

# HAVELOCK NORTH



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Welcome to our mid-winter newsletter for July 2016 with news and updates from some of our groups. Our next coffee morning will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> August at the Havelock North Function Centre. See page 5 of your newsletter for further details.

## Greetings from our President

**Walking the Talk** is rather easier to do than I expected, thanks to our dedicated Committee and team of enthusiastic Convenors.

U3A Havelock North has over 350 members. Based on 2013 census figures, that's just over 12% of the population aged over 65. But statistics don't reveal how active our members are in the 37 Groups within our U3A. Many of our members attend other U3A jurisdictions, in addition to attending multiple Groups here. And yes, we have members from outside the census area. All our groups appear to be doing well, please see our Convenors reports for details. Please also spread the good word about U3A to non-members.

Maybe the winter has been keeping you in hibernation, but if you have an interest in forming a new Group, or wish to comment on U3A activities please contact any Committee member.

Spring is just around the corner and our finances are in good stead, both of which are nice to know.

Meantime, here's a saying that I like - "Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain" - (Unkown).

Best wishes ..... *Ross McLean. President, U3A Havelock North*

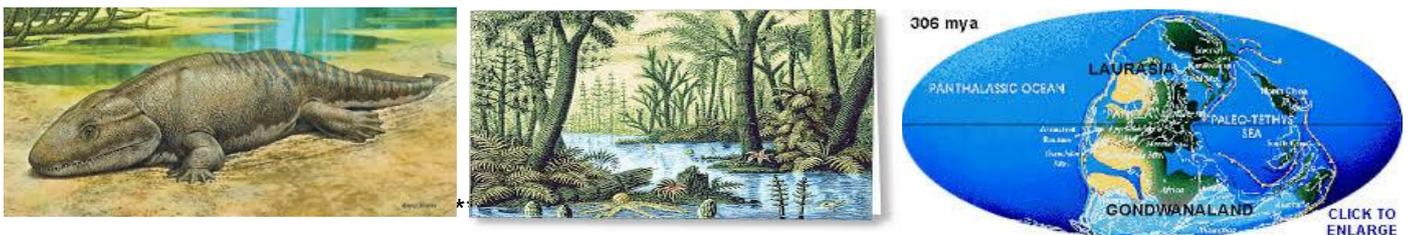
We have some interesting reports from some of our groups and hope that you all enjoy reading about what others are doing this year.

### Geology Group – Convenor, Norris Kenwright

As usual we have a very enthusiastic group in Geology and we started by looking at the beginnings of life on Earth with Primitive fossils of the **Cambrian** and **Pre-Cambrian** eras such as Trilobites and weird organisms such as Hallucigenia that soon succumbed to other species..Then we moved onto the **Ordovician** and **Silurian** periods of the first plants and primitive fish appeared in the seas and onto the Devonian Period where amphibians and plants emerged onto the barren land.



The **Carboniferous** period was a time of humid heat and high oxygen levels (35 % compared to 20.5% today) but in the swamps the decaying vegetation built up the coal deposits of the Planet. The **Permian** period started with promise with a large stable ecosystem, however good things don't last and at the end of this period there was a massive extinction of all life on earth (95%) leaving the survivors to start again. Climate changes were dramatic over these eras with sea levels rising and falling by 150 metres and temperatures by 15°C. No cars, or human activity but changes in **Ocean Currents** as **Continents moved** and collided with one another, the **Earth** wobbled on its axis and **Volcanic activity** covered land and produced clouds of Poisenous gases



### Shakespeare group.....Joan Sye, Convenor

Our core group of approx 12 has had fun exploring the works of Shakespeare. A comedy of errors was quite a challenge to comprehend with duplicate characters. Our format is Ken Keys our tutor selects scenes from the plays, we read aloud and discuss our interpretation of the various scenes. Our next group commences on Thursday 28th July from 10.30 to 12.30 at Keirunga Theatre, our topic is Julius Caesar.

Why not join us and give it a go? "Nothing ventured nothing gained " There is a \$4 levy per week to cover theatre hire.

## **Computer group.....Tony Briggs, Convenor**

The computer group meets at 2.00 pm on the 4th Monday of each month at the Havelock North Bridge club rooms. We have 60 members and about 40 or more come to each meeting.



These are quite unstructured as the demonstrations and tutorials we present depend on questions asked by members, events that are happening in the computer world, or just something that I, Norris (our former convenor) or members have seen and feel it would be of interest to the group. We help members on resolving problems they have with their computers and how to save information and how to back-up their data, pictures and programs in the event of computer failure. This is essential for any computer user.

The last few months have been dominated by the release of Windows 10 and the problems and benefits that it has brought. These are ongoing and the pace is picking up with the end of the free Windows 10 upgrade on the 29th July.

From now on our meetings will have to deal with both Windows 7 and Windows 10 as our membership is divided between those who do not wish to upgrade and those who have already done so.

## **Friday 1 Art History group..... Debe Clark and Sue Hill, Convenors**

We continue to meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday under the expert tutelage of Hugh Mackay. We are studying late Renaissance artists including Andrea del Sarto, Parmigianino and Corregio. Hugh makes our lessons very user friendly and we all look forward to our Fridays. Because of continuing illness Jill Wilson has pulled out of the class. We thank her sincerely for all the work she has done leading our group for many years and hope her health returns. Jenny Williams and Rachel Brownrigg have joined our group.

Hugh has just returned from Melbourne where he visited the Degas exhibition and we look forward to hearing more about his visit. As long as we keep behaving Hugh has said he will keep tutoring us.

## **Scrabble group.....Joan Sye, Convenor**



Our scrabble group meets the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 2.30pm. We currently have 12 members and meet at my home which involves moving the furniture around to accommodate three card tables and 12 chairs. I therefore get physical and mental activity at least twice a month!!. We learn lots of new words and their meanings and enjoy our time together.

## **Poetry Appreciation group.....Jenny Setford, Convenor**

We started our meetings in February with everybody bringing a favourite poem to read. Two Mondays a month did not seem to work and so now we meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday per month starting at 10.00am. We choose a theme for each month and also research the life of the poet.

We have 10 members and amazingly seldom double up on our choice of poets! We could fit in another 2 members if required.

### **Cycling Group..... Ross McLean, Convenor**

Everybody knows that exercise is beneficial to the health of your body and your brain, so I'm pleased to report on a growing cycling Group. We currently have 32 members, but not everybody attends each ride. We welcome more members and can "split" the Group if necessary to accommodate levels of fitness.

Our Group meets at 10am every last Wednesday of the month. We choose start/finish locations where there is a pleasant café and adequate car parking. We cycle 15-20km on almost entirely dedicated cycle trails, which are flattish apart from short climbs onto river stopbanks. Rides usually take about an hour and a half. Most folk ride comfortable town or low-tech mountain bikes. Any old bike will do .. as long as the brakes work.  
It is always pleasant to have a chat at the cafes after the ride.

### **Rummikub Group..... Val Galbraith, Convenor**

We have a happy group of players and everyone enjoys our weekly sessions and the venue, Havelock North Club, is ideal.  
There are currently 23 members attending but we would welcome anyone interested in joining up with us to play Rummikub.

### **Expressions of interest for the following proposed new groups.**

#### **Learning Braille**



Is your eyesight failing with macular degeneration, glaucoma: or other eye problems and would you like to learn Braille?

One of our members – Nanette Painton is very keen to start a group from her home and has made enquiries on assistance and on what help would be available. Nanette would be happy to learn with others, so if this is for you, please contact our Secretary, Trish Loye for further details and to register your interest.

#### **Singing for Fun**

Ross, our President is keen to form a "Singing for Fun" Group. The idea is to sing well known easy numbers from musicals, hits of our youth, sea shanties and the like. The main focus is the sheer joy of singing together, maybe we could also sing at rest homes and hospitals. He needs a musical director with piano or keyboard skills. If you are interested, please contact Trish Loye: Ph: 878 5920 or email [pals.bkh@nowmail.co.nz](mailto:pals.bkh@nowmail.co.nz).



Our next General Meeting for members and friends will be on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August at the usual time of 10am. All are welcome, please come along and enjoy a pleasant morning tea with an excellent speaker.

Laura Vodanovich is the director of the Museum Theatre Gallery (MTG) Hawke's Bay and will talk about her experiences and also recent and upcoming displays at the Museum. Her articles in the HB Today on a Saturday are always an interesting read.

## **U3A Havelock North**

### **August General Meeting**

**To be held at the Havelock North Function Centre**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at 10.00 a.m.**

Our speaker for the month will be

Laura Vodanovich from the MTG  
(Museum, Theatre, Gallery – Napier)

\$10.00 p.p. payable at the door  
Includes morning tea  
Spot raffle prizes for members.

The caterers need numbers so if you are coming please ring or email our secretary by Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August.

**Trish Loye - Phone 878 5920 or  
Email: [pals.bkh@nowmail.co.nz](mailto:pals.bkh@nowmail.co.nz)**

# Notice Board

Are you moving house, downsizing, or changing your email address?

Please let our Secretary, Trish Loye know as soon as possible so that we can keep in touch with our Newsletter and group updates.



Just a reminder that all course enquiries, membership and general information on U3A should be directed to the Secretary, Trish Loye.



U3A Melbourne has sent Information on the Three Countries Universities Tour 2017 – England Wales Scotland.

This tour has been successful in previous years and appreciated by many U3A Members. The brochures will be available at our General Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> August, or contact Trish for further details.

## **Our committee for 2016**

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