



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update July 2023

From your Chairs!

Greetings everyone from our July Chairperson Kevin Willis who is hosting the July meeting as well as carrying out his Secretarial duties.

We have had a two Knights of the Realm speak to us recently, and this month you can hear from another - Sir



Hugh Rennie who is related to our exceptionally good speaker finder, Don Rennie. Our remarkably good speakers are certainly attracting new member and we welcome those who have recently joined our U3A.

July Speaker Sir Hugh Rennie "Send a Gunboat! The turbulent history of the Chatham Islands before 1900"



Sir Hugh Rennie - retired lawyer, director, and trustee - has been involved in the Chatham Islands for more than 50 years, as solicitor to the County Council and advisor to Islanders and Island interests.

He will discuss the surprising number of occasions that attempts were made to enforce the law on the Islands with a gunboat, and the amusing tale of the Dog Tax revolts of the 1890s.

Hugh supported the team of Islanders who built the Enterprise Trust and its companies, and his other Island projects include working with Air Chathams - now New Zealand's third largest domestic airline.

In 1989 he was awarded a CBE for services to broadcasting, in 1995 became a Queens (now Kings) Counsel, and in 2022 was knighted for services to governance, the law, business and the community.

Last month's Speaker Sir Anand Satyanand "A Pulse Take of Universities in 2020s New Zealand"



Reviewed by Malcolm Law

Former lawyer, judge and ombudsman, Sir Anand prefaced his talk on the role and state of New Zealand Universities by commenting on how the funding and the very future of universities had become so topical and so critical.

He offered his view on why the universities were in financial difficulties, citing the Covid19 lockdown and the loss of International Students as well as the decline in domestic enrolments.

He then talked about his experiences as Chancellor of Waikato University. He was proud that Waikato had attracted more Maori and Pasifika students than the other universities which he felt was made possible by the availability of educational bursaries from Tainui iwi.

He also discussed the mentoring schemes available at Waikato to support students who were experiencing difficulties in learning how to study at the tertiary level.

He spoke of his own experiences as a mentor for students and felt that such simple steps were having considerable success in ensuring students from a wide range of family backgrounds were being successful.

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Membership

Members who have not paid their \$20 subscription three months after the AGM in March this year will be removed from our membership list. If you have not paid and wish to remain in U3A Hutt Valley please pay at the July meeting or post your sub to U3A Hutt Valley, C/- 1 Stellin St, Lower Hutt 5011.

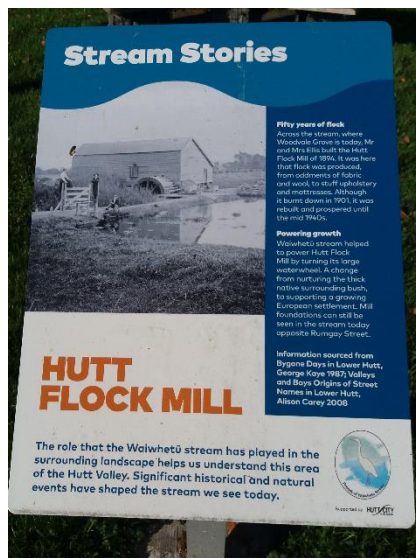
Group News

Antiques & Collectibles topic in June was “red” and revealed the Chinese Government’s 5% Reorganisation Gold Loan 1913 for the capital sum of £25,000,000.



It was authorised by Presidential Order on 22nd April 1913, and officially communicated by the Wai Chiao Pu in Peking to the Ministers of Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia and Japan. The loan has been in default since 1939. The greater part of the loan was accounted for by statements and vouchers, but it is believed that little was applied to the purposes for which it was lent. It mysteriously disappeared and nobody knows where it has gone.

The *Local History Group* followed the Waiwhetu Stream history trail with its informative signs along the way . . . and made some new friends with others that appreciate what it has to offer!



Theatre Group is off to Circa’s *Prima Facie* this weekend, and the *Film Group* is going to *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*.

CATIG convenor, Ken Baird, has been unwell recently but the group has continued its monthly discussions on current affairs under chairmanship of Don Rennie. We wish Ken a speedy recovery

U3A groups & their contacts

Antiques and Collectibles – 4th 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) –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 - 568 2342

For information about U3A Hutt Valley visit our Website

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

**See you at St Marks Church
Woburn Road
1pm Monday 10th July 2023**