



U3A Hutt Valley

Members' Update September 2023

From your Chairs!



Welcoming you all to the next meeting of U3A Hutt Valley is our September Chairwoman, Mary Estcourt.

The September meeting is probably the last we will have at St Marks Church before returning to The Dowse in October.

U3A Hutt Valley acknowledges and is very grateful to St Marks for providing us with a temporary home these last few months while the Dowse was being refurbished.

September Speaker

Jim Ward Heartland Bank Reverse mortgages



Jim has been a Reverse Mortgage specialist with Heartland Bank for the past eight years and has been instrumental in

assisting Heartland become New Zealand's leading Reverse Mortgage provider.

His background spans banking, foreign exchange, legal services, and business management. He has also been a practicing Justice of the Peace since 1994.

Jim will give us an insight into how the Reverse Mortgage works, its the pros and cons, and how people are using this facility. Could this be a solution for you?

Membership

U3A Hutt Valley is always pleased to welcome new members. Put the word out to friends and neighbours about our excellent speakers and interesting groups. Prospective members are welcome to come to two meetings before committing to paying the \$20 subscription.

Last month's Speaker



Dr Mary McIntyre

*Reviewed by
Malcolm Law*

Mary McIntyre gave a thought-provoking talk on her work in Environmental Health at the

University of Otago, Newtown Campus. She began by offering us the intriguing proposition that possum and rat eradication is good for human health as well as the environment. While the purposes of pest eradication in Predator Free New Zealand are aimed at helping our native plants and animals threatened by introduced species, eradicating these species will also have benefits for human health.

Mary is familiar with a range of animal diseases which can be spread to humans. One she mentioned was Lyme Disease, a disease affecting wild deer in North America. This has been increasingly affecting humans. She cited the list of celebrities such as Shania Twain, Justin Bieber and Kris Kristoferson who have been laid up with this debilitating disease, spread by ticks from deer to humans.

While sharing the belief that Predator Free New Zealand offers considerable benefits to the human population as well as the natural world, Mary also discussed the possibility of the mouse population growing out of control, particularly in "mast" years. This could come about if stouts and rats, the major predators of mice, are wiped out as planned in Predator Free New Zealand.



Group News

Theatre Group members all know how to vote after seeing Circa's *Public Service Announcements* last month – an hilarious prelude to the General Election. Next outing is to *The Importance of Being Earnest* 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.

Film Group is going to the acclaimed "*Scrapper*" at Petone Lighthouse on Monday 4th September. Convenor Judy Heeley reports that the Lighthouse gave this group the option of paying \$13 for the movie and a hot drink, or staying with \$11.50 and buying our own drinks. The group settled for \$13 hot drink included.

The group's movies screen in Lighthouse's Cinema 1 or 4 (the accessible cinemas) at 10.30am on the 1st Monday of the month. "We adjourn to Caffiend for a bite to eat afterwards," Judy says. "An email with the chosen movie is sent to members of the film group the week prior."

Members must respond before the Saturday night if they are coming to the movie and the cafe afterwards. This enables Judy to finalise numbers with the cinema and cafe.

Would you like to join the group? Contact Judy and Gordon at heeleyjudygordon@gmail.com or phone on 04 9738816

Antiques & Collectibles enjoyed some interesting and amusing choices when members talked about "*something I could not do without*"!



One member's choice was coffee. Apparently Pope Clement VIII (head of the Catholic Church from 1592 –

1605) stated, "Coffee is delicious!" He baptised coffee and then it was allowed into Italy as a pure "Christian beverage". The first Italian coffee house reputedly opened in 1645 - the first western coffee house. Coffee was also popular in Venice, but did not reach Paris until 1668 and only arrived in Britain in the mid 17th C.

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

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**For more information about
U3A Hutt Valley visit our Website**

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

**See you at St Marks Church
Woburn Road
Monday 11th September 2023
1pm for cuppa and chat
1.30pm for the speaker**