



# U3A Hutt Valley

## Members' Update July 2022

### Greetings everyone

From President Ray Manning

It's good to have the shortest day and a lot of the wet and windy weather behind us (hopefully)! Despite difficult Covid times, U3A Hutt Valley has come through the past couple of years with a pretty steady membership. However, we are always looking to increase our numbers.

We encourage you to spread the word about our excellent speakers and interesting groups to your friends.

Bring a friend or neighbour along as a visitor to a meeting and maybe they will be keen to join us. They can come as a visitor twice, and then join U3A on their third visit.

We have had very interesting speakers so far this year, and more are to come!

Our particular thanks go to Committee Member, Don Rennie, who not only finds good speakers, but persuades them to come and talk to us.

### July Speaker

Nicola Sladden - Banking Ombudsman

The Banking Ombudsman scheme helps prevent and resolve banking problems. An independent service, it offers advice to bank customers and to banks. It helps to remedy things when they go wrong and deliver fair outcomes to both parties.

It received 4813 complaints in 2020-2021 year, 96% of which were resolved through their early resolution service.



### Last month's speaker – reviewed by Malcolm Law

**Emeritus Scientist Hamish Campbell** is an enthusiast for the natural beauty of the Chatham Islands, which he showed in a wide-ranging talk about not just the geology, flora and fauna of the islands, but also their history from the arrival of the Moriori. The Chathams are mostly flat, combining rocks formed



when they were part of the continents of Gondwana and Zealandia with rocks formed later in a period of volcanic activity.



Isolated from the rest of New Zealand, the Chathams have unique species of animals and plants. He spoke about how the Chatham Islands Black Robin was brought back from the edge of extinction, but I think he forgot to mention

the Chatham Islands Forget Me Not!

Hamish offers 4-5 day trips to the Chathams at prices from \$4,600 per person. His programme includes four more trips this year and the first in 2023 is from Wed 24 to Mon 29 March.

Contact Hamish on 027 221 8817 for details.



### Group Activities

#### Film Group

Risen like the phoenix - on Monday the 6th June the new Film Group had its first outing to see the excellent "Operation Mincemeat" at Petone Lighthouse, followed by lunch. Thirteen members attended, and nine stayed on to lunch at Caffiend. A great turn out for a holiday weekend.

The movie is on the first Monday of the month so the Update is too late to advertise the next film the group is going to. If you are interested is it important to join the group so Judy and Gordon can contact you about upcoming movies. Their details are 04 973 8816 or email [heeleyjudygordon@gmail.com](mailto:heeleyjudygordon@gmail.com).



## Armchair Travel

The next meeting is on Tuesday 5 July.

Ray Manning is presenting on Israel focussing on Jerusalem, the West Bank, including Bethlehem, Qumran, Masada and the Dead Sea, before moving north to Galilee, Nazareth, Haifa, Caesarea, Tel Aviv and Jaffa.

All HV U3A members are welcome to join the group which meets at the Failua Famili Trust rooms, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Woburn House (Cnr Knights Road and Bloomfield Tce on Tuesday 5 July.

Barry Warner will present the second stage of his 1961 Overland Journey from London to Kolkata at the August meeting.

## Local History

On 30 June, the Local History Group visited Pataka Museum in Porirua to see their excellent exhibition *Whiti Te Ra!*

This took us much further back in history than we usually go as we learnt the history of the Ngati Toa people - their journey south to settle in the Porirua area, their heroes including, of course, their famous chief, Te Rauparaha, and their interaction with pakeha up to the present day. It is worth a visit. If you haven't been, you have plenty of time - it is on until 2024!



## Antiques and Collectibles



Members scoured cutlery drawers for the mid-winter meeting on the anniversary of the group's founding in 2015. Results - a viola pear corer, a tea infuser, spoons, a variety of knives from "butter" to "very sharp" and a cork screw!

17<sup>th</sup> Century inventors had to dream up instruments to remove corks from wine bottles. The earliest of these "steel worms" were derived from "gun worms" made by gunsmiths to clean musket barrels. The first of hundreds of patents for corkscrews was received by Rev Samuel Henshall in 1795!

## Theatre

Next outing is to Circa to see "*Wednesday to Come*" by Renée on 7<sup>th</sup> August at 4pm. Christine still has some seats available for members who haven't contacted her yet. Price is \$30 to be paid by 21 July. Christine Williams 568 2342.

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## U3A groups & their contacts

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

**Armchair Travel** - 1st Tue 1.30pm at Failoa Famili Trust Meeting Room, 1st Floor, Woburn House.  
Convenor - Ray Manning 0274 587 565

**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 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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## A word about calling 111

Call 111 if you or someone else is in danger. If it is not safe for you to speak when the operator answers, push 55 and you will be put through to police.

If you are calling from a mobile phone and don't speak a recorded message will ask you to press 55 if you need emergency help. This goes to police.

If you call 111 from a landline and don't speak, the operator will ask you to press any number on your phone if you require an emergency service. Do that and your call will go to the police.

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**See you at the Dowse**  
**1pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

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