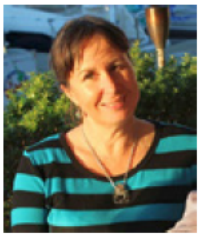
Mohua U3A Golden Bay

October 2016 Newsletter

30th September: **Sir Geoffrey Palmer** visited us for the second time this year – this time to talk about his new book written with Andrew Butler: ***A Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand***. Our need for a written constitution was explored by the Democracy Study Group last year, and Sir Geoffrey's presentation brought this need to a wider audience. His deeply researched, potentially dry and academic topic, was enlivened by his critical examples of how the lack of a constitution affects our legal and political systems, and our daily lives. Sir Geoffrey describes the constitution project as a 'work in progress' needing public participation in its formulation. He expects a constitution to strengthen our democracy by placing all the matters in one place, where academic, legal, political and educational interests at all levels will have access. Sir Geoffrey emphasised that there was no 'mystery' about a constitution and that it ***could*** be done. In the longer term he expects New Zealand will become a republic with a New Zealander as head of state. The meeting was very well attended with a number of visitors participating in the vigorous exchanges at question time.



19th August: **Rebecca Hayter**. Rebecca has been closely associated with the publication of several boating magazines for a number of years and has earned several prestigious awards for her leadership and editorial expertise. Rebecca's relaxed but compelling presentation ***Typing Eras: print media meets the internet*** provided many insights into the print publishing world and its potential economic and usability conflicts in a digital world; not to mention the attractiveness of picking up an interesting glossy magazine. Rebecca has recently returned to Golden Bay. The references to chickens and compost belied the fact that she is still very active professionally.

Next meeting, Friday November 4th at 2pm: We have been invited to join the Golden Bay Peace Group and the Quakers to hear **Professor Richard Jackson** speak on the ***Efficacy of Non-violent Intervention***. Professor Jackson is Deputy Director at the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at Otago, and formerly Professor of International Politics at Aberystwyth University in the United Kingdom. He was the Honourable Secretary of the British International Studies Association (BISA) from 2009-2011. Richard is described *as "one of the best lecturers at Otago, who delivers information from an insightful perspective, with meticulously researched material, plus his own unique blend of quirkiness and compassion".*

Our December end-of-year meeting, as in previous years, will again be a fun event. It will be on the 9th December starting at 10.30am involving a debate and a shared lunch. Members are invited to suggest possible topics for the debate. They are also invited to volunteer to be on one of the debating teams. Ideas and offers to go to Secretary Jan.

For your entertainment: **Solothello** a performance in Te Reo, modern english and Shakespeare by Maori Mask artist Regan Taylor. Tuesday 18th October, 1:30 pm GBHS Hall - $15 tickets at the door. The performance is one hour.
http://www.nelsonartsfestival.co.nz/shows/solothello/

Reports from the study groups:

Looking at Golden Bay

The very successful theme "Looking at Golden Bay" is into its second year of operation, and has 40 names on its mailing list. A typical turn-out is about 15 members. The policy is to have one visit per month, preferably on Thursday, but this is only loosely followed. The last visit was to Tui Balms on 30th June. Earlier we visited Willow Works on 2 June, Mussel Inn Brewery on 26 May, and Solly's Yard on 5 May. Our next scheduled trip is to Hans Bauer pottery on 20 October. We may have one or two more such trips before the theme finally peters out.

Convenor:
Piers MacLaren,
525 7440
piersmac@ihug.co.nz

Effective Aid

The Effective Aid group (originally named International Inequality) has had three meetings. Initially we were studying the book 'Doing Good Better' by William Macaskill, but at the last meeting the discussion was wide ranging as members had connections to Malawi and Nepal. We also briefly looked at the need for Aid in Golden Bay. We meet in the afternoon of the second Monday of the month. There wasn't a meeting in July, as many members were away. New members welcome.

Convenor:
Liz Lee
525 8110
leejl@xtra.co.nz

History

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month, from 10 am to noon, usually with refreshment beforehand. Since our last newsletter we have delved deeply into the history of Ireland (and haven't quite yet made it to the present) and investigated some of the little enclaves of Europe: San Marino, Liechtenstein and Gibraltar, with more to come in October. We'll finish off the year with the Kurds and the background to the Palestine/Israel situation. We take turns hosting the sessions and doing the research, but the discussions afterwards are open to all.

Convenor:
Jenny MacLaren
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pjsmac@xtra.co.nz

Music Appreciation

In our U3A Music Appreciation Group this year, with Charles Naylor's guidance and knowledge, we have studied 20th Century American Classical music composers and looked into the influence of Jazz on Classical Music. We have also studied and listened to a lot of Shostakovich, studied the development of the String Quartet, and studied and listened to Quartets by Bartok and Shostakovich.

Convenor:
Sue Janke
525 8305
sjjanke@xtra.co.nz

Films

This group will be meeting for the last time this year on Monday October 3rd at 7.30pm at 18 Paradise Way. Our film will be "Educating Rita" which failed to arrive from Aliceinvideoland last month. We have enjoyed some excellent films during the year from the comedy genre but owing to my impending surgery we will not meet in November. This study group is full, but there are about five people on the list that have not been regular attenders, so if you are not interested in participating please ask to be taken off the list so that others can come on board.

Convenor:
Pam Pruden
525 8386
pam.chas@xtra.co.nz

Democracy

The Democracy group has been meeting regularly, to explore, debate and enthusiastically discuss issues which are easily fitted into a broad rubric of Democracy. We had an earlier meeting with Sir Geoffrey Palmer on the theme of 'Constitution' when we surprised him with our activities over past years. We are therefore delighted that he will in late September speaking to us all about his new book and proposals to develop active movement in New Zealand toward active public involvement in an effective Constitution. We tend to feel that much community angst about political powerlessness in New Zealand may be eased through such a debate.

Convenor:
John Lee
525 8110
zazamanc73@gmail.com

Twelve steps to a compassionate life

The 12 Steps to a compassionate life group is going well. We meet on the 3rd Thursday morning of the month and are working step by step through the 12 Chapters. At the moment we are at Chapter 5. The discussions are lively, and with time we are getting deeper into the book. The group is closed to new participants.

Convenor:
Silvia Schneider Rowse
525 8588
11nikaus525@gmail.com

Play Reading

The Play Reading group is now in its 11th year and meet each 2nd Thursday afternoon of the month. We read a mixture of drama and comedy from scripts accessed from The Play Bureau based in Dunedin. The programme this year has featured plays by Terence Rattigan, John Osborne, J.B. Priestley, and Leslie Sands, with plays by Alan Ayckbourn and Tom Toper being the last of the year. It provides an opportunity for "would be thespians" to get into character and have an enjoyable afternoon "performing". There is room for new members, if you are interested please contact Margaret.

Convenor:
Margaret Maloney
524 8699
m.maloney@xtra.co.nz

Art History

The Art History group is co-convened by Jocelyn Tracey and Margaret Maloney. Now there are 20+ in the group we are not able to accept new members. We have a more informal format for meetings in that we fit in opportunities as they arise. The recent art films at The Village Theatre have provided good viewing of the following subject matter: Peggy Guggenheim, Uffizi Gallery Florence, Leonardo da Vinci and Goya with films about Renoir and Monet in the September/October programme. We are grateful to Natascha for organising matinee viewing on the group's preferred afternoon (Thursday) after which we discuss the film over coffee at the Wholemeal. Earlier in the year we saw two DVD's on the French Impressionists at John and Jocelyn's home. After these latest films

Convenors:
Jocelyn Tracey
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members of the group will lead sessions on various artists/movements. Other sessions planned are: an evening about Tilman Riemenscheiner, a master woodcarver 1460-1534 presented by Erhard Wingels; DVDs on Constable (with introduction by Rosamund Arthur) and Turner (introduction by Margaret Maloney). It has been a stimulating programme to date with even more to come!

and
Margaret Maloney
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m.maloney@xtra.co.nz

Book discussion groups

Group 1: Book Discussion Group One is now well into its fifth year. During that time our ten members have discussed almost 50 books ranging widely - novels, travel, biography, NZ fiction, science, tragedy and comedy. Some we love, some we hate, but all lead us to great exchanges of views and expansion of horizons. We meet monthly in each other's homes. (This group is full)

Group 1 convenor:
Jan Morgan
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dejrmorgan@farmside.co.nz

Group 2: Takaka 003 Book Group (makes us sound a bit like a James Bond Secret Society doesn't it!) continues to meet on the second Friday morning of each month, in the little Library room. Our membership is full for now - 10 of us, and no longer all women. Recently we have selected our 25 titles from which our next year's reading will come, and we look forward to whatever title from that list will come our way each month.

Group 2 convenor:
Margaret Holloway
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margaret.holloway80@gmail.com

Economics

We've met 4 times so far. We're using the book, Economics: The User's Guide by Ha-Joon Chang as our text. So far, we've looked at what Economics is, and at the history of the growth of Capitalism in the Western world. We spent some time looking at economic theories that have been implemented during this time: Marxism, Keynes' theory and the current dogma dominating our modern world: Neo-liberalism. We've had some passionate discussions that have come from our new knowledge of why our society is in the situation it is today.
We meet on the 2nd Monday morning of each month.

Convenor:
Moira Tilling
525 7202
moiratilling@gmail.com

Saints and Sinners

The Saints and Sinners / memoir group has had its first meeting and membership is open if more U3A members want to join us. We have decided to meet every two months with the next meeting on October 11th Tuesday. We are starting with memoirs relating to the members of the famous or infamous Bloomsbury group. We're looking forward to sharing ideas around this interesting genre of literature. As it is a new group, we are flexible and no doubt will develop as group members decide on future directions but a good start has been made.

Convenor:
Robin Riley
525 7033 or
027 244 7731
ratrobin7@gmail.com

Colonial Impact

The initial proposers were interested in studying the impact of early Māori – European contact. We will look at the available historical evidence. What facts can we find? Where is the Māori voice as well as the European? What were the consequences of the interaction for both parties, both positive and negative? Are some of the claimed benefits not necessarily seen as such by both parties? What injustices have been recognised, and which have not?
This study group will start as soon as possible.

Convenor:
Dilyse Roberts
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U3A Golden Bay Committee

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