



PO Box 57-042, Mana 5026

November 2018 Newsletter

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Founded 1991

Mana U3A President's Report 2018

Toward the end of 2017 Brian Mosen, the then President of our group, asked me if I could step in as President for the 2018 year. This was occasioned by his move to Whanganui which meant he could not fulfil his third year. I agreed to this if there were no further nominations. It has been an interesting, if demanding year; I had little experience of U3A.

Over the year I have been very appreciative of the team, particularly Carolyn Rait, our efficient and hardworking secretary and Pat Wilson, an equally dedicated treasurer. Both these women are completing their three year term and it is vital that we have members step up to fill these roles. Without that I do not see how the Club can survive. All committee members pulled their weight but Jocelyn Choong is finishing after many years of stirring work, organising food and drink for us.. We are fortunate that Bill Gebbe has indicated his willingness to step in as President. He has been a supportive Vice-President over this year and is well suited to run the team. I will remain as Immediate Past President and look forward to continuing my relationship with the committee.

Highlights of the year for me have been the quality of speakers at both our quarterly meetings and the Winter Seminar series. It was disappointing at the small attendance at some of these when busy people have given time and effort to give worthwhile presentations.

Speakers and Seminars 2018

- 15 February Louise McCrone, Preservation Manager, NZ Film Archive
- 17 May Prof Nigel Roberts, Mrs Shipley's Confession Mysterious case of MMP
- 14 Aug Dr Burton King, Shakespeare on Political Violence and Warfare Seminars:
- 28 May Age Concern Staying safe workshop for senior road users.
- 25 June Belinda Mackenzie-Dodds, Manager Community Relations, Transmission Gully
- 23 July John McKoy, President, Friends of Mana Island, Twenty years restoration.
- 20 August Brian Anderson Manager, Porirua Library, Beyond the Date Stamp, Change and development from 1962
- 17 September Novyl Saeed, Work of Statistics, New Zealand

With the above speakers and the continuation of interest groups it has been a worthwhile year. The opportunity for me to have an opera group meet at my home, once a month, to enjoy a DVD of favourite operas, is most appreciated. It is my hope that we will continue to share and learn from each other into the future.

Please give serious thought as to what our U3A means to you and consider offering for the committee *Irene Swadling*

Fourth Quarterly Meeting

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Thursday 15 November

North Baptist Church,
Discovery Drive, Whitby

Doors open 12:25 pm

12:35 pm
Catered finger food
lunch

1: 10 pm Guest Speaker
John Ansell

Dances with Words

Looking for a Christmas gift?
John will have his book - Think
The Clouds Are Cotton Wool -
Rhymes Committed by John
Ansell for sale .\$.20

2.10 pm
AGM

Please wear your name
badge

Report on our August Quarterly meeting



On 16 August, Dr Burton King spoke in Whitby to about forty members on the theme: "Shakespeare on Political Violence and Warfare". With international experience in surgical practice and

teaching, and service also in the New Zealand army medical corps in Iraq, Dr King understands war and human frailty, and has a penetrating knowledge of Shakespeare: well fitted therefore to elucidate the pangs of conscience and political qualms arising in the pursuit of power and conduct of war.

Realistic scenes of violent conflict packed the theatres in Elizabethan England. Having struggled to establish a national monarchy in the Hundred Years War against France and decades of the Wars of the Roses, England faced the threat of the Spanish Armada and the passing of the crown to the Scottish house of Stuart. Shakespeare is our major guide to popular understanding of England's history in this period. Dr King analysed numerous, lengthy, quotes from Shakespearean works (*Julius Caesar*, *Macbeth*, and *Henry V* amongst many) to explore moral dilemmas in scenes of murder, treachery, and violent conflict.

With a sovereign breadth of perspective, Dr King gave close readings of rulers and rivals alike as they wrestle with conscience and convenience. He noted new expressions (in *Macbeth* the word 'assassin' appears for the first time) and elaborated on the rich verbal texture of Caesar's murderers, Hamlet's anguish, and Clarence's death in *Richard III*. He glossed terms such as 'vengeance', 'murder', 'suicide', 'conspiracy', 'conscience', 'reason', and 'jealousy', and pointed up textual puzzles such as 'bank and shoal' [bench and school], and 'trammel' means 'snare or net'. Shakespeare's metaphors

are striking, his plays full of clichés, so vivid his language.

Most of us have read plays of Shakespeare, and Burton King's closely argued analysis, which certainly would bear reading, helps us see familiar friends in a new light. This was a superb presentation.

Macbeth I vii 1-7

If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well

It were done quickly. If th' assassination
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch

With his surcease, success: that but this blow

Might be the be-all and the end-all here,
But here, upon this bank and shoal of time,
We'd jump the life to come.

Reviewed by Lew Jillings

Seminar Reports



A small group gathered at the Parish Centre, Steyne Avenue on Monday 20th August to hear a fascinating talk entitled 'Beyond the Date Stamp' by Brian Anderson, Manager, Porirua Library, who took us on an historical

journey of library services over the years from 1961 through to today and even glimpses of the future. Not only has the library shifted from earlier venues to the present site but the building has been extended to incorporate the Pataka museum of Arts and Crafts. The services provided have also changed from being a depository of books with simple card issuing systems through to the sophisticated use of IT technology which enables many opportunities for reading, research, etc. in a wide way. Many services are provided such as books delivered to shut-ins, the free facility for genealogy research, internet access and usage, borrowing through the Smart library system to enable books to be borrowed

from the libraries in that scheme and enabling borrowers to return them to any of those libraries. This is just a glimpse into what was a most interesting morning during which many questions were asked.. The future promises to retain and develop services, in relation to our technological world, in ways unimagined by past librarians.

Reviewed by Irene Swadling



On a wet Monday 17 September a small group of 12 members enjoyed a fascinating and lively talk from Novyl Saeed about the work of Statistics New Zealand. This was the final seminar for 2018 and we received a stimulating explanation of what Stats NZ does, how it goes about its work and how we can all use the data it collects. Novyl told us how statistical data can be highly sensitive and can cause financial or political impacts unless its release is carefully managed. For that reason Statistics NZ has statutory independence in the way it collects, collates and releases data. Novyl opened our eyes to the rich information it collects through its many surveys, using the evolution of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over time as an illustration of how our lives have changed over time. She also showed us where to look on its website for detailed information about Porirua and its population. Her talk generated a lot of interest and she answered several questions during and after the talk. The committee will look into the possibility of organising a further talk when the results of the 2018 census are released in March 2019.

Reviewed by Bill Gebbie

Joke corner

A Rare Blood Type



An Arab Sheik was admitted to Hospital for heart surgery, but prior to the surgery, the doctors needed to have some of his blood type stored in

case the need arose.

As the gentleman had an extremely rare type of blood that couldn't be found locally, the call went out around the world.



Finally a Scotsman was located who had the same rare blood type. After some coaxing, the Scot donated his blood for the Arab.

After the surgery the Arab sent the Scotsman a new BMW, a diamond necklace for his wife, and \$100,000 US dollars in appreciation for the blood donation.

A few months later, the Arab had to undergo further corrective surgery procedure.

Once again, his doctor telephoned the Scotsman who this time was more than happy to donate his blood.

After the second surgery, the Arab sent the Scotsman a thank-you card and a box of Quality Street chocolates.

The Scotsman was shocked that the Arab did not reciprocate his kind gesture as he had anticipated.

He then phoned the Arab and asked him: "I thought you would be more generous than that - last time you sent me a BMW, diamonds and money, but this time you only sent me a lousy thank-you card and a crappy box of chocolates ?"

To this the Arab replied: " Aye laddie, but I now have Scottish blood in me veins".

Interest Groups 2019

New interest groups and co-ordinators required

Have you an interest you can share?

Could you co-ordinate a group?

A big thank you to Janet Berry for the many years she has co-ordinated the Saturday Film Group. Janet is no longer able to co-ordinate this group. Perhaps you could be interested?

Please see Bill Gebbie (email billmary@xtra.co.nz) telephone 237 6514 if you can fulfil any of these roles.

Support our local orchestra.



You'll enjoy these clips.

Members of the Hibiscus Coast U3A short film group with assistance from Creative Communities have just released the first episode of their online Web Series The Dusketees.

It and the rest of the series can be followed on successive weeks at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPRUI5cgAtwWOovBzOkLWhQ>

Check out Episode 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJYh1FBAnVo>

Six short films in which three very spirited older women who live at a retirement village share fun, troubles, loves and adventures.

The three principals are in their 80s and all concerned in making the series are U3A members

We think these films and that the making of them within U3A will be of interest to U3A members throughout New Zealand.