



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update September 2021

Dear Members

The Committee of U3A Hutt Valley met by zoom on Saturday 4 September. It was decided, that as the Government's review of the Covid lockdown level will not be made for several more days, to cancel our meeting on the 13th of September.

It is disappointing, but we recognised that even though we could meet under Level 2, with social distancing, many of us may not feel comfortable in a large group so soon after a level 3 and 4 lockdowns.



Our speaker was to be **Gill Jolly, MA**, Geological Sciences 1991: PhD, Physical volcanology.

Gill is the Natural Hazards and Risk Theme Leader at GNS Science.

She has agreed to speak at our meeting on 8th November.

Last month's speaker

Professor Michael Baker on COVID 19

At our August meeting, epidemiologist, Professor Michael Baker, gave us an explanation of such things as the R number which is the ability of an infectious agent to spread. The more people one person can infect, the more dangerous the virus is.

He also covered the effectiveness of the Covid 19 vaccines, the likelihood of another animal-borne corona virus to jump the species barrier and cause



another pandemic, and how deaths from the virus have lowered the life expectancy rates in America and the United Kingdom.

Professor Baker spoke of his concern about groups that deliberately spread disinformation about the vaccine. He shared his surprise at discovering that some anti vaxxers believe that the world is flat.

The highlight may have been, however, his assessment of how well Mr Trump would cope when he (Trump) contracted Covid, since Mr Trump is in a number of high risk categories, including (based on his tax returns) that he is in a low income group, and that he was recently made homeless!

New U3A Hutt Valley Groups?

U3A Hutt Valley is always interested in supporting new groups. Some groups run by other U3A's include art, armchair travel, food, games, gardening, knitting for charity, languages, Maoritanga, music, technology, writing, etc etc. Others might like to join you.

If you have an interest that you would like to further explore, contact Catherine Chapman on 970 4932.

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Homework?

To entertain you Malcolm Law has shared part of the quiz prepared for next meeting with Gill Jolly, overleaf. Swat it up, and you will be even more interested in what she has to say!

U3A Hutt Valley Groups & their contacts

Antiques and Collectibles – 4th Tue 2pm.

Convenor – Catherine Chapman 970 4932.

Books – 3rd Thu 1pm. War Memorial Library.

Convenor – Sue Topley 569 6848.

Current Affairs and Topics of Interest Group (CATIG) – 4th Mon 1 pm. Russell Keown House, Convenor - Ken Baird 564 2579.

Film – 1st Mon morning.

Temporarily in abeyance.

Theatre – Sun pm several times a year.

Convenor – Christine Williams 568 2342.

Walking and Local History – last day of the month.

Convenor – Brenda Baker 569 5308.

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THE QUIZ!

1. Why did the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland April 2010 cause massive disruption to air travel

- It threw volcanic ash 4 km up into the jet stream where it posed a risk to the engines of jet aircraft,
- It produced so much smoke and volcanic ash that it blotted out the sun and pilots could not see,
- It produced electrical storms which knocked out radio transmissions,
- It produced electromagnetic storms which knocked out navigational systems?

2. In 1816 the “Year without a Summer” caused major food shortages when global temperatures dropped as much as 0.7 degrees Celsius. What do scientists think caused this event

- An extremely cold La Nina event in the Pacific Ocean,
- A late Arctic storm,
- A volcanic eruption on Mt Tambora in what is now Indonesia,
- An interruption to the flow of the Gulf Stream?

3. An eruption of Santorini in the Aegean Sea was the probable cause of a tsunami which destroyed which ancient civilisation

- The Hittite Empire in Turkey,
- The Hyksos Empire in Egypt,
- The Minoan civilisation on Crete,
- The Mycenaean civilisation in Greece?

4. Which New Zealand tourist attraction was called in the 1860s the “eighth wonder of the world”

- The Pink and White Terraces,
- Milford Sound,
- The Remarkables,
- Lake Manapouri

5. How did Ludger Sylbaris survive the 8th of May 1902 eruption of Mount Pelee which killed 29,000 people in Saint Pierre on Martinique

- He was asleep on a boat in the harbour
- He was locked up in an airless cell in the town jail
- He had fallen into a ditch and couldn't get out
- He was hiding in a wine cellar?

6. Which Roman schoolboy left us an eyewitness account of the eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD

- Marcus Junius Brutus
- Cicero Minor
- Gaius Octavius
- Pliny the Younger?

7. Who wrote the novel, Under the Volcano

- Graham Greene,
- Earnest Hemmingway
- Malcolm Lowry
- John Steinbeck?

8. Who composed The Volcano Symphony

- Derek Bailey,
- Han Bennink,
- Ernst Reijseger,
- Louis Sclavis?

9. Which New Zealand Volcano has been the most destructive

- Ruapehu,
- Taranaki,
- Tarawera,
- Taupo?

10. Which is the world's tallest volcano

- Carstensz Pyramid, Irian Jaya,
- Erebus, Antarctica
- Nevada Ojos de Solado, Andes
- Klyuchevskaya Sopka?

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

1	It threw volcanic ash km into the stratosphere where it was a risk to the engines of jet aircraft.
2	A volcanic eruption on Mt Tambora in 1815.
3	The Minoan civilisation on Crete.
4	The Pink and White Terraces.
5	He was locked up in an airless cell in the town jail.
6	Pliny the Younger.
7	Malcolm Lowry
8	Ernst Reijseger, the symphony was composed in 2016
9	Taupo
10	Nevada Ojos de Solado, Andes at 6,893 metres.

ANSWERS