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President: John Goodman

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NEWSLETTER – JUNE / PIPIRI 2026

Greetings from the President

I believe that the golden days of May have continued in Auckland. Here in Southern England, we arrived to utterly unseasonable weather, up to 35 degrees in London over the Bank Holiday weekend. To mention the unmentionable would seem, and be, hypocritical, but it is national and international action, or inaction which will determine the outcome, rather than individual behaviour. Speed limits are a more reasonable method of regulating traffic speed than relying on individuals driving habits. And, as well, road accidents are more complex than the causes of planetary warming. We do have population growth and deforestation, but essentially it is all the burning of fossil fuels.

Our 18th May meeting was attended by 131 members and a number of visitors. All our speakers were excellent and, despite there being no birthday celebrations, the vibe was warm and lively. Thank you to all who came and contributed.

Before morning tea, Miles Shephard talked briefly about his new Ted Talks group, and was followed by two excellent mini speaker presentations. Vivianne Child gave an illustrated and lively introduction to her, relatively new, Art History group, and David Arrowsmith's introduction to his Memoir Writing group was accompanied by two of his members reading from their extremely interesting memoir writing.

After morning tea, our main speaker was Emeritus Professor Paul Spoonley, whose talk was titled "Auckland's Changing Demography: One of the Most Superdiverse Cities Globally". Professor Spoonley talked about the demographic transformation of New Zealand, and in particular, Auckland. Demographically, Auckland in some respects represents New Zealand on steroids but in others seems to trend in a different direction. For example, looking at the main features of demographic transformation:

The national population profile is older people dominant, but this is less true in Auckland.

Apart from Selwyn and Queenstown Lakes districts, New Zealand's population growth is occurring in Auckland, driven by immigration, mostly from India, China and the Philippines.

Declining fertility and youth scarcity is true everywhere, but less so in Auckland than the rest of the country, (the birth rate declined from a peak of 4.2 during the Baby Boomer years to about 2 for later Generation X and Millennials).

Smaller working age groups relative to retirees is a problem caused by the lower birth rates and only partly solved by immigration.

This fascinating talk was very well received and continued a series of excellent talks.

I am sorry to have to report the deaths of two former members, both married to current members. Hugh Caldin, who was a member of Ramblers a couple of years ago, died last week. Kim Heppner who died on Saturday, was a member since 2011, a committee member in the early 2010s, and a long-standing member and convenor of the Jazz group. He resigned at the end of last year. We extend our sympathy to both wives, Angela and Helen, and to their friends and families.

Looking forward to seeing you in July. In the meantime, keep warm and well.

John Goodman

May Meeting



Above from left

Vivianne Child talking about the Art History Group

Miles Shephard introducing his new group, Ted Talks

David Arrowsmith with Katrina van Boheenman and Judith McMorland from Memoir Writing

Left

Maureen Putt and our guest speaker, Emeritus Professor, Paul Spoonley

A good turnout for an informative speaker.



New Members

A big welcome to our new members: Ann Tucker, Alison Darby, Lynne Trenwith, Barbara Fraser and Wendy Reid.

Best wishes for many enjoyable experiences at U3A Meadowbank meetings and group activities!

Who's Who for Monday 15 JUNE 2026 meeting: 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start at St Chad's Church, 38 St Johns Road, St Johns 1072.

Greeters: Classic movies 1

Mini Speakers: External Speaker Sandy Millar. Topic: Death Cafes

Guest Speaker: Richard Shaw, Author & Professor of Politics, Massey University
Topic: Small stories of colonization: An uncomfortable settler family history

Small stories of colonisation: An uncomfortable settler family history



Writer and academic Richard Shaw has written three books exploring historical amnesia and Pākehā myth-making amongst settler families in Aotearoa New Zealand: *The Forgotten Coast* (2021, MUP), *The Unsettled: Small Stories of Colonisation* (2024, MUP), which was a finalist in the 2025 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards, and *The Good Settler: Essays from other people's lands* (2026, MUP). He is also a professor of politics at Massey University, where he teaches courses in politics in Aotearoa New Zealand and researches the roles of political advisers in government ministers' offices. His academic work has been published in leading international

journals, and his publications include the *Historical Dictionary of New Zealand* (with Janine Hayward, Lara Greaves and Claire Timperley), *The Edward Elgar Handbook on Ministerial and Political Advisers* (2023) and *Core Executives in a Comparative Context* (2022).

Who's Who for Monday 20 JULY 2026 meeting: 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start at St Chad's Church, 38 St Johns Road, St Johns 1072.

Greeters: Modern American Literature

Matariki Celebrations

Guest Speaker: Professor Simon Mitchell, University of Auckland

Topic: Rescuing the boys from the caves in Northern Thailand

News and Views from our Travellers

This year my time in France is in a hilltop village called Tourrettes-sur-Loup in Provence near Nice. It is a medieval village that is absolutely stunning- around every corner is another picturesque surprise. The village is built on stoney ground and signs of habitation go back 70,000 years! It is currently known as 'The city of violets ' because of its focus on the harvesting of violets and their products such as soaps, hand creams, perfumes, ceramics, and even a drink called a 'Violet twist' - a delicious mix of apple, lemon, and violets! The region is well known for art and culture - with a Matisse chapel, Picasso museum, and works by Chagall, Miro etc.

We are having a lovely time!

Gay



Ready to go to France!



A small corner of St Tropez

Below
Near our apartment

St Tropez coastal walk

The entry to our house in Tourettes-sur-Loup



A typical hill top village in Provence



Entry to the town hall

One of the many stairs to climb to houses /



cafés



John & Jocelyn's travels – so far to England & Italy

Orgosolo, Sardinia

Murals are depicted on the façades of the houses of Orgosolo, a town in the Barbagia region famous for its paintings, most of it politically motivated, made by various artists starting from the end of the 60s

Something interesting

Do you know....

Beamafilm is a premium video streaming service that specialises in delivering digital library video collections and academic streaming media to educational & public libraries and other organisations.

It has curated collections of documentaries, independent films, classic movies and award-winning cinema, thoughtfully selected to educate and inspire.

It is completely **ad-free** and is **free to use** if you have a library card from a participating public or university library. This includes Auckland Libraries.



Notes from the Bridge Group



The Introduction to Bridge Group has been meeting fortnightly over the past six months. Under the skilled tutelage of our convenor, John Goodman, and with the expert assistance of Richard Rowntree, we are learning the intricacies of bidding and the most skilled card play. We remember to draw trumps (mostly), can play our honours first from the short hand, and, have even been known to ruff or finesse.

We go to sleep at night murmuring our teachers' maxims, "second player plays low", "fourth highest of

your longest and strongest", "to return your partner's lead may not be right, but it can never be wrong" and "never confuse opening bids of one club and two clubs".



When we feel we can absorb these new

skills no longer we retreat thankfully to a lavish afternoon tea accompanied by pleasant conviviality (or even convivial pleasantries).



U3A Auckland Network: Reminder



u3a Auckland Network

LIFELONG LEARNING - SHARING KNOWLEDGE - FRIENDSHIP - LEADING EDGE INFORMATION

Celebrating u3a in Action - 2026 Auckland - 25 July 2026

u3a Auckland Network welcomes you to a day of celebration

Salvation Army Church, 18 Allright Place, Mt Wellington
Saturday 25 July 2026 - 9:30am (for 10:00am) to 2:30pm

Speakers:
Morning: Dame Wendy Pye - "Teaching the World to Read."
Afternoon: Shamubeel Eaqub - "A Society Worth Having."

Also included are four presentations by u3a Members and lunch - \$50.00

u3a.nz/event to register

Winter series 2026

New Zealand History past, present, and future

7 August: Topic: Education Presenter: Peter Lineman

Emeritus Professor Peter Lineham was born in Karamea and educated at Burnside High in Christchurch and Canterbury University, graduating with an honours degree in history. He was awarded a Commonwealth scholarship and completed a Ph.D. at Sussex University.

Peter taught history at Massey University for forty years both at the Palmerston North and Albany Campuses, retiring in 2019. His specialities are religious and social history, areas in which he has published extensively. He is well known as a go-to-person by media for informed commentary on current religious, social and moral issues and is a very popular public speaker.

Alongside his busy teaching career, Peter was heavily involved in university administration and has served on various national, academic, educational, religious, and charitable bodies. Peter is currently the Independent Chair of the Ethics Committee at the Auckland University of Technology. For many years Peter has been involved as a voluntary prison visitor. His community and historical contributions were recognised in his appointment as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2019.

14 August: Topic: Health Presenter: Dr Stephen Child

Stephen Child: Chief Medical Officer Southern Cross Health Society, General Medicine physician at Auckland City Hospital. Member of the Medical Council of NZ and advisor to other Medical Training Networks.

Stephen will present a relatively common case study familiar to him and many other medics, and discuss how this particular case study would have been treated in 1920, 1970, 2020 and 2025.

Because Stephen's information has come from his research, there will be lively interaction with our audience where some of our own would have been working "at the coalface" in these timeframes.

For each time period he will discuss:

What care options were available and at what cost?

What hospital options were available and at what cost?

What treatment options were available at the time?

What malpractice protection did patients have at the time?

Other topics from the floor?

21 August Topic: Economics Presenter: Brian Easton

Brian Easton is a prominent New Zealand economist, public policy analyst and author, known for his extensive work on the New Zealand economy, social policy and economic history. Over several decades he has contributed widely through academic research, journalism and advisory roles and is recognised for making complex economic issues accessible to the public.

Friday August 7th, 14th, and 21st. From 10 - 12pm at St Chads
Morning tea provided by the committee

Cost \$60.00

Please make payment to the U3A Meadowbank bank account
with your name as reference

From the planning group
(Margaret Davison, Shirley Grayson, Gay Williams and Miles Shephard)

Events in Auckland June 2026

- **Auckland Festival of Photography:** A series of outdoor exhibitions responding to the theme *Movement [Kori]*. Running until June 20, 2026, across central locations.
- **Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival:** Screening jaw-dropping outdoor, mountain, and extreme sports films. Happening from June 10–28, 2026, at the **SkyCity Theatre**.
- **NZSO: Romeo & Juliet:** The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra performs iconic scores inspired by Shakespeare's tragedy. Showing at the **Auckland Town Hall** on June 12, 2026.
- **Planting Days:** Auckland Council hosts community events to keep Tāmaki Makaurau green. Taking place on June 7, 2026, in New Lynn and June 21 at the **Green Road Reserve**.
- **Lindauer's Legacy Exhibition:** Celebrate the historical and cultural impact of the artist Gottfried Lindauer. Open from June 13 to August 8, 2026, at the **Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki**.
- **Auckland Botanic Gardens Events:** Join free seedling giveaways and beginner compost workshops on June 7, 2026, or browse the Woodturning exhibition running until June 21, 2026.

The Botanic Gardens are also a great place to combine a walk with taking in an exhibition or two

Love Letters Botanic



Come enjoy this exhibition of botanical inspired letterpress posters. Explore contemporary letterpress from professional printers, artists and those that love to print handset type. The letterpress process is long in history, starting with Johann Gutenberg inventing the printing press in early 1400's and still lives on today with those who love the handmade print. Held in the Huakaiwaka Gallery until 30 June. Free

Woodturning exhibition



Discover the artistry and craftsmanship of wood turning and see exquisite hand-turned pieces created by local artisans in the Western Gallery of the Visitor Centre.

This exhibition is held by the South Auckland Woodturners Guild and some works will be available for purchase.

Daily from Monday 1 Jun 2026 to Sunday 21 Jun 2026 Free

U3A Meadowbank meetings June 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	1	2 French 9:45 am	3 Time poor walkers 9 am Current Events 10 am Memoir writing 2 pm	4 Ramblers 10 am	5 Jazz 10 am
Week 2	8 New Zealand History 10 am Science & Technology 10:15 am	9 Shared Reading 1 10 am Art History 1:30 pm Book club 1:30	10 Time poor Walkers 9 am Literature 10 am 500 10 am History 10:30 am	11 Dollars and Sense 10 am Ramblers 10 am	12
Week 3	15 Main meeting 10 am Prof Richard Shaw, Small stories of colonisation	16 French 9:45 am	17 Time poor walkers 9 am Saints and Sinners 10 am Music 2 pm	18 Short walks 9:15 am Poetry 10 am Ramblers 10 am Modern American Literature 2 pm	19
Week 4	22	23 Money matters 10 am	24 Time poor walkers 9 am Foodie Group 10 am Classic films 1 7 pm	25 Ramblers 10 am Books & Authors 1:45 pm	26 Classic films 2 7 pm
Week 5	29	30 Wine studies 2 pm			

If you change your personal details, OR LEARN OF THE BEREAVEMENT OF A U3A MEMBER, please email the change to u3ameadmemb@gmail.com. Please include YOUR full name, physical address, phone number and email address.

If a member you know is having trouble with transport to U3A meetings, please let a member of the committee know. We may be able to help.

TO CONTACT COMMITTEE MEMBERS please use the gmail addresses below:

Secretary: u3ameadowbank@gmail.com	Membership Coordinator: u3ameadmemb@gmail.com
Treasurer: u3ameadtrea@gmail.com	Newsletter Coordinator: u3ameadnews@gmail.com
President: u3ameadpres@gmail.com	Groups Coordinator: u3ameadconv@gmail.com

Next Monthly Meeting: Monday 15 June at 10 am at St Chad's

Please remember to send in your U3A news to include in the next newsletter.

We rely on your contributions.

Deadline for the JULY newsletter items is FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2026.

Expect receipt confirmation.