



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update February 2022

Dear Members

Welcome to U3A Hutt Valley in 2022. Let us hope for a year during which covid, in whatever form, does not disrupt New Zealand too much.

Our next meeting is on 14th February. The Red Light setting came into force on 23rd January, and the Dowse is permitting us a limit of 70 people. We seldom have more than 70 but be warned that, if we do, those arriving after 70 are admitted will be turned away. If the Dowse becomes a "location of interest" our meeting will be cancelled.

We all must have our vaccine pass, wear a mask, and the seating will be spaced out. We will not have coffee and tea before the meeting.

Speakers

Despite the current uncertainties, we are planning an interesting programme of speakers for the year.

February Speaker

Simon Wolfe – Photographer



Simon is a Fellow of The Photographic Society of NZ, and has Masters qualifications in NZ and the USA. He has exhibited his works widely, and has judged many local and international competitions.

Simon was awarded the prestigious James White Scholarship in 2004, as well as a Queen's New Zealand Honour in 1990 for services to the community.

Photography by Woolf has been a part of Wellington since 1934. Spencer Digby started the studio. He mentored some great New Zealand photographers, including internationally renowned Brian Brake, Barry Woods, and Ronald Woolf.

Ronald and Inge Woolf brought the studio in 1960. Over the ensuing years *Photography by Woolf* has been involved in some great moments in history, photographed many special events and occasions, and of course, photographed a large number of personalities, families, and groups.

I'm sure we shall see stunning pictures and hear interesting stories!

December 2021 meeting

The roomful of members in December were treated to a Christmas bag of goodies that enabled us to have something to eat while keeping to the Covid rules.

We were then delightfully amused and entertained by songwriter and satirist Andrew London and his wife Kirsten.



They performed songs on political and social themes that we could easily relate to – and laugh at.

If you bought their CDs you will have enjoyed them all over again, if not, or if you weren't there go to this link and prepare to laugh!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6A_3bix4sYk

AGM heads up

Your committee is planning for the AGM in March. We are losing two long serving and valuable officers - Treasurer Leah Herd and Secretary Brenda Baker. They will be missed, as will Committee Member Janet Ketchell who is not standing again.

Some of the Committee are standing again, but we will need new members to help keep our programmes fresh and enjoyable. Please think about offering to stand or shoulder tap someone you think would be a good contributor. If you have any ideas please contact a committee member.

The Committee plans to recommend to the AGM that subs remain at \$20 per person for this year, but that the discount for two at the same address be removed.

Armchair Travel Group

Fourteen members attend this group's first meeting on 3 Feb to hear Dr. Les Molloy's presentation **Pleasures and Perils of being a Tour Guide in Inner Asia**.

Les dressed in his Shalwar Keemeez traditional clothing which he wore while guiding through Pakistan, Tibet, Xinjiang, and Yunnan (China), Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia. His wife Alison and daughter travelled with him to some of these remote, rugged places where accommodation, roads and bridges were often very basic.

Other U3A members are invited to join the group which meets at 1.30pm on the 1st Tue of the month. Contact Ray Manning ray.manning@xtra.co.nz

Local History Group

Sunhats were the order of the day when this group visited Pauatahanui on 31 January.

Pauatahanui was a major staging post when the only road between Wellington and the Kapiti Coast was the Paekakariki Hill Road. The settlement once boasted three pubs and two churches. The churches remain while the pubs are long gone.



Its importance reduced when it ceased to be on the main road but Hutt Valley motorists continue to pass through as they access SH1 via Grays Road. Change will come again when Transmission Gully takes away its through traffic. However, Pauatahanui will remain a very pleasant spot to visit and glimpses of yesteryear can be seen on the several information boards around the settlement.

Other Group News

Antiques and Collectibles – at its first 2022 meeting members shared the origins of sayings, e.g. cat got your tongue, going the whole nine yards, you silly galoot, and spilled the beans!

CATIG - resumes at 1pm on the 28th February at Russell Keown House.

Theatre Group is considering two Circa plays. "Timberrrr... !" - a comedy with horse riding, wood chopping, a town dance, and two world wars, is playing 26 Mar – 23 Apr.

"Sundays at Ira's" – Alice, a close personal friend of Ira Gershwin, tells stories and songs from his Sunday Soirées with famous guests. Plays 2 – 6 April. Group members, and others, are invited to ring Christine Williams 568 2342 to let her know which they would like to go to.

U3A Hutt Valley Groups contacts

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

Armchair Travel - 1st Tue 1st 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. Convenor - Ken Baird 564 2579.

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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As we get older...

...EVEN THOUGH WE ACQUIRE DEEP
& NOBLE WISDOM, WE STILL KEEP ASKING
THE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS:

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF LIFE?

DOES OUR UNIVERSE REALLY EXIST?

WHY DID I COME INTO THIS ROOM AGAIN?

Harold's Planet, Swerling & Lazar

See you at the Dowse
Monday 14th February for a 1.30pm start.

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