HIBISCUS COAST U3A

hbcu3a.com

Next meeting: Monday July 20, 2026, 10 am at the St John's Catholic Church Hall, 180 Centreway Road, Orewa.

From the President



Hi Everyone

I came across several interesting gems in that delightful UK magazine *The Oldie* that I thought I would share with you.

1. As seniors we are amazed that vinyl and record players are cool again. You got rid of yours years ago in favour of CDs, and hope that your CD player does not break down and render your vast CD collection unplayable.

2. You are now used to nurses, doctors, dentists and police officers being younger than you, most look only twelve years old, but you know you are really old when even the Pope is younger than you.

3. You don't ride your bicycle anymore because you can't swing your leg blithely over the strut like you used to.

4. You know you are getting old when instead of talking to friends about money or sex you are banging on about your health issues.....

And to help you forget about your health issues you can enjoy participating in one of our now 27 interest groups. Our 26th group, Chess for Beginners, had its first meeting in late June with a great turnout. And the first meeting of our new Mahjong for Beginners starts Monday afternoon on July 13th at #2 Centreway Road, Orewa.

We have so many of our groups using #2 Centreway Road, the managers of the venue are beginning to call it U3A House!

I recently went to our newish Literature Group there, convened by Charles Deane. If you want to expand your horizon this is a great opportunity to do just that. Wide ranging discussions on classical literature, poetry and even song lyrics, made the two hours speed by. I came away wanting more. There are still places available in this group. See our website.

It is indeed wonderful to have our largest number ever attending the U3A Regional Event on July 25th, and I am sure that all of us are looking forward to hearing two outstanding speakers. Buses and even minibuses proved too expensive to hire so we are carpooling instead.

And we have a great speaker (see details below) at our July 20th General Meeting, so I encourage all of you to attend.

Finally, thank you to all those who responded to our Member Survey. Our Management Committee is considering your answers and suggestions in our attempt to make your U3A Hibiscus Coast the best it can be.

Yours in U3A

Peter Gillmore

President

Guest Speaker: David Schnauer



David Schnauer is a North Shore resident who ran a large law firm for many years but is now turning his hand to economics, writing about the hard decisions he believes New Zealand should make to lift its economic performance over the next 75 years.

His latest book, *Uncomfortable Economics*, is out soon and David spoke recently to the Takapuna U3A about his 75-year plan for the country.
A proud New Zealander, David has spent much of his life frustrated by our economic underperformance. In his view, the challenge is not identifying what needs to change. It is finding the political and societal courage to do it. One of David's key ideas is to make retirement savings compulsory.

This will be a challenging talk as you can see from the title of his book, but U3A is always up for a challenge. We are leaving ample time for questions at the end.

We will also have 3 or 4 minispeakers from our groups.

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Subscriptions

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

"If you have plenty – more than enough – and someone else has nothing, then you should do something about it."

Edmund Hillary

News From the Groups

Chess



Our new chess group for beginners began on June 29 at 2 Centreway Rd. Subsequent meetings will be on the 1st and 4th Monday mornings of the month, at 10 am.
If you are interested in joining, contact Lou Selmeci louis.s.selmeci@gmail.com

Art Appreciation

Last month we enjoyed a speaker, Gary Schofield, an artist, writer, television producer and composer. Gary spoke on his 20 years working as an artist in the Pentagon, USA, painting their history.

He was commissioned to paint Sir Edmond Hillary, and also a bronze sculpture of the Maori King Tawhiao, gifted to the City of Hamilton in 2015 celebrating their 150 years anniversary.



"Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional."

Sir Edmund Hillary

Mindful Walking

This group meets on second and fourth Wednesdays to enjoy a stroll in one of the many beautiful walks in our area.

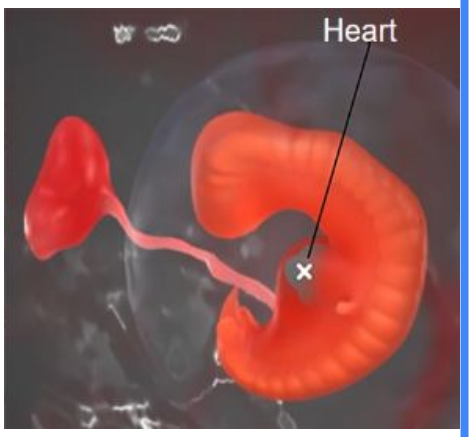
The walks culminate in refreshment, a chat, and a poem.



News From the Groups

The Science and Philosphy Group

The Science and Philosphy group is up and running every second Thursday of the month at 1.30 pm at the Whangaparaoa Library in the Pohutukawa Room. We have been learning about and discussing issues such as PFAS, quantum physics, consciousness and are heading into topics such as immigration, pole shift and prenatal development. As progress advances in scientific knowledge we often find ourselves verging into the philosophical.



If you would like to join us, please just turn up, or contact the co-convener, Jenny Casale at jenicasale@gmail.com

25 July: U3A Auckland Network Annual Event

Still places available!

Programme

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

pm: Shamubeel Eaqub: "A Society Worth Having"

The cost is $50 which includes lunch.



Dame Wendy Pye is the founder of Sunshine Books, a New Zealand publishing company that has sold 300 million children's literacy books worldwide. She is recognized for exporting educational resources globally and integrating digital and AI tools into early reading programmes.



Shamubeel Eaqub is a prominent New Zealand economist, author, and media commentator who makes complex economic concepts accessible to the general public. He serves as the **Chief Economist at Simplicity**, a major New Zealand nonprofit KiwiSaver provider.

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

"Environmental problems are really social problems anyway. They begin with people as the cause and end with people as the victims."

Sir Edmund Hillary

Hibiscus Coast U3A July Meetings

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
am			1 Short Story 10am	2 History 10am	3 World Today 10am U3A Writers 10am
pm					
am	6 Chess for beginners 10.00	7	8 Mindful Walking 10 am	9 Book Club 10 am	10
pm	Mahjong 1.30 Poetry Writing 1.30	Cards and Games 1.30	Quiz Group 1pm	Science and Philosophy 1.30	
am	13 Hand-drumming 10.30	14 Discussion 10 am	15 Short Story 10am Photography 10 am	16 History 10am	17 Book Review 9.45
pm	Mahjong for beginners 1.30 Travel 2.00		Art Appreciation 2 pm		
am	20 General Meeting 10.00	21 Religious Studies 10 am	22 Music Appreciation 10am Mindful Walking 10 am	23 Playreading 10am Memoirs 10 am	24
pm	Mahjong for beginners 10.00	Cards and Games 1.30		Memoirs 1pm	
am	27 Chess for beginners 1.30	28 Discussion 10 am	29	30	31 Film Discussion 2pm **Last** Friday of month
pm	Mahjong 1.30 Literature 1.30				

Weed of the month

Climbing Asparagus

Vine that scrambles or climbs. Has soft fern-like foliage and small white flowers in spring, followed by orange berries. Will grow in sun or shade, disturbed sites or deep forest.

