U3A Golden Bay Mohua

August 2017 Newsletter

Our meeting of 16 June was a collaboration with the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand who generously funded Dr. Jon Simcock as the speaker. More than 100 people attended and a number of these travelled over from Nelson.

Dr. Simcock is a member of the Australasian College of Physicians and has had a distinguished career as a neurologist following his specialist training at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queens Square, London. He is a member of the Neurological Foundation Scientific Advisory Committee and is at present the Foundation's Medical Adviser.

In his talk Dr Simcock identified a number of brain disorders and explained how our understanding of these had increased as a result of what he described as 'exciting new neurological investigation techniques which have paved the way for enhanced diagnosis and treatments'. Complex problems that have profound effects on human wellbeing were presented with singular clarity and with obvious concern for the patient experience of intervention processes. Dr. Simcock's thoughtful approach was also evident in his responses to the many questions from the audience and he was generous in talking with individuals after the close of the meeting.

Coming events:

Friday 25th August, 10am in the Senior Citizens' Hall.

We will begin the meeting with a short business session. Your committee is keen to hear from you, our members, your thoughts on how U3A Golden Bay Mohua is running. Do you have ideas for how we could do things differently, or better? Are we inclusive enough? Are there other areas of study you can suggest? Good ideas make for good learning so we welcome yours.

Richard English will present: From Stone Pillars to Solar Panels – A short history of Orkney

Orkney is a special place defined by its climate and history which is quite distinct from, but intertwined with, the history of mainland UK. The talk will follow the area's history from its beginnings and the construction of its increasingly famous stone monuments, through to the development of world leading technologies being trialled in the islands today.

Richard visited the Orkneys frequently in the '60s and '70s as a civil engineer for the Scottish Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and developed an intense interest in the history of the islands through talks with local residents on long winter nights.

Thursday 5th October, 10am in the Community Centre:

The Anaweka Waka. Dilys Johns, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Auckland will tell us about the finding, removal and preservation of the prehistoric waka that was found near the Anaweka River in 2012. The structure and decoration of the waka has created a lot of interest in the science, archaeological and pre-history communities. Dilys will discuss the influence of the waka on our view of pre-history.

Dilys is a Senior Research Fellow, School of Social Sciences – Te Pokapū Pūtaiao Pāpori, Faculty of Arts. Her research and teaching focus on in situ wetland archaeological site sustainability, conservation of at risk materials and the importance of cultural orientation to materials conservation. Recent publications include articles with Oxford University Press (UK) and the Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences (USA). Two of her most recent projects have included the analysis and conservation of two South Island waka; the 600-year-old waka with a distinct turtle engraving recovered near Anaweka estuary and a 500-year-old waka complete with braided waterlogged fibrework excavated with iwi late last year on the Papanui Inlet, near Dunedin.

Dilys is a Coordinator of the International Council of Museums Committee for Conservation Wet Organic Archaeological Materials and a founding member of New Zealand Conservators of Cultural Material- Pu Manaaki Kahurangi.

Friday 15th December. Christmas function.

This time our women members will provide our Christmas Entertainment! In the past it has been mainly men who have put their hands up to take part in the end-of-year debate, so this year we thought it would be good for women to volunteer. We already have some members willing to participate, but need a few more prepared to debate, and an unlikely topic ....!!

Committee news:

To make ourselves a little more widely known, we will shortly be joining other New Zealand U3A groups on the website: https://u3a.nz/lists.htm

Reports from the study groups:

History

The History group has continued to meet in members' homes on the third Thursday of every month. Gradually we have been making more use of the huge range of material available on YouTube etc for historical topics. We have continued looking at interesting little places, now focussing in on the Mediterranean: Malta, Sardinia, Corsica and Rhodes so far, with Crete, Cyprus, the Peloponnesian Peninsula and the Knights of St John to come.

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

Music Appreciation

We in the U3A Music group are at present revisiting the 'Sonata Form' and related composers. e.g. Hayden being the most recent.
We have not had as many meetings as we would like in the last few month's due mostly to our usual venue and excellent and very efficient arranger and player of the music disk's needing recovery time from Surgery.

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

Films

We have had a very good year with lots of fun evenings and interesting films, the last one being a French film called "Joyeux Noel". John Pemberton and Jocelyn will host next month's film "Il Postino", an Italian film. Our numbers have been steady at 19 members with people dropping off and others taking their place. We will view one more film in September to end the year and start off fresh next year.

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

Democracy

This group has been meeting regularly for 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.
The Democracy Group continues to meet regularly. We all enjoy the argument and debate between us, though perhaps we are too mono-cultural for such a theme.
Two topics which seem to come up regularly is that of a Universal Basic Income, and of why the community *[not particularly our Golden Bay community]* seems 'switched off' by both national and local politicians.
Do we switch them OFF? or Do 'they' fail to turn us ON?
We may never change the world [though it needs it !!], but we do 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. We are working through the book of that name chapter by chapter. Some chapters take longer than a month. The members are actively involved and have lively, thought-provoking discussions. We expect to finish with the book at the end of the year.

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

TED Talks

TED is a non-partisan non-profit organisation devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks. TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 110 languages
Our TED Talks group meets on the 3rd Monday of every month at 10 a.m. in the St John's room at the Rec Park. Attendances have been about 15 at each of our three meetings so far. Three volunteers have presented talks on "Does education stifle creativity?", "Elon Musk", and "World population limit." Lively discussion ensues. Our membership is open. If you are not already a member of SeniorNet please make a koha so that we can meet our $10 room hire.
Next TED talks: Monday 21 August, 10-12 am. at SeniorNet clubrooms in the Show Grounds. Three talks on Nanotechnology and Cancer.

Contact:
Graham Rogers
525 9948
casarosa1@ts.co.nz

Art History

We continue to have an interesting and eclectic programme. Margaret and Rosamund provided wonderful insights into Constable's and Turner's works and their place in art history.
We are again very fortunate that Natasha at the Village Theatre is screening a series of art films and while we were a little taken back by the negative portrayal of Monet's character in the documentary about his work, we enjoyed a very interesting discussion after the Hieronymus Bosch film. There are two more to go in this series.
At 20 members, our group can only just manage to fit in homes and manage a group discussion so it is currently not taking new members. However, we do run a waiting list.

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

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

Book discussion groups

Group 1: Now in our sixth year we continue to read and debate our book choices leading us down paths we may never have ventured before. A recent read which we can highly recommend is "A Spy Among Friends"- a biography of Kim Philby by Ben MacIntyre. A gripping story of intrigue, deception and damage.

Group 1 convenor:
Jan Morgan
524 8331
dejrmorgan@farmside.co.nz

Group 2: We are approaching the close of our second year of reading and talking together, and so are now choosing the titles for our 2017-18 list. Such an amazing selection to choose from (thank you Book Discussion Scheme) - leads to our list of rich and diverse future reads (thank you Group Members)! We continue to enjoy this monthly meeting and while finding we can be invited into the sharing of personal experiences and beliefs, we remain always mindful of our mutual care and respect.

Group 2 convenor:
Margaret Holloway
525 7411
margaret.holloway80@gmail.com

Economics

The Economics group has continued to try to grapple with the workings of the Neo-liberal system we live with. We appreciated a talk given to us by Keith Ballard who kindly summarised his own very wide reading on the subject for us. That led us to look in more detail at the economic philosophy of Adam Smith whose name is used as the foundation of Neo-liberalism.
We're now about to embark on the next page in this bewildering story of how we, here in New Zealand, got into the state we're currently in.
We have stimulating discussions on the topic and, surprisingly, have a bit of fun every now and then! We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month.

Convenor:
Moira Tilling
525 7202
moiratilling@gmail.com

Saints and Sinners

So far, we have looked at five artists/thinkers, Vanessa Bell, Lytton Strachey. Duncan Grant, Roger Fry and Virginia Woolf. We have evolved a successful format with one person presenting and everyone contributing, and we all enjoy and are stimulated by our learning. Open to new members.

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

Colonial Impact

This Group is studying the impact of early Māori – European contact. We are looking at the available historical evidence and the consequences of the interaction for both parties. Which injustices have been recognised, and which have not?
The group has eight members interested and more are welcome.

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

Electricity in the Bay

So far this year, the group "Electricity in the Bay" has enjoyed magnificent tours of the Pupu Hydro Scheme, the Cobb Powerhouse and Dam, and Nigel Harwood's impressive electricity generation in Upper Takaka. We have also had an enlightening talk by Network Tasman on the national and local distribution systems.
We may have one or two more field trips before terminating the theme. These could include an example of home generation (PV panels, possibly water and wind turbines) and a discussion of electric vehicles.

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

Study Group monthly schedule

Week of Month	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First week	*7.30pm Film Group*		*9.30 Book Group 1*		
Second	*am. Economics*	10am Saints and Sinners			*am. Book Group 2*
Third	10am TED Talks	*1.30 Art History*		10am History. *am. Twelve steps...*	
Fourth					9.30 Democracy
Variable	Electricity Group and *Music Appreciation*				

Italics denotes that the group is currently full.

U3A Golden Bay Mohua Committee

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U3A Golden Bay Mohua is not a registered society.