



### ***A Message from the President of U3A Wellington City***

Kia ora and welcome to your new year with Wellington City U3A. I hope that most of you have had a change of scenery over the last few months. Summer was elsewhere this year, a situation my garden very adequately displays with bent plants, torn leaves and stunted growth. Even the lawn has had less mowing. Oh well, that is the challenge for Wellingtonians. We are a proud lot. I was very proud when my very new granddaughter arrived 4 weeks ago. What a gorgeous baby (no bias). So far I have managed to knit one cardigan! Still there's plenty of time for more knitting. Have you noticed how the ideas flow when the hands are busy? Recently I had lunch with a friend at Smith-the-Grocer's in the Old Bank Building, an exciting place full of atmos-

phere and wise sayings. One of them I thought should be our motto for the year :

*You don't stop playing because you grow old; you grow old because you stop playing.*

Well, I am sure some of us will not be taking the 'playing' too literally but at least we can keep our brains ticking over. Some study groups are already up and running, the International Festival of the Arts opens on February 27<sup>th</sup> and we have an amazing lecture series starting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

At our first committee meeting for 2010 on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, we discussed the desire of U3As in Christchurch and Auckland to establish a New Zealand network centred in Christchurch. This

arises from the 2009 Australasian research that we took part in. We have deferred making a decision until after discussion at our Regional U3A meeting in May. I hope you have been able to read the resume of the research in the last Newsletter. If you have any comments or opinions, please send them either to me or Val Ferguson (Secretary).

One of the really great interactive things we have is our wish for others to hear about other educational opportunities we are involved with. These items have now become a small flood, so it has been decided that there will be a notice board at the entrance to the lecture hall where flyers can be attached for all to see instead of being signalled on the weekly email reminder system. This does not apply to the VUW Continuing Education Unit notices. The notices will need to be removed from the notice board when the event is over – your responsibility.

Neville has been perusing the database and discovered some people have two email addresses. Indeed, many of us do. However, one is enough for U3A to manage so please let us know which one you prefer. You will be interested to know there are 725 members at last count. I hope we will see you all at the study

groups and/or lectures many times this year. You will find the lecture programme for the first semester in this newsletter. Have a great year.

***Karen Palmer***



**Discounts available for**  
**U3A members for the**  
**March to June 2010**  
**Programme**

*of*

**COMMUNITY CON-  
TINUING EDUCA-  
TION, VICTORIA  
UNIVERSITY.**

***(See last page for  
details)***

## STUDY GROUPS

2010 Study Groups are underway for 2010 with information of changes and details of convenors, meeting days and venues shown below. If you wish to join any of these groups please contact the convenor or committee member

Gaynor Stewart, phone 04 494 0102  
or e-mail [gaynorstewart@hotmail.com](mailto:gaynorstewart@hotmail.com)

The setting up of weekly **Fitness Classes** has been proposed and inquiries are currently being carried out. City-fitness runs a programme for seniors, called Lite Pace, at its Johnsonville and Porirua centres. A yearly membership of \$20 is charged and there is an additional fee of \$3 a class. While this programme is not currently available at the Cityfitness Thorndon gym, it could be introduced if there is sufficient interest. A minimum of 20 people would be needed. If you would like to take part in such a class, please contact Gaynor Stewart (details above). For members interested in extending their learning through the internet, **U3A Online** has posted some new courses for 2010, including *Kings and Queens of England*. This is a virtual University of the Third Age developed by Griffith University in Queensland, offering short online courses designed for older people in Australia and New Zealand. These are purely for personal interest and enjoyment and require no previous knowledge of the subject areas. A live link to U3A Online is available on our U3A Wellington website

## GROUP DETAILS

**Art History** : Contact: **Elizabeth King, 479 5702**, meets on alternate Thursdays 10.30 to 12 noon at The Lounge at St Ninian's Uniting Parish in Karori Road, Karori. New members are welcome.

**Book Group 1:** Convenor: **Jan Watchman, 479 3619**; meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Sharella Motor Inn. This group is currently full.

**Book Group 2:** Convenor: **Diane Hill, 473 5560**; meets on the first Thursday of each month at members' homes. There are no vacancies at present.

**Current Issues:** Convenor: **Vincent Gray, 973 5939**; meets on the second Thursday of each month, at the Grays' home, 75 Silverstream Road, Crofton Downs. New members are welcome.

**Film Group 1:** Convenor: **Jill Waddington, 4760620**; meets on the second Saturday of each month at the cinema of choice with the film followed by a discussion at a cafe.

**Film Group 2:** Convenor: **Christabel Gibson, 472 7569**; meets on the first Saturday of the month. New members welcome.

**French Literature:** Convenor: **Christiane Mortelier, 384 3406 or 04 904 6271**. This group will continue being in recess during 2010.

**German Conversation:** Convenor: **Diana Barnes, 479 2947**; meets alternate Mondays from 10am. The group meets in members' homes. New members are welcome.

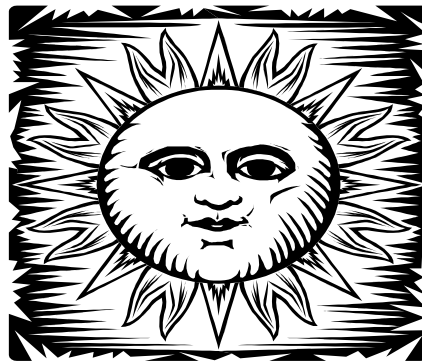
**Literature Club:** Convenor: **Mallory Crawford, 801 5747**. This group meets on the last Friday of the month at 2pm in members' homes.

**Music Group:** Convenor: **Bruce Garton, 476 9612**, meets on alternate Thursdays from 10am until 12 noon at The Lounge at St.Ninian's Uniting Parish, Karori Road in Karori. First meeting of the year was scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> February. New members are welcome.

**Play Reading Group:** Convenor: **Margaret Bowater, 938 9149**; meets on the first Thursday of each month at 1.30pm at 378A Karori Road, Karori. A variety of plays have been selected for this year starting with a Greek one and including a Shakespeare play later. New members are welcome.

**Poetry Studies:** Convenor: **Mallory Crawford, 801 5747**. Commencing in February this group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm in members' homes.

**Shakespeare Studies:** Convenor: **Laurie Atkinson, 568 5883**, meets every Wednesday 10.30 until 12 noon commencing in March. A small increase in members is now possible because of a change of venue.



## U3A Visits April 2010

- (1) **Wellington Writers' Walk** – combines a walk along the waterfront with the discovery of sculptural quotations from N.Z. Writers. There are currently 19 authors past and contemporary on the walk which celebrates and commemorates the place of Wellington in these writers' lives and *their* place in Wellington.

The walk will be led by a member of the Wellington P.E.N. committee (P.E.N.set up the walk) and is limited to 20 people. There will be a small charge and the actual date of the walk will not be available until early March. Please contact Rosemary Ralston to register your interest.

- (2) **Malagan Institute: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2-3pm.** Limited to 16 people. No charge but please give Rosemary Ralston a donation to the Malagan Institute on the day. As the Malagan is difficult to find we will meet at 1-45pm at the bus stop on Kelburn Parade and be escorted by a staff member to the Malagan. As you are coming up Kelburn Parade the bus stop is on the left just past a set of traffic lights. Parking is very limited.

- (3) **Reserve Bank Museum: Thursday 15 April 10am.** No charge. Meet at the entrance to the Reserve Bank, 2 The Terrace (corner of the Terrace and Bowen St) at 9-55am. The visit will include a presentation on the economic and banking history of the Reserve Bank, the special exhibition of Sir Edmund Hilary's medals including his Order of the Garter papers and some of the insignia, his knighthood and his Hubbard medal (USA), and the Moniac hydraulic computer.

**Please register with Rosemary Ralston for each of these visits. You can do this by phoning 4796500,**

**or e-mail [srralston@actrix.co.nz](mailto:srralston@actrix.co.nz)**

**or by enrolling prior to each lecture on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March.**



**MidWinter Lunch 29<sup>th</sup> June 2010:** The Midwinter Lunch is to be held in the Grand Dining Room, Wellesley Boutique Hotel, McGinnity St, Wellington. Details will be in the May Newsletter.



# Lecture Programme 2010

## Venue and Times

All lectures will be held from 10.30am-12 noon in the Theatre of the

**Spectrum Health and Fitness Centre  
Corner Customhouse Quay and Johnston Street  
Wellington**

Occasionally the attendance at the lectures is so great we have to turn people away because the theatre is full. We regret having to do this, but please understand that it is necessary in order to comply with safety regulations and the requirements of the lease holder.

## Entrance Fee

The entrance fee to Tuesday and Friday lectures is \$3.

Coffee is available in the foyer from 10am at a cost of \$2.

**Please note that membership cards must be shown for admission to the lectures.**

## Lecture Programme 2010

### **Tuesday March 23: Six months writing in Menton, France**

**Jenny Patrick**, widely known as a historical novelist, is also a celebrated jeweller. She plays an active role in the New Zealand arts community. Jenny was the winner of the 2009 New Zealand Post Mansfield Prize, incorporating the six months Katherine Mansfield Fellowship in Menton, France. During her time as the Katherine Mansfield Fellow Jenny wrote a novel called 'Inheritance' and it is due for release early in March.

### **Friday March 26: 'How to grow cannabis and (not) get away with Murder.'**

**Glenys Knight** is a forensic scientist with the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd. She is a botanist who before her present position worked at Museum of NZ Te Papa for seven years. Glenys will describe the role of the Forensic Scientist in New Zealand, and explain some of the different types of forensic evidence that are examined by ESR when visiting a crime scene. Case examples will illustrate how forensic science has helped solve criminal cases in New Zealand.

### **Tuesday March 30: Contemporary New Zealand Theatre.**

**David O'Donnell** is a Senior Lecturer in the Theatre Programme at VUW. He has an extensive list of publications, including co-editing *Performing Aotearoa: NZ Theatre and Drama in an Age of Transition* and is an actor, playwright and director. He directed *Collapsing Creations* at Downstage late last year, and he directed *Albert Speer* for which he won a Chapman Tripp award. He has also directed such hits as *Yours Truly*, *Heat*, and *Te Karakia*.

## Easter School Holidays

### **Friday April 23: *A Brief History of Botanical Art.***

**Sue Wickison** has a degree in scientific illustration. She worked at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew for a period of nine years working on different plant families and publications. Sue has travelled widely and exhibited around the world. During her lecture she will link her subject to a few current artists and her own work.

Be prepared for a visually interesting experience.

### **Tuesday April 27: *New Directions for our National Library.***

**Penny Carnaby** was appointed Chief Executive and National Librarian in January 2003. The transformation of the National Library began in 2007, with the development of the Library's Strategic Directions to 2017. Penny's professional interest is in creating national frameworks and strategies to enhance the flow of information to all parts of society.

### **Friday April 30: *The Four Horsemen of the New Enlightenment Ride Out.***

**Geoff Chambers** is a Reader in Cell Molecular Biology at VUW. He lectures on the history and philosophy of evolutionary thought. Geoff will discuss in his lecture a series of recent and remarkable books by Sagan, Dawkins, Harris and Dennett which represent a concerted scientific and philosophical challenge to the very foundations of theism. 'Intelligent designers' have repeatedly attacked Darwinian evolution and the scientific establishment.

### **Tuesday May 4: *Ulysses: the banned book and the film.***

**Bill Hastings** has been New Zealand's Chief Censor since 1999. He is a Canadian by birth and education. He has law degrees from a Canadian University and the London School of Economics. He moved to New Zealand in 1985.

### **Friday May 7: *The Tenth's Trust.***

**Sir Ngatata Love**, a Professor of business development in the school of Management at VUW, has been associated with the Wellington Tenth's Trust for many years.

In his talk he will outline the reason it was established, the progress that has been made and future aspirations for Wellington Maori of Te Atiawa descent.

**Friday May 14: *The Paradox of Aid: Non Governmental Organisations' responses to people trafficking.***

**Chris Frazer** is Social Justice Advocate for the Salvation Army's Policy and Parliamentary Unit. She has a twenty year history of management of social services both within the Methodist Church as an ordained minister and within the Salvation Army in New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga. For the past four years Chris has coordinated the Salvation Army's work in relation to people trafficking.

**Tuesday May 18: *The Grand Tour of Italy from 17-19<sup>th</sup> century.***

**Catherine Trundle** is a Lecturer in the School of Social and Cultural Studies VUW. She lectures in anthropology and co-ordinates a course on social and cultural diversity.

**Friday May 21: *Update of 'Ghosts of Gondwana'***

**Dr George Gibbs** is a retired academic who taught at the School of Biological Sciences at Victoria University. He established new interests that led to the publication of a Montana Award – winning book 'Ghosts of Gondwana.' In his book he had the temerity to suggest that New Zealand's ancient life-forms like the tuatara and frogs are directly descended from Gondwana and have been here for 80+ million years. An alternative view has been put forward by some geologists who have suggested that New Zealand sank beneath the waves 23 million years ago. He will reveal various new studies since 2006 which have a bearing on the topic.

**Tuesday May 25: *Memoir***

**Dame Fiona Kidman** has written over 20 books, including novels, short stories, poetry and more recently a memoir. Her last two books *At the end of Darwin Road* and *Beside the Dark Pool* give an account of her life. She has won several prizes and awards. Dame Fiona has an OBE for her services to literature and is a Dame Commander of the New Zealand Order of Merit. She will talk about the importance of keeping records and photographs (even if not intended for publication). Dame Fiona will read some extracts from her memoirs.

**Friday May 28: *Antarctica Ice Sheets in a Warmer World.***

**Professor Tim Naish** is Director of the Antarctic Research Centre and Professor of Geology at VUW. Professor Naish will update us on the research that he and the team are undertaking investigating past climate from sediment cores in the McMurdo region of Antarctica. He will talk about the likely influence of the Antarctic ice on a rise in sea level in the future as a consequence of global warming.

**Tuesday June 1: *Revitalising a City – the challenges of economics and heritage.***

**Ann Neill** is the General Manager, Central Region New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

**Alison Dangerfield** is Heritage Advisor-Architecture, Central Region New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

## **Queen's Birthday Weekend**

### **Friday June 11: *Dangerous Goddesses - or why you should never upset the Pharaoh's divine mother.***

**Sarah Vidler** has an undergraduate degree in Archaeology of the Eastern Mediterranean followed by a Master's Degree awarded with distinction in Egyptian Archaeology at University College London. She has been a resident of New Zealand since 2005. Sarah has led tours of Egypt and says that in ancient Egypt the realms of the gods and the people overlapped, moving between the land, the sky and the underworld.

### **Tuesday June 15: *Privacy: personal, social and political.***

**Marie Shroff** has been the Privacy Commissioner since 2003. She has had a distinguished career in the public service having previously been Secretary of Cabinet and Clerk of the Executive Council for 15 years. The Privacy Commissioner's Office works to develop and promote a culture in which personal information is protected and respected.

### **Friday June 18: *The origins of New Zealand: the fossil evidence.***

**Dr Hamish Campbell** is a geologist and palaeontologist who works with the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) in Lower Hutt. GNS is a New Zealand-owned research organisation offering the best in independent scientific and technical advice. In his illustrated talk he will explore the role of fossils in our understanding of the geological history of New Zealand, presenting the key fossils that enable us to recognise our links with Gondwanaland, our subsequent history as part of the doomed break-away continent of Zealandia, and the rise of New Zealand.

### **Tuesday June 22: *When Trams were Trumps in Wellington.***

**Graham Stewart** is a publisher and director of Grantham House, a firm which specializes in publishing New Zealand books. The subject is rather topical this year on the eve of local body elections. Some Wellington citizens, for example Sir Robert Jones, want to make the Golden Mile from Lambton Quay to Courtenay Place a mall for pedestrians with a light-rail system.

### **Friday June 25: *Denouncing Darwin***

**Wyn Beasley's** first career was as an Orthopaedic Surgeon. His second career has been as a writer and speaker on historical topics. Wyn will discuss the people, events, findings and debates associated with the round the world voyage of HMS Beagle 1831-1836 under the command of Captain Robert Fitzroy and with Charles Darwin as naturalist –geologist.

### **Tuesday June 29: *Annual Lunch***

*Speaker and location to be confirmed.*

## **Midwinter School Holidays**

**COMMUNITY CONTINUING EDUCATION, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY**

<b>Course name</b>	<b>Teaching staff</b>	<b>U3A discount</b>	<b>Course number</b>
<b>A Bloody Journey:</b> Italian Cities and Culture through Detective Fiction	Barbara Pezzotti	\$60	10C001A
<b>A Travellers Guide to the Must-Do Sites of Ancient Greece</b>	Matthew Trundle	\$40	10C002
<b>Stories Your Grandmother Never Told You:</b> The De- pression in Wellington in the 1930s	Malcolm McKinnon	\$40	10C004A
<b>The Prehistory of Egypt: c. 5000 – 3000 BC</b>	Sarah Vidler	\$30	10C020A
<b>Cats and Dogs in Ancient Egypt</b>	Sarah Vidler	\$30	10C021A
<b>Ancient Egyptian Medi- cine and Health</b>	Sarah Vidler	\$30	10C022A
<b>Ancient Egypt – Negotiat- ing the Cosmos:</b> Mythol-	Sarah Vidler	\$80	10C023A
<b>Women in Ancient Egypt</b>	Sarah Vidler	\$30	10C024A
<b>Ancient Egyptian Sports and Entertainment</b>	Sarah Vidler	\$30	10C025A
<b>The Stories and Literature of Ancient Egypt</b>	Sarah Vidler	\$30	10C026A
<b>2010 Opera Seminar: Macbeth (September)</b>	Peter Baille	\$25	10C031A

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