



[Havelock North Inc.]

Newsletter April 2010



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 Greetings Everyone,

Thank you for a good attendance at our A.G.M. in February. Although A.G.M.'s are never considered to be the liveliest of meetings this certainly had its highlights and of course there were the usual excellent refreshments by "Pure" catering.

Our speaker, Pat Frykberg, gave a delightful talk as she led us through a PowerPoint display of her life and travels though Namibia where she was born. The pictures of the scenery and people were dramatic and the colours of the deserts, rocks and houses were quite breathtaking. Pat provided an amusing and informative commentary which we will all remember. Thank you Pat, we appreciated your memories and presentation.

Our new committee was elected and can be seen at the top of this newsletter. Dale will continue with her dedicated work as Secretary and Judith Bell is taking over as Treasurer from Heather King. Heather was thanked for her many years as Treasurer and the good service she has given to our U3A. Bobbi Allen will be an assistant to Judith and Garth will take over as Minute Secretary. Margaret will be in charge of the huge data base of our near 400 members and the courses they attend. David Ward has already started on his role in advertising prior to heading off to Morocco and you are now able to see new posters about our U3A in the Libraries and Information Centres. Dianne will continue with functions and Joan will help with the newsletter-still written by your truly-continuing as President.

Courses are now well underway and the History course has just started. The gardening course started dramatically as you can read below and I hear comments from members attending the Yoga class of finding muscles they hadn't realised they had.

One concern I still have is that some members are not phoning their convenors if they are unable to attend a course. This is not such a problem with courses such as computing with 77 members but is very frustrating for convenors of small courses to find that over half the class is missing when time has been given to the preparation of an activity. **Please** support your convenors in this respect for they are highly valued for the work they do.

As I write this on Good Friday I am reminded of an event on a hill at Calvary 2000 years ago which precipitated one of the greatest leaps in faith in World history -Christianity. With our Anthem, National services we profess to be a Christian country but there are some who think that we should abandon this in favour of other beliefs and secularism. There have been many shining examples of Christian acts and Christian organisations to help the oppressed and poor.

However the ideals of charity and religion itself is tarnished by the many wars between different faiths whether it be Muslims and Christians; Protestants and Roman Catholics, Palestinians & Jews, Sunni and Shiites etc. The recent cases of abuse of children by clerics, the suicide bombers killing the innocent and other appalling acts of trying to put across your views as a solution to ethnic, religious and racial solutions tarnish all humanity. The fear held by many is that one day a group, country or terrorist will access a nuclear weapon and detonate it in a city because of their twisted views of self righteousness. Many countries are feared to have or be producing these weapons secretly which is of great concern to the rest of the world.

Have we indeed lost our humanity to respect others of different colour, race and creed? If we need anything we need humanitarianism to accept people for their differences. In 2000 years how far have we progressed? We are indeed lucky in our relative isolation in NZ to have the opportunity to grasp humanitarianism for its true value of respecting people, not trying to exploit others with our own selfish ideals and sharing what this lovely country has given us. I pray that we will go this way.

Easter will be over when you receive this and I hope that the spirit of what it means is with you all and that you have had a wonderful time with your family and friends and with the memories of loved ones past.

Best Wishes

Norris Kenwright

President

U3A April Morning Meeting

Tuesday 27th April

Havelock North Community Centre 10am

Brunch Refreshments will be again provided by "PURE" Catering

The \$8 charge will be subsidised so that U3A financial members will only pay

\$2

Partners of attending members will also only pay \$2 ---- other attendees will pay \$8

**Come along, socialise, meet your friends, and listen to our speaker;- Pay at the door
BUT:-**

It is essential you phone the Secretary 877-6221 or President 877-8412 to confirm your attendance for catering

SPEAKER

Geoff Small of "Geoff Small Electronics"

Geoff has an independent electronics company in Miller Street, Hastings which specialises in Televisions and Video recorders. Geoff will talk about the advantages and differences between Sky TV, TiVo and Freeview and their relative costs. Essential listening to those wishing to buy this new technology

News from our Course Convenors

Courses are now in full swing and I hope you all taking an active part and participating. New members continue to enrol but would convenors please contact the Secretary, Dale Jackson for anyone who has left your group, vacancies, or people wishing to join.

Gardening:

This almost started with a real bang as we all arrived at Oderings for the first Monday session only to be greeted by the Police bomb squad. A suspect bomb had been found so we were all herded away to a safe distance. Our tutor, Vanessa came to say that Oderings had been closed down for the rest of the day and so the course was delayed for a week. Of course it was all a false alarm for there had been a local fancy dress party the previous evening and a student dressed as a terrorist had left his "Bomb pack" with wires sticking out on the fence as he staggered home. (Probably somewhat worse for wear!)



However twenty two of us assembled the next week for a fascinating look behind the scenes at Oderings and the amazing machinery that automatically planted the seeds, made compost, transferred seedlings to larger pots and were put in automatically regulated glasshouse for temperature and humidity. A job 50 students used to do. Vanessa was an excellent guide and we look forward to the next session.

Computer group:

We continue to attract new members with now 80 registered, several from other U3A's. Tony Briggs, Margaret Buckley, Sylvia Franklin & myself have been producing tutorials on "How to Speed up your Computer", Web Mail, Online Banking, Trade Me, How to use Microsoft Word, Word Projects, security, how to check for errors, spam, viruses on your computer and picture editing with Photoshop Elements.



We now have a fast broadband connection with a 3G Telecom "T" stick so we can access websites without waiting. Our major glitch occurred when Telecom's new and highly promoted XT network went down on as we were using it one Monday afternoon.

Looking at Art Wednesday Group 2:

Marilyn Belcher reports on 'Looking at Art' with Hugh McKay. After beginning the year discussing the life and artworks of Lowry and Spencer, two English artists of the 20th Century, over the next few months we will be studying NZ artists and what influenced their style and how it fits in to today's art scene. Artists for consideration are Hodgkins, Angus, McCahon, Smither, Hotere.



Tuesday Book Group:

We meet in the Library on the second Tuesday of the month and each take turns at discussing 2-3 books we have read recently which we are happy to share and lend to other members. It's very

useful in having authors you do not know recommended. We have quite an informal format.

Looking at Art:

We are the Wednesday group 1, which meets every three weeks at member's homes. At present Hugh McKay our tutor is involving us in modern New Zealand art. At the last meeting we focused on Frances Hodgkins and at the next we are looking at Rita Angus. It is extremely interesting for those interested in Art History.



Remarkable People:

Margaret Clarke reports upon a great start to the year for our group.



Remarkable people presented so far are Napoleon, Florence Baker, Charlemagne and Dorothy Butler - an eclectic mix generating much discussion.



Shakespeare Studies:

I was pleasantly surprised with the response to the Shakespeare Studies group, and it's going well, with nine enthusiastic members.. We're exploring a different play each month, alternating between well-known plays and lesser-known ones, and it makes for plenty of discussion. Cheers, Rosalind McKenzie

Pétanque:

Joyce Browning reports that the faithful 6 members continue to play regularly on a very fast and challenging dry lawn at St Columba's Church.



Gourmet Cooking:

At the first meeting we talked about what direction the group would take for this year and decided that looking at food in other countries would be interesting. Last month we visited Hawkes Bay Seafoods and had a very informative visit learning about the fish factory operations and processing, followed by a very scrummy old fashioned afternoon tea in Ahuriri. - Cath McIver

Light on Music:

The light-on-Music group has met twice this year, the first showing was "High Society", the second "Andre Reiu , Maastricht 3, 2009" The first gathering was relatively small with 7 people present but there was 12 at the March meeting which really stretched the accommodation to its maximum. The group enjoy the showings and the afternoon tea chatter afterwards. In April we will have Gilbert & Sullivan's 'Gondoliers'...Ray Osborne



U3A Travel group:

We are a group of 26 like minded people with a positive interest in travel... some of us attend to live through others' travels and some relive their experiences by recounting their own travels...



We have had some interesting speakers and so far in 2010 we have heard about the opportunities of living in London...and have followed the life of Robert Louis Stevenson culminating in his time spent in Samoa...

For the rest of the year we have a varied line-up and will travel to destinations far and wide...

All members have offered support and 2010 has promise to be a very interesting year...Rosemary Duff

Cinema Group:

We meet monthly every second Tuesday at Cinema Gold Havelock North. Morning Tea is supplied free except during the School Holidays. The time is 10am with 10.30 Seniors Movie. Already we have seen excellent choices. We would be pleased to see more interested. Our small band is really enjoying this get together.

Contact Sue Davies 8765745



Lunch Group 4: So far we have had two outings, one being at the Thai Hutt in Karamu Road used to be the Cat and Fiddle, sadly I was unable to go but have had very good feedback by those that did attend. Last month we went to Clive Hotel and that was very good, next one coming up is at the Boardwalk in Ahuriri.

We are averaging 14 at each sitting, but that number might be down the next couple of months as some of our ladies do grape pruning, so hope the weather holds. Betty Boyle.



Yoga: The yoga course is going very well and members because they appear to be getting benefit from the course. Even after the first session, those participating commented that they wished they had started earlier.

We have covered hands and wrists, feet and ankles, knees and shoulders. The rest of the course will be concentrating on hips and various parts of the spine. No matter how old we are we need to be able to twist and bend, forwards and backwards. In yoga, it does not matter what age you are, we say, "YOU ARE AS OLD AS YOUR SPINE"

Kate Newton, who covers the Health Section in the Hawkes Bay Today will be coming to cover a back bend class on the course. Do look out for this article in the next few weeks. Sylvia Goff

Geography

The group is off to a good start with presentations on South Africa, Austria, Thailand and Egypt. Bhutan and Cambodia will follow at the April meeting. We have all discovered how little we knew about these countries and our presenters have spent hours on their research. We have one new member this year so the group is well and truly full... John Fitzgerald



Writing for Grandchildren

This new group has started with 10 members. We are all determined to write some interesting and entertaining stories of our childhoods. Members of the group are now busy sorting through old photos and perhaps the certificate for winning the 'width of the pool' race for 5 year olds. We aim to have booklets of our stories ready by Christmas 2010... Susan Fitzgerald



Lunch group 3:

We enjoyed a delicious lunch at Cafe Ahuriri in February. The clean plates were testimony to the enjoyment of the lunch and there is a code of silence around who had custard squares!! Anticipating another year of taste bud challenges. Joan Sye.

Scrabble:

Our group of wordaholics started in March. We meet on the first and third Fridays of the month at 2pm usually. If statuary holidays occur we adjust times to ensure that we meet twice a month---flexible !

Venue:- Members homes when coordinator away. Joan Sye



Unbelievable but true A British grandmother was heavily fined and electronically tagged for selling a goldfish to a child, triggering criticism on Wednesday of over-zealous use of animal protection laws. Pet shop owner Joan Higgins, 66, was fined £1,000 (\$2300) also given a dusk-to-dawn curfew for selling an animal to a person under the age of 16. She was prosecuted after the local council sent a 14-year-old boy to buy a goldfish in a "sting" operation. But Trafford Council (Manchester) in Northern England defended the decision to prosecute Higgins. The story was highlighted by a number of British newspapers on Wednesday 31-3-10. The Daily Express said it made a "farce" of Britain's legal system, adding in a front-page headline: "Proof Britain really has gone mad."



A British Job Centre refused to accept an advertisement for a "reliable" worker because it discriminated against unreliable people. Nicole Mamo, who runs a recruitment company, posted a request for a domestic cleaner at a Job Centre in Thetford, Norfolk. It said that the cleaner must a good command of English, be very reliable and hardworking. A staff member told her that the advert would not be displayed in-store in case unreliable workers sued for discrimination. A Department for Work and Pensions spokesperson would not comment on why the advert was turned down. Adverse Publicity later saw the advert subsequently accepted. *****

Finally

Eating Healthy

My friend said she never eats food containing unnatural colouring or preservatives, or sprayed vegetables, or meat that has been pumped with hormones or similar, unnatural growth-enhancing stuff."

Well, how do you feel? I asked. "Very hungry." She said

I installed a skylight in my apartment. The people who lived above me were furious.

A visitor from Holland was chatting with his NZ friend and was jokingly explaining about the red, white and blue in the Netherlands flag. "Our flag symbolizes our taxes," he said. "We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bill, and blue after we pay them." "The same with us," the NZ guy said, "only we see stars, too."

A college class was told that they had to write a short story in as few words as possible. The instructions were that the story had to contain the following three things. 1. Religion 2. Sexuality 3. Mystery

Below is the only A+ short story in the entire class;

"Good God, I'm pregnant; I wonder who did it?"