

HAVELOCK NORTH



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Secretary: Trish Loye 878 5920 pals.bkh@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer: Judith Bell 877 4255 jmbell@xtra.co.nz

Welcome to our first newsletter of the U3A year. Meetings are well under way with our 45 groups and 355 members. Highlights of this newsletter are an important message from our President and details of our next general meeting which is to take place on Thursday the 31st May.

From our President Bill Williams:

I want to keep before you, the issue of the presidency of our branch. As you will recall at our last A.G.M. it was not until the eleventh hour a candidate became available to fill this vacancy. And as you will also know, had the vacancy not been filled, our branch would have had to close with all our equipment being sold and the proceeds given to charity.

To avoid this situation arising again at our next A.G.M. I am looking for someone to offer himself or herself for this position for next year, or even earlier, should I have to retire before the end of my term.

So I am asking someone, female or male, who cares sufficiently for our U3A branch, to offer to fill this position and you can do this any time. Anyone with a little spare time can perform this role and the term doesn't have to be the full three years; it can be shorter. You may recall I previously retired after two years having agreed to undertake the position for one year only.

I would invite anyone who would like to find out more about the role to contact me so I can explain what is involved. I can be contacted most times at telephone: 8738462 or e-mail: bilwil@waspnet.co.nz So please help our Branch to keep alive by calling me or any member of the committee (all contact details are available in this Newsletter.)

Changing the subject: if any of you have any issues or suggestions about how we can improve the service we provide for you please feel free to contact any member of the committee, or me. (again contact details in this Newsletter)

Best wishes to you all.

Bill Williams
President.

Membership numbers

This year in Havelock North we have 45 active groups and 355 paid up members. In New Zealand as a whole there are 64 branches, 46 of which are in the North Island. Total membership in New Zealand is 11,726. As a matter of interest there are 242 branches in Australia with a total of 77,003 members. Victoria is well ahead of New South Wales with 97 branches compared with NSW's 63.

Havelock North Function Centre
(formerly known as the Community Centre)

The May General Meeting

Thursday 31 May 2012 10.00am

Snr Sgt Sarah Stewart of the NZ Police will speak about her time in the Solomon Islands and about women in the Police Force.

\$10.00 p.p. payable at the door

Includes morning tea & spot raffle prizes

The caterers need to be advised of numbers. If you wish to attend **please** ring or email Trish Loye (Phone 8785920 or email pals.bkh@xtra.co.nz).

Not to be missed

U3A Online

We have received information about U3A courses available on line from U3A Online Inc., which is based in Australia. 24 hour/365 day access is available to more than 40 “intellectually stimulating courses written by retired experts” The courses available certainly cover some areas that our courses don’t. Examples are “Design in your Life”, “The Shaping of the Modern Mind”, “the Frozen Continent, Antarctica”, “Human Biology”, and “The History and Spread of the English Language’.

Membership costs only A\$25 a year and you pay no other fee for year-round access to all courses and resources. Further information is available at www.u3aonline.org.au

Anyone for Astronomy?

Taradale U3A advise they have a new course available.

The Whole Earth is the Tomb of English people

This is the intriguing title of a book written by Duncan Balmer who thinks he gave a talk to our branch some years ago. He writes to say his book is now available as an e-book available from Amazon’s US site. Try <http://www.amazon.com/Whole-Earth-English-People-ebook/dp/B0073ZOZK6>

News from our groups

Travel Group Rosemary Duff (Convenor)

Our group consists of 23 travel-minded members and we all contribute by sharing tales of travel adventures. Over the years we have been transported around the globe and back. Each visit is seen through the eyes of the story teller and so even though the venue may be the same the stories are quite varied. When there is a spark of interest, those that are able have followed in these footprints and had their own experiences in the particular destinations.

2012 is no different and so far stories of trips to Iceland, Lake Maggiore in Italy, and places in the Mid-west of the USA have been shared. Further stories from Australia, Mexico and other countries in South America, and Thailand are to look forward to. Who will follow these footprints? Perhaps 2013 will tell.

Wednesday Book Club Margaret Bain (Convenor)

This group meet at the Community Centre on the 1st Wed. every month. The group is alive and reading interesting books individually which members talk about at our monthly meeting and then submit a short review of the book. These are then collated and distributed to members & others. The Book Club is shrinking in numbers and new members would be welcome.

Computer Group Norris Kenwright (Convenor)

This year we have 75 members enrolled and meetings are at the H.N. Bridge Club on the Fourth Monday of the month. We have been able to answer many questions on computer problems in both Windows 7 and XP.

Some topics covered have been defragging; unzipping files with 7-Zip; downloading videos and music from YouTube; and burning DVD's. Also we have started a new photo editor called "PHOXO"; and seen background stationery placed in emails. Sending large files by "Tiny Upload.com" and extracting music and images from PowerPoint files have been demonstrated.

Special thanks to Tony Briggs for his valuable input.

Geography group John Fitzgerald (Convenor)

We are into our fifth year and continue to be amazed at how much we have to learn about the world we live in. Recent presentations include Taiwan, Western Sahara and the Bahamas. We are now concentrating on countries on the Tropic of Cancer.

Writing for your grandchildren Susan Fitzgerald (Convenor)

A new group of enthusiastic writers have started well with their memories and those of their own children. Last year two members had books ready for their family at Christmas time.

Lunch Group 4 Betty Boyle (Convenor)

Our group of 18 meets on the 1st Friday of the month. We usually average about 14 at each sitting, at the moment we have some of our ladies busy in the vineyards, so will look forward to seeing them back. We have been joined by 3 new members this year David and Valerie Daysh and Sheila Collinson, so we hope they will enjoy their outings with us.

So far this year we have dined at The Tuki Kitchen, then on a very wet Wednesday prior to Easter we all braved the weather and dined at Cafe 5 and Larder. Friday we will be at Serendipity Cafe, Unfortunately Dale will not be with us as she is resting up in hospital following her nasty accident at home resulting in a badly broken leg. We all wish her a very speedy recovery and hope she will soon be up and about.

Garden group Peggy Van Asch (Convenor)

We would welcome any new members who would like to join us. Greendoor provided excellent topical/seasonal information at our March meeting.

Introduction to golf croquet Dale Jackson (Convenor)

A very successful introduction to golf croquet was held at the Hastings Croquet Club. All the U3A members who attended have joined the Club, which delighted their instructor, and are now playing regularly on Club days. Another 4 week course will be held in September on Mondays at 10-12 a.m. so put it on your calendar!

Genealogy Dale Jackson (Convenor)

The 5 week course worked well for the 8 members who enrolled for this course. They are well on the way to filling the gaps in their family trees.

Looking at Art Robyn Holman (Convenor) Thursday group

Our Group has started the year most enthusiastically. We have nine in our group, ten with Hugh (our tutor). We have been looking at the Impressionists; Daumier, Manet and Monet so far and have enjoyed all that we have learned. We hate to miss out on any of the classes.

U3A Committee Details			
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And finally I will leave you with this thought:-

"Growing old is mandatory Growing up is optional"



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