

HIBISCUS COAST

U3A



hbcu3a.com

Next meeting: Monday May 18, 2026, 10 am at the St John's Catholic Church Hall, 180 Centreway Road, Orewa.

From the President

Hi Everyone

The varied activities of U3A chapters throughout the world never ceases to amaze me as I visit U3A websites around the world: from bee keeping to cooking Italian recipes to archaeological digs to learning ancient Greek.

We of course have quite a diversity within our own U3A with Hand Drumming, Mindful Walking, Poetry Writing and The Art of Photography among several others. We even have members of a nearby U3A coming to our Music Appreciation Group as they do not have one of their own.

And it has been wonderful to welcome visitors from overseas U3As who have taken time to join our groups for a meeting or two. What an inspirational organisation U3A is both in New Zealand and worldwide.

We have a newly elected Management Committee . Welcome especially to Bruce Adin, who is both Vice President and Chairman of the Convenor's Committee, and Glenda Dykes who is our new Treasurer. At our first meeting we have been considering elements of our activities that we can improve to make it easier for all members to enjoy their participation in all our activities.

It was sad to hear of the passing of Jenny Kelly, a long-time enthusiastic member of our U3A including convening our Discussion Group for many years with husband Bob. Our condolences have been sent to Bob and his family. Several of our members attended Jenny's funeral.

Just a reminder that there are still places available for the U3A Auckland Network Annual Event on 25 July. The two Keynote Speakers are of a very high calibre: In the morning: Dame Wendy Pye: "Teaching the World to Read" and in the afternoon: Shamubeel Eaqub: "A Society Worth Having. Go to the Auckland Network website to register.

As there are a number of our U3A members attending I am looking to organise a bus/minibus to take us there. If you are interested to join us please let me know at petergillmore1949@gmail.com.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you at our 18 th May General Meeting where we have an excellent guest speaker, Bernadette Stockman, who will talk to us about the Mercy Hospital Ships.

Peter Gillmore

President

U3A Hibiscus Coast



Subscriptions

Any questions about subscriptions, ask Wendy Hawkins,
steve.hawkins@xtra.co.nz

Guest Speaker: Bernadette Stockman

We are pleased to welcome **Bernadette Stockman** as our next guest speaker. Bernadette will be sharing her experiences working with **Mercy Ships**, an international organisation that operates hospital vessels to provide free surgical care and medical training in developing nations.

During her presentation, Bernadette will discuss the practicalities of life on board a floating hospital and the impact these medical missions have on the communities they serve. Her talk will provide a first hand look at how the charity collaborates to improve surgical access in regions with limited resources.

We look forward to learning about this vital humanitarian work.



Jennifer KELLY



We remember with fondness Jenny Kelly, who passed away on 8 April. Jenny will be greatly missed for her cheerful smile and the enduring enthusiasm she brought to our community.

Alongside Bob, Jenny served as a convenor of the Discussion Group for many years. Together, they were skilled and thoughtful leaders who enriched our sessions. Her own contributions were always insightful, delivered with a warmth and compassion that defined her character.

Our thoughts and love are with Bob and their family at this time.



Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.

John Dewey

Management Committee

President	Peter Gillmore	021-0200-0494	petergillmore1949@gmail.com
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Network Representative	Gavin Whyte	021-730-444	gavin.whyte@gmail.com
Committee Member	David Shaw	027-421-2381	shaw.boyce101@gmail.com

News From the Groups

Our Reading Groups

Hibiscus Coast members are readers! We have two book groups and two other groups where we analyse literature.

The Book Club discusses two set books a month. This group has a waiting list. There is more information below.

The Book Review Group involves members bringing along books they have read to tell the group about them. They meet at the Methodist Church once a month.

Reading briefer works is the job of the **Short Story Group** where the two convenors take turns every two weeks to send out two short stories available online for discussion at 2 Centreway Road Orewa. There is room for a few more.

The new **Literature Group** is different again where each member brings a passage or a poem from the vast variety of English literature to read out and discuss. This group can also handle a few more members

Book Club

We're a vibrant cluster of avid readers who love to dive into our two member-recommended books every month. Because our list is curated by our members we enjoy a diverse range of contemporary genres and styles.

Our reading sets the stage for lively meetups where we enthusiastically explore our perspectives on the characters, plots and motivations to find the unique magic in every story. Naturally discussions often reach beyond the page, encompassing wider issues sparked by the text. It's all part of enjoying great company as we extend our reading through discovering new literary gems.

We meet every second Thursday of the month at The Sands in Orewa. If you would like more information please contact the convenor, Nancy Cate, at this new address:

nancy.cate2019@gmail.com

News From the Groups

The Quiz Group

The Quiz group is up and running every second Wednesday of the month at 1pm at the Theosophical Society Hall.

Next quiz is on Wednesday May 11th. Two hours of brain exercise. We work in teams of four or six. 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



U3A Heroes: Art Appreciation and Quizzers

Our U3A Art Appreciation and U3A Quiz members entered a team in the Browns Bay Rotary Heart Research Quiz which was mentioned at our last General Meeting by the speaker, Prof Julian Paton.

Twelve teams of 8 people participated in 9 10-question papers on various subjects. We had a thoroughly enjoyable evening resulting in our Hibiscus Coast U3A winning. Each received a bottle of wine and the event raised \$7000!

Congratulations to the team! Very well done and congratulations for supporting such a worthy cause.

Poetry Writing

A big thank you to Bronwyn Bryant who is taking the poetry-writing group. Some of the members are newbies but we have lots of fun trying various prompts and templates out for size. Other members are seasoned poets such as Barbara Hawthorn whose life matches this: GEM OF WISDOM, her poem!



GEM OF WISDOM

I have weathered like stone
chipped from the block-face
all sharp-angled and edged.
I have slithered, clattering
on steep scree-slopes
of self-opinionated youth
lodged in some crevice
faced the bombardment
of brutal boulders borne on
streams silted with gritty truths
and from that long prevailing flow
I have emerged on calmer shores
high above the daily tidal heave.
I lie polished now, a natural gem
My glowing colours, I believe
lay all the time within, concealed
till all conceits were scoured away
and wisdom was revealed.

News From the Groups

The Travel Group

We are a keen group of very active travellers who come back back from NZ and places all over the world with super photos and experiences. Some of these are very funny but there are also the not-so-funny, like long queues. We are all very enthusiastic travellers.

Our next talk, Monday 11 May, is by a member who did a car trip for six weeks all round Honshu.



Bruce Adin

Group Convenors

Convenors do plenty of work behind the scenes: keeping in touch with members, preparing for group sessions, and sending feedback to members and to management.

In some cases, a group is supported by more than one convenor. We appreciate the time that all convenors contribute.

On 5 May we had a convenors' meeting run by our new convenors coordinator Bruce Adin. Most groups are running well and well housed but Bruce will need to get in quick to book the pohutukawa Room for those groups using it next year.

The Book Club is full and has a waitlist while Handdrumming, Science and Philosophy, Short Stories and Mindful Walkers would welcome some new members. Is anyone interested in a Chess Group?

Education is not an affair of 'telling' and being told, but an active and constructive process.

John Dewey

25 July: U3A Auckland Network Annual Event

Programme

am: Dame Wendy Pye: "Teaching the World to Read"

pm: Shamubeel Equb: "A Society Worth Having"

The cost is \$50 which includes lunch.

Go to the Auckland Network website to register - <https://www.u3a.nz/event> .

If you register, please let Peter know as he is planning to organise transport for the event.

petergillmore1949@gmail.com



May Schedule

Sat/Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
am					1 World Today U3A Writers
pm					
2/3 am	4 Mahjong Poetry Writing	5	6 Short Story	7 History	8
pm	Hand-drumming	Cards and Games			
9/10 am	11 Travel	12 Discussion	13 Mindful Walking	14 Book Club	15 Book Review
pm	General Meeting Every 2nd month		Quizzer	Science and Philosophy	
16 /17 am	18	19 Religious Studies	20 Short Story Photography	21 History	22
pm		Cards and Games	Art Appreciation		
23/24 am	25 Mahjong Literature	26 Discussion	27 Music Appreciation Mindful Walking	28 Playreading Memoirs	29 Film Discussion
pm					



Weed of the month: Woolly Nightshade

Woolly nightshade makes toxins that poison the soil, preventing other plants from growing.

It is aggressive and fast-growing. Woolly nightshade can easily crowd out all other plants.

The dust from the leaves and stems can irritate the skin, eyes, nose, and throat.

The berries are poisonous to humans if eaten, particularly children, but also to cattle and pigs.

Wear gloves and a mask if undertaking woolly nightshade control for extended periods.

Pulling out: Seedlings and small plants can be pulled or dug out. Larger plants that are cut down must be stump treated to prevent them from reshooting.

Painting or spraying: Using a specific basal treatment herbicide liberally paint or spray the trunk from the ground to a height of 30cm to 50cm, making sure to cover the entire trunk.

Spraying most suitable for smaller plants, but pulling out by hand may be cheaper and easier.