

HIBISCUS COAST

U3A



hibiscusu3a@gmail.com

Next meeting: Monday March 16, 2026, 10 am at the St John's Catholic Church Hall, 180 Centreway Road, Orewa.

From the President

Thank you to those members who came to our annual picnic at Wenderholm. I understood why so few came as the weather was rather unsettled. However, in the end it was fine and warm. It was great to welcome two new members, Vera and Alison and the conversations drifted from philosophy to native trees. Judy Keall won the photo competition with her kafkaesque photo of Fred the Cicada. (See photo elsewhere in the Newsletter)

This week I attended the first meeting of our latest new group Literature, convened by Charles Deane, who is to be commended for both his initiative and making the first meeting so stimulating. This group meets, along with three other of our groups, in the Hibiscus Community Room, which the Secretary of the Trust that owns the room, jokingly now calls U3A House!

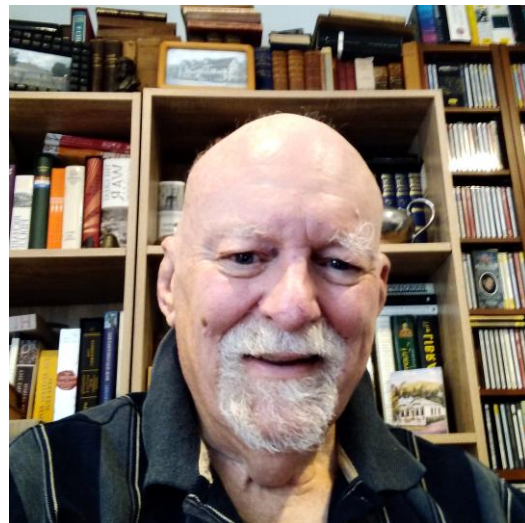
It was wonderful to host a member from U3A Gloucester in the UK, Jenny Grassom, to two of our groups, while she is visiting her niece in Hatfields Beach. You might like to consider visiting U3As in countries that you visit this year. Google has details of most U3As. I am sure you will be most welcome.

Finally, three quick points. We have I believe a record membership this year but please those few who have yet to pay their 2026 fees please do this as soon as possible.

We are running the next iteration of our membership survey soon and I urge all of you to complete it so that your Management Committee can know how we may improve our U3A.

Our next General Meeting is on March 16th will be preceded by a short AGM then a terrific speaker, so I look forward to seeing you.

Peter Gillmore



Subscriptions

Subscriptions are \$35 for an individual or \$60 for a couple. Please pay your sub into our U3A Hibiscus Coast account: **38-9025-0566036-00**, and include your initials and full surname as the reference.

It is also possible to pay using phone banking - you will need your own and the U3A bank account number (above), or in person at a bank. Again, you will need your own account number, and U3A's We thank you in advance!

Annual General Meeting Agenda

St John's Catholic Church Hall, Orewa

10 am March 16, 2026

1. President's Address
2. Financial Report
3. Election of Officers
4. Any Other Business
5. Morning Tea
6. Main Speaker: Professor Julian Paton, heart researcher

Professor Julian Paton



It is a privilege to welcome Professor Julian Paton, a world-leading physiologist and director of Manaaki Mānawa at the University of Auckland. Julian joined Auckland in 2017 to spearhead transformative heart research.

He is perhaps best known for developing a revolutionary 'bionic' pacemaker that mimics the heart's natural rhythm, significantly improving cardiac output.

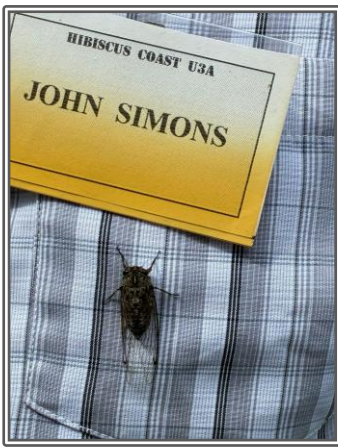
Julian recently made headlines traversing New Zealand in a 1948 Land Rover to raise awareness for heart health. Do join us in welcoming a scientist who is putting the beat back into the hearts of our community.

Annual Picnic: Wenderholm February 16

After stormy weather of every variety, we landed at Wenderholm on 16 Feb at 11 am to a cool wind and gentle sunshine. We had only 13 in attendance but were able to converse in the round and share our interest in U3A and the groups we belonged to. Four of us went for a walk around the sandspit after lunch.



All in all, a pleasant occasion.



Winner of the picnic photo competition was Judy Keall for her picture of a cicada landing near John Simons' name badge.

The cicadas were out in force but drowsy and landed on not a few people with one of the attendees having to shake a cicada out of her top.

Late summer, as they end their above ground life cycle.

Nominees for Committee 2026

Peter Gillmore: President

Bruce Adin: Vice President

Maureen Jansen: Secretary

Glenda Dykes: Treasurer

Wendy Hawkins: Membership Secretary

Jill Everest: Speakers Coordinator

Jenny Casale: Newsletter Editor

Gavin Whyte: Network Coordinator

David Shaw: Committee Member



A windy Wenderholm on the day of our picnic

Poem shared at first Literature Group meeting

You are as young as your confidence, as old as your doubt;
as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear;
as young as your hope, as old as your despair.

In the central place of every heart, there is a recording chamber.
So long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, and courage,
so long are you young.

When the wires are all down and your heart is covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then, and then only, are you grown old.
But so long as you can see beauty, feel love, and be stirred by the plight of others, you possess the secret of eternal youth. For the spirit of a man is only as old as the work he leaves unfinished and the love he has yet to give.

Attributed to Albert Schweitzer

News From the Groups

Art Appreciation

Art Appreciation has changed to the 3rd Wednesday at 1pm to 3pm in the Pohutukawa Room in the Whangaparaoa Library. As a result, we have room for 4 more members.

During the February meeting we viewed Russian art after the Stalin era, and Ian showed an AI film he made for the Short Film festival. This won him 3rd prize. It was amazing to watch

Members also shared various pictures, porcelain and jewellery items that were meaningful and told a story

If you enjoy exploring the art world, do join us to see if you would like to become a member of this group

Trish Litherland, Convenor 0211058793



Kazimir MALEVICH Cubo-Futurist Composition

The Literature Group: The Second Coming

We held our first Literature group on Monday 23 February (1:30-3:30) at 2 Centreway Rd and it was an enjoyable success. We had a few poems to discuss including ones by WB Yeats, Albert Schweitzer, Louise Gluck, and Christian Wiman. Two members also read their own poems which were excellent.

Additionally, we had talks about Victor Hugo (Les Miserables) and Stephen Pinker, who recently gave a talk in Auckland. All in all, a thoroughly excellent start to what we hope will be an expanding Literature group. Our next meeting will be on 23 March.

All welcome but it will be good to let me know at acpdeane@gmail.com

Charles Deane

From The Second Coming by WB Yeats, 1919

*“Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world”*

Always relevant

News From the Groups

The Book Club

The book club would like to say a huge thank you to Sheila Hussona for her many contributions to our thriving group, She's taking a well-earned break from convening and Nancy Cate is now in the role.

Our first meeting of the year was our opportunity to hear everyone's recommendations to create an exciting and intriguing reading list and we're already delving into some amazing books.

If you would like to join us, please contact Nancy at:

nancy@KNOWLEDGETREE.CO.NZ



The Quiz Group

The Quiz group is up and running every SECOND Wednesday of the month at 1p.m. at the Theosophical Society Hall.

Next quiz is on Wednesday March 11th. Two hours of brain exercise. It's good for you! All members welcome.

If interested please contact the convener, Bruce Adin, text 0275257538 or email bruce.w.adin@gmail.com.



Short Story Group

The Short Story group has eight members and now that we are booked into 2 Centway Road we can afford a few new members. This group is a cross between a book club and a literature group! We meet every first and third Wednesday from 10 am to 11.30 am. Peter and Maureen send out two stories each fortnight and then we discuss them at the meeting. We often discuss how the stories build up to a strong ending.

Each member of the group is invited to grade the story from 1 to 5 stars and to bring along a passage from the story which they found particularly insightful. After analysing the stories, we have a wide-ranging discussion about how the stories apply to our lives, our society.

We started with the Russian greats like Tolstoy and Chekhov and now we search for any literary stories that we can find online to share.

Convenors: Peter Gillmore and Maureen Jansen



Anton Chekhov, one of the short story greats of 19th century Russian literature

News From the Groups

Short Course: Movie making on cell phone and laptop

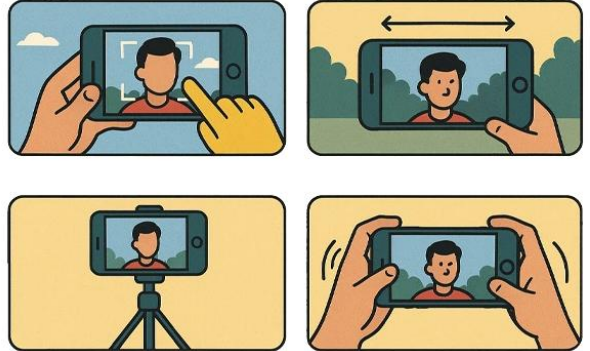
Ian Miller, a professional movie-maker, is offering a short course on movie-making!

He says, "Over three practical two-hour sessions, we'll cover filming techniques, shot types, story building and simple editing. By the end, you'll have made your own film to share with family and friends."

When: Wednesday 20th May 1315 to 1515
Wednesday 27th May 1315 to 1515
Wednesday 3rd June 1315 to 1515

Where: Hibiscus Coast Community House
214 Hibiscus Coast Highway, Orewa

Places: Limited to 6 participants



The Playreading Group

This month we are looking forward to reading "The Cripple of Inishmaan" written by Martin McDonagh. Set on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland in 1934, The Cripple of Inishmaan is a strange comic tale in the great tradition of Irish storytelling.

As word arrives on Inishmaan that the Hollywood director Robert Flaherty is coming to the neighbouring island of Inishmore to film "Man of Aran", the one person who wants to be in the film more than anybody is young Cripple Billy, if only to break away from the "bitter tedium of his daily life".

This play premiered at the Royal National Theatre in December 1996, and we are all looking forward to starting our New Year off with a new play to test our abilities.

Barbara Tucker Convenor



Website

See our website for more about all the groups and all things U3A. You can see a monthly schedule of groups, descriptors, and a contact person for each group.

<https://www.hbcu3a.com/>