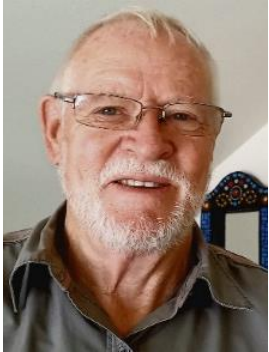




U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update May 2022

From President Ray Manning



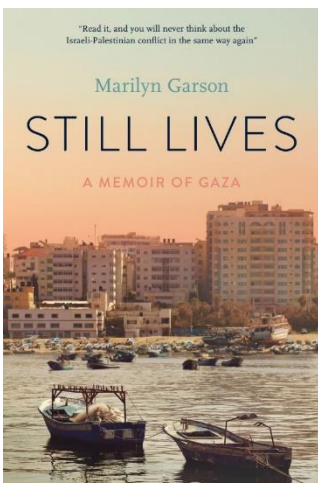
Greetings everyone and welcome to our 30th year! Yes, at our next AGM U3A Hutt Valley will be 30! What a delicious age – but less than half the age of most of us! At our new committee's first meeting we discussed ways we could celebrate this. If you have any thoughts please let us know!

May Speaker

Marilyn Garson grew up in Halifax, Canada, the youngest of four sisters. She studied political science and philosophy at the University of Toronto, and later added a Masters in International Development. A few weeks before she was due to enter law school, she discovered the backpack and absconded. She travelled for several years, and migrated to the Hokianga in the 1980s.



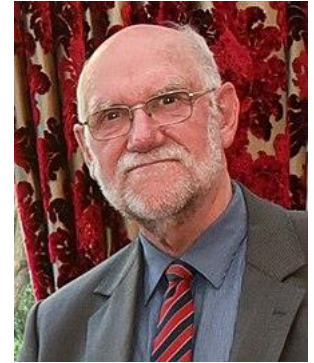
In 1998, she began to create jobs in communities affected by war by launching locally owned social enterprises or working with small businesses. She has worked with former child combatants and Cambodians with disabilities (1998 – 2001), imported handmade goods as the founding director of Worldstock.com (2001 – 2003), worked with Afghan family businesses and led an enterprise that employed at women at home in Afghanistan and Pakistan (2005 – 2010).



In 2011, she received an unsolicited offer to work and live in the Gaza Strip. Gaza overturned much of what I thought I knew about conflict and aid, about Palestine and justice. As a Jew, Gaza made me dig deep into the content of my own beliefs. [Still Lives – a memoir of Gaza](#) tells the story of those four years, two wars, and one very unlikely social enterprise.

April Speaker

Conservationist **James Lynch** QSM gave an interesting talk where he explained how he and a group of dedicated conservationists promoted and put into action the proposal which became the Zealandia eco sanctuary.



He showed us that, as well as making a huge contribution to saving several native species from extinction, the work to establish Zealandia also resulted in many more New Zealanders committing to conserving our unique flora and fauna.

He also introduced us to the next project to establish another fenced eco sanctuary of 3350 hectares, in Wainuiomata using a preserved stand of Rata and Rimu trees. This would be 15 times the size of Zealandia. With a secure predator proof fence, the sanctuary would be a safe and suitable place to breed Kakapo, who need rimu berries in their diet to breed successfully. The proposed sanctuary could support 150 kakapo.



Needless to say it will be an expensive exercise and we have had enquiries from members who would like to donate to the new sanctuary. We will let you know when the project is approved and there is a fund we can donate to.

Your Committee

President – Ray Manning, Secretary – Cheryl Baughen-Manning, Treasurer – Chris Jared.

Committee Members – Margaret Twigg, Don Rennie, Eric Wadsworth, Malcolm Law.

Immediate Past President – Catherine Chapman.

Group News

Film Group underway again

Many members were disappointed when Pam Lee could not continue with the long established Film Group. We are now pleased to tell you that members, Judy and Gordon Healey, have offered to organise it again. They plan to run it, as before, on the first Monday of the month, to see a movie at the Lighthouse Petone, then go to lunch afterwards. The first outing is on 6th June which is Queen's Birthday Monday. To get on the list ring Judy and Gordon on 04 973 8816 or email heeleyjudygordon@gmail.com.

Local History

The group visited Pukeahu National War Memorial Park, built in 2015. Now beautifully established, it is on the site of a Te Atiawa pa. The artistry of the various memorials is very special.



The British memorial – oak and pohutukawa trees intertwine to form a beautiful leafy canopy - a Whakaruruhau shelter.

The Australian Memorial is inscribed on the black granite inset with the names of the theatres and operations in which Australians and New Zealanders served together. Other columns feature art works of the first people of both countries.



And next door is the distinctive Mt Cook prison built of bricks with the same arrow markings that were on the uniforms of the prisoners who made them.



Armchair Travel

This group is meeting in May to see and hear about Elizabeth Durbin's four week camping trip to Alaska.

Theatre Group

This group enjoyed an outing to Circa Theatre in April and is going to *His/Her Story* on May 8th.

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Subscriptions

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 written in full. If the Members' Update is posted to you please supply a book of stamps.

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

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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See you at the Dowse
Monday 9th May for a cuppa at 1pm and a
1.30pm start.

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