



Havelock North Inc.]



Newsletter June 2009

President--- Norris Kenwright 8778412 rita-norris@xtra.co.nz
 Secretary--- Dale Jackson 8776221 camdale@slingshot.co.nz
 Treasurer--- Heather King 8774957 bhking@xtra.co.nz

Committee: -- Debe Clark 877-8892, Dianne Taylor 875-0307

Joan Sye 876-9380 David Ward 877-7518 Judith Bell 877-4255

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

The winter seems to have an extra chill about it this year. With the new influenza virus rearing its nasty head along with the economic woes, the news consistently reminds us that the outlook is hardly rosy. I do notice some opportunities arising for those looking for new mortgages with lower interest rates, but this has an adverse effect on our generation who have saved for years, and have seen investment rates plunge and hence spending power drop. However let's look forward to a time to forget the winter blues and celebrate at our upcoming Midwinter Luncheon.

Our luncheon is going to take place on Wednesday 29th July at the Havelock North Community Centre. Time to meet our friends from the various groups and to renew acquaintances. Details of the lunch and costs are shown in the paragraph below this message and forms to send in your bookings are in an attachment to this newsletter. Also details of the luncheon are available on our new Website.

Yes we now have a website----- www.u3ahavelocknorth.com ----- and in creating it I would like to acknowledge the tremendous assistance from the Havelock North Intermediate School; their technology teacher Jim Stove and students Catherine, Nathan and Josh. It has been a great learning experience.

Although it is not yet accessible via Google if you can type or paste this name into your Internet Browser such as Internet Explorer or just click on the link above if you receive this newsletter by email. Remember to add it to your favourites so you easily visit the site.

The website details the committee members, the courses we offer, the Midwinter luncheon and menu, newsletters (even this one), and a gallery of photographs I have taken around Havelock North. If you have any ideas on items you would like on the website or photographs around Havelock North please contact me.

As our groups increase in size we sometimes move to venues other than homes. We are grateful to the Mary Doyle complex for the free use of their media room for some groups. Members using this venue please support the café there, it is an excellent facility and quite cheaply priced with excellent fare. Also if you are passing by with friends please feel free to drop in, I think that you will be surprised how pleasant it is.

At our last committee meeting we welcomed Judith Bell who presented the monthly accounts in place of Heather who was away. Judith has been co-opted onto the committee for the remainder of the year and will be a valued assistant in financial matters.

So keep warm and away from the chilly winds, snuggle up to the heaters, take a hottie to bed or switch on the electric blanket and look forward to our luncheon, the longer daylight days and the coming of Spring. Regards to you all,

Norris Kenwright

(President)





Mid-Winter Luncheon



**Wednesday 29th July at the Community Centre,
Te Mata Road, Havelock North**

Our Speaker is George Massingham on his time in Afghanistan



Opening at 11.30 am and to be seated by 12 Noon

The cost of the luncheon is \$22 for financial members of the



Havelock North U3A and \$27.50 for Guests

(There is a \$5.50 subsidy from your annual fee to the H.N. U3A)



ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE TO THE SECRETARY BY WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY.

Numbers are limited so please book early. A form will be attached to this newsletter.

This is a Buffet meal with Roast beef, Crumbed fish and Butter chicken and rice with the usual vegetables. Deserts will include Sticky Date pudding, Pavlova, Trifle and fresh fruit salad plus tea and coffee. A full menu is available on our website.

NOTE:- If you do have to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances we will refund the full amount of your booking if you let us know by Monday 27th July so we have time to inform the caterers. Because of limited numbers we will not be accepting last minute payments at the door.

At our last meeting

We had an excellent speaker in Peter Crossley who enthralled and amused us with his adventures of a young boy growing up in Bombay, India during the tumultuous years prior and during World War II. The experiences of a young boy brought up in the two cultures of strict and distant Victorian parents and the friendly kind Indian servants who took him under their wing was a delightful story. The snakes and mongooses which inhabited the large drains the boys played in and the monkeys and tigers of the streets and forest made for exciting tales. Schooling by strict nuns in the hill country stations with fierce tribesmen guarding them is an experience we have never lived through.



Then there was the anxiety of the war where friends were imprisoned and released in poor condition to be nursed back to health. The excitement of a young boy too, sailing back to England on a Hong Kong trader to be hit by a NZ freighter with frozen lamb carcasses floating on the sea from the damaged ship.

Finally the trip back to India many years later to the home village of the old servant family. They feasted him and presented him with a beautiful young Indian girl bride, as the villagers had been told that he was a returning rich English prince. Sadly he had to decline and had to travel on to NZ where his family now were living.



Listening to Peter made me realise how many of us have interesting stories also, which we should be writing down and passing on to our family who one day may wish to hear stories of the past. I hope that convenors of our story groups can follow this up. I would love to have some examples for our newsletter and website.

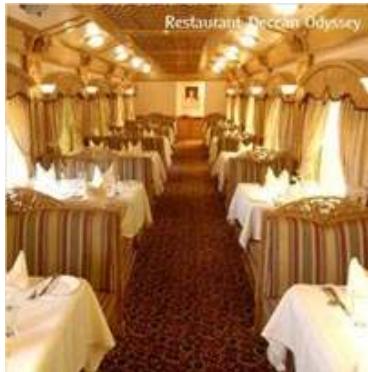
With India still in mind I was pleased to receive this account from committee member, Dianne Taylor, of an account of a recent trip to India. I will let Dianne tell her story.

A Short Trip to India

My husband and I grow crops for Watties so we always have to take our holidays in the winter. This year we decided to go to India, I have always wanted to see the Taj Mahal but at our age wanted to do it in the easiest way possible. We discovered the "Palace on Wheels" a train which travelled around Rajasthan for a week seeing the Taj Mahal along the way.



We lived on the air conditioned train in the neatest little cabin each with its own bathroom, and had most of our meals on the train in a great restaurant which served Continental as well as Indian food.



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Each day an air conditioned bus took us to various sites of interest. We had a ride on an elephant and as we went out into the desert a ride on a camel as well. We visited an amazing bird sanctuary and went on a tiger hunt. We also saw several extraordinary forts and palaces of the Maharajahs. The train took just on a 100 passengers and we were divided into groups of 25 with whom we did most of the activities, cleverly managed so only one group was at each attraction at a time. It was very, very hot, 45 degrees the last two days we were on the train, and the train stops running during the hottest months of the year and the monsoon months as well. Service on the train was just incredible, each carriage had two men attendants who were on duty 24/7 and were

extremely helpful and kind. They made our breakfasts each morning which we had in a small sitting area at the end of each coach, kept our cabins immaculately tidy and met us on our return to the train each day with cold beers and a warm towel. The Taj Mahal was so beautiful, absolutely symmetrical with all of these semi precious stones inlaid into the marble in the shape of gorgeous flowers. We flew in and out of New Delhi the incredible capital of India with over 20 million people and stayed several days in Hong Kong on the way home.



I felt somewhat guilty in seeing the country in such an easy and in someways remote way, but it gave us a taste of India which we enjoyed very much.

Di. Taylor

What a fantastic trip to be part of.

Some news from our Groups

And great thanks to our convenors who do a fantastic job for us and always keep us in touch

The Victorians

We are in our 3rd.,and final year.

Our study has covered the politics science, technology, religion, philosophy and the arts, relevant to those times.

In the final quarter of the year we move back in time to study the Medieval Period.

We MEET; 2.P.M. LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH.

CONVENOR; MARGARET JARDINE. PH.,8746663

Lunch Group 4.

We meet on the 1st Friday of the month; we are a group of 18 and are averaging 16 at each sitting.

Since the last Newsletter we have enjoyed Lunch at the Duke of Gloucester in Taradale. Divas in Havelock North where we were pleased to have Campbell join us again.

This month we all enjoyed a lovely drive into the country to visit the Puketapu Hotel, we had 19 sit down for the meal that was enjoyed by all. Our next outing is to Elephant Hill, I will report on that next Newsletter.

Betty Boyle.

The Rambling Group

we meet once a month and the last couple have been very cold mornings. In May we walked the Karamu Stream, luckily out of the freezing wind and the sun came out for a short while - so we enjoyed - only 7 turned up - and this month only 10 turned up, because again, there was a cold wind and the sky threatened rain - however, once again, we were lucky, the wind eased off and the sun came out - the 10 of us bravehearts enjoyed the rotary walkway, Black bridge to East Clive - afterwards, 6 of us enjoyed a coffee in Boldersons café. Pat Lloyd

Gourmet Group

Vanessa, from Prenzel brought many of her products to our meeting where we learnt a number of helpful hints on their usage as well as having some very generous tastings. The group is also traveling the world via food recipes which make for great discoveries, interesting chats and information.

Cath McIvor Convenor

The U3A Art Appreciation Group.

Our meetings are held monthly in each other's homes, where Warren Clode, our tutor, speaks about various artists whom he finds interesting. So far this year we have looked at and discussed the work of Pierre Bonnard, Gwen and Augustus John, the three Wyeth's, N.C., Andrew and Jamie, James Ensor, James Gleeson, Salvadore Dali, Odilon Redon, and Felix Vallotton. Last month Warren spent some time telling us about his recent trip to China, in particular fascinating hours spent looking at Chinese art in the Shanghai National Gallery. Athalie Dreadon Ph 870 1588 (convenor)

Gardens of the World :

So far we have learnt about gardens in England, Italy, Japan, and the joys of the art of Bonsai. Members take turns in presenting a description of gardens.

Convenor ,Marnie Mackesy ; 8772078 ; We meet 3rd Monday of month at 9 .30 am

Rummikub Group.

A new group of enthusiast players meet every Friday at 1.00pm to play the game of Rummikub. We have experienced players and learners, who are experienced after one afternoons play. We have vacancies for 2 more players. It is a game using numbers and colours with rather a lot of chatter and laughter.
Glenys Fitzpatrick. Convenor

The Geography group-

In 2008 we studied lesser known countries. At the start of this year, members chose countries in which they have an interest and were allocated a date for their presentation. We have two presentations at each meeting and also a short item on a country in the news. We all continue to be amazed at how much there is to learn about the rest of the world. (There is a waiting list for this group.) John Fitzgerald convenor

The Wednesday book group

The group continues to thrive. Each member gives a short review of a book they have read during the previous month. The enjoyment of any book is a very personal thing and we often have differing views about the same book. At times these differences lead to lively and enjoyable debate. Susan Fitzgerald

U3A Travel Group

We have had really interesting talks by Members or their friends often with photos on either TV or laptop. Some have drawn large maps marking their route. This year we have been to Patagonia, Italy, The Great Lakes and Waterways of New York State, Spain, Machu Picchu, and have India, China, Portugal and more to come.

In the past we have had France, Vietnam, a trip through Central America and another by cargo boat from the West Coast of Africa to South America, South Africa, Iran and Russia. Also the South Island of NZ. This is held on the 3rd Thursday of the month starting at 10.00am in Member's houses. No Morning Tea. Member Participation is essential. Co-ordinator: Helen Collett. Tel 877 9550

N.Z. Contemporary Art.

We meet on the Third Wednesday afternoon of each month to visit various exhibitions.

We are very fortunate to have Roy Dunningham as our guide and Mentor.

Roy shares his extensive knowledge and enthusiasm with us and opens many windows.

Convenor Barbara Holland Phone 877 5926

Jazz.

We meet in the afternoon at Neil Totty's home in Napier on the third of each Month.

Neil amongst his many skills is a Professional Jazz Musician and we explore the various styles, instruments and eras of jazz from his huge collection of selected CD.s

supplemented with fabulous piano playing. Neil loves his subject and gives us all a great afternoon.

Convenor Barbara Holland phone 877 5926

Computing

The computer group meets twice a month at the H.N.Bridge Club and now has 87 members. We have had some excellent tutorials on the Drawing Toolbar in Microsoft Word with Sylvia Franklin who has amazed everyone with the versatility of this program. Tony Briggs has brought his expertise along on solving computer problems and has covered the important topic of saving your data to external drives using

software such as Acronis True Image : absolutely essential if you ever get a computer crash. Tony has also covered topics to keep your computer running well with CCleaner and the options you have in Outlook Express. Norris has covered a wide range of topics such as calendars, Picture It, Animation Shop and creating signatures. The sessions are lively and full of excellent computer tips.

This Month's Poem

The clothesline

A clothesline was a news forecast
To neighbours passing by
There were no secrets you could keep
When clothes were hung to dry

It also was a friendly link
for neighbours always knew
If company had stopped on by
To spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the "fancy sheets"
And towels upon the line;
You'd see the "company table cloths"
With intricate designs.

The line announced a baby's birth
From folks who lived inside -
As brand new infant clothes were hung,
So carefully with pride!

The ages of the children could
so readily be known
by watching how the sizes changed;
you'd know how much they'd grown!



It also told when illness struck,
As extra sheets were hung;
Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe, too,
Haphazardly were strung

It also said, "Gone on vacation now"
When lines hung limp and bare.
It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged
with not an inch to spare

New folks in town were scorned upon
If wash was dingy and grey,
As neighbours carefully raised their brows,
And looked the other way

But clotheslines now are of the past,
For dryers make work much less.
Now what goes on inside a home
Is anybody's guess!

I really miss that way of life.
It was a friendly sign
when neighbours knew each other best
by what hung on the line!



Obey the Traffic Signs

Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeders, a State Police Officer sees a car puttering along at 22 mph
He thinks to himself, 'This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!' So he turns on his lights & pulls the driver over
Approaching the car, he notices there are five old ladies, two in the front seat & three in the back, eyes wide and staring & white as ghosts.

'Ma'am,' the officer replies, 'You weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers.'

"Slower than the speed limit she asked? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly... Twenty-Two miles an hour on the sign!" the old woman says a bit proudly.

The State Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle, explains to her that '22' was the Route number, not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the woman grins & thanks the officer for pointing out her error.

'But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask... is everyone in this car okay? These women seem awfully shaken & they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time.'

Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just drove 30 miles on Route 119.'

Keep Warm
Regards to you All
Norris K. (Editor)