



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update October 2023

From your Chairs!

October Chairman - Kevin Willis

Greetings to all U3A members



We are pleased to advise members that our meeting on the 9th of October will, once again, be at the Dowse Art Museum.

The usual arrangements stand for a cuppa and a chat beforehand – i.e. from 1pm and the formal meeting

beginning at 1.30pm

October Speaker – Captain John Brown



Captain John Brown, is a master mariner, and former Wellington Harbour Board pilot and senior Cook Strait ferry master.

Captain Brown grew up in Lower Hutt. He has crossed Cook Strait around 10,000 times, piloted great ships into harbour, and sailed all around the world.

He was one of the first people to get to the Wahine on that fateful day 10th April 1968. On Monday he will give us his views on the Wahine disaster, and if time permits, the proposed Picton rail ferries.

Wellington will need new wharves and ferry terminals for the Interislander's two new ships expected to arrive in 2025. A new Wellington passenger terminal building is planned near the existing one at Kaiwharawhara and a new wharf on reclaimed land next to the railway line.

Last month's speaker

Jim Ward - Heartland Bank Reviewed by Kevin Willis

Jim explained that this type of borrowing allows the borrower to improve their standard of living by providing funds for home improvements, medical purposes, to buy a new car or other reasons.

No interest or repayments are payable until the borrower sells the security (e.g. to move into a retirement village) or they die. The advances are insured so the amount repayable does not exceed the sale proceeds of the house.

The average loan is \$87,000 and the average age of borrowers is 73. Some people borrow all of the amount in one lump sum and others have regular payments made to them.

The interest rate is currently 9.75% which is about 2% above the floating mortgage interest rate. This premium is charged because the interest is compounded and paid when the mortgage is repaid.

To date Heartland Bank have settled over 22,000 reverse mortgages and they have about 90% of the market. SBS Bank also make this type of facility available.

Group News

Film Group's October outing was to "A Haunting in Venice" earlier this week at the Lighthouse Cinema.

Theatre Group is going to *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Downstage on Sunday 15th October.

CATIG continues to put the world to rights in its discussions on the 4th Monday of the month at 1pm. Convenor, Ken Baird.

Armchair Travel enjoyed Ray's presentation last month on South Africa and Namibia. John Ansell is presenting on the Bengal region of India this month. New members are welcome, contact Ray ph 0274 587 565.



Antiques & Collectibles group heard interesting stories about "something from a drawer"! Laurel Berkett brought the programme for *Phantom of the Opera* which she saw in London in 1986.

The mechanical system to move the boat when the Phantom takes Christine across the underground lake was unreliable - at times Michael Crawford would be singing but also had to push the boat along with his leg!



Local History members were frustrated by September's cold weather, but on 1 Oct enjoyed tracing parts of the Opahu Stream in central Hutt which, with two others - the Te Awamutu Stream and the Waiwhetu Stream - that flow into the Hutt River were named by early settlers. Eels anyone?



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 - 568 2342

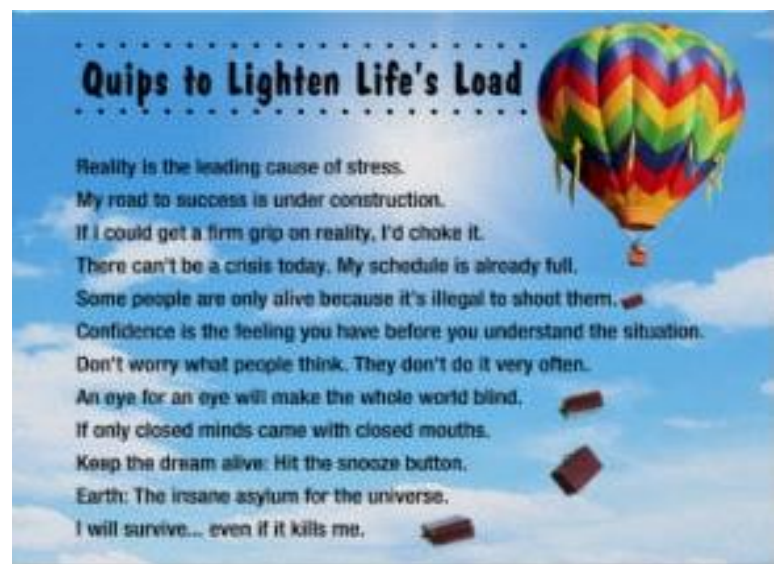
Returning to the Dowse

U3A Hutt Valley has been advised by the Dowse that our monthly rental is increasing from \$132 per month, the rent charged prior to us moving to St Marks, to \$252 from Feb 2024.

The increase is to cover the cost of having a staff member there while we meet. We have not been charged for the staff member in the past.

This is doable for us at present, we have funds to cover it, but it would mean we have to increase our subs next year.

Your Committee will be considering options in the next months and would be interested in what members think about the situation.



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

See you at:

The Dowse Art Museum
Monday 9th October 2023
1pm for cuppa and chat
1.30pm for the speaker