



# U3A Hutt Valley

## Members' Update November 2022

### Greetings everyone!

From President Ray Manning

U3A Hutt Valley received an unexpected setback last week when we were told that the Dowse Art Gallery will be closed for seven months next year from February.



However, thanks to efforts by Committee Member Eric Wadsworth and his long involvement with St Marks Uniting Church in Woburn Road, we will be holding our monthly meetings there from February to August 2023. U3A Hutt Valley met at St Marks for many years before moving to the Dowse in April 2019. We are very grateful to St Marks Uniting Church for having us back.

### Nov & Dec meetings

Meantime, our last two meetings for this year will still be at the Dowse. They are being held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November and the 12<sup>th</sup> December – the latter will be something special again as in past years.

### November Speaker - Max Rashbrook

#### Reducing economic inequality: what has Ardern achieved?

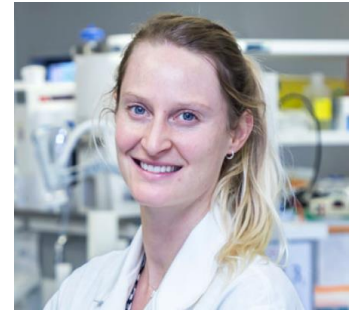
Max Rashbrooke is a writer with interests in economic inequality and democratic renewal. A senior associate of the Institute for Governance & Policy Studies, he writes for *Stuff*, and other outlets such as the *Guardian* and *Prospect* magazine. His TED.com talk on upgrading democracy has been viewed over one million times. His latest book is *Too Much Money: How Wealth Disparities are Unbalancing Aotearoa New Zealand*. When Jacinda Ardern came to power, she inherited a political situation in which the richest 10th of New Zealanders were paid roughly 9 times as much as the poorest, up from a ratio of 6:1 in the 1980s. She put tackling problems like child poverty at the heart of her political mission. But how much has she achieved? Max will run the rule over government's track record.



### Last month's speaker

Dr Rebecca McKenzie BSc (Hons) from the Malaghan Institute.

Not long back from studying in the Netherlands, Rebecca works for the Vaccine Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand (VAANZ).



She spoke about the exciting research currently being carried out at the Malaghan Institute, including her work to set up a pipeline to support research and development of mRNA vaccine technologies in New Zealand.

### Group Activities

#### Local History - Brenda Baker reports:

After the last walk was cancelled, it was a relief to have sunny weather to see some of Petone's historic sites in October. We visited The Rise in Williams Street, the remnant of the original beach. Then Tennyson Street, to the site of Britannia, the first settler township, established on the banks of the Hutt River in 1840. Regular flooding caused many settlers to move away to Thorndon before the end of 1840. The pumping station, which is still in Tennyson Street, indicates efforts to control seepage from the Te Momi Swamp (known as The Sucker).

A path beside the croquet club leads to the banks of the Te Momi Stream..... a very



pleasant walk along what might surely be one of Lower Hutt's best kept secrets.

We also saw Petone's War Memorial and Te Omanga Hospice's Garden of Appreciation in Bracken Street before returning to our cars.

## Antiques and Collectibles

The October meeting considered book marks - this one was a novel idea, printed with photo, name and dates of Ella Grant and given to mourners at her funeral.



The group also displayed a range of embroideries including this hand embroidered card sent home by a young New Zealand soldier to his mother during WWI.



## CATIG Ken Baird reports:

"We had a very good delayed meeting, as a result of Labour Day, with 9 members attending. A lively discussion on parliamentary terms - New Zealand has had 4 and even 5-year terms in the past - lead to other subjects of interest.

Our final meeting for 2022 is on Monday 28 November with open topics to be discussed."

## Theatre Group

The last performance for 2022 was to Circa's "Owls Do Cry" on 6<sup>th</sup> November. This was not a literal adaptation of the work by Janet Frame who called this, her first novel, "an exploration". Producers Red Leap stated that they "allowed the actors to explore the surreal realms of Frame's prose to find their instinctive responses, and what was personally resonant for them . . . unearthing personal and political questions of place, land, family, treasure and grief."

It was an interesting and unusual experience to cap off an enjoyable year for the group.

## Armchair Travel Group

This month's presentation was Travel to Iconic Places in South America.

In early December Hilda McDonnell is going to talk to the group about a book on the Portuguese in Aotearoa, and the many links to the Portuguese world.

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## Christmas Competition

Put on your thinking cap – have a chew on your pencil – and come up with a **paraprosdokian**! Derived from a Greek word meaning "beyond expectations" a paraprosdokian is a sentence with an unexpected shift in meaning created by a pun, a deliberate misunderstanding, or a witty juxtaposition.

Some examples are:

- "War does not determine who is right—only who is left." — *Bertrand Russell*
- "On the other hand, you have different fingers." — *Steven Wright*
- "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read." — *Jim Brewer, sometimes attributed to Groucho Marx*

Be in to win a no bell prize! Send your entry to [catherinechapman100@gmail.com](mailto:catherinechapman100@gmail.com) or read it to her on the phone 970 4932, or text it to 021 974 932. It must be received before the December meeting begins!

## 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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**See you at the Dowse  
1pm on Monday 14 November 2022**

**Do check our Website to get all latest info on  
Hutt Valley U3A activities**

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