



## U3A Hutt Valley

### Members' Update February 2021

#### Greetings everyone

Welcome to the new U3A year!  
Let's hope for a full schedule of U3A meetings in 2021.

#### Meeting Dates 2021

To start the U3A year please get your diaries now!

Circumstances beyond our control mean we have some changed dates this year. Meetings are still at the Dowse, at 1pm, but on these days:

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> February - a week late  
Mon 1<sup>st</sup> March AGM – a week early  
Mon 12 April – usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday  
Mon 17 May – a week late  
From June we revert to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month through to December.

#### February meeting – Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Professor Rod Downey VUW Mathematics and Scottish Country Dancing



He says: There are those who would argue that these two activities are some of the pinnacles of human achievement.

I work in mathematics, specifically algorithmics and the theory of computation. I am a teacher and deviser of Scottish country dances.

I will try to explain how the cognitive processes in my kind of mathematics and dancing resemble one another. While doing so, I hope to give insight into a small part of modern mathematics which I know something about, and an interesting and fun dance form. I will illustrate with some videos and diagrams."

The talk is for a general audience, and you won't be forced to bring your dance shoes!

#### December meeting

It was fun to see the Arohanui Strings based in Pomare and Taita, and to hear from their remarkable teacher Alison Eldredge. She explained how using the pursuit of musical excellence and group performance brings positive change to the lives of these children. Providing free instruments and tuition is an expensive business, and congratulations go to U3A members for donating \$300 to this cause on the day. We also kept them some lunch – and they posed for us after that.



As well as this performance we enjoyed some interesting quizzes and heard the winning Haiku entries. Mike Clear reports:

"My thanks to all the entrants as the submissions were without exception very imaginative and well-constructed and worthy of submission to literary publications. These were chosen as a major element of Haiku is nature or the natural world and this element was interwoven into these two submissions in an ethereal way."

Malcolm Law won First Prize:

*Tracing your contacts  
Is like trailing a lame man  
By his steps in the snow*

Allen Heath won Second Prize:

*In a remote cave  
Bats squeaking, incubating,  
Plotting our downfall*

## Membership List

Attached with this Update is the current list of U3A Hutt Valley members who have agreed to be on the list. In future the list will be circulated when paid membership is finalised in June each year.

## We need new committee members

From the AGM on 1 March U3A Hutt Valley needs new committee members. President Allen Heath, Vice President Mike Clear, and Members Pam Lee, Cleswyn Rogers and Maria Heath are all stepping down. All have made major contributions and will be missed. The Committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm. The task is not arduous and the rewards in fun, companionship and a sense of achievement are very satisfying. Nomination forms will be circulated with the Update before the AGM. Nominations, in writing, must be received before the meeting. Nominations will not be accepted on the day.

## Group Activities

### Antiques and Collectibles

A plate was the topic for this group's January meeting, including this more than 100 year old Royal Doulton



plate featuring Cardinal Wolsey, who rose to great power under Henry VIII before failing to get the king an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. He was to be tried for treason, but

perhaps fortunately for him, he died of natural causes on his way to London to face the charges.

### Book Group

Starts its year on February 18<sup>th</sup> when members will report on a book they read during the holidays.

**Film Group** began the year with "Wild Mountain Thyme" at the Lighthouse, then lunch at Caffiend.

### Scrabble Group

Sadly the Scrabble group has wound up after some five years of fun and competitive games.

### Theatre Group

Convenor Christine Williams is planning the first outing for this group in April. Members will hear from her when the date is known. If you'd like to join the group which goes to several performances a year, usually on a Sunday afternoon, contact Christine on 568 2342.

**Walking and Local History** visited the Hutt City Archives in January. It was interesting to discover how records from earlier local authorities, operating prior to the formation of Hutt City Council in 1941, have been preserved. Also what records are, and are not, archived and available to the public.

## U3A groups & their contacts

**Antiques and Collectibles** – 4<sup>th</sup> Tue 2pm. Convenor – Catherine Chapman 970 4932.

**Books** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu 1pm. War Memorial Library. Convenor – Pam Lee 565 1716.

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

**Film** – 1<sup>st</sup> Mon morning. Convenor – Pam Lee – 565 1716.

**Theatre** – Convenor – Christine Williams 568 2342.

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

## Viagogo is a No No

Hopefully all U3A members know that Viagogo scams people. One member, who did not know, booked on line for the Van Gogh Exhibition in Wellington. Googled "van gogh exhibition wellington" and clicked "book here" at the top of the list. She was surprised at the \$106 price, but accepted it for a celebrated international exhibition. Arriving at the event she found her ticket invalid as Viagogo is not authorised to sell tickets for that exhibition. Staff told her that lots of people had presented with these invalid tickets. She's now older and wiser (?) with a cancelled credit card. The bank, which was unable to stop the payment, says they will try to get the money back. Good luck!

## OF INTEREST TO YOU?

Enclosed with this Update are two flyers received by U3A which may be of interest to members.

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## See you at the Dowse

**1pm on Monday 15th February 2021**

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

# 2021

## YOUR YEAR OF DISCOVERY

Indulge your interest in history or politics, learn about marketing or biology, or expand your knowledge in other areas that excite you or challenge your expertise. Enrol in individual courses at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington to take advantage of our world-class teaching and exceptional research while exploring your areas of interest.

**"When I went back to university it was just for interest. It was a breakthrough to realise I could take tertiary courses without enrolling for a specific qualification. University study challenges you with theory and critical thinking, and connects you with different thinkers and a younger generation of people."**

**Lily Engelbrecht**  
Doctoral candidate

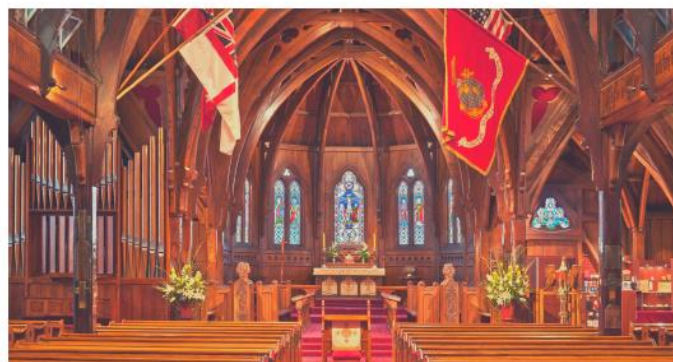
Individual course enrolment provides a great opportunity to explore new or familiar areas of study.

**FIND OUT MORE**

[www.wgtn.ac.nz/individual-courses](http://www.wgtn.ac.nz/individual-courses)



## TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME AT OLD ST PAUL'S



### Book your guided tour of Old St Paul's

**34 Mulgrave St, Thorndon**

**Duration:** 30-40 minutes

**Cost:** adults \$10, seniors \$8, accompanied children free

**Numbers:** minimum 8 paying guests

**Parking:** one coach park on the street, limited car parking available on site

**Contact:** 04 473 6722 or [oldstpauls@heritage.org.nz](mailto:oldstpauls@heritage.org.nz)

**For more information:**  
[www.oldstpauls.co.nz](http://www.oldstpauls.co.nz)

Have you visited Old St Paul's lately? If not, you're missing out!

Opened in 1866, Old St Paul's is a heritage gem. A former Anglican pro-cathedral, Old St Paul's is a notable example of timber Gothic Revival architecture, known internationally for its soaring arches and glowing stained glass. But beyond its good looks, the iconic heritage building reveals fascinating stories about historic Wellington.

Get to know this special place by taking a guided tour. There are two to choose from:

#### **Tour option 1: Meet a heritage icon**

An introduction to the history, architecture, and people of Old St Paul's.

#### **Tour option 2: Stories in glass**

An exploration of Old St Paul's beautiful stained glass windows, each of which has a tale to tell.