



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update June 2022

From President Ray Manning

Greetings

U3A Hutt Valley currently has 153 members – 118 women and 35 men. Interestingly, though, one of our groups, CATIG, has more men than women, and the Armchair Travel Group membership is close to 50/50 with some meetings attended by a higher ratio of men than women.

Interest groups are a feature of U3A and members are encouraged to join an existing group, or start a new one. Art history, poetry, dining out, gallery visits, rambles, green fingers, petanque, science, wellbeing, drawing, and writing are just some groups enjoyed by various U3As.

If you have an interest, or would like to know more about a topic, think about offering to lead a group. You do not have to be an expert. We list groups and their contacts in each Update and we'd be happy to draw attention to any potential new groups to what interest there is.

Give me a ring 0274 587 565 if you have ideas for a group.

June Speaker - Hamish Campbell - the Chatham Islands



Hamish studied geology at Otago and Auckland Universities and gained his doctorate in 1985 from the University of Cambridge. He worked at GNS in Lower Hutt and has worked and curates exhibitions at Te Papa. A long-time member of the Royal Society of New Zealand, he was made a Companion in 2007.

Hamish will tell us about his special interest in the Chatham Islands, their natural science, history and culture. Fortunately we do not have to meet the standard he sets for those touring with him to the Chathams who must "be able to negotiate a wire fence in less than 20 seconds"!

May Speaker



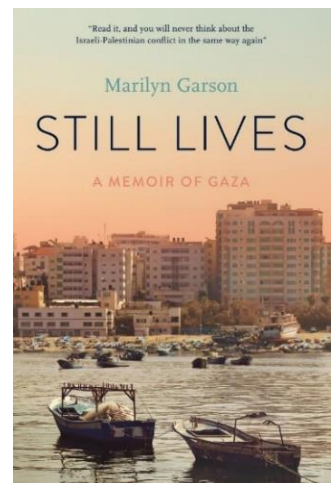
Marilyn Garson brought home to us the ongoing tragedy of the Palestinians living on the Gaza Strip. Their containment, deprivation and overcrowding, which began with the establishment of Israel after WWII, continues today.

Marilyn lived and worked in the Gaza Strip from 2011 to 2015, as the economic

director of Mercy Corps and as the business and livelihoods advisor to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

UNRWA educates 525,000 Palestinian refugee children as part of its assistance to five million Palestinian refugees.

"Still Lives – a memoir of Gaza" tells the story of those four years, two wars, and one very unlikely social enterprise.



<https://www.marilyngarson.com/publications/>

Would you like to help? Marilyn gave us the following agencies doing vital, steady work in Gaza, who need donations to continue:

- Medecins Sans Frontieres, absolutely essential to the treatment of Gazans and reporting on the medical implications of the blockade. [Donate to MSF | International Medical Charity](#)
- Gisha, an Israeli organisation that focuses on issues of access and rights in Palestine. They monitor, report and act on the dire consequences of blockade and barriers. <https://gisha.org/en/>
- B'Tselem is Israel's leading human rights organisation, focusing on the rights of Palestinians. <https://www.btselem.org/>

Group News

Film Group underway again

The "new" Film Group is up and viewing, with its first outing on Queen's Birthday Monday to see "Operation Mincemeat".

What is better for a retired person to do on a Monday morning – than go to the pictures? To join the group ring Judy and Gordon Heeley on 973 8816 or email heeleyjudygordon@gmail.com.

Subscriptions

We will be finalising our membership list for circulation at the end of June. Thanks to members who have paid their 2022 subs of \$20. If you have not paid yet can pay by Internet banking to: BNZ 02 0544 0209806 00, or with cash at the monthly meeting.

If you bring cash please put the money in an envelope with your name. If the Members' Update is posted to you instead of emailed, please supply a book of stamps.

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U3A Hutt Valley Groups contacts

Antiques 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. Convenor - Ken Baird 564 2579.

Film – 1st Mon

Petone Lighthouse Cinema
Convenors - Judy and 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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Feel like a trip away?

Richard Potts of Classic Coaches Travel Club has advised us that his programme for the year is up and running.

It includes journeys to the Wairarapa, the Manawatu, Taranaki and the Forgotten Highway from Stratford to Taumarunui.

For details ring him (04) 564 5015 or 021 407 605 or email nzclassiccoaches@gmail.com

Platinum Jubilee Weekend 2022

HRH Queen Elizabeth II – 70 years on the throne! Some U3A members can no doubt remember when we had a king, but this weekend is Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. She's the only woman to have achieved this – but four blokes have racked up lengthy reigns.

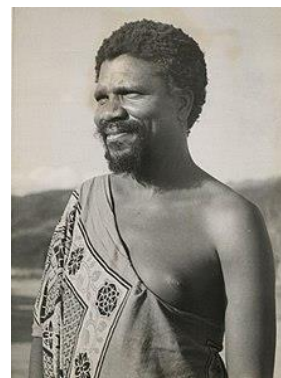
Louis XIV, known as Louis the Great or the Sun King, was King of France from May 1643 until his death in 1715. His reign of 72 years and 110 days is the longest recorded of any monarch of a sovereign country.



Johanne II, the Good, was the Prince of Liechtenstein between 1858 and 1929. His reign of 70 years and 91 days is the third-longest of any monarch in European history. Incidentally this photo was taken by John Quincy Adams of American "royalty!"



Sobhuza II was the Paramount Chief and Ngwenyama (King) of Swaziland for 82 years and 254 days, from July 1899 to August 1982, the longest verifiable reign of any monarch in recorded history.



The last monarch to celebrate a platinum jubilee was Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand who reigned from 1946 to 2016. He died shortly after official celebrations in Thailand took place.

Thanks to Google!

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See you at the Dowse
Monday 13th June 2022 for a cuppa at 1pm
and a 1.30pm start.

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