U3A Golden Bay Mohua

July 2018 Newsletter

At our May meeting DOC fauna ranger Mike Ogle spoke about three years of research on Blue Whales in the South Taranaki Bight. Mike worked with Leigh Torres from Oregon State University and described extensive sightings, DNA samples and satellite tracking showing that these whales are not just passing through but many actually live in this region. The spectacular photos included a drone shot of two 30-metre-long whales close to the surface with Farewell Spit in the not so distant background. Climate change may be a threat to the whales as the oceans heat up, harming diverse parts of the ocean ecology. Underwater sound recording provided samples of whale communication. Recordings also showed the significant impact that vibrations from underwater seismic surveys used in oil exploration have across long distances, including killing krill larvae. Krill are a food source for Blue Whales and also play an important and complex role in sea and atmospheric processes.

Our June general meeting featured Jenny Pollock, President of the Nelson Science Society. Among her significant awards as a science teacher Jenny has held a Royal Society Teacher Fellowship to study oceanography with the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Science. She showed our very well attended meeting how the seas are interconnected so that in fact we have only one ocean. This explains why plastic pollution is found everywhere, including in Arctic and Antarctic regions that are far from any land where plastics might originate. Microplastic and microscopic plastic fibres are now present in great numbers of fish and other sea life. Of particular concern is the finding that plastic is now found in krill. These tiny creatures are a fundamental part of food chains and also play a key role in atmospheric gaseous exchanges that affect climate and climate change. While climate change is the greatest threat to life on our planet our pollution of the ocean provides another example of our lack of concern regarding the effects of how we choose to live.

Committee news:

Tim Harrington has taken on the role of Secretary to our committee and we look forward to having his skills in this position.

Graham Rogers has resigned from the committee and we thank him for his valued contributions during his time with us.

The committee continues to explore ways in which study groups might be made available to people in the context that many groups are not able to cope with greater numbers. We have no easy solutions but encourage members to think about what they can do to help in this regard.

The next general meeting for U3A will be in late August with a speaker in the area of art and art history.

Reports from the study groups:

History

The programme for 2018 is evolving – but there is much to cover, either by country or singular topic. Current programme:
July: The Austro-Hungarian Empire.
August: The colonisation of the Pacific.
September: Pacific Islands under NZ Administration.

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

Music Appreciation

The group will reconvene shortly.
The programme for 2018 is yet to be decided.

Convenor: Sheila Climpson
525 9385
ashclimpson@gmail.com

Films

The film group has been meeting monthly. Numbers have been on the low side, so we could take a couple more members. Eclectic film choices include possibly the worst and the best film that the group has ever seen!

Convenor: John Pemberton
525 9125 after 17 July.
john.pemberton47@gmail.com

Democracy

The Democracy Group has continued its regular meetings, always willing to debate and even argue infrequently.
An issue which always raises its head is that of ACCESS TO INFORMATION, and/or an apparent unwillingness, by those in control, to listen to 'the people'. Logical inconsistency is so patent when debating in Tasman either the Dam or the Grandstand.
We find TDC now taking note of the 'will of people' over the Grandstand, while denying full access to much needed information to support its case for such a costly enterprise !!.

Convenor:
John Lee
525 8110
zazamanc73@gmail.com

Twelve steps to a compassionate life

The "12 Steps to a more compassionate Life" group has finished after 1½ years of regular meetings. There was some interest of keeping the group going and spending more time on each Step, but so far it hasn't been decided, yet.

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 usually meets on the 3rd Monday of every month at 10am. in the St John's room at the Rec Park. Attendances have been about 15 at each of our three meetings so far. A volunteer usually presents two TED talks between which lively discussion ensues. Our membership is open, so all are welcome. (Unless you are a member of SeniorNet please make a small koha so that we can meet our $10 room hire.)
Next TED talks:
Future sessions will be advised to all members as they are arranged…

Contact:
Richard English
525 6179
rsenglish@xtra.co.nz

Art History

The group continues to have an eclectic mix of content both in the form of film and Youtube presentations. Content and discussion focuses on the interests of the group and the Art Exhibition films shown at the Village Theatre.
We are in the process of adding one more person to this group from the waiting list.
There are four more on the 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: Meeting once a month, we continue to read interesting and sometimes unusual books, chosen from a list which we draw up once a year, and supplied by the Book Discussion Scheme based in Christchurch .
We are fully subscribed.

Group 1 convenor:
Liz Lee
525 8110
leejl@xtra.co.nz

Group 2: We continue to meet once a month, reading a wide variety of titles all supplied to us by the Book Discussion Scheme based in Christchurch. At the moment our group is full, membership being limited by both our accommodation and by the numbers of books available to us in each posting. We're in the process of selecting titles for the list from which we'll read over the coming year. No doubt we'll find ourselves sometimes laughing out loud, sometimes in very challenging places - this variety and invitation to read titles we might otherwise have passed over is the group's gift to us.

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

Economics

This group has yet to reconvene in 2018.
If there is sufficient interest, there is plenty more to be studied in this subject.

Convenor:
TBA

Saints and Sinners

Thirteen members of an interested and talkative disposition continue to delve into Bloomsbury South using Peter Simpson's book as our starting point. Members choose one of the group they are interested in and we have had some marvellous sessions….
We can't accommodate new members at the moment.

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

Colonial Impact

This Group will study the impact of early Māori – European contact.
Anyone interested please contact Dilyse.

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

Electricity in the Bay

Although this group has completed its programme, they we would like to have a panel of three experts, talking about the future of electricity in general, the changes we must expect, and how it might change our lives.
This could be open to wider audience later in 2018.

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

Prosperity without growth? Economics for a finite planet.

As previously advised, two new groups have been formed to explore this topic using Tim Jackson's book as a resource. Economists have traditionally asserted that growth is necessary for our economies to survive. This is now being questioned.
The groups will focus on Golden Bay to evaluate how it could or is working.

Group H: Three couples have met twice so far, on the first Thursday of the month, at our place at 14 Haile Lane, and covered two chapters of Tim Jackson's book "Prosperity Without Growth". Several of our group who 'enrolled' never made it to either meeting for various reasons, and two people withdrew before we had even started. But the meetings were lively and interesting, and I think we are all starting to get our heads around this complex economic and philosophical question. For various reasons we are in abeyance for the next two months but should be starting up again in September. We think we could happily accommodate more members, so anyone interested can ring Fill Burgers on 5259138 or email albie.fill@gmail.com for further details.

Convenors:

Group H.
Henriette Fleischer
525 7367
henriette.fleischer@xtra.co.nz

Group K:
Our Prosperity without Growth study continues monthly with Kevin Durkan. We are taking it in turns to present a chapter. We have yet to reach suggestions on a way for the future but are looking forward to what might be proposed.

Group K.
Kevin Durkan
525 9539
kdurkan@yahoo.co.nz

Study Group monthly schedule

Week of Month	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First week	7.30pm Film Group		*9.30 Book Group 1*	10.30 Prosperity-H	
Second		*10am Saints and Sinners*			*am. Book Group 2*
Third	10am TED Talks	*1.30 Art History*		10am History.	
Fourth	*am Prosperity-K*				9.30 Democracy
Variable	Music Appreciation				

Italics denotes that the group is currently full.

U3A Golden Bay Mohua Committee

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Geoff Aitken	525 7565	geoff.aitken@xtra.co.nz

Bank account for membership fees. NBS Account: 03-1354-0390784-00. Name: U3A Golden Bay Mohua.

Our page on the U3A New Zealand website can be accessed from https://www.u3a.nz/directory.htm

U3A Golden Bay Mohua is not a registered society.