



February 2021, Newsletter One

Since the last U3A newsletter (Nov 2020), many private living rooms have echoed with erudite statements on an entertaining array of esoteric interests. The St Johns Rooms were treated with three titillating TED talks. There was one visiting speaker: Oke Blaikie. He did not disappoint, discussing his experiences as a District Court Judge with wisdom and humour.

We also held a Christmas party, the theme of which was Covid. Not an obvious choice, and some people were worried that we weren't taking this pandemic seriously. But even the doubters were soon rolling in the aisles. Amazing what humourists from around the world can do with such a disaster. There was a mask competition, showing what imaginative and funny people there are in the Bay. Then there was the first international Covid Games, but it is uncertain who won, Ashley Bloomfield or the virus.

The next key date is February 19th. This is the AGM, and is traditionally the time that members put their names down for the groups they want to attend. In other words, if you miss out on the AGM, you often end up with an uneventful year.

For information that is updated more regularly than the annual 2 or 3 newsletters, go to the website <https://u3agoldenbaymohua.org.nz/>. If you haven't yet figured out how to access the website, find a grandchild or borrow one from a friend.

Visiting Speakers

- **Nikki Turner, 23th April**

Nikki is a leader in the field of immunisation. And her topic will be the safety and effectiveness of Covid vaccines.

Nikki is an academic General Practitioner and an Associate Professor in the Department of General Practice and Primary Care, University of Auckland. Nikki's academic interests are in immunisation, primary health care and preventive child health. She works part-time as a General Practitioner at NUHS Broadway Clinic in Wellington. Her roles include Director of the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) at the University of Auckland. She is a member of the World Health Organization Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization and Chairs the SAGE Working Group on Measles and Rubella elimination. She represents the RNZCGP (College of General Practitioners) in child health interests and is a health spokesperson for the Child Poverty Action Group.

- **Gill Wratt, 28th May**

Gill has worked in a range of scientific and environmental management roles in addition to her Antarctic roles, including environment negotiator for New Zealand free trade agreements, and establishment unit convenor for the Crop and Food Research Institute. Notably, Gill was chief executive of the not-for-profit Cawthron Institute during 2006–2012. She is currently a Board Member of the New Zealand Environmental Protection Authority. In 2018 she became the chair of the New Zealand Antarctic Science Platform Steering Group, a seven-year initiative to boost New Zealand science in and around Antarctica

Clearly, Gill could talk about many things but this time she is speaking about the Antarctic Science Platform.

- **Euan Mason, date to be arranged**

Euan is a professor of forestry at Canterbury University and could talk a lot about that subject. He is also a talented musician. But this time, he is discussing another hobby: astronomy. He is a gifted speaker and you will be glad you came.

- **Paul Sangster, date to be arranged**

Paul, a local well known to everybody, is to talk of the history of Golden Bay.

- **Julian Maclaren, date to be arranged**

Julian is a founding member of the Nelson AI Institute. What exactly is artificial intelligence? Come along and find out.

- **Bevan Grant, date to be arranged**

Bevan is an expert on the effect of exercise on aging, and vice versa.

The Interest Groups

What are they? They are the essence of U3A. Now that you have retired, you need to exercise your mind as well as your body. While listening to others is good, it is still possible to vegetate with words and pictures washing over you. There is nothing like presenting a subject to force you to think! When you join a group, you will normally be expected to volunteer as presenter for a session, perhaps once a year.

We are always seeking new ideas for interest groups. If you are prepared to start a group off, bravo! If you would like to start a group, but don't know how, consult the website and/or Margaret Maloney. If you have a good idea, but don't want to organise it yourself, tell us anyway.

Most of the 15 Interest Groups are full, meaning that the homes where the meetings are held cannot accommodate more people. (If you want to join a group that is full, see later).

Existing Study Groups Carrying Forward into 2021		
Subject	Convenor	Vacancies?
The Classics	Marian Vlaar 525 8167 marian.vlaar@gmail.com	
Music Appreciation	Sheila Climpson. 525 385 ashclimpson@gmail.com and Charles Naylor chaspam30@gmail.com	None
Films	John Pemberton. 525 9125 john.pemberton47@gmail.com	None
New Democracy	Peter Riley peterrobinriley@gmail.com and Pat Ballard kdpballard@xtra.co.nz	None
Prehistoric mysteries	Piers Maclaren. 525 7440 piersmaclaren@gmail.com	None
Art history: Early 20th C Architecture	Jocelyn Tracey 525 9125 jocelyn.tracey@outlook.com and Margaret Maloney 524 8699 m.maloney@xtra.co.nz	None
Art history: Early Renaissance to Impressionism	Rosamund Arthur and Don Mead. 524 8130 don.mead@gmail.com	Yes, 2
Book Discussion Group 1	Liz Lee. 525 8110 leejl@xtra.co.nz	None
Book Discussion Group 2	Peter Riley. peterrobinriley@gmail.com	None
Saints and Sinners	Robin Riley. 525 7033 or 027-244 7731 peterrobinriley@gmail.com	None
TED Talks	Richard English. 525 6179 rsenglish@xtra.co.nz	Unlimited
Astronomy	Paul Taylor 021-045 7545 ptaylor05@gmail.com	None
Early NZ History	Christine Pullar christine.pullar@actrix.co.nz	Yes, 2-3
Collecting in Western Culture	Diane Dacre. dianedacre@yahoo.co.nz	Yes
Musicals and Operas	Paul Taylor 021-045 7545 ptaylor05@gmail.com	None
Possible New Groups Starting in 2021		
Subject	Convenor	Vacancies?
What Does the Science Say?	Jocelyn Tracey 424 9125 jocelyn.tracey@outlook.com and Paul Taylor 021 045 7545 ptaylor05@gmail.com	Yes
Questions History (temporary working title)	Jenny Maclaren 525-7440 psjmac@xtra.co.nz and Rosamund Arthur 524 8130 don.mead@gmail.com	Not yet

How do you join a group?

You turn up for the AGM and write your name down on the list of groups.

You want to join a Group, but they're FULL?

First, contact the Group convenor (their email addresses and phone numbers are provided on the WEBSITE, see earlier, or under each group's report). The chances are, there really is a vacancy on a particular date because someone can't be there. In the longer term, the odd person resigns from a Group for a variety of reasons and you will be the first on the waiting list to replace them.

Second, you can form your own Group. Daunting? Sure, it is. But it is achievable. Many have done it and the U3A committee will help you through the process. Note, for example, that there are two Book Discussion groups That is because the first one was full but there was enough demand for another.