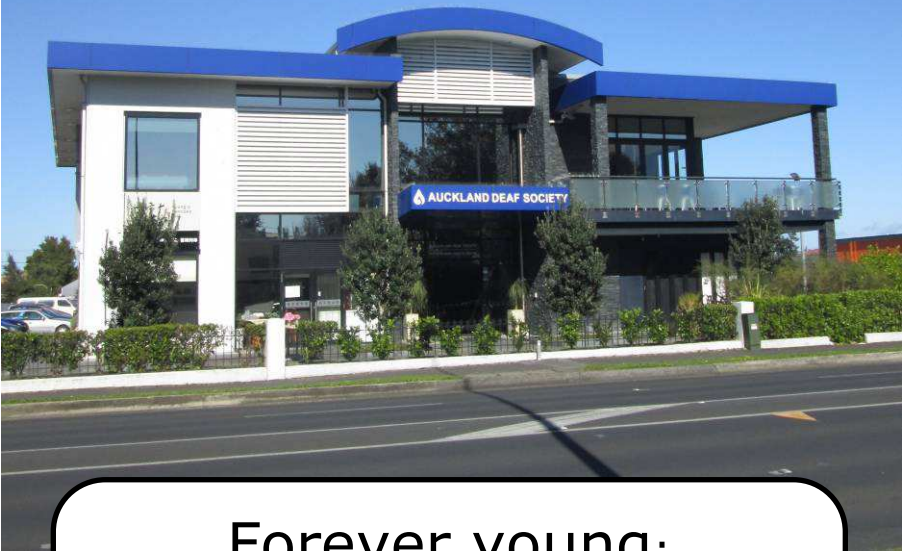


Forever young....



**Forever young;
the first 25 years of U3A Epsom,
1991-2016**

Jeanette Grant

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Cover photos

Front – the Potter’s Park Events Centre, 164 Balmoral Rd
- 2016 onwards

Back – the Fickling Convention Centre, Three Kings
1991-2016

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Editorial

Organisations, like people, come and go.

Life involves change.

To be static is to become fossilised and die.

Twenty-five years is a significant time in the life of both a person and an institution, so it has become the custom to then celebrate their continued existence, to evaluate the past and plan for the future.

This is a brief attempt to record the actions of the pioneers who established the Epsom branch of U3A in November 1991.

It also hopes to show how this branch has evolved.

No two U3A branches have followed exactly the same pattern of growth and interests. Ours, like every other, is unique.

We hope you find the following account of our growth of interest.

M. Jeanette Grant, M.A. Dip Ed.

2016

Introduction – What is U3A?

The first Université du troisième âge was set up in 1973 by the University of Toulouse, and during 1981 several groups in England were busy advertising the idea, drafting a constitution and trying to get grants to form English groups. The first such 'University of the Third Age' group was founded in Cambridge in 1982, quickly followed by one in London. The following year, a National Conference saw 40 groups either set up or in the planning stage.

Peter Laslett - the founder of U3A in Cambridge, England – died in 2015. Three of his original 1981 principles were quoted in the Epsom U3A May 2002 newsletter –

"-1 The U3A shall consist of a body of persons who undertake to learn and to help others to learn. Those who teach shall also learn and those who learn shall also teach.

-2 Joining shall be a question of personal choice. No qualifications shall be required, and no judgement made by the U3A between applicants.

-3 Everyone joining shall pay for its upkeep and for instruction received. These payments shall be the sustaining revenue of the institution apart from gifts by foundations and other patrons. No support from the funds of local and Central Government shall be expected or sought."

After 25 years, there are still four Foundation Members involved with our Epsom U3A branch - Judy Green, Lesley Harrison, Nadine La Hatte and Audrey Shipperlee.

As well as being one of our Foundation Members, Lesley Harrison attended the inaugural meeting of U3A in Wellington which was hosted by the then Minister of Education, Merv Wellington, supported by the Principal of Onslow College, with speakers from South Australia. At this meeting it was resolved that the concept of U3A be introduced to New Zealand. The government's November 1987 Report of the Working Party on Ageing and Education had made a series of recommendations on ways to combat ageism. They included developing educational opportunities – an idea already being pursued in the UK and France since the mid 1970s. Among the initiatives it stimulated was the establishment here of U3A branches in New Zealand.

Getting started in Epsom.

Lesley Harrison remembers that she saw a notice in the local paper in 1991 for a meeting at the home of Dr Stewart in Remuera to discuss the formation of a new branch of U3A as the first Auckland group [founded in 1989] was becoming too large. About a dozen people turned up and formed a steering committee. She became the Assistant Secretary while Epsom U3A was established and for the first year of its operation.

This informal meeting of potential members, where the decision was made to form an Epsom U3A, was held on the 1st November 1991 at 10 Vincent Ave, Remuera. A committee was selected from among those present and listed as...

- Chairman – Mrs Ngaire Aguirre – Onehunga
- Vice-Chairman - Mrs Brya Glynn – Onehunga
- Secretary – Mrs Josephine Acker – Meadowbank
- Assistant Secretary – Mrs Lesley Harrison – Mt Roskill
- Treasurer- Mrs Alison Childs – Mt Eden
- Director of Studies – Mrs Enid Blow – One Tree Hill
- Newsletter Editor – Mr Keith McGill – Pakuranga
- Committee
 - Mrs Ann Gluckman – Epsom
 - Mr Laurie Gluckman – Epsom
 - Mrs Fleur McGill - Pakuranga

Ann Gluckman, who was a member from 1991-2000 writes

"When I retired from Teaching in 1989 my husband and I applied to join Remuera U3A, the first group to get started in Auckland. We had lived in Remuera for many years, but had shifted in 1980 to Epsom. They refused to accept us because we lived out of zone, but suggested we go onto a founding committee, which was to meet at the home of Dr. John and Marjorie Stewart in their home in St Vincent Avenue in Remuera. A group of about eight must have been present. John and Marjorie had been on holiday in France and Britain and they inaugurated the movement in New Zealand on the lines of Universite de Troisieme Age. Because the use of the term university can only be used in New Zealand for bodies that confer diplomas or degrees the use of U3A was adopted. The idea was that each separate "Club" -a term we were not allowed to use by the founders of Remuera U3A - should seed a new group, with some

initial financial help to advertise the first meeting and hire the hall for a first meeting.

From the start the demographic of Epsom was different. Rules for running a U3A, the meeting and each of the study groups that were suited to Remuera, were not really totally suited to the Epsom group. It was basically an organisation for people who were professionals or had a university background and were prepared to put time and energy in preparing papers etc for their chosen group. There was limited flexibility, for example, in the type of study that was considered worthwhile enough... The average age must have been in the 65-70 age range.

Fickling Centre was chosen as the venue. It was very satisfactory and a very pleasant meeting environment. I do not think anyone had been a member of U3A. Remuera sent members of their committee to help with the set up, but as Remuera had only recently been founded I am sure no one had U3A experience. Epsom did not have the availability of resource people that Remuera had, people willing to facilitate groups. Similarly for larger groups, people did not have the room to have them at their home, and we ultimately were hiring a church hall in Gardner Rd, I think, for larger groups."

It was decided to hold an Inaugural Meeting at the Fickling Convention Centre on Tuesday Nov 12 at 9.30am, preceded on the 11th by a committee meeting at which the following decisions were made.

- Annual subs were set at \$30 individual and \$60 a couple
- General meetings were to be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month
- Leaders of the Study Groups were to present a report at monthly meetings
- A transport co-ordinator was to be appointed
- Speakers were to talk for a maximum of one hour and be reimbursed for travel expenses etc
- The study groups were to be autonomous and decide their own venues and meeting schedules and may last for more than one year
- Questionnaires were to be prepared for the meeting to discover what topics people were interested in studying

- A monthly calendar of group meetings was to be put together with copies going to the Remuera and Takapuna branches
- The Mt Roskill Community Board was to be approached and asked for a discount on the hall hireage charges. [This request was received favourably and the charge reduced to \$22.00 retrospectively.]

After the meeting on the 12th November 1991, the Treasurer advised that 41 members had paid their subscriptions and they now had a balance of \$1050.25. At this committee meeting, it was decided

- That members were not to be obliged to attend study groups.
- That Vera Gibson would be the transport co-ordinator.
- That the treasurer was to buy \$100 worth of petrol vouchers as 'thank yous' for speakers.
- That a letter of thanks be sent to the Remuera branch thanking the members for their assistance in setting up Epsom U3A.
- A publicity pamphlet to be displayed in Libraries was approved and it was decided to put regular 'Notice of Meetings' items in the Central Leader.
- The committee format was to consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Immediate Past Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Studies and seven Committee Members. Committee members were to serve for one year only – except for the secretary, to provide continuity.

Ngairé Aguirre



Brya Glynn



The first year in existence

The February 1992 newsletter refers to an 'Inaugural Meeting' being held on 12 Feb 1992 at 9.30am in the Hillsborough Room at the Fickling Convention Centre - where it met for 24 years with only a few exceptions in the same place on the same 2nd Wed of the month from its very first meeting. The subs had already been set at \$30 and almost half of the potential members had already paid.

This Inaugural Meeting began with a Maori welcome from the Nga Tapuwae Maori Cultural Club which had been arranged by Ann Gluckman. Mr Kepa Stirling, Head of the Maori Dept, explained the meanings inherent in the protocols of welcome while the group demonstrated karanga, wero, waiata and haka. Discussions followed on the setting up of the initial seven study groups as questionnaires had already been sent out to interested parties. The meeting ended with Ann Gluckman giving a talk on Comparative Religions.

It is interesting to note that these first study groups were organised for a term at a time, rather than a full year. Some of them met weekly; others fortnightly.

The Term 1 topics were Ancient European History, Anthropology, Comparative Religions, Conversational French, Early Medicine, Philosophy and Theatre & Opera.

In Term 2, they were Ancient History, Creative Writing, Medicine in Shakespeare's Plays, Philosophy, Theatre & Opera, Volcanoes and Watercolour Painting.

Term 3 groups were Ancient History, Comparative Religion, Creative Writing, Ethics, Geology, Introduction to Psychology, Medicine in Literature, Painting and Theatre & Opera.

By the 1st of April, the Epsom U3A had 81 financial members and it was decided to only charge \$20 for the remainder of the financial year. In June, Ngaire Aguirre requested "*that the Committee accept her resignation and that Brya Glynn be empowered to act as Chairman until the AGM in November.*"

The committee meeting of 1st July had a vigorous discussion on the role of an Immediate Past Chairman on a Branch Committee and the decision was that he/she should be a full member with voting rights. At the October Committee meeting it was decided to change the Constitution and replace the title 'Chairman' with that of 'President'.

As the caterers had a contract with the Fickling Centre and outside food was not permitted, in addition to the AGM it was decided

to have a separate 'End of Year' function at 'The Pines' in Owens Rd, [the home of Ann & Laurie Gluckman].



On 11 November 1992, the 1st AGM was preceded by a Special General Meeting to adopt the official Rules and Constitution and apply for Incorporated Society status.



Geology Group – 1992 -on the summit of Mangere Mountain;
Convenor; Ann Gluckman



Plants Group en route to Tane Mahuta – 1996 –
Patricia Hook, Joyce Bell, Marjorie & Ian Traill
Convenor; Morag Macdonald

The pattern of the years since 1992

In **1993**, a Common Seal was ordered and a bell was bought to be used at meetings and have the name and year of each president inscribed on it. The number of Study Groups grew to 13, several with Field Trips as a regular feature. There were also regular reminders in the monthly newsletter of the need to always wear name badges and in September, a Suggestion Box was referred to for the first time. Three of the groups initiated this year are still going in 2016 – Art Appreciation, Current Affairs and Music Appreciation.

In **1994**, the group first rented P O Box 26197 in Epsom in September as a 'continuing contact point.' It was also the year the newsletters reported a few members' successes – Laurel Reeve had a New Zealand historical novel published and was one of the top 10 writers for the Katherine Mansfield Awards. Morag Macdonald and Jean Tennent went off to Australia to sing with Luciano Pavarotti as part of a 1000 strong choir.

In July, there were three mini speakers instead of a single outside speaker as much of the monthly meeting was devoted to discussing and voting on changes to the Constitution. From September, there is regular mention of a mini speaker at meetings. Membership numbers increased steadily to a high in August of 182.

This was the year the Auckland U3A Network was accepted as an Associate (non-voting) Member of AIUTA (International Association of the University of the 3rd Age). The New Zealand Qualifications Authority had written to say that the 1990 Education Act did not permit the use of the word 'university', but after considerable correspondence it was finally agreed that as affiliates of AIUTA, the organisation could legitimately use the word 'university'.

In **1995** the fees reminder in the newsletter was worded "*FEES of \$25 for existing members are now due*" which implies that the fee of \$30 set initially, included a \$5 joining fee. The number of groups had by then risen to 17 and the experiment was tried of making two groups each month responsible for organising the morning tea.

This year also, there was [a] the first mention of U3A lapel badges being available at a cost of \$3 ea, [b] of members being expected to attend at least six of the ten monthly meetings each year and [c] to send apologies if they were unable to do so. Also, it was stated that visitors were welcome – but only for one occasion.

Mini speakers were mentioned for the first time in the June 1995 newsletter but according to the minutes, they had been at meetings since at least September 1994.

The pattern of events in these early years shows much more physical activity than we evince today. Regular Field trips for Geology, Seashore, New Zealand Plants groups were organised. Outings occurred to the Buddhist Temple and to Tiritiri Matangi. Lunches were held at Valentines, Romfords and the revolving restaurant. There are recurring accounts of Laurie & Ann Gluckman hosting picnics, Xmas lunches etc at The Pines. A series of walks on the 4th Sunday of each month with titles such as "Inner City Stroll" and "Devonport Dawdle" were well attended.



It is likely that most of these inaugural members tended to be younger than the present ones. The age of eligibility for Superannuation had just been raised to 61 in 1992 but by 2001 had risen to 65. Certainly more and more people are working well into their sixties and there are far more things to do and groups to join than there used to be. Today our membership numbers are still healthy but individually the members tend to be older and do not always have the energy of their predecessors.



Pres Judy Green 1995



Pres John Good 1996



Pres Morag Macdonald 1997

1996 By then the membership had grown to a total of 180, and attendance at the monthly meetings varied from 99 to 109. The committee recorded that the Fickling Centre was quite capable of coping with even larger numbers. The society's finances were good enough to be able to subsidise several trips and lunches.

1997 The February newsletter contained a reminder about paying annual subs of \$25 but in May there was a note that "since the beginning of this year, initial subs have been \$30. The fees stayed at this level for many years as in 2004 it specifically said they were "\$30 first time and then \$25 subsequently," i.e a \$5 joining fee.

The year's programme involved a number of visits to such venues as the Observatory, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Wenderholm & Puhoi, Kaiaua & Miranda and the Nutcracker Ballet. There was a midwinter lunch, a summer picnic at Omana and a Xmas party at The Pines.

In **1998** Ailsa Senk is noted in the Newsletter as complaining that "*only ten turned up to the idyllic picnic at Omana; where were the other 164?* " Later a trip to Rakino Island attracted 48 members from four different U3A branches. This year the programme included a Mid-year Lunch at Sorrento, trips to Waitakere Rainforest, the Royal New Zealand Ballet, the Westend cinema, a Museum exhibition ending with a Xmas lunch at The Pines.

In **1999**, participation in these outside events was usually good. There were over 60 at the mid-winter lunch and two busloads – over 90 people - went to the 'Chinese Splendour' exhibition at Hamilton Museum. However, the finances involved show that for the trips & lunches for 1997-1999, expenditure exceeded income in each of the three years so they were being seriously subsidized.

1997	\$2835.00	-\$3550.00 = \$1165.00
1998	\$4892.25	-\$5328.00 = \$ 435.75
1999	\$3410.75	-\$4285.35 = \$ 874.60
TOTAL		<u>\$2475.35</u>

The financial situation could cover this for a while as there was \$8000 on term deposit, but attendances were dropping. Only 11 turned up for a summer picnic at Long Bay.

2000 The February newsletter reports that Ann Gluckman was resigning after the death of her husband. There was a note in the November newsletter that the total U3A membership in Auckland had now reached 2004.

In the **2001** New Years Honours List, the 2000 President Jill Amos JP (below) was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the community.



[Mrs Amos, with a background in teaching and guidance counselling, is a former Manukau city councillor and Auckland regional councillor. She was a United Nations observer at the South African elections in 1994.]

This was our 10th year of existence. The AGM in November that year was marked by a special morning tea with a cake to celebrate the 10th anniversary, while various past Presidents spoke of the memories and highlights of their terms in office.

In **2002** Loloma Livingstone won the Network Short Story prize for her story 'Vukalolo Man'. The committee bought a 2nd-hand photocopier for the use of the committee and convenors and the first reference is made in the Newsletter to the Tradesman's List being present at meetings.

Trips were organised to the Kauri Museum at Matakoho, to Half Moon Bay and a Tamaki River cruise with the mid-winter lunch at Western Springs.

In September, members were told that the Auckland City Council had discontinued the free use of halls and from then on we would be expected to pay a bond of \$200 with a 50% discount for non-profit organisations [for which we had applied]. The full hireage rate would be \$28 an hour.

A collection of short stories written by U3A members was available from Dawn Stead.

In 2003 Robin Griffin's book *'Victorian Bank Architecture in New Zealand'* was published and an exhibition of the etchings of a late member – Betty Beadle- was held at Lake House Arts Centre from July 12 2003.

Attendance at trips was healthy. The trip on the 'Waipa Delta' in April attracted 40 people, the midwinter lunch at the Springs Restaurant was attended by 76 members and 55 went on an Upper Harbour Cruise in October. However, it was decided that the committee could not afford to subsidise trips and the lunch that year.

In **2004** it was clearly stated that it was \$30 for new members with renewals \$25. That year, Auckland City Council began charging a \$50 'setting up fee' as well as \$25 for the use of their sound system so the committee arranged to hire one from Probus at a much cheaper rate.

Trips included a Hare Krishna outing; a mystery lunch venue [50 attended] which turned out to be the Manurewa RSA, and a trip to Thames [40]

Loloma Livingstone's autobiography was published – *'My Life, Art and politics in Fiji'* and a biographical article appeared in the September 2008 newsletter.

2005 In March 40 members went on an outing to Kawau Island followed by a midwinter lunch at the Springs Restaurant and in August a trip to a Huntly coalmine.

2006 In the New Years Honours List, Josie Roberts was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the community. That year, Mlada Martinovich had a book published on eight generations of her family.

In March, 32 went on a trip to an Alpaca farm in the Waitakere Ranges and the Midwinter lunch was held at Conifer Grove.

In **2007**, the starting time for the monthly meetings was changed to 10am. Trips were organised to Warkworth in March with a midwinter lunch at Bucklands Beach Yacht club [30], and in August, a visit to the Devonport Naval Base. The first booklet of what was to become an annual collection of stories from our own 'Stories of the Past' group was printed.

The **2008** Outing to the Te Papa Equestrian Centre only attracted 21 members.

A Special General Meeting was needed in October to change one word in our constitution i.e. to add the word "**charitable**" to "scheme and objects" in Clause 10 of our Rules. Another item of great interest in that month's issue was the news about the introduction of free travel on public transport for senior citizens from the 1st of October using the Gold Card. Thank you Winston Peters, MP for Tauranga!

In 2009 our Certificate of Registration as a Charitable Trust finally arrived.

A survey was carried out to find how many of our members were computer users. The results showed that 70% had computers and 54% would be happy to receive the newsletter online. This was not felt to be a high enough number at that date, particularly as 23% said they had no intention of buying a computer.

This year also saw the start of regular items in the newsletter introducing committee members with a photo and a brief biography. Another innovation was a magazine trading table. Members bring along unwanted magazines for others to help themselves. Bev Crombie organised the donation of any left over to the Greenlane Clinic waiting rooms and/or the Auckland City Hospital.

In **2010**, attendances at monthly meetings ranged from 60 to 74 – well down on previous years, while the total membership had declined to 126. There was only one day trip arranged that year – to Waiheke Is.

During **2011** our meetings had to be moved to the Mt Albert Senior Citizens Rooms between July and October as the Fickling Centre was

being modernised. Attendances each month, which had already been in decline, dropped even further to between 55 and 66.

Only nine members took the Historic Tree Walk around the Pah Homestead in March. However the guided tour around the Frances Hodgkins Display at the Auckland Art Gallery attracted 28 while 33 attended a performance at the Dolphin Theatre and 30 had a behind-the-scenes tour of Eden Park.

In **2012** we were back at Fickling Hall and attendance at meetings was back up to between 69 and 81. A survey showed that 57% of respondents belonged to two or more interest groups. Only 34 members indicated they would like to have regular outings organised and four volunteered to give mini talks.

Trips were organised to the Devonport Navy Museum Base in May and a guided tour of Archives New Zealand at Mangere Airport in August - both well attended, with people carpooling rather than hiring a bus. In November, 19 members paid a return visit to Whittaker's Music Museum on Waiheke Is, using their Gold Cards on the Quick Cat. In December a group of 24 went to 'Nunsense' at the Dolphin.

Corinne Opie's book '*I hear you singing*', a biography of her husband opera singer Ramon Opie was launched in March.

One of the more memorable mini talks that year was Bryan Boon's account of how they "borrowed" his home in Epsom to make a TV commercial on family violence.

In November, after the AGM, we had our first 'Show and Tell' expo with a dozen members bringing along a family treasure and talking briefly about its significance. It was another of Bob Edwards' ideas and proved so popular, an annual repeat was requested.

2013 started with a record attendance of 93 at the February meeting and during the year we gained 26 new members. Attendance at meetings continued to average at least ten members more than the previous year. The early custom of having official 'Greeters' at meetings was revived after a lapse of some years with Rosemary Speer and Shirley Wright being pleased to accept the roles.

For the first time in several years, a midwinter lunch was organised - at the Onehunga RSA - but was aborted. Thirty made another trip to the Dolphin in June but only five braved the windy weather to picnic in Cornwall Park with the cherry blossoms in September. The Show & Tell at the AGM this year had the theme "Something Old" and proved just as popular as the year before.

2014 A new feature that year was the introduction of the 'Fests' which proved very popular. Again they were Bob Edwards' brainwave and thanks to his organising skills we were able to admire displays of art, crafts, photos, old tools, etc during morning tea.

Our financial situation improved with the change from printed and posted newsletters, to sending the majority by email every month. Membership Secretary Bev Barker had not only been keeping track of physical but also email addresses and reported that all but 19 of our 145 members currently had easy access to email which is making it much quicker and easier to share information. This is a two way process as it also makes it much easier for members to contact each other and the committee with queries and comments.

Another step into the electronic age came with the purchase of a committee laptop on which to keep the constitution, minutes, membership lists etc. It also forms a single consistent point of contact as it will not change with changes to the committee and has its own email address as shown in the newsletter - epsom1u3a@gmail.com. Preliminary work began to set up an Auckland wide U3A website for 2015 which would be an easy way for people to find each branch and make contact.

Not everything in 2014 went smoothly. We were affected in August by some confusion caused by the Auckland Council's Venue Hire's rationalisation of all rates and rental agreements citywide. It was the first time since 1992 that a meeting had to be cancelled because we were double booked and our long history of booking that specific time and place did not give us priority. However they apologised for the inconvenience they caused and we hoped for a smoother relationship the next year – and a discounted rental.

The theme of the November 'Show & Tell' was 'Something Handed Down' and attracted a great variety of items and stories.

2015 An innovation for 2015 was the appointment of Jeanette Grant as the first Archivist to keep safe documents of longterm interest and to work on this brief history of the Epsom branch ready for our 25th anniversary in November 2016.

The 'Fests' continued this year in alternate months and attracted an increasing number of participants. Topics ranged from 'Christening Memorabilia' to 'Teatowels', from 'Sand Saucers' to 'Overseas Photos'.

However, there were still crises. Two days before the July meeting, we were notified by Venue Hire that vandals had flooded

the lower level of the Hillsborough Room and it was unusable. They had made alternative arrangements for us to meet at the Mt Roskill War Memorial Hall in May Rd. This meant a massive effort in sending emails and making phone calls to notify everyone of the last minute change. We were gratified to find over 80 members in attendance. It proved necessary to use this hall twice before the Hillsborough Room was available again in September. This month saw a new record attendance of 110 members plus 10 visitors. There was much discussion over the issue of capping the membership numbers at 160 and having a waiting list.

Clarification was also asked over the issue of visitors' attendance and the committee agreed that visitors could attend either main or group meetings up to three times before being required to become a member. However, only paid-up members are eligible to actually join any of the groups. It is expected – although not compulsory – that members will join at least one interest group.

The new Auckland-wide U3A website was up and running at www.u3a.nz and it was hoped that in 2016 we would have our own page set up with our branch's contact details and information about our current Interest Groups.

2016 In April, the committee got the unwelcome news that despite our own request for the booking, after almost 25 years, we could no longer meet at the Fickling Centre on Wednesday mornings, as Venue Hire had given that time slot to another group. We had the alternative of moving to an unpopular afternoon time or finding another suitable hall.

After investigating many local venues, most of which were too small or had inadequate parking facilities, the committee was able to make arrangements to hire the Auckland Deaf Society's Potter's Park Events Centre at 164 Balmoral Rd.

They gave us a favourable price but this was still considerably more than the discounted community rate we had previously enjoyed at Fickling. However, it included the use of an excellent sound system, ample parking and the prospect of a three year contract to give us some security for the future.

Rose Boyle and Fran Cassin Pihema have replaced Shirley Wright as greeters and at our first meeting there in July were acting as guides to direct members to the correct doorway and the lift to the first floor. Reaction to the new venue was extremely favourable.

The November meeting will be both the AGM and the celebration of our 25th Anniversary.

A typical meeting.

Meetings start promptly at 10am, but the Hillsborough Room was open from 9.15 to allow us time to set up displays and put out chairs if necessary. On arrival everyone is welcomed by the two greeters – Rosemary Speer and Shirley Wright – and members' names are ticked off in the attendance book by our membership secretary. Apologies are also recorded and the names of visitors listed. They are issued with disposable name-badges and members without email, pick up a copy of the current newsletter.

The first half an hour is filled by up to ten minutes of 'housekeeping matters' – welcome to visitors, notices, reminders, news items etc, followed by a mini-speaker, – usually one of our own members – who gives a short 15-20 minutes talk.

Bob Edwards advertising the next "Fest".



From 10.30 to 11am is morning tea time. This gives everyone a chance to mix and mingle and have a look at the 'Fest' items on display. The two 'catering ladies' – Dianna Parris & Kate Mann – who have been providing refreshments for us at the back of the hall for many years will continue to do so at the Deaf Centre.





Morning tea time in the Hillsborough Room

The main speaker starts promptly at 11am and is expected to talk for up to 45 minutes which leaves time for questions as we have to vacate the hall by 12.15. Epsom U3A now owns its own microphone and speaker and laptop with overhead projector so we do not have to hire or borrow such equipment. People with hearing problems are asked to sit near the front and the row of chairs on the upper level is reserved for those who have problems using stairs.





The treasurer Bryan Boon is always available to receive subscription payments and the Magazine Swap table is beside him with donations from members. Any remaining after the meeting are taken to the Auckland City Hospitals. Committee members and Co-ordinators now wear coloured role badges as well as their name badges to make it easier for new members to identify them.



Treasurer
Bryan Boon
In action

New members receive a copy of our 'Blue Book' which is regularly updated. It contains details of the current Interest Groups – their

Convenors, times and places of meeting and a description of the kinds of activity involved. The newsletter is now emailed to members at the beginning of the month although a limited number of printouts are available for visitors and members without easy email access.

A committee member is always available after the meeting to receive any comments, complaints or suggestions from members.

The interest groups are thriving. Some meet monthly; others weekly. Some involve regular visits - to churches, plays, movies etc. Others meet at a convenor's home. The 'one size fits all' philosophy is anathema to our members.



The 'Discovering Churches' group at St Johns College.

Left to Right; Dorothy Bartlett, Joan Black, Barbara & John Cameron, Bev Barker, Bryan Boon, Betty Townley, Shirley McConville, Shirley Wright, Murray McMeikan, Lecturer at St Johns.

The website developed during the course of 2015 – u3a.nz - allows each U3A to design their own page with the information they consider desirable.

From July 2016, we began to meet upstairs at the Deaf Centre in Balmoral Rd. This is a large room [with a bar we do not expect to use] which was given the tick of approval by members as being a much more welcoming venue with more comfortable chairs. A lift makes it readily accessible and there is a large well-equipped kitchen in which we now have our own locked cupboard for our own supply of cups etc. We look forward to many happy years here.



APPENDIX 1 - PRESIDENTS

YEAR	NAME
1991-2	Ngairé AGUIRRE & Brya GLYNN
1992-3	Brya GLYNN
1993-4	Alison CHILDS
1994-5	Judy GREEN
1995-6	John GOOD
1996-7	Morag MCDONALD
1997-8	Joyce IRVING
1998-9	Gordon DUFF
1999-2000	Jill AMOS
2000-1	Dolena HAWKINS
2001-2	Pat DALE
2002-3	Monica ASHER
2003-4	Joy KNOX
2004-5	Nolene SAWYERS
2005-6	Jean ORMROD
2006-7	Val TURNER
2007-8	Val TURNER
2008-9	Jeanette GRANT
2009-10	Shirley WYATT
2010-1	Maurice WHITE
2011-2	Bev CROMBIE
2012-3	Murray MCMEIKAN
2013-4	Jeanette GRANT
2014-5	Sandra TOONE
2015-6	John LOCKE
2016-7	Raewyn GREGORY



Pat Dale 2002



Jean Ormrod 2006



Val Turner 2007 & 2008



Jeanette Grant 2009 & 2014



Shirley Wyatt 2010



Bev Crombie 2012

RECENT PRESIDENTS



Murray McMeikan 2013



Sandra Toone 2015



John Locke 2016

APPENDIX 2 – EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

SECRETARY		TREASURER	
Josephine ACKER	1992-3	Alison CHILDS	1992
Jillian HOSKYN	1994-6	Rita ADLER	1993-4
Dorothy ROSCOE	1997-8	Earle WILLIAMSON	1995-6
Val ANDERSON	1999-2002	C NORTON-KEESING	1997
Corinne OPIE	2003-5	Ken DALLEY	1998-2001
Anne CARTER	2006	Nick LUBEK	2002-3
Gail VIVIAN	2007-	John LAMB	2004-5
Robin WRAY	2014	Tony IRVINE	2006
Ngaire MUNE	2014	Noella SAWYER	2006
John LOCKE	2015	Duncan STONE	2007
Margaret HOBSON	2016	Bryan BOON	2008-16

COURSE CO-ORDINATORS			
Enid BLOW	1992	Margaret DAY	2004
Morag McDonald	1993-4	Nadine La HATTE	2005-7
Marjory MACKY	1995-6	Murray McMEIKAN	2007
Joy SAMWAYS	1997	Ngaire FORDER	2008
Leo SHIELDS	1998-9	Shirley WYATT	2009
Dolena HAWKENS	2000	Jeanette GRANT	2010
Leo SHIELDS	2000	Shirley WYATT	2011
Jo-An OTWAY	2000-3	Bev CROMBIE	2012
Joy SAMWAYS	2002-3	Raewyn GREGORY	2013-14
Joy KNOX	2003-5	Shirley McCONVILLE	2015-16

APPENDIX 3 – Interest Groups and Group Co-ordinators

Ancient history	1992-2008	Meg Everton, John Gray
Ancient Greece	1994-5	Selwyn Bryden
Anthropology	1992	Ngaire Aguirre
Antiques	1993, 2002-3	Elaine Strachan
Art appreciation – 1	1993 -2016	Enid Philson, Jill Hoskyn, Olwyn Keymer
Art appreciation -2	1994, 1997	Jean Ormrod
Basic German	1999-2010	Olwyn Keymer
Biblical medicine	1993	Laurie Gluckman
Bloomsbury Group	1996-2003	Judy Green

Bloomsbury era	2001-5	Judy Green
Botanical Latin	1997	Prue Elvidge
Bugs group	2011-16	Pat Dale, Bob Edwards Cathy Barrow
Classical Music	2005-11	John Good
Complementary medicine	1999-2000	Jo-An Otway
Comparative religion	1992	Ann Gluckman
Computers for beginners	1993, 1997	Keith McGill
Computer users group	2000-2003	Lesley Harrison,
Craft & reading	1994-1996	Sue Marshall
Creative writing	1992-4, 6-9	Laurel Reeve, Jo-An Otway
Current affairs	1993-2016	Alan Coombs, Jo Harmon, Don McArthur, Jill Roberts ,Lesley Harrison, Val Turner
Current literature 1	1993-2016	Margery Macky, Jo Harman, Myra Williamson, Margaret Ussher, Phyllis Downes
Current literature 2	1999-2007, 2009	Diana Evans, Phyl Vincent
Discovering churches	2012-16	Murray McMeikan
Early medicine	1992	Laurie Gluckman
Exploring Haiku	2013-15	Bob Edwards
Ethics	1992	Lesley Harrison
Famous & Infamous people	1998-9, 2003-16	Gordon Duff, Ron Paterson, Marie Archibald, Gary Preston
Films, viewing & discussing	2001-16	Alan Coombs, Margaret Gordon, Anneli Torrance & Bev Barker
Five hundred; cards	2014 -16	Rosalie Green
French conversation	1992-8	Julie Kasza, Keith McGill
Gardening	2010-11	Shirley Wyatt
Genealogy	2013	John Cameron
Geology	1992	Ann Gluckman
Greek mythology	1994	Selwyn Brydon
History of language	1994-6	Joan Flavell
History of medicine	1993	Laurie Gluckman
History of the Middle Ages	1998-2004	Robin Griffin
Holistic health	1993	Sue Marshall
Introduction to psychology	1992	Betty Bernadelli
Italian 1	1998-2005	Maureen Zanderigo, Jocelyn Hinton
Italian 2 - advanced	1998-2005	Maureen Zanderigo
Japan; country & people	1993	Bill Bishop
Jazz	1996-8, 2005-11	John Good
Jazz & Blues	2014-16	Brian Edgar

Lunch group	2007-9	Joy Knox
Mah-jong lessons	1995	Morag Macdonald
Medicine in literature	1992	Laurie Gluckman
Medicine in Shakespeare's plays	1994	Laurie Gluckman
Money, finance & banking	1994	Keith Wilkie
Music appreciation – 1	1993-2016	John Good, June van Walen, Morag Macdonald, Kay Haslett, Judy Green
Music appreciation - 2	1995-2005	Lillias Gibson, Isabel Bellingham
NZ history	1994-5, & 7	John Good
NZ Architecture	1996-7	Myra Williamson
NZ plants	1994-2007	Ian Traill, Morag Macdonald,
Painting	1992, 1994-2016	Kees van Walen, Joyce Irving & Chiria Shurrock
Performing arts	1997-2016	Dorothy White, Margery Macky
Philosophy	1992-3, 2001-16	Lesley Harrison, Betty Beadle, Robin Wray, Jocelyn Hewin
Poetry	1996-2016	Margaret Cowie, Nadine La Hatte
Religious studies	1993	Ann Gluckman
Romantic poetry	1994-5	Margaret Cowie,
Seashore studies	1994-6	Lesley Balderston
Scrabble	2014-16	Julia Firth, Shirley McConville
Social Golf	2015-16	Kay England
Stories from the past for the future	1999-2006 2007-2016	Pat Dale Jeanette Grant
Theatre & opera -1	1992-6	Harry Karn, Jo Harman, Judy Green
Theatre & opera -2	1993-6	Patricia Stevens
Theatre Games	2003-4	Joyce Irving
Travel	1994-5,8-9 2001-3 2016	Meg Everton, Meg Everton Shirley McConville
Travel 2	1998	Ann Gluckman, Ann Carter
Twentieth century explorers of the mind	1993-5	Jim Methven
Volcanoes	1992	Ann Gluckman
Walking group aka Explorer walkers	2007-10, 2013-16	Marie Parker, Shirley McConville
Watercolour painting	1992	Freda Bream
World religions	1998	Ann Gluckman

APPENDIX -4- SOME OF OUR AUTHORS.

- Pat Dale – ‘A houseful of strangers’ 1992
- Laurel Reeve [1920-2001]– mentioned in 1992 as having written a New Zealand historical novel
- Patricia Freda Whale [1918-1996] – under the name Freda Bream - wrote an autobiography ‘Chalk dust and chewing gum’ in 1970 followed by ‘Whistles for the postie’ 1972 and then a series of 13 mystery stories, set in both the UK and NZ.
- Irene Maloney – ‘The lifting of the mask’ 1995
- Robin Griffin – ‘Victorian Bank Architecture in NZ’ 2003
- Loloma Livingstone – author in 2004 of the autobiography ‘My life, art and politics in Fiji’.
- Mlada Martinovich in 2006 had a book published about eight generations of family history.
- Ann Gluckman – in 2010 wrote a family history ‘Postcards from Tukum’ which followed several books based on her late husband Laurie Gluckman’s medical research.
- Corinne Opie – in 2013 launched her husband Ramon Opie’s biography ‘I heard you singing’.
- Jeanette Grant – in 1988 wrote ‘A history of Maungawhau District School 1913-1988’; edited Jack Baker’s ‘A Baker’s Dozen’ in 2010; has written for and edited the club magazines ‘Peugeotex’ since 1986 and ‘Prospect’ since 2002; is a contributor to ‘NZ Memories’, ‘The NZ Genealogist’ and to both ‘The history of Epsom’ and ‘The history of Mt Eden’.
- Bryan Boon is another contributor to ‘Prospect’, ‘The history of Epsom’ 2008 and ‘The history of Mt Eden’.
- Raewyn Gregory – ‘Words whisper on the winds of change; a collection of poems’ in 2011 and ‘Strands of flax’ in 2013
- Phil Gifford - as well as working as an award winning journalist, he has written ‘Inside the Cup’ and 24 other books – so far.

‘STORIES OF THE PAST’ Group -.

Since 2007, this Group has put together an annual collection of stories to share with family and friends. In 2015, we chose a common theme and to commemorate the Gallipoli centenary, wrote about the way our families were affected by war.



Stories of the Past Group – 4.3.2015

Kay Johnson, Ngaire Mune, Rosemary Speer, Hilary Cleary, Shirley Wyatt, Bob Edwards
Stephanie Mays, Helen Schneller, Isobel Clarihew, Dawn Stead, Jeanette Grant

One of the advantages of meeting at the Deaf Centre, is the presence of this lift which is much appreciated by many of our less agile members



APPENDIX 5 - FINANCIAL SUMMARY

YEAR TO	INCOME	EXPENSES	SURPLUS/DEFICIT	ASB ACCOUNTS		
	\$	\$	\$	Current	Deposit	TOTALS
30.9.1992	3357	-1884	1473	\$	\$	\$
30.9.1993	9167	-6378	2789	2291	3000	5291
30.9.1994	10199	-7336	2863	1125	6000	7125
30.9.1995	9672	-8576	1096	3222	5000	8222
30.9.1996	9334	-8980	354	576	8000	8576
30.9.1997	7969	-7726	243	820	8000	8820
30.9.1998	9966	-9180	786	1606	8000	9606
30.9.1999	8377	-8104	273	1438	8000	9438
30.9.2000	7432	-10054	-2622	837	6722	7559
30.9.2001	9449	-8905	544	2150	6238	8388
30.9.2002	7808	-9024	-1216	1136	5113	6249
30.9.2003	10332	-10449	-117	1769	5332	7101
30.9.2004	9270	-8418	852	2692	5501	8193
30.9.2005	8091	-10340	-2249	963	5783	6746
30.9.2006	6565	-4866	1699	1539	6137	7676
30.9.2007	6357	-6331	26	1180	6461	7641
30.9.2008	5784	-5892	-108	938	6607	7545
30.9.2009	5128	-4718	410	1028	6408	7436
30.9.2010	4166	-3906	260	1335	6443	7778
30.9.2011	3560	-3887	-327	1067	6482	7549
30.9.2012	4804	-4860	-56	2602	5000	7602
30.9.2013	5680	-6290	-610	1538	5000	6538
30.9.2014	5027	-4040	987	2503	5000	7503
30.9.2015	5261	-4222	1039	754	8028	8782
Estimate						
30.8.2016	4655	-6747	-2092			

