



General Meeting for Members: Tuesday May 7th 2024
10:00 - 12:00

May Speaker 2024:



Tough Men, Delicate Handiwork: a talk by Frances Walsh

Writer Frances Walsh has had a long career in journalism, including writing for *Metro* magazine where she was also Books & Art Editor. Past books include her 2011 social history *Inside Stories: A History of the New Zealand Housewife 1890-1975*, and *Endless Sea: Stories told through the taonga of the New Zealand Maritime Museum Hui te Ananui a Tangaroa* published in 2020. She has also worked as a teacher and trade unionist. Frances is currently the inhouse writer and researcher at the NZ Maritime Museum. In this talk she discusses the embroideries stitched by merchant seamen in the Victorian era.

Committee Chair's Report

Hello members

Yes, now we know it is autumn because of all the feijoas that are available, so much we can do with them, including just eating them with a spoon. When I grew up in Hawkes Bay we did have a few feijoa hedges around and they had bullet-hard and sour fruit. It wasn't until I moved to the Bay of Plenty that I understood how delicious they are.

I found Dr Graham Howie's presentation last month on the diaries of a soldier in WW1 very interesting, and as we are coming up to ANZAC Day, a timely reminder of life back then. For me, especially interesting as a grandfather was based in one of the areas where his subject was based, and that grandfather also lived in Napier. I wonder if they ever knew each other?

ANZAC Day is a reminder also of the horrors of War, especially with the worrying events in the Middle East, and continuing conflict with Russia. I feel though, that It's mainly New Zealand and Australians who take the reminder of WW1 as seriously. Interestingly, Australians seem to make it both a remembrance and a celebration (according to an Australian brother), while in New Zealand I think it is a more somber, reflective time. So I wish you all the best, which ever way you remember ANZACs.

Stay well,
Val Lloyd



u3a Auckland Network welcomes you to a day of celebration

Salvation Army Church, 18 Allright Place, Mt Wellington
Saturday 27 July 2024 - 9:30am (for 10:00am) to 2:30pm

Speakers:

Morning: Distinguished Professor Emeritus Paul Spoonley MA MSc PhD FRSNZ

"The supersizing and superdiversity of Auckland:
how Auckland will change over coming decades."

Afternoon: Sir Ashley Bloomfield KNZM

"Public trust in New Zealand: where we are at, and how do we
strengthen public trust to build social capital and social cohesion?"

Also included are four presentations by u3a Members and lunch - \$45.00

This looks a very exciting day - make sure you register for it

To register go to <https://www.u3aauckland.net/event>

Date	SIG Presentation	Hall Seating	Morning Tea
7th May	Archaeology	French Culture & Language	Book Group
4th June	Active Travellers	Renaissance	CVM & Mahjong

CONTACTS: Most Roles have a back-up person - B/U

Chairperson	Val Lloyd B/U Piers Hamid	021 763632 027 4439754	Newsletter Editor	Lucy Casey B/U Val Lloyd	021 778555 021 763652
Hall management	Heather Howarth/Peter Dawson/ B/U Bess Reynolds	022 3100384 021 2533203	Publicity	Fay Weatherly (ex officio)	09 4730324
Secretary	Pauline Alsweller B/U Bess Reynolds	027 2779386 021 2533203	SIG Convenor	Ngaral Hogan	021 379745
Treasurer	Piers Hamid B/U Barry Brennan	027 443 9764 027 4036380	Speaker Co-ordinator	Roger Warner B/U Barry Brennan	09 4783072 027 4036380
Information Officers	Anne Gough Gloria Ward	0273210729 0212353113	Systems Manager	Lucy Casey/Val Lloyd	
Almoner	Bess Reynolds	021 2533203	Systems manager ex-officio	John Ewen	
Website: www.u3abb.nz Newsletter: u3abbnewsletter@gmail.com New inquiries : Anne Gough 0273210729 Gloria Ward 0212353113		Emails: General Information: u3abbinfo@gmail.com		Address: PO Box 35-651 Browns Bay. Bank a/c number: 12 3059 0424 848 00	

NEWS FROM THE RECENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Convenors, please remember that there is a 24 hour cancellation policy for rooms in

HOTB. If late then the u3abb will be charged even if not used! Please advise Ngaral Hogan, SIG Convenor if you have any changes to be made to bookings.

Do you want more members for your SIG?

If you want new members or just want peoples' interest piqued then let them know what is coming up in your report for our newsletter! Any member may attend any SIG group, where the topic attracts them, by contacting the Convenor beforehand.

New Inquiries to join U3A

If you know anyone who is interested in joining our U3A, please pass their names onto **Information Officer: Anne Gough (0273210729) or Gloria Ward (0212353113)**. If the prospective member wishes to complete the forms electronically they are available on our official website <http://www.u3abb.nz>. Your committee has prepared a whole "interest pack" for any such inquiries. Information Officer's contact number available above

Know of a member's changed circumstances?

If you are aware of changes to any of our member's circumstances such as illness/death, or moving home, please let **Bess Reynolds (Almoner)** or your SIG convenor or a member of the committee know so that we can acknowledge it.

The close off for the June newsletter is Wednesday 29th May 2024.

Please send your SIG reports to u3abbnewsletter@gmail.com

SIG GROUP MEETING CALENDAR

- For the list of convenors & contact numbers, see the next section of this newsletter labelled SIG reports.
- This information is the latest recorded by our Convenor Co-ordinator Ngaral Hogan as at October 2023. Any further amendments to times and convenors to Ngaral please so we can update it for our next newsletter.

DAY	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
Mon am Mon pm			13:30 Archaeology	10:00 French Culture & Language
Tues am Tues pm	10:00 Main Meeting		10:00 Early NZ History 13:30 Inventions & Discoveries 14:00 Art Potpourri	10:00 Active Travellers 12:15 Committee Meeting
Wed am Wed pm	10:00 Cycling	10:00 Cycling Backup 13:30 Genealogy	10:00 Modern History 12:30 Foodies	
Thurs am Thurs pm	10:00 Med Science & History 13:30 Creating Visual Memories (CVM)	10:00 Current Affairs 13:30 International studies 13:30 Art History		10:00 Puzzle Group
Fri am Fri pm	10:00 Mahjong	10:00 Mahjong 10:00 Books & Beyond	10:00 Mahjong 10:00 Film Appreciation 13:30 Book Group	10:00 Mahjong 10:00 Renaissance

U3ABB Website: <http://www.u3abb.nz> **Please note - this is our OFFICIAL website**

SIG REPORTS

Active Travellers - Gay Brennan :473 9878 (4th Tuesday 10.00 am)

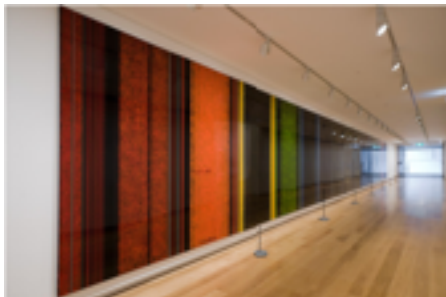
Despite a number of people being away, we still had an interesting meeting, with Nick sharing his family's experiences on some local cruising trips, both in the Gulf and to & from Picton. His children enjoyed the variety provided by the Disney Cruise. Nick's talk was followed by an intriguing dvd on Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands provided by Maureen.

Archaeology - Evelyn Ross: 027 4242147 (3rd Monday 13:30)

Art History - Sylvia Dixon & Thelma Phillips 022 1959881 (Sylvia) 0274 105470 (Thelma) (2nd Thursday 13.30)

Rau [Ralph] Hotere came from Mitimiti, a tiny settlement just north of the Hokianga harbour. One of nine children he excelled at the local school and got a scholarship to Hato Petera where his ability at Art was noticed. He and the crop of Maori modernists [Fred Graham, Para Matchitt, Muru Walters] created art for the

art gallery rather than the whareniui. After a few years in London and France, Ralph eventually settled in Dunedin, starting with a Frances Hodgkins Fellowship with the University of Otago. He is well known for his Black paintings and for 'paintings of protest' [the Save Aramoana Campaign, the Rainbow Warrior, French Nuclear testing, the Springbok tour]. His installation, "Black Phoenix" took 5 years to construct out of the remains of a partly burnt fishing boat. His "Flight of the Godwit", 18 metres long, is in the Auckland Art Gallery.



Ralph Hotere, a reserved, gentle person who loved his golf, his pub visits and his friends, is revered as one of New Zealand's outstanding artists. He died in 2013.

There are very few things I can say about my work that are better than saying nothing. – Ralph Hotere

Art Potpourri - Denise de Groot & Rhonda Goris: 09 478 8428 (Denise), 0275 215152 (Rhonda) (3rd Tuesday 14.00)

Our meeting this month was postponed as most members had family or travel commitments. We look forward to Dorothy's Hundertwasser presentation at a future date. In May, Penny will introduce the work of a local artist to us.

Book Group - Monette & John Ewen 0274 993 528 (John) 0275 666 217(Monette) (3rd Friday 13.30)

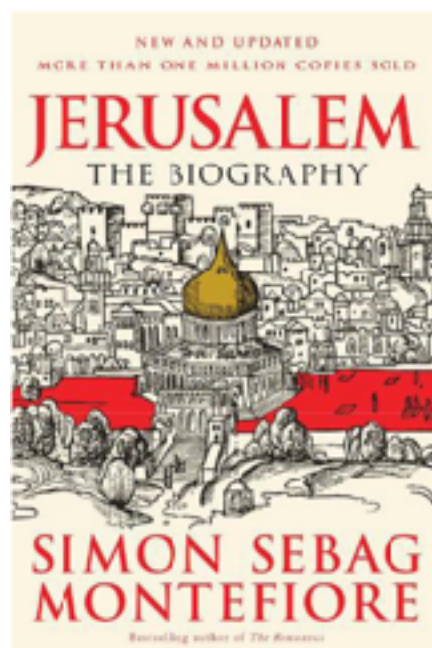
Books and Beyond - Coleen Carmichael & Robyn Duff. (Robyn) 022 0208269 (Coleen) 479 5543 (2nd Friday 10.00am)

We looked at historical novels which are defined as having a story, setting or event fifty years or more ago. The integrity of the historical novel, whether fiction or non fiction, requires a coherent accuracy across place, time, events, characterisation and themes. Historical fiction can incorporate true historical characters and events alongside fictional characters.

"Jerusalem the Biography" (2011) by the British historian Simon Sebag Montefiore tracks the area of Palestine from 5000 BC and is divided into nine parts: Judaism, Roman Rule, Christianity, Islam, Crusades, Mamaluks, Ottomans, British Mandate, Zionism.

British author and historian Peter Frankopan, who will be a guest at this year's Writer's Festival wrote "The Silk Roads." The book is described as "a major reassessment of world history ... an exploration of the forces that have driven the rise and fall of empires, determined the flow of ideas and goods and are now heralding a new dawn in international affairs"

Other books reviewed by members were :- War Paths, Walking in the Shadows of the Clans, Hitler, Stalin, Mum, and Dad, Katherine Mansfield's Europe, Checkmate in Berlin, The Peloponnesian War, Mrs Jewell and the Wreck of the General Grant, The Women and V2.



Creating Visual Memories - Lucy Casey (Lucy) 021 778555 (1st Thursday 13.30)

This month we had a photo shoot up and around the Orewa Estuary. Once everyone has taken their photographs, they must select 4 random photos from their photo shoot and then the group must make a video story that include all 28 photos.

We do have fun with this and it is amazing that all seven will be completely different despite having the identical photos.

Current Affairs - Stuart Gaze: 0210736941, David Bentham: 0211511449.(2nd Thursday 10.00am)

Our quiz was presented by Jon Torgersen who also led the discussion on what is happening with our television networks. General opinion was that TV companies are over staffed and this is one of the reasons for the closures. Also the reduction of advertisers resulting in less advertising income. End result is going to be a much lower standard in the programmes. Wai Lawrence gave a talk on a Chinese artist who creates elaborate dresses into an art form. We also discussed Donald Trump and his possible effect on world affairs if he becomes President.



Cycling - Piers Hamid 027 4439764 (1st Wednesday, backup 2nd Wednesday)

Another beautiful day for seven of our members to ride the Auckland foreshore from Point Erin to Mission Bay...and back. A bit of maneuvering around the Viaduct area now



that the footbridge is closed. Between us we have ridden many routes ... in many Countries... but find it hard to pick any that are more beautiful and



easy to ride on a sparkling sunny morning.

We added a side trip off Tamaki Drive and up the new Orakei cycle and pedestrian boardwalk to St Heliers. A glorious diversion into the bush clad area of Meadowbank and Purewa creek adding another 10kms to the foreshore ride.

When you're there its hard to believe you're in the middle of a city.

Early NZ History - Glenys Plaistowe 0275 412241 (3rd Tuesday 10.00 am)

Brian shared his family history of how his great grand-parents were allotted sections in Te Kuiti when the Government opened up the land from the 1890's. The main trunk line had reached the area in 1894 and a construction camp formed the nucleus for a new township. Covered in trees and bush, initially it was slash and burn to create pasture land. It was a struggle as the soil lost fertility. Chief Tāwhiao, later to be the second Māori King, had established a marae in the district after his tribe's Waikato lands were confiscated after the

Land Wars. Hard work, persistence and better soli management has now established Te Kuiti as the sheep-shearing capital of New Zealand and heart of the King Country.

Lisa shared the early history of Kawau Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Named after the Kawau Paka (shag-cormorant). Originally inhabited by the Ngatitai and Ngatiwai tribes. In 1831 an owner of the trading ship "Sucidan" "purchased" the island from Māori who claimed to be owners. A more formal purchase was made in 1841 by The British Loan and Investment Company planning to establish a farm. Manganese and copper deposits were discovered in 1844, a mine was built on the western shore so Cornish and Welsh miners and smelters were hired. It was a successful mine for a number of years but rivalries and difficulties with flooding ended operations. In 1862 Sir George Grey purchased the island and expanded the mine manager's house into a mansion. He populated the grounds with introduced species including zebra, monkeys, deer, possums, kookaburra, wallabies, palms and cycads. Today, Mansion House is part of a historic reserve managed by Hauraki Maritime Park Board.

Our final presentation toured the WW1 and WW2 sites that NZ troops participated in: North Africa, Egypt, Palestine, Sinai, Crete, Cyprus. In WW1 out of our population of 1,000,000 120,000 men served and 550 nurses (2,200 Māori and 500 PI.) 18,000 died and 41,000 wounded, 11 VC were awarded. In WW2 out of a population of 1,600,000 154,549 men served and 10,000 women 11,928 died 16,000 wounded, 9 VC were awarded.



Film Appreciation - John Reynolds: 021 2533203 (3rd Friday 10.00am)

Foodies - Lucy Casey:021 778555 (3rd Wednesday 12.30pm)

This month we visited 'Madam Yen' in Browns Bay, a little Vietnamese gem on Clyde Road. Some of the group had a set menu which Isabel (Madam Yen) had agreed on beforehand. There was also a shared platter for four which was enjoyed by those who had it. The restaurant also have a menu that people could choose from if they wished. Everyone agreed the food was very tasty and very healthy!

Below were our choices for the group:-

1. According to the current menu, we have an option to share for 4 people: Hanoi Platter (including: Spring Roll (deep fried roll) , Summer Roll (fresh roll), Hanoi Traditional Char-Grill Pork, Fried Tofu with salted egg sauce ,Vietnamese Lotus Root Prawn Salad, rice noodle) . Price 99\$ / Platter

Our platter does not include drinks but we will give you 01 Vietnamese ice lemon tea drinks for each of your members.

2. Set menu for 1 person: 25\$

- Summer roll (Chicken / Roast pork/ Tofu)
- Spring roll
- Prawn salad
- Bowl of Beef/ Chicken/ Tofu soup noodles.
- 01 Drink



French Culture & Language - Gareth Hancock: 477 3822 (4th Monday 10.00am)



For our April meeting, Trisha showed us a video of 10 of the best sites and towns in France. So of course, we then discussed how many we had been to and sorted out which ones were the best, and the most romantic! None of us had been to all the sites so that left us deciding on future journeys.

We then moved on to the homework designed by Fay, and we didn't do too badly!

To end, Suzie took us through a book in French concerning Anne Frank and her family, her schooling and their life in the annexe in Amsterdam under German occupation during WWII, from which they all were sent to concentration camps with only Anne's father surviving.

Genealogy - Gay Brennan: 473 9878 & Wendy Paton 021 1665489 (2nd Wednesday 13.30)

International Studies - Heather Howarth 022 3100384 (2nd Thursday 13.30)

Gareth gave us an overview of the history and culture of Indonesia. It is composed of 17 thousand islands and has been invaded and led by many different occupiers since 2000BC. Its position almost on the Equator gives a hot and humid climate; spices have been grown and traded from 13th Century. It has the world's largest Muslim population. The Dutch named it the Dutch East Indies and built some modern infrastructure including 7,500 kms of railway. They imposed repression after WW1, and the opposition party PKR grew to 5 thousand members, Their leaders were arrested but even so there were many riots.

The Japanese occupied most of the main inhabited islands during WW2 and after their surrender in 1945 a local leader Sukarno emerged to declare a state of Indonesia. There has been unrest and violent opposition to government for many years. In 1995 elections created a short lived coalition government, but there is much poverty and a large population of 287million people



Next Heather B then took us to the Isle of Man a small island in the Irish Sea. with a population of 80 thousand (1979). It was fought over by Norway, France, Scotland and England for centuries The island is now a British Crown dependency with its own government, housed in Tynwald and has been independent for 1000 years. Occupations include finance (it has its own tax position), tourism and fishing. The famous Manx kipper is caught and smoked there.



World War 2 saw an internment camp for Germans who were living in the UK. Attractions for visitors include the Ramsey Wheel and the famous TT motorbike races. The 2 biggest towns are Douglas and Ramsey with many hotels built to cater for the tourists, who are attracted by the island's rugged coastline and rural landscape

Next month Rose will take us to Mozambique and Heather H's city study is to be York

Inventions and Discoveries - Peter Dawson: 478 4780 (3rd Tuesday 13.30)

Eleven members watched a video presentation by Peter on the history of the making of the 240 km Canal du Midi starting in 1662 and completing in 1681 linking the Mediterranean with the Atlantic sea through France. It



was the brain-child of a wealthy salt dealer named Pierre-Paul Riquet. His ingenuity in overcoming hitherto unimaginable engineering problems is astounding. At its height it employed 12,000 labourers. Today the Canal is a Unesco World Heritage Site used by thousands of canal boat tourists.



Terry followed with a video covering the latest developments around the world in nuclear fusion for power generation. Not mentioned was the ambitious experiments on this by a small group of physicists in Wellington.

Mah Jong - Penny Walton: 0212204988/ 4788594 (Every Friday 10-12)

Medical Science and History - Dorothy Butcher 4791526 (1st Thursday 10.00am)

Pauline presented on *Candida auris* an emerging fungal threat that has been spreading in the United States and around the world at an alarming rate since it was first reported in 2016. More than 1 in 3 patients with invasive *C. auris* infection (for example, an infection that affects the blood, heart, or brain) die. Healthy people are not at risk. The rapid spread, the rise in resistance to anti-fungal drugs and a growing resistance to the cleaning disinfectants were all highlighted. New research shows that climate change may be responsible for



A strain of *Candida auris* cultured at the NYSDOH public health laboratory, Wadsworth Center.

the increase in spread. As global temperatures have risen, *C. auris* has been forced to adapt to higher temperatures. This may have made it easier for the fungus to thrive in the human body. There has been one reported case in NZ at this stage (March 23). After Pauline's presentation, Denise spoke about the Dunedin Study, whose participants are now 45 years old. This is a trusted form of health information since 94% of the original participants are still alive, and there has been a high retention rate despite the participants having to undergo 8 hours of health information questions and an MRI. It provides useful information on how the environment affects health, and now ageing issues. Ian talked about CAR T-cell therapy, and Fay on the NYMBLE app. A very interesting meeting. In May, Ian will present on Alzheimers and Dementia.

Modern History - Colin Tyndall & Carne Blandy Colin: 4409336, Carne: 021998734 (3rd Wednesday 10am)

Puzzle Group – Fay Weatherly: - 473 0324 (4th Thursday 10.00 am)

March Report

As usual we had some interesting challenges:

Heather found this one on a u3a UK news letter:

1. In an Easter egg hunt I hide 36 eggs. There are large, medium and small eggs in the ratio 1:2:6. How many of each size were there?
2. [from Trish] What number comes next in this sequence: 73614,4637, 764 ?
3. [from Sheila] Three words start with the same letter and sound the same when pronounced:

P _ _ _ e

P _ _ k

P _ a _

4. Fay talked about a puzzling quality that people raised on sea-food exhibits. Carbon 14 in the sea is older than that on the land. The carbon dating of the remains of a person raised on sea-food [almost exclusively] will be up to 200 years older than someone who has a 'normal' diet. This was not realised until about 2018.

Answers at end of newsletter

April Report

Another great meeting of brain challenge, held a week early because of ANZAC day.

Try these to size!

1. A Russian had three sons. The first named Rab was a lawyer. The second was named Ymra and became a soldier. The third son was a sailor. What was his name?
2. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Keep the numbers in order. Add + or - signs so that the total comes to 100. You can combine adjoining numbers to boost your total.
e.g. 1 + 23 + 45 For an easier puzzle you can combine 3 numbers: e.g. 123 - 45..... There are several answers to this puzzle which is not as easy as it looks.

Renaissance - Monette Ewen: 0275666217 (4th Friday 10.00 am)

Answers to Puzzle group March Report

1. 4 Large, 8 Medium, 24 small,
2. 67. [Reverse the number and leave out the smallest digit]
3. Pique, peek, peak

Answers to April Report

1.The third son's name is Yvan.

2. $1 + 2 + 3 - 4 + 5 + 6 + 78 + 9 = 100$
 $12 + 3 - 4 + 5 + 67 + 8 + 9 = 100$
 $123 - 45 - 67 + 89 = 100$
 $123 + 4 - 5 + 67 - 89 = 100$

*Live like you will die tomorrow.
Keep learning like you will live forever.*

If you are interested in a trip to UK and Girton College see below



Dr Nick Godfrey
Director of Summer Programmes

Summer Programmes, Girton College, Cambridge, CB3 0JG (UK)

T: +44 (0)1223 338 944 / **E:** summer@girton.cam.ac.uk

www.girton.cam.ac.uk

For this year's summer school we mostly have the same courses over the 2 weeks, with the exception of the new Art History one: <https://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2024-01/History%20of%20Art%20course%20outline%202024.pdf>

If you're able to share some information with your members that'd be fantastic.

All the info is on our website here: <https://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/lifelong-learning>

The brochure is here: https://www.girton.cam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2023-10/GirtonLifelongLearning_2024_SC_WEB.pdf