



# Meadowbank

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President: John Goodman

Secretary Vivianne Child

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## NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER / MAHURU 2026

Greetings from the president

Spring is coming! We certainly can't complain about the weather this winter, although every year is going to be more and more different as climate change accelerates. Heat waves in England? Didn't it used to rain every day in Auckland in winter?

We have a busy time coming up. Remember that October and November are renewal months, and that our November meeting is also our Annual General Meeting (with a speaker as usual and an end of year function to follow). We need a new President, a new Secretary, (either now or in six months), and one or two new committee members.

The renewals process will be different this year, since, at this month's meeting the committee agreed that the renewal forms will not be used. To renew you will simply pay your subscription, which will be the same as this year, viz \$40. Please note, do not resubscribe before October, please.

The winter series concluded on August 21<sup>st</sup>. All three speakers were stimulating and informative and those who attended found the series very worthwhile. I have no doubt that next year, the bookings will be thrown open to the wider community much earlier, to reflect the somewhat disappointing take up from our own organisation. Similarly, it is likely to be advertised that it is possible to book for one or two sessions. As well, the date may be changed to June. If you have opinions on these matters, or on anything to do with the Winter Series, whether you attended or not, please contact the organising committee. We are very grateful to the members of that committee, Gay Williams, Shirley Grayson, Miles Shephard and Margaret Davidson, and to those responsible for the catering.

At our monthly meeting on August 17th, our mini speakers were the Foodie group and John Cowan from Wine Studies. If the stars had been better aligned, we would have sampled gourmet delights with matching wines, but, even without that, and despite the fact that nobody sang, the talks were much appreciated. Thanks to the presenters and to Miles Shephard who is short talks organiser. Chris Hawley then introduced his new group "Our South East Asian Neighbours" and Vivianne Child introduced a potential new book group, "Bring, Buy, Swap, Discuss".

After morning tea, we heard from our main speaker, Keith Woodley, manager of the Pukorokoro shorebird centre at Miranda. We heard lots of fascinating information about migratory shorebirds, such as the fact that godwit chicks are abandoned after hatching and despite this fly nearly non-stop across the Pacific four months later. Whether this would work with our own children, I don't know, but they should definitely toughen up. Proposed land reclamation of the Yalu Jiang Estuary Wetland which threatened the resting places of a large number of shorebirds travelling on the Australasian flyway led Keith to look at the numbers of birds utilising tidal flats nearby in North Korea. His stories about this project were fascinating. It was great to hear about the shorebirds and the flyway and bird counting in North Korea and to meet someone so dedicated to such a worthwhile project.

Thanks to all who contributed to a well-run, interesting and enjoyable meeting. Our next meeting will be on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September. I will see you there.

John Goodman

## August Meeting:



Margaret Davidson and the Foodies Group sharing their lively programme

and right, John Cowan, describing the hard work undertaken by the Wine Study Group. (NB They have vacancies)



Introducing new groups: Vivianne Child – Books: Bring, Buy, Swap, Discuss; and Chris Hawley - Our South East Asian Neighbours



Maureen Putt with our main speaker, Keith Woodley, who shared fascinating insights into the birds of the Pukorokoro shorebird centre and his research into their flyways



**Who's Who for Monday 21 SEPTEMBER 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: Music**

**Mini Speaker: Jo Dick Topic: To live at home or a village?**

**Guest Speaker: John Rosser: Conductor, Viva Voce**

**Topic: World Choral Olympics The World Came to Sing**



### **John Rosser**

A professional conductor and singer, John graduated from the University of Auckland with MA (Double Honours) in classics and gained an LTCL in performance singing. He trained as a choral conductor under Professor Peter Godfrey, was a founder member of both the National Youth Choir and the New Zealand Singers, and has sung as a baritone soloist with groups around the country. Chair of the NZCF Governance Board & Chorus Director for New Zealand Opera. He devised and directed both the Rugby World Cup 2011 National Anthems Venture and the 2013 Tallis Project, and is convenor of The Big Sing. He was Artistic Director for the 12<sup>th</sup> World Symposium on Choral Music, which was to have been held in Auckland in 2020 but was cancelled due to Covid-19.

**Who's who for Monday 21 OCTOBER 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: NZ History**

**Mini Speaker: Science & Technology and Shared Reading 1?**

**Guest Speaker: Professor Jan Lindsay, University of Auckland**

**Topic: Preparing for a future eruption in the Auckland Volcanic Field**

## **Committee Notices**

### **U3A Meadowbank Incorporated Notice of Annual Membership Renewal**

Please note that annual membership subscriptions are payable from October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 and should be paid before the date of the AGM, viz November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

***Please do not pay before October 1<sup>st</sup>***

By resolution of the committee, the annual subscription remains at \$40, and members will not be required to complete membership renewal forms.

Internet banking to U3A Meadowbank bank account please, with name as reference.

If you have not saved this account in your payees list, please contact the Treasurer at

[u3ameadtrea@gmail.com](mailto:u3ameadtrea@gmail.com)

Please remember to send any changes of address or contact details to the Membership Coordinator at

[u3ameadmemb@gmail.com](mailto:u3ameadmemb@gmail.com)



## U3A Meadowbank Incorporated, Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 26th Annual General Meeting of the Society is to be held on Monday, 16th November 2026, at St Chad's, Meadowbank, at 10am.

### Order of Business

- To approve the minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting, held on 17th November 2025 at St Chad's, Meadowbank.
- To receive and approve the President's Annual Report.
- To receive and approve the Treasurer's Report and reviewed annual accounts for the year ending 30th September 2026.
- To approve a reviewer for the 2027 annual accounts.
- To elect the Officers and Committee for 2027.
- General Business.

The official Agenda, Minutes, and Reports to follow.

## Committee News

### U3a Wine and Cheese evening to meet new members

On Thursday 13th August, some members of the U3a Meadowbank Committee met with new U3a members and their partners over a glass of wine. This was a very successful event. We had 21 people attend, and everyone enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of Shirley and Bill Grayson. We would like to thank them both for opening their home and supporting the evening. We were welcomed by John Goodman, our President, and there were a lot of very animated conversations and connections made, from questions about our organisation, to sharing of experiences and career highlights and some of us even met Shirley and Bill's new puppy. This was a great opportunity for the Committee to better understand the interests of new members and for new members to understand more about U3a and to meet the Committee.



## Save the date

### Art History

Tuesday 13 October, 2026, 1.30-2.30pm.

The Art History group invites everyone in Meadowbank u3a to join us to enjoy the Lindauer Centenary lecture at Auckland Art Gallery. This is a special re-presentation of the Centenary Lindauer lecture given in June of this year, by Dr Jane Davidson-Ladd, Curator, Historical New Zealand Art. .

For further information contact Vivianne Child, Convenor or Margaret Davidson, Co-Convenor.



## u3a Meadowbank - List of Groups with Vacancies 25/08/2026

**Classic Films 1** Last Wednesday 2:00 pm Members' homes

**Classic Films 2** Last Friday 2:00 pm Members' homes

**Current Events** 1st Wednesday 10:00 am Lady Fatima Church

**Dollars and Sense** 2nd Thursday 10:00 am Members' homes

**French** 1st & 3rd Tuesday 9:45 am Members' homes

**History** 2nd Wednesday 10:30 am Meadowbank retirement Village

**Introduction to Bridge** 2nd & 4th Thursday 1:30 pm 1/7 The Parade, St Heliers

**Jazz** 1st Friday 10:00 am St Andrews, Keeling Room

**Money Matters** 4th Tuesday 10:00 am St Andrews, Keeling Room

**New Zealand History** 2nd Monday 10:00 am St Andrews, Keeling Room

**Our SE Asian Neighbours** 1st Monday 1:30 pm Keeling Room St Andrews Village

**Poetry** 3rd Thursday 10:00 am Members' homes

**Ramblers** Each Thursday 10:00 am Various

**Saints and Sinners** 3rd Wednesday 10:00 am St Andrews, Keeling room

**Science & Technology** 2nd Monday 10:15 am 7 St Vincent, lounge

**Short Walks** 3rd Thursday 9:30 am Meadowbank Mall carpark

**Time Poor Walkers Each Wednesday** 9:00 am St Heliers Bay Playground

**Wine Studies** Last Tuesday 2:00 pm Members' home



## New Zealand History Group

Arriving at the U3A Meadowbank New Zealand History Group August meeting at the Keeling Room St Andrew's, members were greeted by a surprise. A dental nurse was waiting in white uniform, stockings and shoes, red cardigan, white veil wearing her Dental Nurse badge with its motto: "Ut Prosim" (That I May Serve). Memories were instantly stirred for some of the "Murder House", the foot pedal drill, and treatment without local anaesthetics.

Nurse Sherilyn Coney was on hand to tell us about the rich history of the state-funded New Zealand's School Dental Service, (SDS) established in 1921. Colonel Thomas Hunter was appalled at the poor state of dental health among First World War soldiers. As Director of the Dental Division of the Department of Health, he successfully pushed for dental nurse training, a world leading initiative. There were some dentists who opposed the scheme.

Sherilyn told the history group about the intensive two-year training programme, gave personal reflections on some of her experiences working in school clinics over the years and provided us with an excellent overview of dental nurses and the significant work they did.



A photo was shown of over 600 nurses in uniform marching on Parliament in 1974 to protest about low pay and poor working conditions – there hadn't been a pay-rise for 21 years! A deputation met with Prime Minister Norman Kirk and Bob Tizard for an hour and a half resulting in their supporting a substantial pay increase. (One of the shortest negotiations for a pay rise ever!)

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*The NZ history group has rich and varied presentations each month.*

*There are vacancies in the group. Contact Convenor, David Arrowsmith if you are interested in joining:*

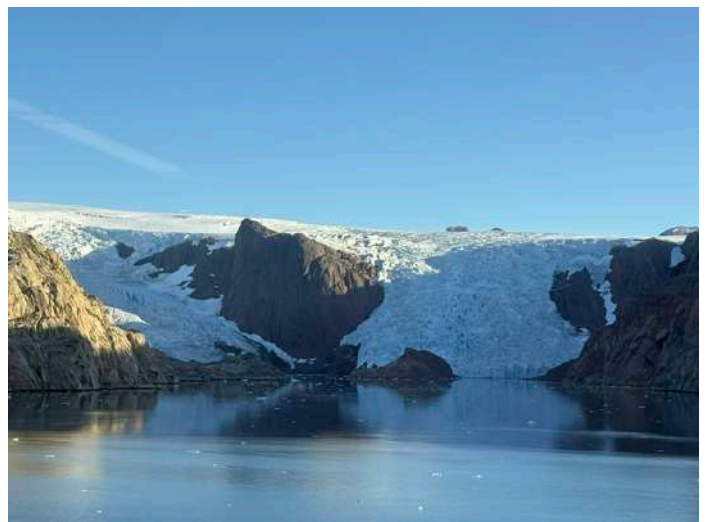
[david.arrowsmith759@gmail.com](mailto:david.arrowsmith759@gmail.com)



**Views from one of our Travellers:**



From Barbara Langguth's travels in  
Greenland  
Next stop New Foundland!



## New Members

**A big welcome to our new members, Rachael Goffin, Thelma Oldham, Sandra Till and Janice Anderson.**  
**Best wishes for many enjoyable experiences at U3A Meadowbank meetings and group activities!**

## Something of Interest?

### English Conversation Classes

A fellow u3a member (Parnell Branch), Ann Hood, has been asked to establish conversation groups for small groups of asylum seeker women to provide a safe space for women to improve their conversational English and to support women to feel more included and to participate with more confidence in society.

She is looking for volunteers to help facilitate a small group for between 5 and 10 participants. Two facilitators are required for each group to ensure consistent running.

The groups will run once a week during school terms in different areas of Auckland, for 1.5 to 2 hours and will be held in community spaces such as libraries, church halls and community centres. Previous experience in teaching or ESOL is an advantage but not required. Support will be provided by the Group Coordinator and the ASST team.

If this strikes a chord with you, please contact Ann, email [annhood55@gmail.com](mailto:annhood55@gmail.com) or mobile 027 535 3528 for more information.

## Events in Auckland August 2026

### ASB Waterfront Theatre



## Cabaret

### The Musical at the Kit Kat Club

Book by Joe Masteroff | Music by John Kander | Lyrics by Fred Ebb | Based on the play by John Van Druten and stories by Christopher Isherwood

**22 Sep – 25 Oct**





## LOMU

In cinemas from **3 September**

A powerful, intimate feature documentary capturing the extraordinary life, rise, and personal battles of rugby legend Jonah Lomu.

Co-directed by Tongan-Kiwi filmmaker Vea Mafile'o and Gavin Fitzgerald



## Auckland Art Gallery

### The Pat Hanly Creativity Awards

This exhibition showcases selected artworks from over 1,000 Year 12 and Year 13 students from across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Students participated in a collaborative programme of workshops with our studio artist Reuben Paterson, gathering inspiration at the Gallery and creating an original artwork of their own in response to this year's theme: Ko au te taiao/I am the environment.

Until **13 September**

## Theatre

- **Bug Songs Not Love Songs:** A quirky play about celebrity ladybugs playing their final gig before fumigation, running from September 1 at the Basement Theatre.
- **Beauty and the Beast Jr:** A family-friendly production by Glass Ceiling Arts Collective starting September 3 at the [Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre](#).
- **Our Town:** A classic Pulitzer Prize-winning play running from September 17 at the Harlequin Musical Theatre in Howick.
- **Glide Time:** Roger Hall's hit comedy presented by Phoenix Theatre starting September 18 at The PumpHouse Theater in Takapuna.

## Cultural

- **NZ Opera Open Day:** A free backstage pass featuring an open rehearsal of *The Pearl Fishers* on September 5 at the New Zealand Opera studio in Parnell.
- **Whānau Day at Te Pou Theatre:** A free community day celebrating Māori and Pacific storytelling with kapa haka, dance, and markets on September 12 in Henderson.
- **2026 Aotearoa Barista Champs:** New Zealand's top coffee brewing competition running from September 18 at AUT.

## Nature

- **NZ Mountain Film Festival:** A showcase of documentary films celebrating outdoor adventure, wilderness, and mountain exploration starting September 18 at the Sunderland Lounge in Hobsonville.
- **RISE Fly Fishing Film Tour:** A special 20th-anniversary screening of global freshwater and saltwater fishing films on September 2 at Event Cinemas Queen Street.

## Sports

- **One New Zealand Warriors v Manly Warringah Sea Eagles:** An NRL rugby league match on September 5 at Go Media Stadium in Penrose.
- **Auckland Duathlon:** A multi-sport race featuring run-cycle-run formats open to all levels on September 20 at the Manukau Yacht & Motor Boat Club in Māngere Bridge.

## U3A Meadowbank meetings September 2026

|               | Monday                             | Tuesday                  | Wednesday               | Thursday                                  | Friday             |
|---------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Week 1</b> |                                    | <b>1</b>                 | <b>2</b>                | <b>3</b>                                  | <b>4</b>           |
| 9.00 am       |                                    | French                   | Time Poor Walkers       |                                           |                    |
| 9.45 am       |                                    |                          |                         |                                           |                    |
| 10.00 am      |                                    |                          | Current events          | Ramblers                                  | Jazz               |
| 2.00 pm       |                                    |                          | Memoir writing          |                                           |                    |
| <b>Week 2</b> | <b>7</b>                           | <b>8</b>                 | <b>9</b>                | <b>10</b>                                 | <b>11</b>          |
| 9.00 am       |                                    | Shared reading 1         | Time Poor Walkers       | Dollars & Sense<br>Ramblers               |                    |
| 10.00 am      |                                    |                          | 500 Group<br>Literature |                                           |                    |
| 10.30 am      |                                    |                          | History                 |                                           |                    |
| 1.30 pm       | Our SE Asian<br>Neighbours         | Art History<br>Book Club |                         | Introduction to Bridge                    |                    |
| <b>Week 3</b> | <b>14</b>                          | <b>15</b>                | <b>16</b>               | <b>17</b>                                 | <b>18</b>          |
| 9.00 am       | NZ History<br>Science & Technology | French                   | Time Poor Walkers       | Short Walks                               |                    |
| 9.30 am       |                                    |                          |                         |                                           |                    |
| 9.45 am       |                                    |                          |                         |                                           |                    |
| 10.00 am      |                                    |                          | Saints & Sinners        | Ramblers                                  |                    |
| 10.15 am      |                                    |                          |                         | Poetry                                    | Ted Talks & Beyond |
| 1.30 pm       |                                    |                          | Shared Reading 2        | Modern American<br>Literature             |                    |
| 2.00 pm       |                                    |                          | Music                   |                                           |                    |
| <b>Week 4</b> | <b>21</b>                          | <b>22</b>                | <b>23</b>               | <b>24</b>                                 | <b>25</b>          |
| 9.00 am       | MONTHLY MEETING                    | Money Matters            | Time Poor Walkers       | Ramblers                                  |                    |
| 10.00 am      |                                    |                          | Foodie                  |                                           |                    |
| 1.30 pm       |                                    |                          |                         | Introduction to Bridge<br>Books & Authors |                    |
| 2.00 pm       |                                    |                          |                         |                                           | Classic Films 2    |
| <b>Week 5</b> | 28                                 | 29                       | 30                      |                                           |                    |
| 9.00 am       |                                    |                          | Time Poor Walkers       |                                           |                    |
| 2.00 pm       |                                    | Wine Studies             | Classic Films 1         |                                           |                    |

If you change your personal details, OR LEARN OF THE BEREAVEMENT OF A U3A MEMBER, please email the change to [u3ameadmemb@gmail.com](mailto: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: <a href="mailto:u3ameadowbank@gmail.com">u3ameadowbank@gmail.com</a> | Membership Coordinator: <a href="mailto:u3ameadmemb@gmail.com">u3ameadmemb@gmail.com</a> |
| Treasurer: <a href="mailto:u3ameadtrea@gmail.com">u3ameadtrea@gmail.com</a>     | Newsletter Coordinator: <a href="mailto:u3ameadnews@gmail.com">u3ameadnews@gmail.com</a> |
| President: <a href="mailto:u3ameadpres@gmail.com">u3ameadpres@gmail.com</a>     | Groups Coordinator: <a href="mailto:u3ameadconv@gmail.com">u3ameadconv@gmail.com</a>     |

**Next Monthly Meeting: Monday 21 September: 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 OCTOBER newsletter items is FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2026.**

**Expect receipt confirmation.**