U3A Golden Bay Mohua

Bank account for membership fees. NBS Account: 03-1354-0390784-00. Name: U3A Golden Bay Mohua.
U3A Golden Bay Mohua is not a registered society.

February 2017 Newsletter

4th November 2016: Lecture by Professor Richard Jackson, National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago. The GB Peace Group kindly invited U3A members to attend this lecture on *'The efficacy of non-violent intervention'*. Richard discussed a range of issues and evidence in a carefully justified explanation of the values and effectiveness of pacifism, opposition to war and positive attention to non-violence. In his suggestions for action he included the importance of examining the beliefs that society uses to determine its policies and practices. We might see a need to consider alternative ideas and values that could support a kinder and fairer way of living.

Our 9th December end-of-year meeting, as in previous years, was again a fun event. The debate *'That it is all about instinct'* was contested by:

Affirmative team: Robin Manson, Sheila Climpson, John Pemberton
Negative team: Geoff Rennison, Anne Gentleman, Alan Swafford.

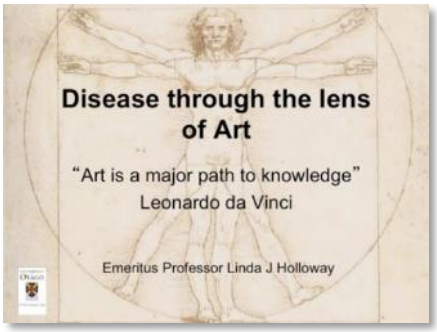
And ably chaired by Graham Rogers. An array of wisdom and wit was weighed in the (plastic) balance and much enjoyment was had by all. The debate was followed by a shared lunch.

On 17th February, we held our AGM. All members of the 2016 committee agreed to continue their contributions to the committee. Their reappointment was approved by acclamation. Study Group co-ordinators gave short presentations on the activities of their groups over the past twelve months. Members approved the change of name of our society to Golden Bay Mohua.

Our guest speaker after the AGM was Dr Sean Weaver, Executive Director of Ekos, an international carbon offsetting charity based in Golden Bay. The title of his talk was *'The Ekos Carbon Boutique: A Marriage of Ecology and Economics'.* Sean provided an overview of his adventures in developing an ethical carbon offsetting social enterprise that focuses on ecological, community and financial integrity. This includes developing community based rainforest carbon projects in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, and a carbon offsetting retail platform for New Zealand businesses.

Membership, at the time of the AGM, was 118 – an all-time high. There are now 14 study groups, an increase of five over the previous year.

The committee has developed a stimulating programme for the coming year.



On 21st April Dame Linda Holloway will be our guest speaker. She will speak on *"Disease through the Lens of Art".* The talk will be an illustrated presentation covering Ancient Art, Art and the Anatomists, Plagues and Epidemics, Nutritional Disease, Poverty and Diseases of Artists. The illustrations will depict prehistoric objects through to the works of John Bellany (deceased 2013) who illustrated his own liver transplant. Some of the illustrations will be very familiar but the clues to the disease depicted in the painting or that suffered by the artist may not have been appreciated before.

Reports from the study groups:

Looking at Golden Bay

In 2016 we looked at: A boutique winery (Simpson/Parr winery of Limestone Bay); The dolomite quarry; Project Janszoon; A model dairy farm (Corrigan Sowman's); Healthpost; The Mussel Inn Brewery; Solly's trucking yard; The Willow Works (Pete Greer's operation); Tui Balms; A pottery (Hans Bauer of Anathoth Pottery); The trug factory (Brett Hutchinson's business); Fresh Choice.
Copies of the reports from the many fascinating visits are held in the GB Museum.
This theme has run its course and the study group has concluded its activities.

Ex-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 discussions have been wide ranging. The Effective Aid group is at present in recession, but could easily be re activated, if people so desire.

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

History

The history group meets every third Thursday in members' homes - unfortunately this means that we can't take any extra people at the moment, as our living rooms are usually filled up. (Nothing to stop someone starting a second group though!)
We have been looking at the little countries of the world such as Andorra, Gibraltar, and the like to see how they have come about in a world of more powerful (and often ambitious) neighbours. Interspersed with these have been a few other topics: the founding of Israel, the history of Ireland, and (next time) the Kurds. At the March meeting, we will finish off our current programme with the Isle of Man and Ireland and then discuss where to next ...

Convenor:
Jenny MacLaren
525 7440
pjsmac@xtra.co.nz

Music Appreciation

This year, with Charles' guidance, we plan to study the development of the symphony and related composers and their works.
At the AGM we accepted three more people, so for now, we feel we have a full house.

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

Films

The film group have enjoyed a wide variety of genre from early classics, drama, comedy and foreign films, which have been chosen by members of the group.
From the introduction to the film to the discussion of content over supper afterwards enriches what is always an enjoyable evening. The film group meets on the first Monday of each month usually at Pam and Charles's home. Pam is the group convener. This group is fully subscribed but another group could be started if there is interest.

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

Democracy

This group has been meeting regularly now for some five years. We started with a desire and will to make intelligent submissions to the Government's Constitutional Review Panel, and, after that Panel's submergence into a Government void, we persisted, and have survived.
First, we took a look at 'democratic issues in Local Government' and then, delighted by unexpected support from Sir Geoffrey Palmer, have continued a very wide ranging, all embracing review of concerns about the constitutional 'state of the nation.'
We may never change the world [and by Gum it needs it !!] but have a stimulating time trying.

Convenor:
John Lee
525 8110
zazamanc73@gmail.com

Twelve steps to a compassionate life

This group, which is fully subscribed, has twelve members and is working through the book of that name applying the steps to their own worlds. There is lively, thought-provoking discussion.

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

Play Reading

After 93 plays in 9 ½ years this group has finally closed the curtains on its performances.

Art History

The Art History group was started last year.
We have an informal and varied programme and chose to study the artists/art movements of interest to the members of the group. Last year we were very fortunate that Natasha at the Village Theatre screened a series of art films for matinee viewing for our group. This enabled some good discussion about the film over a cup of coffee at The Wholemeal. These films have been excellent viewing and we hope that we will benefit from more this year.
Erhard also gave an excellent presentation at his home on early German woodcarving and also led a visit and discussion on the Bay Art Award Exhibition.
This year will see another interesting year of further study and research the first presentation is to be on Constable and Turner.

Convenors:
Jocelyn Tracey
525 9125
jocelyn.tracey@outlook.com

and
Margaret Maloney
524 8699
m.maloney@xtra.co.nz

Book discussion groups

Group 1: The ten members of this fully subscribed group are in the process of selecting their book choices for our upcoming 6th year which commences in May and looking forward to another year of expanding their literary horizons.

Group 1 convenor:
Jan Morgan
524 8331
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
525 7411
margaret.holloway80@gmail.com

Economics

This sounds like a dry topic, but our group discussions are lively and thought-provoking.
We briefly looked at the economic history of Western Europe and some economic theories, and then moved onto a brief economic history of New Zealand, and launched ourselves into a study of Neo-liberalism – the now prevailing ideology in the world with its "trickle-down theory", its aversion to taxation and social welfare and public ownership of media, power companies, railways, schools and health services.
We've looked at the effects this had in New Zealand after the Rogernomics revolution, and is continuing to have under both Labour and National governments ever since.
We had quite a lot of fun with U-tube lessons on derivatives and Albie's imaginative story about the futures market. I expect we will now be absorbed by the Trump revolution, but I hope to continue our academic study of the economic institutions in the world if we can.
We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month, starting in March.
We have room for a couple of new members should anyone want to join us.

Convenor:
Moira Tilling
525 7202
moiratilling@gmail.com

Saints and Sinners

So far, we have looked at three Bloomsbury thinkers/ artists, Lytton Strachey. Duncan Grant and Roger Fry with Virginia Woolf planned for our next meeting on Tuesday 18 April.
We have evolved a successful format with one person presenting and everyone contributing, and we all enjoy and are stimulated by our learning. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday at 10 am.
Open to new members.

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

Colonial Impact

The initial proposers are 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?
The group has not commenced yet but has 8 members interested and more are welcome. Contact Dilyse.

Convenor:
Dilyse Roberts
525 9443
redweta.dar@gmail.com

Electricity in the Bay

…Past, Present and Future. A course of four to five events for 2017. Suggested programme:
History : visit a small hydro power station like Pupu and maybe get Paul Sangster to give us a talk about the development of electricity in Golden Bay.
History and present: visit the Cobb Power Station, tour run by Trust Power.

Present: Where does our power come from, where does it go to. Golden Bay in the nation-wide power network.
Future: Any foreseeable issues with our power generation and supplies? How to deal with it.
Future. The "Golden Bay Way": Solutions and alternatives to secure a life with electricity in the Bay. Maybe get Paul Stocker to give a talk about solar energy generation, power storage and intelligent networks.
Membership of this group is still open at present. Please contact Erhard.

Convenor:
Erhard Wingels
524 8372
CWDesign@t-online.de

Opera Group

If there is anyone from the old opera appreciation group (or anyone else) who would like to get together after an opera showing at the Village Theatre, we could discuss and critique like we used to… Perhaps organize a trip away to a live opera sometime also?
Phone Jenny Treloar 525 7900 after 8th March if interested.

U3A Golden Bay Mohua Committee

Officers will be decided by the committee at its next meeting.

Keith Ballard	524 8220	kdpballard@xtra.co.nz
Jan Morgan	524 8331	dejrmorgan@farmside.co.nz
Moira Tilling	525 7202	moiratilling@gmail.com
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Geoff Aitken	525 7565	geoff.aitken@xtra.co.nz