



Auckland Unitarian Church
Love beyond belief

Auckland Unitarian Church Services Auction – Covid Edition

List
Updated
Friday
20th

Saturday, 21 November 2020, 6:00pm

AUC Sanctuary

1. Ponsonby/Freeman's Bay Walk followed by lunch on Sunday, 29 November - (Jos Vroegop and Viv Allen) 10 spaces available, children

welcome, bids starting at \$15pp

Starting from the church after morning tea, we will walk through some parks and old historical city streets in Ponsonby and Freeman's Bay for about an hour before arriving at Jos and Viv's house for lunch (vegetarian options will be plentiful). Jos and Viv are happy to shuttle folks back to their cars after lunch if you'd prefer to forego the 15-minute walk from their place to the church. A medium level of fitness is required; there will be a few hills but the group won't be walking too fast. Rain Date: Sunday, 6 December

2. Classic Christmas Cake Delivered to You - (Karn Cleary) Starting bid is \$35.

This fruitcake has been at every single Auckland Unitarian Church Service Auction ever! It is a must have for your holiday celebrations. Ingredients in this 23cm cake typically are butter, sugar, eggs, flour, baking powder, spices, jumbo raisins, sultanas, green & red glace cherries, mixed peel, pecans. Karn is happy to discuss any modifications the buyer desires. The cake will be delivered to your home or to you at church on an agreed upon date --- prior to Christmas, of course!

3. 4 hours of expert builder services (Hamish Mackenzie)

Starting bid is \$200; market value is \$250

Church member and expert builder Hamish is offering 4 hours of his professional services. Hamish owns and operates Villafixation, a company that specialises in small carpentry jobs on villas and bungalows. Hamish can do repairs & renovations to maintain the fantastic character of these beautiful homes. He delivers a reliable and expert service for your important home maintenance repairs and renovations.

4. Custom Embroidery (Kay Parrish) Bids from \$30

Master crafter Kay will embroider your favourite literary quote, affirmation or irreverent slogan onto a piece of fabric which you can hang (frame or

unframed) or attach it to a cushion. Sample piece or photo will be on display at the auction.

5. Traditional Kiwi Barbecue at Bucklands Beach (Terry Childs and Chris Breeden) 6 spaces with bidding starting a \$40 for adult spaces; kids under 12 eat for \$1 per year of age (i.e., a 5-year-old pays \$5) Date to be announced

Hallelujah it's back after a few years' absence! Chris and Terry have perfected the art of traditional charcoal barbecue after many years of experimentation, tweaking and tasting. No propane gas grills involved here. It's a barbecue the way you remember from childhood ... Only better. Enjoy grown-up mains such as rack of lamb, pork spareribs, chicken and salmon or have a hamburger or hotdog with the kiddies. It's all good. Served alongside breads, baked potatoes, salads and veggies. Beverages including beer and wine are also included.

6. Computer Support (Paul Howarth) Bids starting at \$50
2 hours of in-home computer tutoring. Paul will come over and help you with your computer issues for an hour. Then a few weeks later, he will come back over for a follow-up/refresher hour to see if what was learnt previously has "stuck" and to answer any follow-up questions.

7. Auckland War Memorial Private Tour with your own Unitarian Tour Guide (Shirin Caldwell) 4 spaces available with bids starting at \$30 per person

When war broke out in 1914, New Zealand had only one million people. We sent more personal to the war per capita than any other nation. More than 19,000 died. The people of Auckland wanted a memorial museum to honour and mourn their dead.

A worldwide competition was held for an appropriate design. Three Auckland architects won the prize. All three were diggers, two lost their brothers in the conflict. Come and hear about our magnificent building itself and the many stories hidden in her walls. Ponder why a copy of the 500 BCE Discobolus statue held in the museum is wrong.

Shirin is a trained volunteer guide at the Auckland War Memorial Museum and will offer this **new** tour that includes the just-opened (November 2020) **exciting refurbished South Atrium** which tells stories of our cultural heritage.

This **new** tour will take place on a Saturday afternoon in 2021. Day and time to be arranged on a mutually agreeable date.

8. Swift Mobile Bicycle Maintenance and Repair (Mark Swift) Cost is \$40* per bike and the service is available to all those interested
Mark will come to your home with his kit and do the work there. Or –if you prefer he will pick up the bike and take it away and return. The \$40 package includes a Safety Check and Full Service, which will inspect all fittings, fasteners and tyres; adjust the brakes and shifting; lubricate the chain; and true wheels. The retail cost of such a service is \$75, and you have to get your own bike to the shop instead of Mark coming to you.

*If additional parts or work are needed (inner tube, cables, spokes, brake pads, chain, etc.), Mark will purchase them for reimbursement and additional hourly labour fees will be charged and donated to the church.

Mark is willing to provide this service to as many people as sign up. This is not an auction. It's a flat \$40 per bike service.

9. Tour for Two at Hamilton Gardens (Carolyn Sutherland) starting bid \$80 for the package for two people which includes tour guide and refreshments

Join Hamilton local Carolyn Sutherland for a fun day at Hamilton Gardens. Carolyn will organise and pay for a Hamilton Gardens tour guide (cost=\$20pp) to show you around this stunning attraction well-known throughout Aotearoa. The tour will feature a variety of gardens -- Japanese, Tropical, Tudor, Italian Renaissance, Rose Garden, etc. Since you can't go on an international holiday right now, this is the next best thing. An around-the-world tour just an hour or so south of Auckland in the Waikato. After the tour, Carolyn will shout refreshments in the garden café. The gardens and cafe are dog-friendly!!

10. Summer Solstice Sunset Walk to Bethells Cave on Sunday evening 20 December (Sally Mabelle) 8 spaces starting at \$10 per person

Meet Sally at the Bethells Beach carpark at 6:30pm on Sunday 20 December for a leisurely walk at low tide to Bethells Beach Cave. During the evening, you'll hear stories of old Te Henga and enjoy light refreshments. Sunset is at 8:40pm, so the group should be back to the carpark by 9:00pm. Would be a good idea to bring a torch if you don't have the flashlight app on your phone!

11. One-hour Group Singing Lesson on Zoom on Thursday 10 December 7:30pm- (Sally Mabelle) Bids starting at \$15pp

Join Sally's Vocal Vitality singing class from the comfort of your own home. Learn tips and techniques to help you express your full voice and have more fun when you sing. This virtual lesson promises to be fun, joyful, embodied, and transformational. You will learn to release tension and anxiety and feel more of your true voice. You'll also gain skills and confidence in expressing yourself, not only in singing, but in all your communication and become more aware of your breath and parts of your voice which are strong and parts which are unexpressed. During the zoom class, the group will learn a couple simple waiata (songs) in te reo maori to share with family and friends. Lesson will be held on Thursday evening, 10th December, 7:30-8:30pm.

12. A morning of antique silver cleaning at the church - (Jenny Boyd and Alexandra Bruce) Starting price \$40

Do you have some beautiful but tarnished pieces of silver from your grandmother that you are embarrassed to display at home? Worry not!

We will have them shining like new at our 'antique silver cleaning working bee' at the church. You bring it, we clean it.

13. Orakei Basin Walk and Dinner on Saturday, 30 January, 2021 - (Betsy and Leigh Marshall) Bidding starting at \$40 per person with 8 spaces available

Starting at 4 pm on Saturday 30 January, join Betsy and Leigh for a 1 ¼-hour walk around the Orakei Basin, followed by a delicious dinner complete with wine and beer at their house on Kelvin Road, Remuera. If you're not keen on walking but would like to join in on the dinner, you are welcome to arrive at their house at 5.30pm.

14. Chocolate Guinness Cake Delivered to You (Nina Khouri) Starting bid is \$35.

Following in the footsteps of the UK's Domestic Goddess Nigella Lawson, AUU's own cake baker Nina Khouri will prepare and deliver for you Nigella's famous Chocolate Guinness Cake. Here is Nigella's description of the confection: "This cake is magnificent in its damp blackness. I can't say that you can absolutely taste the stout in it, but there is certainly a resonant, ferrous tang ... it has a cream cheese frosting to echo the pale head that sits on top of a glass of stout."

15. Family Board Game Party February 20 (Tess Brothersen and John DiLeo) 8 spots available with bids starting at \$15 per adult, \$10 for children under 12

Calling all gamers ... John and Tess will host an afternoon of board games at their home (short walk from the Newmarket Train Station) from 1-4pm on Saturday, 20th February. This event will be child-friendly and is open to people of all ages, whether or not they have children themselves. All you need is to be a child at heart. Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

16. Famous and Always Fabulous Hauraki Gulf Boat Ride (David Fougere) Starting bid \$70

Imagine yourself cruising around the Hauraki Gulf, one of the best boating harbours in the world, in your own boat for the afternoon, crew at your beck and call. Lunch provided, a lovely summery sunny calm day (it had better be, since the boat is tiny and you could get very wet from spray in waves of any size!). Also needs to be warm since it has no windscreen. Oh that lovely feeling of the wind blowing through your hair. Just you and someone you love, apart from your friendly crew (sorry, not good for more than about 3 adults, crew included), though an extra little or two could be OK. Or you could opt for several more people and simply go rather slowly, taunting the Plimsol line (not that this boat has one of course).

Depending on weather we could get adventurous and head to Rangitoto and/or Brown's Island, or up one of the many lovely small waterways (great if your environmental streak goads you into loving mangroves). Lucas Creek (all the way up to Albany, following the historic route of NZ's first ever exports - apples to the UK), or up past Greenhithe and Herald Island to Sunday afternoon jazz at Riverhead.

Or if you're really adventurous (and either a child or of rather Gandhi like proportions) this little boat could even take you and family water-skiing (one at a time only though).

A half day cruise with a difference. Fully post-modern, yet to be created by the participants. Fullers could never compete with this.

Be my guest! Many options, even a walk on Rangitoto, or if we got lucky, lunch with the penguins off the end of the Whangaparaoa. Fishing an option too (but be warned, your host almost never catches anything!).

Wholesome lunch provided if we run over lunch time, hearty snacks and drinks if we do just a morning or afternoon.

What offers? Best done sometime before the summer runs out, likely dates February to April next year, very weather dependent. I'll enjoy this too! Insurance not included. All care, no responsibility. Swimmers preferred just in case. Experienced skipper with modest Coast Guard training. Not too bad at dodging rocks. Has seen dolphins, a whale and huge sting rays from this boat on rare occasions. Many sea birds too. And on a trip from one Unitarian service auction we saw seals on the north side of Rangitoto.

Passengers with an inclination to being litigious not accepted. Anything could happen here! Lifejackets **are** provided though. Moderately full gamut of safety equipment on board including marine radio, flares, fire extinguisher, anchor, GPS, depth sounder, and "alternative means of propulsion" (oars - these could be for you!).

Starting bid (covers as many as you choose to cram into this little boat) \$70.

17. Self-powered boat ride - (David Fougere) Starting bids \$15 per person with four spaces available

For those too green to consider burning up fossil fuels, come and power your own boat! Be your own bio fuel!

Guided paddle and row in small boats around the Herne Bay waterfront, Cox's Bay to the Harbour Bridge. And back again if you're lucky. At least 2 hours of it.

Up to four places available in a small dingy and two canoes. Starting place a little beach in Herne Bay that most people don't know exists. Refreshments and life jackets provided. Flares, marine radio and GPS for anyone anxious. Depending on levels of temerity we might even venture out to Watchman's Island (the upharbour one you can see from the bridge), also known as Sentinel Island or Rat Island. We mightn't stay there long.

Needs a combination of pleasant weather and enough water/tide so we can float above the mud, and importantly, get back to the beach we start

from. Date to be organised one Saturday or Sunday afternoon Feb-May 2021. (Backup dates will be offered if anyone misses the first trip.)

18. Firewood Delivery -- (David Fougere) Starting Bid is \$50
Get in while it's still legal!!! Cut firewood, approximately one cubic meter. Tree prunings, mostly natives including pohutukawa. Lovingly cut and sawn up, just for you! Almost all pieces are cut to less than 30cms long (1 foot). Should be dry enough for burning by next winter 2021 (i.e., not green means more environmentally friendly). Diameters up to 15cms (6 inches) - OK for most fireplaces without needing to be split. Mostly 20-30 cm long. AUC firewood expert Henri's advice probably available free with this offer. Also includes some old renovation timber leftovers (untreated).

David will deliver to you anywhere in Auckland as part of the deal. Delivery most likely early next year, at a time to be worked out that's mutually convenient.

Please note the market price of pine is \$80 and Douglas Fir is \$150. This is much better wood though.

Bonus for anyone OK about storing wood that contains borer for as long as it takes before you burn it: several banana boxes full of that ilk too! (Not part of the cubic meter. To be discussed between David and the winning bidder)

19. Enjoy a telescope for most of next year! (David Fougere) Bids starting at \$40 for use from March-November 2021
Overwhelmed by an urge to communicate more deeply with nature and the cosmos, I bought this a while ago. However, you can only commune deeply for so long before it gets a bit boring. So I've come to think of this as "Fougere's folly" - more about overwhelm by consumerism. Do I really need this thing?

Help ease my angst about undue consumerism by enjoying it for most of next year (March to November inclusive). It might even save you from the same folly.

It's WONDERFUL to lie there and look at the details on the face of a full moon, the phenomenal number of stars you can't see with the naked eye on a clear night, a distant island, or roosting birds. For a while ... !

Magnification up to X60. Great for inspiring kids, too, but does need to be handled carefully (moderately vulnerable to shock). Comes with a full sized and separate smaller table-top tripod. You can also take photos through it. (Ethically I have to ask that you don't turn this on your neighbours!)

20. Homemade Malaysian Chicken Curry Delivered to Your Door

(Kylie Chye) Starting bid is \$60 for tray that serves 12-14 people

Forget uber eats ... they're nothing compared to our own Kylie Chye. Kylie has cooked up a taste of Malaysia just for you and a small crowd of friends (note the portion should feed 12-14 people). This curry contains chicken, potato, onion and fried tofu puff. The rest is Top Secret. Categorized by Kylie as mild to slightly medium spicy, this feast will arrive at your place frozen and will keep for the next 3-4 months. It will be delivered at a mutually convenient time. All you have to do is heat it up in the oven and cook some rice to go with it. Sounds like the easiest dinner party you'll ever host!

21. Homemade Malaysian Vegetarian Curry Delivered to Your Door

(Kylie Chye) Starting bid is \$60 for tray that serves 10-12 people

Kylie is so sweet that she didn't want the vegetarians among us to feel left out and cooked up another batch of Malaysian vegetarian curry. Containing cabbage, carrot, long green beans, eggplant, fried tofu puff and Kylie's magic touch and secret ingredients, this curry will generously feed 10-12 people. Categorized by Kylie as mild to slightly medium spicy, this curry will arrive at your place frozen and will keep for the next 3-4 months. It will be delivered at a mutually convenient time. Just heat up in the oven, serve with some rice, and experience a virtual visit to Malaysia with no passport or return quarantine required.

22. VIP tickets for two to 2021 Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra Concert

(David Fougere) Bids starting at \$150 for the pair

David's company (Phoenix Research) provides research services to the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra (APO), which is how he is able to offer these 2 exclusive VIP tickets to your choice of (almost) any concert next year.

If you opt for a Town Hall "main stage" concert, you get tickets in the balcony, a fabulous place for a spectacular view and appreciation of the orchestra (including all those instruments at the back that you can barely see from the stalls!) Plus you'll benefit from the special hosting for VIPs in the Town Hall Balcony area, with a glass of wine before the concert and further refreshments at interval. Here's how the APO describes the VIP package on their website:

- "Premium reserve concert seats
- Pre-concert and interval refreshments, including a selection of Villa Maria wines and platters by Dawsons
- Hosting in the APO's VIP hosting area with other VIP guests
- Complimentary concert programmes for each guest
- Price: \$140 per person + GST"

Tonight's auction winner gets to take home the 2021 APO Season Brochure, to drool over and think about which concert you'd like to attend. (This brochure will be on show at the Auction Dinner, so do pick it up and have a browse. The more appetites are whetted, the livelier the auction!)

For the full list of upcoming APO concerts and events see:
<http://apo.co.nz/concert-events>

23. Devonport Bicycle Tour and Picnic 10:00am on Saturday, 23 January (Clay Nelson and Rachel Mackintosh)

10 spaces available with bids starting at \$20 per person
Join Rachel and Clay at the Devonport Ferry for a bike tour of Devonport's historical and literary sites. After the ride, there'll be a picnic lunch complete with a refreshing glass of wine or bubbles at Narrow Neck Beach. The outing should last around 4 hours.

Don't have a bike? No problem. They can be rented at the Devonport Ferry. Sounds too strenuous? Still not a problem. They rent e-bikes.

24. Choose a sermon! (Clay Nelson)

Bids from \$25

Tired of waiting to hear a sermon on a topic you really, really care about? Choose a sermon topic for Clay to preach on in the next year.

25. One-way Airport Ride - (Mary Mason) Starting bid \$50

One-way trip to/from Auckland Airport either domestic or international (yeah right). Mary has a 7-seater vehicle so can take several people and all their luggage. To be arranged at a mutually agreeable time, but it will never be too early or too late by her standards. Open to making this a round-trip offer if you're willing to pay double!

26. Historical Walk of K Road (Corinne Henrikson) 4 spaces starting at \$20 per person

K-Rd is Corinne's favourite street in Auckland and has been ever since she moved to Auckland from Tauranga for the first time. It was the early 1980s and she was doing a massage course and K-Rd was the most central area to have the class. Corinne has also worked in the area over the years and loves the really colourful, edgy vibe it has and, although she feels sad to see some of the gentrification, it cannot take away the road's history, beginning with it being the only original Maori street name that has stayed regardless of many attempts over the early years to change it. Don't miss this special opportunity to join Corinne on a walk down this unique road, beginning at the Hobson Memorial in Grafton Cemetery at 2pm on Sunday, January 24th and ending up at the at a pub or cafe - her "shout"- and chat. The walk is expected to take 1.5 to 2hrs.

27. Roast Dinner complete with dessert and wine (Alan Lynch) 4 spaces starting at \$40 per person

The quintessential kiwi roast dinner with a scrumptious dessert and a glass (or two) of wine awaits you at Alan's Mt Eden home. He'll even do the dishes! What a great night out. Date TBC

