurch in 1959, Kate is of mixed Irish and Italian ancestry and a full-time writer since 1997. Kate contributes to the New Zealand literature sector as a creative writing teacher, a book-related broadcaster and commentator, a participant of Writers in Schools, and a chair for literary festivals in New Zealand and internationally. As well as their interesting presentations, Kate and Susan provided many of us with an opportunity to stock up on Christmas presents for the grandchildren!



Do we have a home?

U3A Hutt Valley Committee has been working on options for a meeting place since the Dowse increased the fees for us to meet there.

The Committee is grateful to members who commented on our monthly meeting place, and has considered them all. It decided to continue at the Dowse on Mondays for the next few months, despite this costing more, while we consider our options.

We currently hire the Dowse from noon to 3pm – a total of 3 hours – on 11 days a year.

The Dowse will be asked to reduce our room hire hours from 12.45 to 3pm and their staff member hours to 12.30 to 3.15pm - reducing our hire time by 45 minutes per month.

The monthly cost will then go up from \$132 per month to \$199.75 - an increase of \$67.75 per month or \$745.25 more for our 11 month year.

We need more income. A \$5 increase in annual sub from \$20 to \$25 for the current 160 members would bring in an extra \$800p.a. covering the increased cost of rent and other items e.g. gifts to speakers and tea and biscuits.

BUT our Constitution does not allow us to increase subscriptions until a year after an AGM. So if we agreed to increase the subs in March 2024 it would not come into effect until the year commencing February 2025.

This means that for the next year, 2024, the cost of the venue will increase but we will not be able to recoup this by an immediate increase in subs.

The Committee decided that when sending out the 2024 Subscription Due Notice it will explain to members that our venue charges have increased, but our subscriptions cannot increase until 2025. To ease this situation we would be grateful if members made a \$5 donation when paying their 2024 subscription so that our financial position does not deteriorate because of the increased rental charge.

Speakers

We have been privileged this year to have had a wide range of interesting speakers on a great variety of topics. U3A Hutt Valley is very grateful to Don Rennie, our "speaker finder" over the past few years.

Now it's time to be thinking about speakers for 2024. If you have any suggestions please contact Don on 04 566 2543.

Group News

Antiques and Collectibles

This group fell victim to the season and brought along their "impressions" of Christmas" including this delightful, knitted nativity scene . . .



Armchair Travel Group Dr. Les Molloy is giving Part 2 of his Japan talk on four sites in the northern main island, Hokkaido, including the Shiretoko Peninsula, and its unique relationship with the winter sea ice which surrounds it.

CATIG shared information about retirement villages and the different services and opportunities they offer residents.

Theatre Group - final 2023 outing was to Hutt Repertory's play "T'was the Fight Before Christmas" on Sunday 3rd December at 4pm.

Local History Group Local History Group's last 2023 outing was to the Aro Valley. Developed as a working class suburb in the 19th C, its proximity to the growing city made it ideal for workers whose only way of getting to work was on foot. In the 20th C trams arrived, linking the valley to the city and railway station.

The failure of a couple of development projects in the latter part of the century has meant that the Aro Valley today has Wellington's largest collection of unaltered working class homes. Imaginative paint schemes and cottage gardens give the area colour and vibrancy.

U3A groups & their contacts

Antique 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 – 021 025 63559

For more information go to
u3ahuttvalley.weebly.com

See you at:

The Dowse Art Museum
Monday 11th December 2023
1pm for a Christmas celebration!