U3A Golden Bay Mohua

November 2018 Newsletter

Our last speaker for 2018 was John Taylor, an international mining engineer and historian. His presentation on the **history of the Golden Blocks/Taitapu area and mining heritage** told us much about the rugged territory in this part of Golden Bay and the ways in which gold mines were established and worked. The technical knowledge of the miners and their skill in moving and assembling large machines and building extensive water channels and other essential items in extreme conditions was impressive. A history of Māori in this area in particular was also referred to, and is covered in one of the books that John discussed. This is by John Barnes (1986) *History of the Taitapu Estate North West Nelson. New Zealand Forest Service*. John will send a download of the book on request, and there is a hard copy in the Golden Bay Museum, Te Waka Huia o Mohua.

It was good to see U3A members once again turning out in good numbers to support and learn from our visiting speaker.

Our last meeting for 2018 is the **Unroyal Variety Show** with our own U3A Royalty *Liz Lee, Margaret Maloney and Jocelyn Tracy* getting their non-Royal Corgis to round up a remarkable range of people and items to inspire and astonish us before our end of year lunch.

Friday 30 November, Senior Citizen's Hall, 10.30 am for morning tea, please bring some lunch-type food to share.

Please note that our **AGM** is on **Friday 22 February, 2019.**

Notices and agenda will be sent out next year.

Your Committee has discussed how our study groups are organised and access to these. We will include this on the agenda for the AGM.

We will organise a list of present groups and their contact person. Where a group is unable to take more people then we encourage formation of a second group in that area of interest. If needed, we will suggest ways of supporting the formation of new groups with information about how to organise a group. At our committee discussion it was said that 'groups only become a reality if someone has suggested an idea and someone makes a start on getting people together'. We also noted that some groups can be organised for just a short time, a few meetings rather than a year long. All of these strategies have been part of our group organisation over this and other years.

We encourage members to consider joining the committee for 2019. We have around six meetings per year to organise the visiting speakers and the other activities we all enjoy. We have a document, "How we do things" that outlines what we do and how we do it and this is updated as needed. Available on request.

As well as the committee's guiding 'How we do things' document, we operate with a set of rules that were developed when our group was established. These are available to members on request.

Keith Ballard

Committee Chairperson

U3A Golden Bay Mohua Committee

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

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