



# U3A Golden Bay Mohua

## February 2019 Newsletter

We held our Annual General Meeting on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. It was a focussed, well-attended meeting with the usual reports from the committee and study group convenors, as well as presentations from those proposing new study groups. There was a lot of friendly interaction between members and the committee, and much humour. The study group sign-up tables were well patronised and difficult to get near at times. If you were not at the AGM and wish to join a study group, please contact the convenor.

The study groups for 2019 are listed below although it is expected that additional groups, both of long and short duration, may be formed during the year. The History, Twelve Steps, and Electricity study groups have completed their programmes.

In his Chairperson report Keith noted that U3A Golden Bay Mohua had enjoyed another busy year of shared learning through our eleven study groups along with stimulating presentations from invited speakers at four general meetings. In May, DOC fauna ranger Mike Ogle told us about his research on blue whales and noted the threat that climate change poses to these magnificent creatures. President of the Nelson Science Society Jenny Pollock spoke in June telling us about plastic pollution in the oceans. She said that while climate change is the greatest threat to life on the planet our pollution of the oceans provides another example of problems that arise from how we choose to live our lives. In August artists Christine and Erhard Wingels spoke on 'behind the canvas' discussing how art plays with our viewing habits and explaining the psychology of colour and the third dimension. Mining engineer and historian John Taylor spoke in October about the history of the Golden Block/Taitapu area and mining heritage. He described the skill and technical knowledge of the miners, the harsh conditions, and noted some good historical records of Māori in this area. At our November meeting the Unroyal Variety Show provided a creative, enthusiastic and most enjoyable ending to our U3A year.

### Committee news:

At our February AGM a new committee was elected – see the list at the end of this newsletter. At their first meeting in March they will determine how they share the responsibilities of managing our affairs as a non-registered society. At that meeting they will also start setting out our programme for general meetings and will welcome suggestions for speakers, or any other activities, from members at any time.

Liz Lee and Robin Riley have stepped down from the committee and were thanked for their valued contributions over many years. Marian Vlaar, Paul Taylor and Geoff Rennison have joined the 2019 committee. Contact details on page 4.

The first committee meeting will be on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

The next general meeting for U3A members will be advised in mid-March.

## Reports from the study groups:

### Classics: Iliad and Odyssey

The group's aim is to read the Iliad and Odyssey ( in translation) and possibly further books that come under the heading 'classics'. We could also expect to read books about specific people mentioned within the books by Homer.  
The format and time and date of meetings to be decided...

Convenor: **Marian Vlaar**  
525 8169  
[marian.vlaar@gmail.com](mailto:marian.vlaar@gmail.com)

### Music Appreciation

The group will reconvene on 21<sup>st</sup> March at Sheila's home in Clifton.  
Charles Naylor will continue to lead the study of the development of symphonies.  
The subject of the first meeting will be Haydn.

Convenor: **Sheila Climpson**  
525 9385  
[ashclimpson@gmail.com](mailto:ashclimpson@gmail.com)

### Films

The film group will meet monthly on the second Monday in the evening.  
The amount of interest is high so the possibilities of splitting into two groups or finding an alternative venue are being explored.

Convenor: **John Pemberton**  
525 9125  
[john.pemberton47@gmail.com](mailto:john.pemberton47@gmail.com)

### Democracy re-formed

The Democracy Group will continue exploring the many forms of democracy and its application to our communities - both local, national and international.

Convenors: **Peter Riley**  
[peterrobinriley@gmail.com](mailto:peterrobinriley@gmail.com)  
and **Pat Ballard**  
[kdpballard@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kdpballard@xtra.co.nz)

### Prehistoric mysteries

The Theme "prehistoric mysteries" is about exploring feats of technology, navigation or migration that took place tens or hundreds of thousands of years ago, and which still puzzle us - although recent archaeology has uncovered many clues. The original plan was to meet at the Maclarens' house on the first Monday of every month at 10.00 am, but there has been so much interest in this Theme that we may have to look at alternatives, ie meeting elsewhere or splitting the group into two. We will hold our first meeting on Monday April 1st at 20 Labyrinth Lane. Tentative topic, to be presented by Piers Maclaren: "**Why was tobacco and coca (from the Americas) found in Ancient Egyptian mummies?**" We will also try to select the next month's presenter, and to decide the best option for future meetings.

Convenor: **Piers Maclaren**  
525 7440  
[piersmaclaren@gmail.com](mailto:piersmaclaren@gmail.com)

### TED Talks

TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) is a non-profit foundation that "believes passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and, ultimately, the world." Their mission is simply to "spread ideas" which is achieved through the organisation of conferences across the globe. These are recorded and then posted on the internet for free access and use.

The roster of speakers includes scientists, philosophers, musicians, business and religious leaders, philanthropists and many others presenting on an incredibly wide variety of thought-provoking topics.

Our local group, which is open to all U3A members, aims to likewise "spread ideas". Volunteers from the group present a topic of their own choosing, using TED talk videos to spark often lively, but friendly, discussion. It's always a very educational and entertaining two hours.

In 2018 we had an eclectic mix of presentations on:

Martian time; social justice; the development of a child's brain; science and morality; decision making; Costa Rica; consciousness; and the final meeting of the year, an inspirational discussion about refugees.

We meet, generally, monthly on the last Tuesday of the month at the St Johns rooms at the A&P Showground (10:00am to midday). Watch for emailed notifications of meetings which are sent to all U3A members. There's plenty of space in the room so if an upcoming topic "tickles your fancy" you are very welcome to attend.

Our first meeting for 2019 will be on Tuesday 26th March on the topics of "**Global Warming - Project Drawdown and Psychological Barriers to Action.**"

De facto convenor:  
**Richard English**  
525 6179  
[rsenglish@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rsenglish@xtra.co.nz)

## Art history

The art history group has split to cover two historical periods. Both have vacancies for a few more members.

### Group 1. Medieval to early Renaissance:

Following an introduction to Medieval Art there will be more detailed study of Manuscript and Illumination, Painting and Frescoes, Mosaic and Sculpture. This will lead into the Pre-Renaissance period. Techniques and materials used will be studied with the help of YouTube presentations and incorporate the social context in which the works were created. This group is fully subscribed.

### Group 2. Early Renaissance to Impressionism:

This will be a small group of up to ten people to encourage lots of discussion in a flexible manner. The course would be based on videos etc, with a timeline to show how painting and sculpture have evolved. There are a few places left in this study group.

Group 1 convenors:

**Jocelyn Tracey** 525 9125

[jocelyn.tracey@outlook.com](mailto:jocelyn.tracey@outlook.com)

and

**Margaret Maloney** 524 8699

[m.maloney@xtra.co.nz](mailto:m.maloney@xtra.co.nz)

Group 2 convenors:

**Rosamund Arthur** and

**Don Mead**

524 8130

[rosamundarthur@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rosamundarthur@xtra.co.nz)

[don.mead@gmail.com](mailto:don.mead@gmail.com)

## Book discussion groups

Group 1: our U3A book group meets once a month on a Wednesday morning. We are fully subscribed with 10 members.

Once a year we each draw up a list of six books which we wish to read, sort in order of priority and submit them to the Book Discussion Scheme. The cost to each member is \$60 per year.

Group 2: Our Book Group (part of the National Book Discussion Scheme and supported financially by U3A Mohua for the return couriering of our books) has contentedly read its way through another year. There have been a few changes in membership, our current number settling at nine. We have been happy to welcome another male in our midst, and sad to farewell our dynamic Gael Anderson whose journey with cancer has ended. We continue to read a wide variety of titles and enjoy good discussions.

Group 1 convenor:

**Liz Lee**

525 8110

[leejl@xtra.co.nz](mailto:leejl@xtra.co.nz)

Group 2 convenor:

**Margaret Holloway**

525 7411

[margaret.holloway80@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.holloway80@gmail.com)

## Dementia: prevention and control

Each session will first review the information given by a senior scientist, or medical practitioner. This will be presented as a DVD from the 2018 seminar series called "Regain your Brain".

The convenor will then lead the group in discussion to consider how the information imparted can be applied for our benefit.

Where appropriate, printed material will be distributed by email following each session.

Group limited to 16 persons. 12 x 2-hour sessions starting mid-August and ending November.

Venue: 255 Patons Rock Road

Convenor:

**Dr Angela RC Pack**

525 8817

[angela.pack@xtra.co.nz](mailto:angela.pack@xtra.co.nz)

## Saints and Sinners

Saints and Sinners memoir group have spent the year with the members of Bloomsbury South. This group of writers, artists and musicians it could be said gave New Zealand its first authentic voice. Each member of our group researched and presented one of these people and it made for an exciting and illuminating year. James K Baxter is our last topic in March before we move on to a new area of memoir.

Convenors: **Robin Riley**

525 7033 or 027 244 7731

[peterrobinriley@gmail.com](mailto:peterrobinriley@gmail.com)

and **Tim Harrington**

525 7582

[timqonesouth@yahoo.com](mailto:timqonesouth@yahoo.com)

## Prosperity without growth? Economics for a finite planet.

We have been studying and discussing Tim Jackson's book of the same name for ten meetings over the past year, with each member of the group presenting a chapter at a time.

Despite some reservations about the authors' style the content has been generally well received and the ideas have resonated with all of us, although the implementation of "post-growth" economics is only signposted, rather than detailed.

We have one chapter left, and perhaps a follow up meeting to share our outcomes. There may be a follow-on study group to investigate practical routes to realising prosperity without growth and this would be best suited to those who have previously read Tim Jackson's book.

The group meets on the third Monday of the month.

Convenor: **Kevin Durkan**

525 9539

[kdurkan@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:kdurkan@yahoo.co.nz)

## Study Group monthly schedule

Note that the meeting times for the Classics, Prehistoric, Dementia, and TED talks have yet to be scheduled.

Week of Month	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First week	10am Prehistory Mysteries		9.30 Book Group 1		
Second	7.30pm Film Group	10am Saints and Sinners			am. Book Group 2
Third	am Prosperity	1.30 Art History (both groups)		10am Music.	am. Democracy
Fourth		10am TED Talks			
Variable	Music Appreciation				

## 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>

U3A Golden Bay Mohua is not a registered society.