HIBISCUS COAST U3A

hbcu3a.com

Next meeting:Monday September 21, 2026, 10 am at St John's Catholic Church Hall, 180 Centreway Road, Orewa



Hi Everyone

I hope that you all have made it through the winter months without too much discomfort. And for the many members who have escaped the cold for warmer climes, at least for a few weeks, we welcome you back to our group meetings.

Since the last newsletter, the largest ever group of our members attended the annual U3A Auckland Network Regional Event where we heard two extremely good main speakers—economist Shamubeel Eaqub and publisher Dame Wendy Pye. The four shorter presentations by U3A members were also fascinating. I would encourage more of you to attend this event in July 2027. I have been to the last four events and have never been disappointed with the quality of all speakers, and the provided lunches!

I am pleased to announce that Dee Searby has accepted the role as Secretary of our U3A. Maureen, who has been our Secretary for many years and has been a voice of wisdom for many Presidents, has requested that she move away from secretarial duties to manage our IT and webmaster requirements, which seem to grow daily. We needed a replacement, which I am certain Dee will fill with efficiency.

We are seeking someone to stand for Vice President next year with a view to becoming President in 2029. If you feel you can help us out to fill this important position in our U3A, or you know someone who could, please let me know.

I look forward to seeing you at our General Meeting on Monday 21st September.

Peter Gillmore

President

U3A Reykjavík

U3A Reykjavík started in 2012 with just 31 people. By 2023, it had grown to more than 1,100 members.

U3A Canberra now has more than 4,000 members and offers over 200 courses—all developed and delivered by members themselves.

U3A volunteers transform life in care homes

Members of Forth Valley U3A in Scotland created a project called Cultural Activities in Care Homes. U3A volunteers organised music, performances, reminiscence sessions, and life-story work for care-home residents.

Over the years, more than 50 U3A volunteers became involved.

The project won five awards, including an Outstanding Achievement in Health and Wellbeing Award.

What can a group of older people accomplish that an individual could not?

U3A Warkworth:

U3A Warkworth: members teaching serious science

This U3A has a Science & Technology group with nearly 70 members, including highly qualified scientists, engineers and technical specialists. Members research and present topics including energy, climate science, astronomy, AI, infrastructure, medicine and engineering.

Recent examples include:

- visiting a satellite station
- investigating the science of climate change
- examining LNG and battery technology
- studying the Tongariro Power Development Scheme
- hearing from leading scientists such as Dr Kevin Trenberth.

Retired people aren't merely being taught; they are doing the teaching and research themselves.

September Guest Speaker: Sir Richard Faull



A 2026 New Zealander of the Year finalist, Sir Richard Faull is a leading neuroscientist specialising in human neurodegenerative diseases.

Sir Richard serves as Professor of Anatomy and Director of the Centre for Brain Research at the University of Auckland, and is widely known for his pioneering work on Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Huntington's diseases.



Subscriptions

If you have any questions about subscriptions, ask Wendy Hawkins: steve.hawkins@xtra.co.nz

A note from Peter Gillmore

I find it always interesting to find out what other U3As are doing, particularly in overseas groups. One U3A site that I particularly enjoy is that of the U3A in the UK. In their August Newsletter (Google 'Your U3A Friends Newsletter') it mentioned a member of U3A Sudbury, a lovely market town in Suffolk, winning gold in the over-70s British powerlifting championship. It just goes to show what membership of a U3A can do for you!

Another word from our president: Chess and Mahjong

Over the last couple of months two new groups have begun—Beginners Chess and Beginners Mahjong. I help out at Chess and am very much a beginner at Mahjong. Both groups are great fun to be part of and the two-hour meetings seem to go very quickly. If you want to join either, or indeed both, please come along. (See our website for more details.) Thank you to Glenn Parathoiene-Small, Lou Selmeci, Claude Buchanan, and Bruce Adin for their guidance in setting up and convening these two groups. .

Management Committee

u3a

Learn, Laugh, Live

President	Peter Gillmore	021-0200-0494	petergillmore1949@gmail.com
Vice President	Bruce Adin	027 525 7538	bruce.w.adin@gmail.com
Secretary	Maureen Jansen	022-083-5199	mjansener@gmail.com
Treasurer	Glenda Dykes	021-02333400	glendagraeme@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Wendy Hawkins	027-669-0647	steve.hawkins@xtra.co.nz
Speakers Coordinator	Jill Everest	021-0286-7068	jilleverest12@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Casale	022-626-5801	jenicasale@gmail.com
Network Representative	Gavin Whyte	021-730-444	gavin.whyte@gmail.com
Committee Member	David Shaw	027-421-2381	shaw.boyce101@gmail.com

Kōtuku ngutupapa, spoonbills, a self-introduced bird to NZ, captured by Maureen Jansen at Orewa on her trusty phone.

It's song is a bit on the rough side.You can hear it here:

http://www.archivebirdsnz.com



ORIGINS OF OUR PLAY READING GROUP

After being a member for many years I decided to become a convenor of the regional NZ group which had been led by Pat Varney. Pat was delighted when I offered to carry on with the group as convenor. After approximately five years of leading this group, Pam Ellender of the Scribbles (Writers) Group offered me several plays which had belonged to a member of the Warkworth U3A. Pam thought it was time I had a change, so arranged with the owner (an ex-school teacher) to give them to me! For over four years now we have enjoyed reading a variety of plays, but this year I have started repeating some of them.

Last month I had an email from a member from another U3A branch. which includes Mt Albert. Someone had told this person about our group and the variety of plays that we read. Mt Albert's play-reading froup was also running short of plays, so between the two of us we have started a “library”, for Devonport, Parnell, Ponsonby, Auckland and more.

Some of our plays which we have read two or three times are now at Mt Albert, and I have some back from them which look most interesting. Now other branches too can offer a play reading session to their members.

Right now we have twelve regular members. Most plays have less than twelve characters. We are at a maximum for our group. This is a good example of U3As working and sharing together.

Barbara Tucker Convenor Play Reading Group.

Lesley Newling

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Lesley Banks on 21 August.

Lesley was a true U3A stalwart who gave so much to our community over the years. Lesley ran the Book Group for many years, sharing her passion for reading and discussion.

Alongside her late husband Noel, Lesley was also a keen member of the Travel Group.

She will be warmly remembered and greatly missed by those who have had the pleasure of knowing her. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this time.

STAMP: Society Totally Against Moth Plant

This volunteer group maps and helps extract noxious weeds. You can contact them via email at mothplantlocations@gmail.com or through their STAMP Facebook Group to see if a local volunteer can assist in your area.

Hibiscus Coast U3A September Meetings

Sat/Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
am		**1**	**2** Short Story 10am Photography 10 am	**3** History 10am	**4** World Today 10am U3A Writers 10am
pm		Cards & Games 1.30			
am	**7** Chess / beginners 10.00	**8** Discussion 10 am	**9** Mindful Walking 10 am	**10** Book Club 10 am	**11**
pm	Mahjong 1.30 Poetry Writing 1.30		Quiz Group 1pm	Science and Philosophy 1.30	
am	**14** Hand-drumming 10.30	**15** Religious Studies 10 am	**16** Short Story 10am Photography 10 am	**17** History 10am	**18** Book Review 9.45
pm	Mahjong / beginners 1.00 Travel 2.00	Cards & Games 1.30	Art Appreciation 1 pm		
am	**21** General Meeting 10.00	**22** Discussion 10 am	**23** Mindful Walking 10 am Music Appreciation 10am	**24** Playreading 10am Memoirs 10 am	**25**
pm	Mahjong / beginners 1.00			Memoirs 1pm	Film Discussion 2pm **Last** Friday of month
am	**28** Chess / beginners 10.00	**29**	**30**		
pm	Mahjong 1.30 Literature 1.30				

This whole newsletter was written sideways for the benefit of this. Please let me know if this is annoying for you.