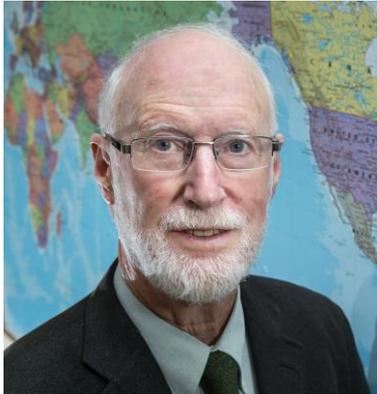


GUEST SPEAKER: Dr Stephen Hoadley, Associate Professor,
Politics and International Relations, University of Auckland

Title: Trump and New Zealand



US President Donald Trump is impulsive, unpredictable and, some would say, outrageous. So how will the new Labour-led Government of New Zealand and New Zealanders in general, cope with his style of leadership? Is Trump leading us into strife with North Korea? Will Trump's 'America first' policies cede Asia-Pacific regional leadership to China? Will New Zealand suffer or benefit?

Audience questions and opinions will be welcome.

Auckland University Associate Professor Stephen Hoadley has been studying NZ-US relations for four decades. Last November he published a book on the subject entitled *New Zealand United States Relations*. He enjoys speaking to public groups, to the media and to NZ Defence Force officers and he has appeared before numerous U3A clubs.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In her talk Karen Blake, the Bequest Office for Starship reminded us what an awesome facility our National Children's Hospital is. Starship is equipped to support the complex medical treatment of children throughout the country and now also serves the South Pacific. The concern and empathy shown by the staff to provide a family-centred and child friendly care is impressive. Treating over 120,000 children a year Starship is also a major teaching and research centre in paediatric care. After last month's meeting the new committee had their first meeting, ten very talented people to support me in overseeing the running of our U3A. Their names are on page four. It is appropriate that the committee's first task is to provide a lunch, after the November meeting, to thank the convenors who coordinate the Special Interest Groups that are the learning and social heart of U3A.

Glen Plaistowe

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Active Travellers

Alan Thompson gave a talk on Iran. Alan dispelled all the negative publicity about this country and his photos showed the wonders of ancient Persia.

Ancient Civilizations

The various steps in the development of Mayan pottery from 2000 BC to 1200 AD were outlined by Ruth. Initially the Mayan pressed their thumbs into a clay ball to form a depression. Next they pinched up the walls of a ball of clay to form a crude container. This was followed by the discovery of rolling out clay into long sausages and coiling them to form the walls of a larger container. With the dry clay being still porous, experiments into drying and firing eventually produced the many fine examples we see today in museums around the

world. As the importance of pottery grew in Mayan civilisation the process was taken over by the educated.

Anthropology

We looked at the lives of the Tartars of Podlachia on the border of Poland and Belarus. The tartars originally arrived in the area in 2141 as part of Genghis Khan's invasion of Poland. They are Muslim having adopted the religion on their journey from Central Asia but still celebrate many of the Mongol Holy Days led by their Imam. Today they are well assimilated into Polish society. In November we contrast them with their neighbours the Szeptuchy her are a mix of Eastern and Roman Catholicism.

Archaeology

Gloria spoke about the origins of humankind. She outlined the thinking and discoveries so far starting with fossils found in the Olduvai Gorge by the Leakeys. She covered how the changing condition of our planet with lower sea levels and at other times massive ice sheets enabled human kind to spread from Africa over the whole globe. Recently an article in "Daily Telegraph" noted the finding in Bulgaria and Greece of traces of a different type of hominid dating back 7.2 million years. Perhaps we did not come "out of Africa" after all. As with many issues in archaeology, there is more to come!

Art History

Gloria gave a talk on the Auckland artist Lisa Reihana, whose art work "The pursuit of Venus- infected" is New Zealand's entry in the prestigious Venice Biennale for 2017. This work is an animated panel, 24 metres long and 3.3 metres high, of Captain Cooks journey around the Pacific. The original art work was made in 1804 from accounts from his journals, onto wallpaper panels by French artist Jean- Gabriel Chauvet. These depicted an idealised view of the region as a place of sexualised singing, dancing and exotic island beauty. Lisa Reihana set about giving a more authentic view of this colonialist image by using digital technology to animate the scenic wallpaper. She added scenes including dancers and weavers from the Aboriginal and Pacific community with sound effects. First shown in Auckland in 2015, when the

exhibition closes in November it will then be shown in London, Paris, and Sydney.

Art Pot Pourri

Susan spoke about the pioneer potter, Briar Gardner (1879 - 1968). Drawing on expertise at her brothers' brickworks in Auckland, Briar Gardner taught herself to throw pots in the 1920s and exhibited throughout the 30s and 40s. Her work pre-dated the studio pottery movement by some 20 years. Examples of her pottery can be seen at the Auckland Museum. The life and work of acclaimed Maori artist Fred Graham was the subject of Brenda's presentation. His work has spanned five decades and his sculptures are displayed in prominent spaces around Auckland, as well as in other parts of the country and overseas. At the Te Waka Toi Award ceremony earlier this year Graham, aged 88, received the supreme award.

Book Group

October meeting cancelled.

China: Past and Present

The terra cotta warriors, accidentally discovered in 1974, are the most famous evidence of the tomb of the first Emperor of China. [259 BC –210 BC] We also know that his mausoleum is located about 700 meters away from the warriors. In 2002, ground piercing radar was used to locate an unsuspected underground "city" containing everything [and everyone] that the emperor would need in the next life. While some of it has been excavated, the mausoleum remains undisturbed. The Chinese say they are waiting for better technology to preserve precious finds but may also be deterred by the rivers of mercury inside the mausoleum and by the dread that they could be disturbing the malevolent spirit of the emperor himself.

Classical Music

Great cities that have inspired music were presented to us on the DVD entitled Classical Destinations 3. Episode 3 of the first disc let us enjoy the music from places on the rivers Main, Ins and Rhine. A cruise boat took us from Salzburg to Nuremberg with the composers focused on for this section being Mozart and Wagner. Episode 6 of disc 2 guided us through Finland and Norway to learn more about Jean Sibelius, Evard Grieg and Frederick Delius. Their music was being inspired by the beautiful scenery of these regions.

Creative Audio-Visual

The October meeting of the Group was devoted to matters technical - a number of previous challenge A/Vs were shown to enable several new members to gain an appreciation of the perils of taking part in a challenge! They appeared to enjoy the peril! We also looked at several Photodex videos that dealt with the features of the new version of Gold or Producer (9) that has recently been released - a number of features that look to be promising but will take a while to get used to. Members were asked for their entries from the Warkworth photo shoot for the Christmas challenge.

Creative Writing

Frances and Kathy both wrote interesting pieces from a child's perspective. There was a lively discussion on plastic waste and the impact on sea life, as confronted by conservationists. Our next meeting is on the 26th October all visitors are welcome.

Current Affairs

We acknowledged how up-to-date we were with our recent emphasis on environmental behaviour change noting a local

school's "Showcase", Prince Charles's comments at a recent Malta Conference, Supermarkets' commitments to phasing out plastic bags, re-use of gib board off-cuts by builders and Air NZ's recycling initiative. In an effort to maintain our awareness of the problem we had an 'honesty review' of how well we, in our group, were doing. Other items discussed: Climate Change (following Stuart's showing of Mary Robinson's TED talk); USA's latest issues; pros and cons of NZ education system – School Deciles, National Standards, Teachers' performance pay; awaiting decision on Government - MMP/Democracy?

Cycling

Once again we went on our favourite ride parking at Point Erin pools and zooming down under the harbour bridge. Next we rode along the Marine boardwalk and onto the Wynyard Quarter and through the viaduct. We then slogged up Nelson Street and onto the pink cycleway. Then it was downhill all the way once we joined the Grafton Gully cycleway, past University of Auckland and Vector arena. We ended up back in the viaduct for a well deserved coffee.

Exploring Art for Fun

The October activity for Exploring Art for Fun was a visit to the Lake House Art Centre to receive an update on its current activities from newly appointed Operations Manager Grae Burton. We had an interesting tour of the building and also viewed the current exhibitions including a very impressive one of modern ornamental glass work. The meeting concluded with an enjoyable cup of coffee in the sunshine.

Film Appreciation

We focussed on Tony Palmer's film "In From the Cold the World of Richard Burton". A Welsh coal miner's son, Burton has been defined in the public image as a drunk who was besotted with glamour and wealth. His celebrity in fact was defined as much by his personal life and his marriages to Elizabeth Taylor, as his remarkable acting skills. He was wild, passionate, literate, incredibly well read and riddled with self doubt. Paradoxically for someone who lived most of his life in the public eye, he was shy, deferential, courteous and absurdly generous. Films that are of interest this month are "Waru" (a film which demands to be seen by New Zealand audiences with an urgency rarely captured in our national theatre), "Maudie" and "Final Portrait"

Français pour rire

We opened our meeting with an excellent exercise on devenir (to become) followed by a crossword from Gareth which was a challenge, yet fun to complete. Our very interesting talk from Moira was about the life of Marie Curie who was Polish by birth but who spent most of her life in France. It was an extremely educational talk – for example, as well as hearing about her Nobel prizes, we learned that Marie founded the Curie Institutes in Paris and in Warsaw and that they remain major centres of medical research today. During World War I, she developed mobile radiography units to provide X-ray services to field hospitals and her daughter, Irene, assisted her on the battle fields.

History of Europe)

We watched an episode on Cardiff Castle, from a DVD titled 'Secrets of Great British Castles' Cardiff was one of the early Norman Castles and ironically William's eldest son Robert Curthose spent the latter half of his life imprisoned there after losing a battle for the throne to his brother Henry. We talked of the reign and death of William Rufus and how his new lords were allowed to raid deep into Wales sparking three centuries

of unrest in Wales. In 1095 Pope Urban declared the first Crusade and William paid Robert to go in his stead.

Inventors & Inventions

Terry gave a presentation on the London Underground's "Central Line", the building of which commenced in 1891 and was between Shepherd's Bush and Liverpool Street. It is now 74km long with 49 stations and in the rush hour there are 34 trains per hour. The trains are now fully automated, with the "Driver" only operating the doors, and in 2011/12 year over 260 million passenger journeys were recorded. We then watched a fascinating documentary on the development and maintenance of this line. Our mini-talks were George Jenning's successful design and creation of an efficient WC and sewage system for Victorian London, both of which were sold in many other cities worldwide, was outlined by Brockie. David introduced three inventors that changed the humble loaf of bread forever. Alfred Bird – Baking powder, Byron Smith – an alternative baking powder and Otto Rohwedder who invented the bread slicer.

Literature

At our last meeting we had a theme of history writing, beginning with historical novels which usually use historical people and events as the basis for a plot. We discussed the amount of research involved in good historical novels and the challenges of combining authenticity with creativity. Authors shared were Hilary Mantel, Alison Weir, Edward Rutherford, Julie Ferry and Alyssa Polombo, as well as NZ writers Paula Morris and Peter Walker. Shona presented excerpts from the non-fiction historical book 'Rogues' Gallery' by Philp Hook. It describes in depth the relationship between artists and art dealers from the Renaissance to the present day, revealing that profit motive has often been the driving force.

Local History

Sheila's presentation at our October meeting was on the French influence on early New Zealand. Explorers from France, such as Surville, du Fresne, d'Urville and la Perouse, and whalers too, arrived in the late 18th and 19th centuries, mostly in the south of New Zealand. Akaroa, of course, remains as a reminder of the French today. The first Catholic missionaries, with Bishop Pompallier, arrived first in the Hokianga and later moved to the Bay of Islands. Suzanne Aubert, already linked to the Marists in France, spent most of her life here as a missionary, caring for unwanted children and the urban poor. Links with the Arts included the French writer Dumas, the artist Gauguin and the lesser-known composer Messiaen whose works contained the sounds of NZ bird songs. The French will now always be remembered in Akaroa where a French Fest is held every October. There are street parties, bands, history re-enactments on the beach, local wines, markets, petanque and many other forms of entertainment.

Mah Jong

New members, especially beginners, are welcome. We play at Room 3 ECB Community Centre for fun, not money. We play with Chows using the Mah Jong Player's Companion book by Patricia Thompson and Betty Maloney. Great brain exercise.

Making History

John Cabot was an Italian navigator who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean from Europe to Canada seeking a passage to East Asia. In 1496 King Henry VII gave Cabot permission to explore lands unknown to all Christians on behalf of England. Cabot and twenty crewmen set sail on the "Matthew". He recorded landfall latitude at what is now known as Newfoundland's Great Northern Peninsula He planted the

flags of England and Venice and raised a cross for the Roman Catholic Church. On returning to England with this news and of the huge schools of fish easily caught, he was handsomely rewarded.. Cabot's next voyage ended in disaster when he and his ship were lost. From 1500 to 1800 thousands of Europeans crossed the Atlantic to fish along Newfoundland's coast.

Medical Science and History

Geoff presented Plantar Fasciitis, a severe heel pain that affects about 10% of us at one time or another. Usually the older you are the more likely you are to suffer! He discussed the features and the various treatments and exercises that are available to try to resolve the symptoms. It is possible to lessen the likelihood of getting this debilitating problem which can be excruciating and which usually lasts around three to six months. If it persists, the last resort is a rather nasty operation. Other topics discussed were the possibility of a universal flu vaccine, genes that control our circadian rhythm and the impact of the gravitational wave.

Modern History

Colin gave a presentation on Discovery of Diamonds in South Africa. In December 1866 a boy found a strange pebble on the bank of the Orange river, which turned out to be a diamond. This discovery started a rush with miners coming from all over the world, with as many as 50,000 at the height of the frenzy. This discovery founded the city of Kimberley and the Big Hole. Diamonds were discovered in 1871 on the De Beers farm which created many small diggings which resulted in a Big Hole being created. Cecil Rhodes consolidated many of these small diggings. Frank introduced the video "140 Days Under the World." The film was made by the NZ film unit in the early 1960's and tells the story of NZ's activities in Antarctica. Frank (beard and all) plays a starring role in the film as the dog handler.

Music Appreciation and History

Meeting held at Philson Tce. This presentation was an assortment of artists: Dennis Roussos and his singing style; Lisa Gerrard with her unusual way of singing and playing the Yang Din (hammered dulcimer); and an Aboriginal performer; the final performer being Jacques Loussier whose Concert some members had attended and enjoyed some years ago in the Auckland Town Hall. We warmly welcomed a new member Doreen.

Music – Mainly Classical

At our meeting at Greta's home she gave us a video recording of "Springtime in Vienna 2015". This is a traditional Easter concert dedicated to the Austrian composer Franz Schubert and this year's concert included extracts of his orchestral works together with his songs sung by German baritone Matthias Goeme. We then had a change of tempo with the final rousing section of the 2017 "Last Night of the Proms" featuring the BBC Symphony Orchestra with Sakari Oramo conducting.

Puzzles, Patterns and Paradoxes

Trisha showed three different videos about the evolution and theory of number including Fibonacci number. Fay demonstrated several ways of solving the same problem hoping to show techniques that could be used in future problems. John gave us some "Ditloids" such as "3 B M", "7 D S", "54 C in a P w Js", "12 S O T Z".

Renaissance

Our group visited the Auckland Art Gallery to see the Corsini exhibition. It's from the Corsini family's private collection in Florence and features Renaissance and Baroque paintings by Botticelli, Andrea del Sarto, Caravaggio and Pontormo. It's a window into the family's passion for collecting art and ongoing loyalty to Florence which has prevailed through WW11 and the forces of nature during the floods in Florence in 1966. A beautiful collection well worth a visit.

Travel

Helen and Lew gave us three talks the first about their cruise down the West Coast of South America, visiting Nicaragua, Lima in Peru, Valparaiso, Puenta Aranus, through the Beagle Channel, Tierra Del Fuego, Ushuaia, over to the Falkland Islands, Montivedeo and leaving the ship in Rio. A family gathering to spend a few days on Rottnest Island was relaxing, with many activities to use. Their cruise to Noumea

was nostalgic for them and then on to Vanuatu and the Isle Of Pines.

Walking

Friday October Oakley Walkway

Friday November Smiths Bush

Meet and park in the Cricket Club car park, Northcote Road at 9.30am. Bring walking poles if you have them. We will walk through Smiths Bush to Akoranga Drive and back along Akoranga Drive to McDonalds McCafe for morning tea. **Friday**

November Unsworth Heights

Meet and park near [80 Unsworth Drive](#) at 9.30am. Follow Constellation Drive under the Motorway Bridge, exit left at next traffic lights into Caribbean Drive. Turn right at roundabout into Barbados Street (large Phoenix palm). Follow Barbados Street to next roundabout and turn right into Unsworth Drive. The walk is about one and a half hours, a few hills and some short steep parts. All pavements except for 200m of metalled track and 100m grass. Coffee at Atrium Café in Greenwich Gardens.