



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update November 2023

From your Chairs! November Chairman

– Chris Jared

Greetings to all members! It was good to be back at the Dowse last month after their renovations. We are grateful to St Marks Church for our time there, and for their rental costs which were cheaper than the Dowse. This has meant we have some funds in hand, but the Dowse has advised that the rental is increasing from \$132 per month to \$278 from Feb 2024.



The increase covers the cost of having a staff member there while we meet. We have not been charged for this previously. We have funds to cover it initially but it would mean we have to increase our subs next year.

Your Committee is considering options and will let you know what they are, and seek your opinions, at next week's meeting after the guest speaker's presentation.

November Speaker – Kate de Goldi

Kate is a fiction writer who also writes essays and speeches on literary subjects, and reviews and discusses books with a particular emphasis on children's literature.

Kate says, "I am also often asked to moderate other writers' sessions at literature festivals – so a good deal of my working life is spent, most happily, reading and thinking about other people's writing. Perhaps the best part of my working year, though, is the time I spend teaching creative writing in schools throughout New Zealand - there is nothing quite as rousing and nourishing for a writer as close proximity to the imaginative life and perspective of young people."



October speaker - Captain John Brown

*Reviewed by
Malcolm Law*

Most of us have memories of the Wahine disaster on 10 April 1968. John Brown's memories, which he shared with us at U3A, were rather special. In 1968, John Brown was a pilot for the Wellington Harbour Board. That morning he arrived at work early to help shift a ship to a new berth, when the weather made that unsafe. This meant he was on hand when the Wahine signalled that it had been holed and was taking on water.



With the Deputy Harbourmaster on board, Brown and his crew set out to help the Wahine. He placed his pilot vessel alongside the Wahine so the Deputy Harbourmaster could board the ship. After the order was given to abandon ship, Brown and his vessel were able to tow two of the lifeboats into Seatoun but were unable to rescue the third.

Captain Brown talked of concerns about the whole incident, using both his first-hand experience and his long career on the ferries to dispel some myths.

The Wahine did not have a weather forecast for Wellington Harbour when it left Lyttleton the previous night.

It did have new inboard radar but the officers were inexperienced in its use.

The captain did not have a clear idea about the condition of the ship.

Above all, he showed how the design of the ship caused the flooding of the vehicle deck and how the volume of water on that deck caused the ship to capsize.

He also spoke about his views on the future of the ferries. He felt the new ferries being proposed would have difficulty berthing at Picton, and that Clifford Bay would be a better terminus - shortening travel times and reducing the costs of moving freight from the terminus.

U3A Hutt Valley new bank account

The Committee recently changed our bank account to Kiwibank from the BNZ to benefit from lower fees.

The Kiwibank account number is:

38-9025-0265698-00

Speakers

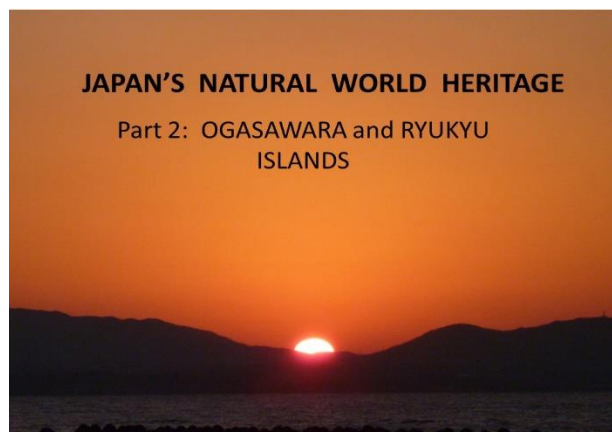
Don Rennie has been our "speaker finder" over the past few years resulting wide range of interesting people on a great variety of topics. Now it's time to consider speakers for next year. If you have any suggestions please contact Don on 04 566 2543.

Group News

Armchair Travel is enjoying talks by Les Malloy about visits to wild natural areas in Japan from 1993 to 2018. The trips were mostly to evaluate Japan's nominations for natural World Heritage, or to advise the Japanese authorities on suitable World Heritage candidates.



Nine natural locations were visited and Les explained them in two talks:
Part 1 (from 1993 to 2005) Yakushima - a heavily forested island south of Kagoshima, centred on the highest mountain in southern Japan; and Part 2 covering four sites in the cold northernmost main island, Hokkaido, including the interesting mountainous Shiretoko Peninsula, and its unique relationship with the winter sea ice which surrounds it.



Film Group went to *Simone Woman of the Century* at the Lighthouse on 6th November – their last outing for 2023. The group will resume in February 2024.

Theatre Group - final 2023 outing is to Hutt Repertory's play "T'was the Fight Before Christmas" on Sunday 3rd December at 4pm.

Local History Group enjoyed a beautiful walk on the last day in October enjoying the blossoming rhododendrons and the historic church in Norfolk Street in Belmont.

U3A groups & their 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, 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 – 021 025 63559

For more information about
U3A Hutt Valley visit our Website
u3ahuttvalley.weebly.com

See you at:

The Dowse Art Museum
Monday 13th November 2023
1pm for cuppa and chat
1.30pm for the speaker

Remember to be prepared to stay after the speaker to hear options about our future meeting place.