



Email: u3ameadowbank@gmail.com

President: John Goodman

Secretary Vivianne Child

www.u3ameadowbank.nz

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER / MAHURU 2025

Greetings from the President

Winter is nearly over, according to the calendar, and, on cue, it has warmed up. Spring is coming! Lambs! Blossom! Birds! Flowers! Longer days! Warmer temperatures! Christmas! (According to my reckoning, there are 83 shopping days to Christmas, or, if we take account of the fact that there are now 7 shopping days a week, 117 days).

In my last report of the July meeting, I was singing the praises of Ev McGowan. In August she excelled herself with her organisation of our 25th anniversary Birthday Party. A dozen or so foundation members were on stage, most of whom spoke, giving us fascinating information about our early days. Once back on level ground, the candles were lit, the celebratory cake cut and Allan Davidson's song sung. The foyer was beautifully decorated by the hospitality team and the tables covered with cakes baked by committee members (including yours truly), all of which were delicious and demolished. Thanks to all who contributed to a most enjoyable occasion, Ev McGowan, Vivianne Child, Gill Naden, Barbara Langguth and many others.

Later, replete with cake and good cheer, we heard from our main speaker, Wendy Hampton. Wendy was a most accomplished speaker, speaking totally without notes, dispersing good advice, anecdotes and humour. Her topic was "Leave a legacy – not a mess". She emphasised the importance of leaving accurate information to hand and explained the ways in which Probate can be delayed (overseas property, young legatees etc). She also outlined the need for Enduring Powers of Attorney (for Personal as well as Property affairs) and up-to-date Wills, including a Living Will. A *Frixion Biro* which can cleanly erase earlier entries was recommended. These are available at most stationery shops. She was very well received by those present as demonstrated by the questions asked, and crowds seeking to purchase her two books.

I am sorry to announce that Vivienne Wilson died on 12th August. She was a current member since 2017. Her husband Barry died last year and she suffered a serious stroke earlier this year. Our sympathies are with her friends and family.

Our May speaker, Pete Lester, also died unexpectedly last month.

We have a busy time coming up. The end of September is the end of our financial year and also the time when subscriptions are due for the coming year. The renewals process will be explained at the September meeting and will be the same as previous years.

The AGM will be held as usual in November. Unusually, this year, in addition to receiving the usual reports and electing the committee, we will be voting on motions to approve re-registration as an Incorporated Society and to approve the revised Constitution. Exciting times!

We will need three or four members to come onto the new committee. Please consider allowing your name to be put forward. Anyone who could consider taking over the role of Database Coordinator would be particularly welcome.

John Goodman

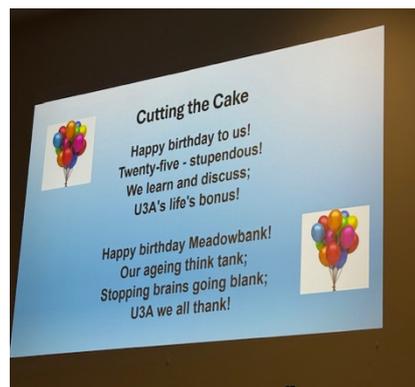
August Meeting – 25th Anniversary Celebration



Founding members sharing aspects of the beginning of U3A Meadowbank (as in the screen shot) with Ev McGowan coordinating the presentation.



Arthur Easterbrook, foundation member and our second president, with Ev McGowan, and (right) with his daughter



Ev McGowan cutting the cake

Our birthday song!

Look at those cakes!

Congratulations and thanks to all who made this celebration such a special event!

Our August Speaker



Wendy Hampton speaking on “Leave a legacy, not a mess.” (Right) with Maureen Putt

Who’s Who for Monday 15 SEPTEMBER 2025 meeting: 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start at St Chad’s Church, 38 St Johns Road, St Johns 1072.

Greeters: Saints and Sinners

Mini Speakers: Literature and Short Walks

Guest Speaker: Dr Craig Radford, Professor of Marine Science, University of Auckland

Topic: The Reef Whisperer: Researching and Understanding through microphones; the life of the Hauraki Gulf

The Reef Whisper: understanding the Hauraki Gulf through sound

Dr Craig Radford – Professor Marine Science, Institute of Marine Science, University of Auckland

Jacques Cousteau titled his famous underwater documentary the “Silent World.” He got this very wrong. If you take the time to listen underwater it is very noisy environment with a myriad of animals that produce sound, akin to a tropical rain forest. For the past 25 years, I have been listening to the Gulf, trying to understand its health through sound. This has led to some important discoveries, new soniferous species, that there are various sound rhythms to Gulf, development of new tools for monitoring ecosystems, and that human generated sound is a major stressor. Here, I will debunk the myth of the “Silent World” and provide insight to the soundscape of the Gulf and how we need to protect this underwater sonic world.



Who’s Who for Monday 20 OCTOBER 2025 meeting: 9.45 a.m. for a 10 a.m. start at St Chad’s Church, 38 St Johns Road, St Johns 1072.

Greeters: Jazz

Mini Speakers: External Speaker – Rachel Hopkins. Topic: Less is More

Guest Speaker: Barrie Brown

Topic: Generous Philanthropy: Helping restore NZ Wildlife (especially on Rotoroa island in the Hauraki gulf)

New Members

After last month's flurry, we gained just one new member in August.
Let's make *David Rae* very welcome!

It's been good to see our recent new members settling in and joining groups.

New Members Wine and Cheese Evening



This well attended event was held at Shirley Grayson's home on August 21. It was an opportunity for our newest members to meet each other in an informal setting and was a very convivial evening.

The picture shows a few of the attendees enjoying themselves.

Thank you to Shirley, and the rest of the Publicity Committee.

Book Review

Poetry Aotearoa Yearbook - breath' Edited by Tracey Slaughter published in August 2025 and 'HOPURANGI - SONGCATCHER -poems from the Maramataka' by Robert Sullivan published in 2024.

A highlight in August was linked to the topic of Poetry. The 2025 book of NZ poetry was released, and a new Poet Laureate appointed.

The 2025 edition of the Poetry Aotearoa Yearbook edited by Tracey Slaughter contains 141 new poems by both established and emerging New Zealand poets. NZ Booklovers state that the book "is a testament to the depth and diversity of New Zealand poetry today....a powerful, essential read". Tracey teaches creative writing at the University of Waikato.

Our new poet laureate is Robert Sullivan who was announced as New Zealand's 2025-2028 Poet Laureate on August 22nd 2025.

Robert is a poet, academic, and editor, of Maori and Irish descent, and frequent participant in both national and international festivals. He is currently an Associate Professor in the creative writing programme at Massey University.

Each of his books are very different, exploring social and racial subjects, and aspects of Maori tradition and history.

His most recent work is 'Hopurangi -Songcatcher ' inspired by the cyclical energies of the Maramataka (the Maori Lunar calendar, aligning with phases of the moon). It includes poems he wrote - one a day, over two and a half months.

This selection of his poems was shortlisted for the 2025 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards.

Gay Williams

U3A Notice

U3A Meadowbank Inc. First Notice of AGM 2025

The 25th Annual General Meeting of the Society is to be held on Monday 17 November at St Chad's, starting at 10.00 am. The agenda will include the usual presentation of President's and Treasurer's reports and the election of officers for 2026. Members must be fully paid-up, as of this date, in order to vote at the AGM.

The agenda and all relevant notices and reports will be sent to members by email or mail on or before 1 November 2025. Our Constitution requires 40 per cent of members to be in attendance to make up a quorum, so please do plan to attend.

The AGM and guest speaker will be followed by the end-of-year function.

Current / Upcoming Events in Auckland

DIVA

Elton's wig. Marilyn's dress. Prince's shoes. See it all at DIVA.

From the catwalk to the silver screen, DIVA celebrates the looks and legends that have defined generations.

**ON NOW UNTIL SUN 19
OCT 2025**

**ADULT \$25, CHILD 5–15
\$15, UNDER 5 FREE
FAMILY (2 ADULT, 2 CHILD)
\$72**

**CONCESSIONS (STUDENTS
& SENIORS) \$23**

**FREE FOR MUSEUM
MEMBERS**

DIVA is a dazzling celebration of the artists who have captivated audiences around the world, driven change, and redefined culture. This spectacular international exhibition comes exclusively to **Auckland Museum from the V&A in London.**



Tāmaki tauawhi kaumātua Age-friendly Auckland



Save the date – Age Friendly Auckland Symposium

The Age Friendly Auckland Implementation Rōpū is delighted to announce that the Age Friendly Auckland Symposium will take place on 8th October 2025, at the Western Springs Community Garden Hall. The theme is *Living Well, Ageing Well – Together*.

Registration will open in early September

For further information get in touch with us at agefriendlyauckland@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Alternatively, you can also contact:

Joanna Maskell

joanna.maskell@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

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

TO CONTACT COMMITTEE MEMBERS please use the gmail addresses below:

Secretary: u3ameadowbank@gmail.com

Treasurer: u3ameadtrea@gmail.com

President: u3ameadpres@gmail.com

Membership Coordinator: u3ameadmemb@gmail.com

Newsletter Coordinator: u3ameadnews@gmail.com

Groups Coordinator: u3ameadconv@gmail.com

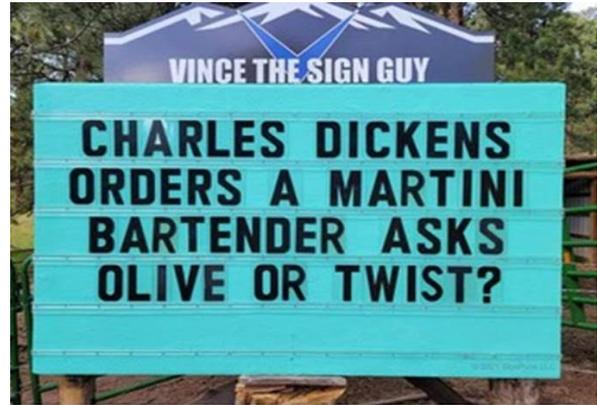
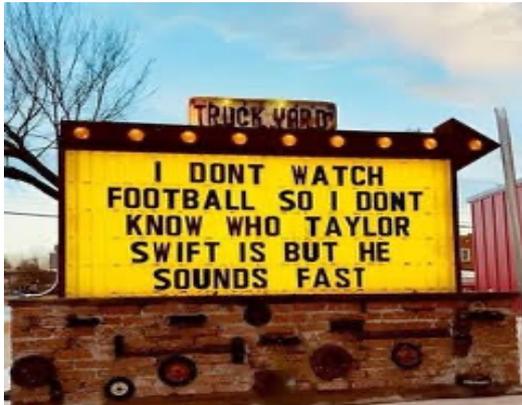
Next Monthly Meeting: Monday 15 September at 10 am at St Chad's

Don't forget to send in your U3A news to include in the next newsletter. We rely on your contributions.

Deadline for the OCTOBER 2025 newsletter items is FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2025.

Expect receipt confirmation.

Something Amusing?



Seven Auckland Art Galleries: Can you identify them?

