



General Meeting for Members: July 7th 2026
10:00 - 12:00am: OUTRAM HALL,
478 Beach Road Murrays Bay

SPEAKER FOR JULY 2026

Glen Plaistowe



Using the Auckland City Council's Browns Bay Heritage Walk resource, Glen Plaistowe has led several walks sharing the history of the township. Uncertain weather, traffic noise prompted the creation of a virtual walk that utilizes the wealth of digital photos and written records.

We will time travel from a deep stream-fed bay surrounded by primal forests to the present day. We will learn how nature changed the geography. We will hear the stories and see the photos of the earliest

human interaction and how a community evolved and existed dependent on coastal steamships and mud tracks with the nearest school, store and post office in Albany.

In the summers of the 1920s-30s the area was known as "naughty bay", a lock-up and police station had to be built and a constable send up from Auckland. How a small vulnerable community coped through the wars. How in the 50's -70's, renowned boat builders contributed to international yachting and the impact on the community with the opening of the Harbour Bridge in 1959.



THE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Hello everyone

We have passed the shortest day of the year and are truly into winter, but actually I'm happier to be living through our winter than living in parts of Europe and the UK where they are living through extremely hot weather. Although I wonder whether my brother in Cairns, Australia, would even think those temperatures are hot. People live a different life in hot climates and this is something we might all have to adjust our lives to. How we as a people are still pushing back against mitigating climate change puzzles me. This might also puzzle our great grandchildren, in time.

Some of our members like to read every word of our Newsletter, and enjoy the activities that our SIGs are undertaking. So can I ask that you all take note of the **VERY IMPORTANT** note which follows this Report please. We will be holding our October monthly meeting in the last week of September. It will be a waste of your time if you arrive – same time – same place – in October and find we are not there. We will repeat this information in our August and September Newsletters. Also note, we will be holding our normal September monthly meeting the first week of September as usual. So – two meetings in September.

We are so lucky to have such excellent presenters at our u3a. Dare I say, a greater number of competent speakers than many other organisations? So Glen Plaistowe is going to take us through an illustrated 'walk' through Browns Bay. I'm looking forward to seeing this.

Val Lloyd, Chairperson

NEWS FROM OUR RECENT COMMITTEE MEETING

On Wednesday 22nd July, we will be part of the Active Aging Expo being held at the Browns Bay Recreation Centre, 10.00 to 2.00. There are always a number of organisations showcasing what they offer to us, should we wish to get involved in their activities. You might like to come along and have a look.

VERY IMPORTANT

Our OCTOBER monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th SEPTEMBER this year, due to unavailability of Outram Hall. PLEASE note this in your diary or wall calendar or just tuck it away at the back of your mind.

We will not hold the monthly meeting in October.

SIGs will continue the normal schedule at the Hall. This only affects the MAIN MONTHLY MEETING.

IMPORTANT: In November this year at the AGM FIVE of our eleven committee members will be resigning. That leaves a very large hole in the committee numbers and if the u3abb is to survive we really need five or more people to offer their services. The roles to be vacated are CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARY, SIG CONVENOR, SPEAKER MANAGER, HALL MANAGER and NEWSLETTER EDITOR. Please please look around you and consider if you or anyone around you could step up otherwise there may not be a committee next year.

- If you know anyone who is interested in joining our U3A, please pass their names onto [Information Officer: Anne Gough \(027 3210729\)](#).
- If you change your address please either update the information on our website or let a convenor or a member of the committee know

- If a prospective member wishes to complete the forms electronically, encourage them to go to our official website: <http://www.u3abb.nz>.
- **Are you aware of a member's changed circumstances?** If so please let your SIG convenor or a member of the committee know so that we can acknowledge and help if possible.

The close off for the August newsletter is July 29th 2026.
Please send your SIG reports to u3abbnewsletter@gmail.com

Our official U3ABB Website: <http://www.u3abb.nz>

- Any further amendments to times or convenors to Ngaral please so we can update the next newsletter.

DATE	SIG PRESENTATION	HALL SEATING	MORNING TEA
7 th July	Film Appreciation	Foodies	Renaissance
4 th August	Art Potpourri	Puzzle Group	Inventors & Discoveries

SIG GROUP MEETING CALENDAR				
DAY	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
Mon am Mon pm			10:00 Archaeology 13:30 Genealogy	
Tues am Tues pm	10:00 Main Meeting	13:30 Historic Buildings	10:00 Early NZ History 13:00 Inventions & Discoveries 14:00 Art Potpourri	10:00 Active Travellers 13:00 Committee Meeting
Wed am Wed pm	10:00 Cycling	10:00 Cycling Backup	10:00 Modern History 12:00 Foodies	
Thurs am Thurs pm	10:00 Med Science & History 13:30 Creating Visual Memories (CVM)	10:00 Current Affairs 13:00 International studies 13:15 Art History	10:00 World Wars 1 & 2	10:00 Puzzle Group
Fri am Fri pm	10:00 Mahjong 13:00 Book Group	10:00 Mahjong 13:00 Books & Beyond	10:00 Mahjong 10:00 Film Appreciation	10:00 Mahjong 10:00 Renaissance

- For list of convenors and contact numbers, see the SIG section of the newsletter.
- This information is the latest recorded by our Convenor Co-ordinator Ngaral Hogan as at April 2026.

CONTACTS: U3A Roles and their back-up

Chairperson	Val Lloyd 763662	021	B/U Barry Brennan 027 4036380	Newsletter Editor	Lucy Casey 021 778555	B/U Val Lloyd 021 763662
Secretary	Pauline Alsweller 2779395	027	B/U Heather Howarth 022 3100384	Publicity	Fay Weatherly (ex officio) 022 465 1354	B/U Lucy Casey 021 778555
Treasurer	Barry Brennan 4036380	027	B/U Heather Howard. 021941664	SIG Convenor	Ngaral Hogan 021 379746	B/U Diane Muller. 0210485178
Hall Managers	Heather Howarth 3100384	022	B/U Coleen Carmichael 094795543	Speaker Co- ordinator	Roger Warner 09 4783072	B/U Jane Robbins B/U Val Lloyd B/U Jane Robbins B/U Val Lloyd B/U Lucy Casey
Information Officer	Anne Gough 3210729	027	B/U Coleen Carmichael 094795543	Website	Lucy Casey 021 778555	
Committee members	Lyn Mc Alister	021611366	Systems Manager (ex-officio)		John Ewen	
WEBSITE	u3abb.nz		NEWSLETTER: u3abbnewsletter@gmail.com		EMAILS: general information: u3abbinfo@gmail.com	
ADDRESS:	U3A % 52/17 Georgia Tce, Albany 0632		BANK A/C NUMBER 0424 848 00		NEW INQUIRIES: Anne Gough 3210729	
			12 3059		027	

SIG REPORTS

Active Travellers - 4th Tuesday 10:00

Convenor: Lucy Casey 021778555

This month we visited northern Norway in winter, to see reindeer, lights, and lots of snow. Jocelyn and Brynley spent the first several days of their holiday in Tromsø, above the Arctic Circle. A highlight was having a sleigh ride, pulled by reindeer, and learning about the Sami people, the original inhabitants of the Nordic area. That night, another highlight – chasing the Northern Lights... and yes they were lucky enough to see them. Then onboard the Hurtigruten ship (part ferry, part cruise-ship) with stops at tiny towns, sometimes for only 15 minutes, - just long enough to unload cargo and let passengers on and off, because there is no road access during winter. Half-way to Kirkenes, there was a bus ride to North Cape, the northernmost point in Norway; surrounded by mountains and snow. And finally time to the town of Kirkenes where there were more highlights. Travel by snowmobiles to see King crabs being caught in traps beneath the sea ice, then off to a wilderness hut for a delicious meal of, you guessed it, king crab! The next day a sled ride, this time pulled by huskies, for a spot of ice fishing on a huge frozen lake. Just the two of them, their guide, and the huskies, no-one else for miles around. And everywhere there was snow, lots and lots of snow!





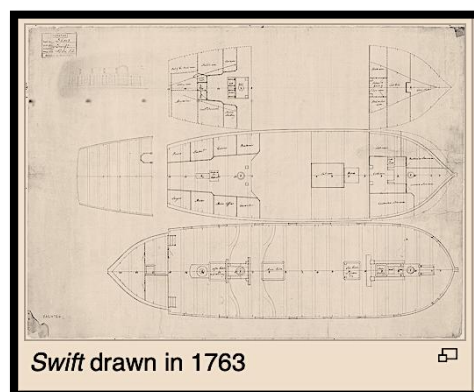
The Swift was a Bermuda sloop, a type of single-masted wooden sailing vessel. Parks Canada

Archaeology - 3rd Monday 10:00 **Convenor: Evelyn Ross: 027 4242147**

Nanette presented two different stories of shipwrecks both named Swift.

The first one was discovered 2 years ago on Sable Island, an island of shifting sands, roughly 180 miles SE of Halifax, Nova Scotia. It was a single-masted ship that sank during the War of 1812. It was one of 3 ships in convoy under the command of an officer in the British Royal Navy transporting rum, sugar, silver and prisoners of war from Bermuda to Newfoundland when it encountered a windstorm off the northern coast of Sable Island. There are about 350 other shipwrecks and the island is home to a herd of small wild horses.

The other wreck was HMS Swift built in 1763, a sloop of war, 28 m in length, discovered in 1982 along the coast of Patagonia, South America and represented the beginning of underwater archaeology in Argentina. Based in the Falklands, HMS Swift undertook an exploratory trip along the Patagonian coasts before the winter of 1770 but a storm forced them to stop in an estuary to rest. However, they ran aground. Three of the 91 crew members died, the rest were rescued



Swift drawn in 1763

Art History - 2nd Thursday 13:15 **Convenors: Sylvia Dixon 0221959881 & Thelma Phillips 0274 05470**



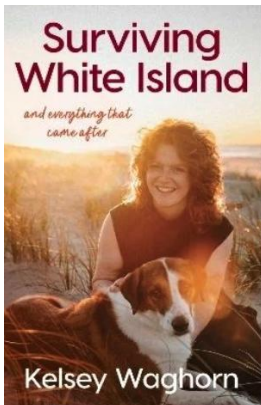
German art forger Wolfgang Beltracchi with one of his fake but once highly valuable paintings.

This month's presentation looked at crime in the art market, particularly forgery: the creation and sale of art works with criminal intent, with the artist deliberately imitating the style of a more famous artist for financial gain. Fake art is more common than most people realize. Scientific techniques are now available that can be used to assess the authenticity of a painting or sculpture, such as material analysis, but these techniques are costly to apply, and many forged or misattributed works remain undetected in public art collections.

Art Potpourri - 3rd Tuesday 14:00 **Convenors: Nanette Randall 094738499 & Claire McNaull 09473115**

Book Group - 1st Friday 13:00

Convenors: Monette Ewen 275666217 & John Ewen 0274993528



Books discussed this month were: A Bad, Bad Place by Francis Crawford; Not Quite Dead Yet by Holly Jackson; Daughters of Shandong by Eve J Chung; One Last Question, Prime Minister by Barry Soper; The Sun Sister by Lucinda Riley; The Correspondent by Virginia Evans; Hope Rises by David Baldacci; A Deadly Episode by Anthony Horowitz; No, I Don't Get Danger Money by Lisette Reymer; Wild Dark Shore by Charlotte McConaghy; Ducks, Newburyport by Lucy Ellmann; The Edinburgh Murders by Catriona McPherson; London Falling by Patrick Radden Keefe; Flesh by David Szalay; The Ark by Haruo Yuki; The Exchange by John Grisham; The Making of the Modern Middle East by Jeremy Bowen; The Dead Speak by Thomas Coyle; Mothers' Darlings of the South Pacific by Judith A Bennett & Angela Wanhalla; Surviving White Island by Kelsey Waghorn; Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall; A Short History of Nearly Everything 2.0 by Bill Bryson and Everything But the Medicine by Lucy O'Hagen

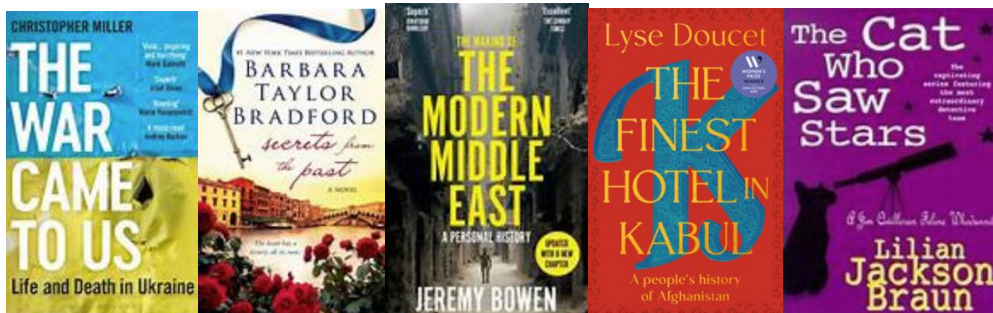
Books and Beyond - 2nd Friday 13:00

Convenors: Glenys Plaistowe 027 5412241

Our June theme of 'A book by a journalist' resulted in possibly our most interesting selection so far. While the various titles covered a wide range of topics the ones most fascinating were those of journalists drawing on their own experiences especially those who had been Foreign Correspondents.

June Book List: Khaki Town by Judy Nunn; The Frequency of Us by Keith Stuart; The Making of the Modern Middle East by Jeremy Bowen; 'One more question, Prime Minister' by Barry Soper; 'No, I don't get danger money' by Lisette Reyner; Churchill's Deception - the dark secret that destroyed Nazi Germany by Louis C Kilzer; The War came to Us (Ukraine) by Christopher Miller; The Survivors by Steve Braunias; Complete Stories by Clarice Lispector; Every Second Counts by Charlotte Glennie; Secrets from the Past by Barbara Taylor Bradford; The Finest Hotel in Kabul by Lyse Doucet; The Cat who saw Stars by Lilian Jackson Braun.

Theme for July: A title relating to politics



Creating Visual Memories – 1st Thursday 13:30

Convenor: Fay Weatherly 022 465 1354

When we started on a project to create an original Fairy Tale and make a video of it, we had no idea where this would lead. The surprise was that almost everyone in the group began using AI [See websites below] independently of each other. Last month it was Val, Fay, Lucy and Sylvie who showed their version of their fairy tale.

This month we had a story about a little girl finding her lost dog in the mud [Lois] and an annoying man being carried off by an enamored Queen Bee to help populate the hive [Barb]. For the rest of the meeting, we heard how this was done: Sylvie described how her draft story had been modified by ChatGPT to include realistic South African details of landscape, sounds and names. Lois also had help with her story but also in producing pictures of the children and the dog plus the mud. Barb had used an original poem and pictures generated by ChatGPT, 'eleven labs' to produce a voice for her soundtrack and Meta AI to generate a tiny video for the "credits". Our original AV programs are still used to put these components together into an AV comprising sound, pictures and movement. We wonder how long this will continue. Naturally we are very excited about these new developments and skills waiting to be acquired. Learning is forever!! Part of Barb's explanation generated on the spot. She even got the walrus to wave!

Some AI Websites

- ChatGPT (image generation) <https://chatgpt.com/>
- Meta AI (video generation) <https://www.meta.ai>
- ElevenLabs (voice generation) <https://www.elevenlabs.io>

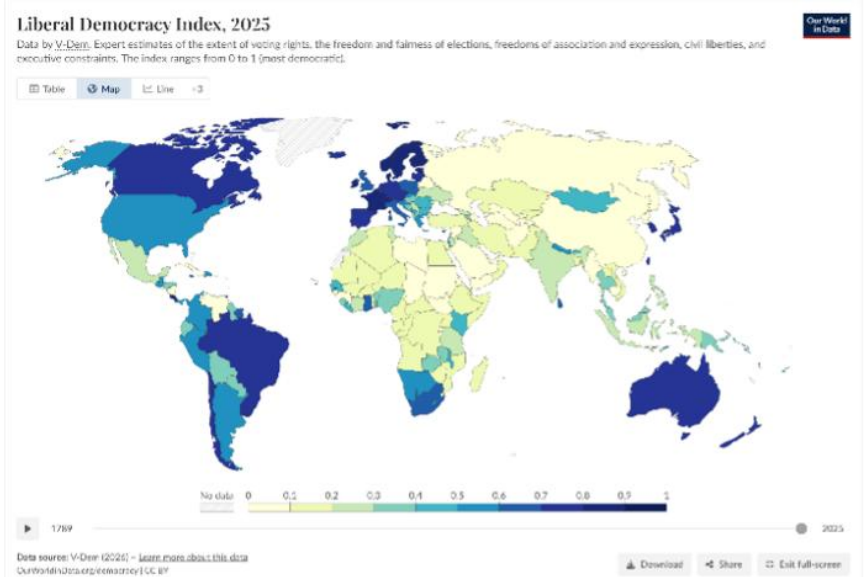


Current Affairs – 2nd Thursday @ 10am

Convenors: Pauline Alsweiler 027 2779395 (temporary convenor)

Jane presented the international topic which was based on a report from Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem), a project at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Each year their country's experts provide data for tracking global democratic trends. The data can be viewed as a map, a line graph or a table at <https://ourworldindata.org/democracy#explore-data-on-democracy>. The liberal democracy index shows how both Russia and Hungary became more democratic after the Soviet Union collapse in 1989/90, followed by declines under Putin from 1999 and Viktor Orban from 2010. More recently, the United States has experienced a sharp democratic decline since the start of Trump's second term. We examined some of the many reasons behind it. We also noted recent downturns for the UK and New Zealand. The UK has fallen to levels last seen in the late 1950s, attributed by the V-Dem report to a substantial decline in freedom of expression and the media. New Zealand has declined to its 1984 level. Contributing factors discussed included disproportionate influence of minor parties, fast-track legislation bypassing checks and limiting public input, frequent use of urgency to pass controversial laws, weak transparency around lobbying, and the retroactive application of legislation. Following the break, discussion ranged across a variety of topics. Members who attended the Auckland Writers Festival gave brief overviews of two books: *Empire of AI: Dreams and Nightmares* in Sam Altman's *OpenAI*, and Witi Ihimaera's new memoir, *The Swimmer*. This was followed by discussion of a New Zealand Herald opinion article concerning New Zealand-Russia relations and the role of cultural exchanges during a period of strained diplomatic relations. Another article reported research suggesting that birth rates have declined by 4–8 percent since the widespread adoption of smartphones.

As always, the meeting generated lively discussion across a wide range of international, political, cultural, and social issues.



Cycling - 1st Wednesday B/U 2nd Wednesday

Convenor: Piers Hamid 027 4439764



The biking group enjoyed another successful ride yesterday.

13 heroic people braved the traffic and the rain to turn up for the ride. Fortunately the weather gods were good to us as we travelled from Pt Chevalier along the north western motorway and explored the new Te Atatu boardwalk over the marshes. The pathway is meant to be a form of self-discovery. Disappointingly, I didn't notice any earth shattering changes in any of the riders at the end of the trail.

A hot coffee was much appreciated in Pt Chevalier afterwards.

A big welcome to Tim who weathered the wet conditions and joined us for the first time.

Early NZ History - 3rd Tuesday 10:00

Convenor: Glenys Plaistowe 0275412241

The "Percy Redwood" wedding is a famous piece of New Zealand folklore. In April 1909 it was the wedding of Agnes Ottaway to a wealthy, pipe-smoking sheep farmer named Percy Redwood at the Ottaway home in Port Molyneux in South Otago. It was an elaborate ceremony with the bride supported by ten bridesmaids before 200 guests and the local MP followed by a sumptuous feast.



However, "Percy" was actually a notorious Tasmanian-born con artist named Amy Bock in disguise. Bock maintained her disguise by sending forged letters from "Redwood's wealthy mother" to calm the family's financial concerns. Suspicion arose almost immediately after the ceremony. None of Bock's friends or family were in attendance and his debts were unpaid so Agnes's father insisted that the couple did not sleep together. Three days later, a local detective confronted "Percy" in his room, famously declaring, "The game's up, Amy". The marriage was quickly annulled, and Amy Bock was sentenced to two years of hard labor and declared a "habitual criminal".

The Flemings Creamoata factory in Gore. The rolled oatmeal porridge became a staple breakfast for thousands of NZ children. The Sergeant Dan figure, was used to promote the product. The mill was built in 1919 and was closed in 2001 when the overseas owners shifted the operation to Australia.

Another historic building presented was the two room Asbestos Cottage built in 1897 in Kahurangi National Park near the Cobb Reservoir. This area was originally mined for asbestos. When the mining stopped the cottage became the reclusive "off the grid" home of prospectors Henry Chaffey and Annie Fox for 40 years. Today the hut features basic amenities, including four bunks, an open fireplace, an outdoor long-drop toilet and is used by trampers in the region.



Film Appreciation - 3rd Friday 10:00

Convenor: John Reynolds – 0212533203

Foodies - 3rd Wednesday 12:00

Convenor: Gay Brennan 4739878

Many thanks to Mardi for organising a very enjoyable lunch at Pattaya, Thai restaurant in Mairangi Bay. The surroundings, service and food were excellent. Their signature dishes include Pad Thai, fragrant Green Curry, and savoury Tom Yum soup. Group members tried the entrees including wontons, spring rolls and curry puffs. Main dishes included red and green curry, fried rice, sweet and sour duck and chicken satay from a very extensive menu. We were all impressed with the generous servings. Several of us are keen to return to this great restaurant

Genealogy - 3rd Monday 13:30

Convenors: Gay Brennan 4739878

Val gave a presentation on her McDowall ancestors who lived in Inch, in Galloway, Scotland. She started by showing us a family tree which traced her family back to the area. She had connected with other researchers who were very helpful and shared their information so she could trace her family back to a James Mc Dowall born in Inch around 1821-22. Unfortunately, at that point, she hit a brick wall but took advice from an earlier presentation Gay had given about researching sideways. She found it very interesting and rewarding to find out more about the area around the village of Cairnryan near Inch where James McDowall was born. She told us about Inch which is a rural area situated on the shores of Loch Ryan. She looked at the history of the area and how the population had changed over the years. Next month Kerry is going to demonstrate how to use AI to enhance old family photographs.

Historic Buildings - 2nd Tuesday 13:30

Convenors: Sylvia Dixon 022 1959881 & Gloria Ward 021 2353113



The Moscow Kremlin is a fortified complex located in the historic centre of Moscow, which dates back to the middle ages. It incorporates five palaces and three cathedrals, within an enclosing wall featuring numerous towers. Grand Prince Ivan III (1462-1505) was responsible for the walls as they now appear and for many of the key buildings. He invited a number of skilled architects from Renaissance Italy to design them, including Pietro Antonio Solari, who designed the Kremlin wall and its towers, and Marco Ruffo who designed a new palace for the prince. It was during Ivan III's reign that three cathedrals of the Kremlin, the Bell Tower, and the Palace of Facets were constructed. These buildings combine Italian Renaissance features with traditional Russian elements. The 19th century saw the construction of the Grand Kremlin Palace, initially one of the royal residences of the Tsar of Russia. It is now used for formal State business.

International Studies - 2nd Thursday 13:00

Convenor: Anne Gough - 027 321 0729:



Sylvie Chetty's presentation, From Gaudí to Guernica: Exploring the Many Faces of Spain, examined the country's rich regional diversity. She has visited Spain on multiple occasions since 1974, mainly through a research association with the University of Navarre in Pamplona and has since travelled extensively across the country. Her presentation focused on Barcelona, Madrid, Pamplona, Bilbao, San Sebastián, and Guernica. It also included



An apartment block in Barcelona-architect Gaudí

Andalusia with its whitewashed villages, as well as Ronda and Algeciras.

She highlighted how distinct cultural identities, histories, and economic transformations shaped each region. This included Barcelona's architectural innovation (Gaudí) and Madrid's national role as well as the art galleries and botanical gardens, to Pamplona's San Fermin festival, Bilbao's urban regeneration (Guggenheim Museum), San Sebastián's beaches and renowned food culture, Guernica's powerful historical legacy, and the Moorish influence in Andalusia. The presentation emphasized the contrast between central authority and regional identity, illustrating how Spain's richness lies in the diversity of its regions rather than a single, unified narrative.

Heather Brown gave a talk on the history of Eden Gardens in Cornwall. The Eden Project is a visitor attraction in Cornwall, England. The project is located in a reclaimed china clay pit. The complex is dominated by two huge enclosures consisting of adjoining domes that house thousands of plant species, and each enclosure emulates a natural biome.

Inventions and Discoveries - 3rd Tuesday 13:00

Convenor: Peter Dawson: 478 4780

Geoff Haycock was our main presenter with the topic of 'Lighthouses'. Their history, function and locations are fascinating and his presentation covered each of these extremely well through his talk, images and videos. Geoff spoke about and showed a video describing the modern lens through which the light is focused. This was first developed around 1820 by the French physicist Augustin-Jean Fresnel. As well as overseas lighthouses he included some of New Zealand's 23 lighthouses around our 15-18,000 km coastline, one of the oldest of which, Bean Rock is right on our doorstep.



Ian Graham came prepared to cover the second half after our break. However he hastened to point out that the FIFA World Cup was live and NZ had just scored a goal against Iran. With that we quickly concluded the meeting and adjourned home to watch the second half!"



Mahjong - Every Friday 10:00

Convenor: Penny Walton: 0212204988

We meet every Friday from 10 —12 noon at The Bays Club & welcome new members. We play for fun not points & are happy to teach complete beginners. Good brain exercise! phone Penny 0212204988

Medical Science and History -1st Thursday 10:00

Convenor: Dorothy Butcher 4791526 Our presentation this month was entitled "What makes a good life, what makes good death". This was based on the thoughts on ageing of the oncologist/ bioethicist, Ezekiel Emanuel, who presented his new book Eat Your Icecream: Six Simple Rules for a Long and Healthy Life at the recent 2026 Book Festival in Auckland. His six rules are:



1. Avoid risky behaviour such as smoking, drinking alcohol, not taking vaccines, climbing dangerous mountains.
2. Talk to people, as social isolation is one of the greatest threats. Cultivate strong relationships with family, friends and your community.
3. Expand your mind: engage in continuous learning, challenge your brain and remain mentally sharp.
4. Enjoy food, drink and a healthy balanced diet rather than restricting yourself with fad diets
5. Move it: exercise well and regularly.
6. Sleep like a baby: Get the vital rest your body needs.

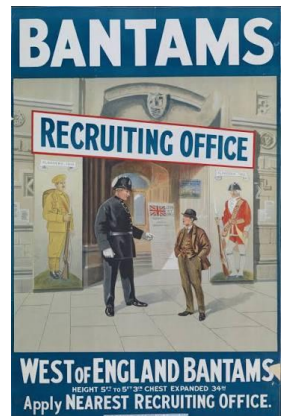


The ultimate message in the book is that wellness is merely a means to an end, not the end itself. Dr. Emanuel argues that living a long time only matters if it is filled with meaningful relationships, purpose and joy. Needless to say, the presentation sparked a lot of discussion!

Modern History - 3rd Wednesday 10:00

Convenors: Carne Blandy 021998734 & Frank Graveson 027 2595323

This month Patricia gave us a talk on the 'Unusual Battalions of WWI'. She had been intrigued with the number of battalions formed for unusual reasons, with unique recruitment criteria and often with unusual names, when Britain needed to recruit a large volunteer citizens army. We heard about the Pals' Battalions that encouraged friends and workmates to enlist together, and the Bantam Battalions, specifically for men who were below the usual required height. The list of unusual battalions later widened to include the New Zealand (Māori) Pioneer Battalion, the Household Battalion, the US Lost Battalion, the German and Italian Shock Troops and several more. These unusual battalions, whether formed by social ties, physical attributes or specialist needs, represent the chaotic, and often tragic, human face of WWI's massive mobilisation.



Murray followed with a talk on Bradshaw's Railway Guide. This was a series of iconic 19th and early 20th century timetables and travel books founded by George Bradshaw. It became famous for organising national and international travel by rail and famously inspired Michael Portillo's BBC television series, *Great British Railway Journeys*. The complexity of running a national railway network required unified time, and Bradshaw's guides were instrumental in establishing Greenwich Mean Time (Railway Time) across the UK, and led to a new slang term in the RAF between the two World Wars, when 'to Bradshaw' was a derogatory term referring to pilots who navigated by following railway lines.



The topics for the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 15 July are:

- The Soviet Artwork that Spied on the US
- Uncle Scrym.

Puzzle Group - 4th Thursday 10:00

Convenor: Fay Weatherly 022 465 1354

1. John introduced us to Kaprekar's number discovered by an unassuming Indian teacher in 1946. To try this out, follow these steps carefully.

Choose a 4 digit number where all 4 digits are not the same [e.g. 2111 is OK but NOT 1111].	e.g. 4269
Arrange the digits to form a new 4 digit number with the largest digit first, then the next largest until you reach the smallest	e.g. 9642
Now reverse the digits to form new 4 digit number with the smallest digit first, then the next largest until you reach the largest.	e.g. 2469
Subtract the last number from the previous one	e.g. $\begin{array}{r} 9642 \\ - 2469 \\ \hline 7173 \end{array}$

Repeat the process until you can go no further. If you don't see a result, check your subtraction.

2. Highlight exactly three numbers that add to nineteen.

8	6	1
2	8	4
1	2	1

3. Fay told us more about the history of the Crossword puzzle and John produced a book about the same topic.

Crossword puzzles were so popular in the early 1920s that they seemed to dominate life. Simon and Schuster printed 3,600 of the first crossword puzzle book in 1924 but by the end of the year had sold 350,000 books. Valuable prizes were offered in crossword competitions. A Princetown professor offered a prize for a puzzle with two solutions. The first cryptic puzzle was composed by Edward Powya Mathers. Crossword jewellery was even produced. Later Bletchley Park in the UK used a public crossword puzzle competition to choose its team to break the enigma code.

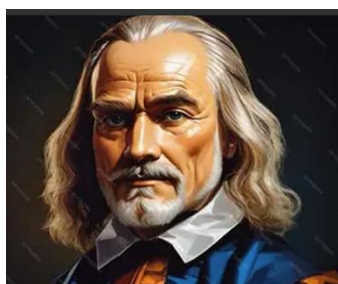


"It says it wants to do a crossword."

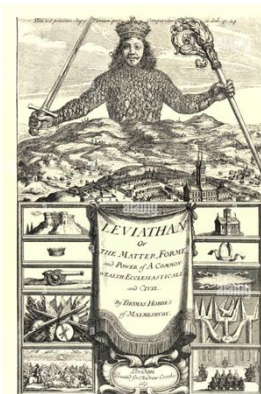
Answers to Puzzles at end of newsletter

Renaissance - 4th Friday 10:00

Convenor: Monette Ewen 0275666217



Fay spoke about Thomas Hobbes who was an English philosopher whose life spanned the first half of the seventeenth century, a time when Charles I was executed and the Civil War took place in England. Thomas, not a cheerful or agreeable man, discovered in middle life the structure of Euclidean Geometry which sets up a way of dealing with space from very basic ideas in a rigidly logical scheme. Hobbes' book "Leviathan" tried to apply such a logical structure to politics. His initial idea was that life for primitive man, without such a structure, is isolated, nasty, poor, brutish, short and violent. We need a "leviathan" as ruler of our community who can make and enforce rules for the benefit of everyone. This Leviathan could be one person or a parliament of some kind.



World War 1 & 11 3rd Thursday 10:00

Convenors: Piers Hamid 0274439764 & Heather Howarth 022310

Lancaster



Lancaster B.I PA474^(note 1) of the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight in 460 Squadron (RAAF) colours

Murray spoke about his research into a paper he had prepared from a Canadian TV programme called "Bomber Boys". It described the training of aircrew from the British Empire including New Zealanders in Canada during WWII before they transferred to England to fly Lancaster bombers in operations over Germany. The programme brought together 60 years later, 7 of the aircrew for a reunion with their grandsons, for the younger ones to understand what their grandfathers had experienced. They all experienced a flight in the one and only Lancaster aircraft still flying in Canada. The group also visited airfields in England from which their grandfathers operated and also war cemeteries in France in which were buried some of their colleagues who had lost their lives on operations.

Evelyn spoke about The mighty corvettes

Small but mighty describes the pivotal role played by the corvettes in the winning of the Battle of the Atlantic. The U-boat commanders laughed at the latest convoy escorts which they called "Little fishing boats with guns." However, as all the little shipyards along the Canadian waterways built these little converted whaling boats, armed only with a machinegun, two depth charge racks and sonar it was they who learned to harass and disable the U-boats who shadowed the convoys bringing desperately needed food and supplies across the Atlantic to a beleaguered Britain. By 1944 the Kreigsmarine had lost more U-boats to the corvettes than they could replace and they abandoned their hunt in the Atlantic.



Next month the group will look at WW2 in the Pacific

Answers to Puzzle

1. If you repeat this process up to 7 times the result will always be 6174. This is called Kaprekar's number after the man who discovered it. If yours doesn't work out after 7 repetitions, check your subtraction. The reason for this is long and complicated.
- 2 The clue to this is the question said "three numbers" NOT "three digits. So we get $6 + 1 + 12$