

# U3A Golden Bay Mohua

## November 2019 Newsletter

### Coming soon...

**General meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> November Emeritus Professor Peter Herbison. Peter will talk about **How to evaluate medical treatments** and give us some ideas on how claims in the media should be regarded. A former biostatistician at the University of Otago Medical School, Peter's role was to work with medical researchers to help to answer health related questions. He was involved with hundreds of research projects of all sorts, and in many different topic areas, and developed an interest in interpreting research results and in the details of how to conduct studies that give reliable results.



In the news and media there are often claims about breakthroughs in medical treatments. Many of these claims are based on inadequate or incorrect information. So, what are the public to make of such claims? This talk will give some ideas about how to evaluate these claims. Peter will also introduce the Cochrane Library, an online freely available database that gives reliable information about medical treatments.

Professor Herbison's presentation will be at our usual venue, the Senior Citizens' Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 10am

The presentation will be followed with a shared lunch to celebrate our year of learning and as our end-of-year function.

**TED Talks:** The next TED Talk has yet to be announced. Our TED talk group meetings are held at 10am on the last Tuesday of the month at the St John rooms in the showgrounds. TED Talks are hosted by members who wish to share and explore ideas and knowledge. They are open to all members and often provoke wide discussion and sharing of personal experiences. Contact Richard English for further information. [rsenglish@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rsenglish@xtra.co.nz) See page two for recent TED Talks.

### Recent events:

**General meetings:** On 30<sup>th</sup> August, **Dr Alastair McDonald**, a renal physician and ethicist spoke to us on **The ethics of aged care**. The survival of our 80-year-old publicly funded healthcare system has been a remarkable success story for New Zealand. The main determinants of good health are closely related to a range of factors such as housing, loneliness, smoking, obesity, education, unemployment and mental health. These issues compound the added load placed upon our healthcare system by an ageing society and increasing numbers of frail individuals. These collective realities pose major economic, ethical, social and healthcare challenges that need to be comprehensively addressed both now and in the future. Dr McDonald's presentation was widely appreciated, and this was reflected by the number of serious questions from the floor after the presentation.



On October 18<sup>th</sup> **Peter Stupples** spoke to us. Peter's subject was **Malevich and New Zealand Art** - the influence of Malevich on New Zealand artists from the 1960s, including McCahon, John Drawbridge and others. There was a large attendance considering the rather specialist topic, with several from the Golden Bay art community – some of whom became U3A members at the meeting. Many of us who were not appreciative of the intrinsic value of abstract art gained some insight into why someone paid \$60 million for "Black Square" in 2008.



## TED Talks:

**August:** Jocelyn Tracey chose talks on **Feminism** that were a mixture of confronting, funny, and informative. Even though some of the videos were a little dated and did not fully reflect the society that we have evolved in, the opportunity to reflect on the past and view the future was appreciated.

**September:** The benefits and threats of **Tourism** were highlighted by several short YouTube videos supplemented by discussion of personal experiences. Fears both for our communities and environment were expressed and explored. The discussion was hosted by Richard English.

**October:** The theme of this October's talk was "**Challenging Bureaucracy**", chosen by Jenny Maclaren. A personal discourse on how doing dishes can create paperwork and increase disharmony was followed by Hilary Cottam's illustration on what can mend our social services – certainly an aspect that is relevant to our social environment.

## **New Members:**

Recently we have welcomed:

September      Fay Brownlie

October          Karen Brookes, and John Harper.

We now wear nametags at meetings to help identify each other.

## **Looking Ahead to 2020...**

**AGM.** Our annual general meeting will be held on Friday, 21 February, 10am, at the Senior Citizens Hall. In addition to conducting the usual business of an AGM, such as reports and the election of committee members, we use this meeting to ask existing and new Study Group convenors to make brief presentations, followed by an opportunity for members to sign up for Study Groups that they are interested in. So please note the date in your diary.

**New Study Groups.** Is there a topic you would like to learn more about with a group of others? Perhaps you have expertise on a subject that you would like to share with others? If so, how about starting a new Study Group? We've picked up quite a few new members this past year, and almost all our existing Study Groups are full, and so we encourage members to start new study groups. The typical format is for a group to meet once a month in members' homes, with group members sharing responsibility of leading sessions, but other Study Groups have been of different formats, e.g., sessions or fixed set of classes.

If you have an idea for starting a new Study Group, please contact Paul Taylor. So far, we have two new Study Groups for 2020, for which members will be able to sign up at the 21 February AGM:

Geoff Rennison will host members on a day trip to **Wharariki** to describe the forces that contributed to the formation of this magnificent landscape. A date will be set in the New Year when time and tide are suitable.

Dr Angela Pack has offered to conduct a study group on **Diabetes and Weight Control** next August if there is interest.

**Speakers for 2020.** The committee has started organizing the 2020 programme of speakers, and suggestions from members are welcome. If you would like to suggest a possible speaker for 2020, please contact Committee member Marian Vlaar.

## **Committee Membership.**

Our U3A is organized by a committee of around nine members, elected by the membership at each year's AGM. Two of our committee members, Geoff Aitken and Tim Harrington, will be standing down after this year. Geoff has handled member communication, and Tim has been our Secretary.

We warmly encourage members to consider standing for election to our U3A committee at the AGM on 21 February 2020. We are delighted that one person has already indicated their willingness to stand for election and also that they would be happy to undertake the role of communications, which includes the newsletter. Another role to be filled next year will be that of secretary. At its first meeting following the AGM, the committee elects its chairperson and appoints other roles. If you are interested or want more information, please feel free to contact a member of the committee.

## Active study groups:

*Note that some study groups have wait-lists. Please contact the convenor.*

Classics (Iliad & Odyssey) - room for 2 or 3	Marian Vlaar, 525 8167
Prehistoric Mysteries – full	Piers Maclaren, 525 7440
Music Appreciation – full	Sheila Climpson, 525 9385
Democracy – full	Peter Riley and Pat Ballard. Peter 525 7033, Pat 524 8220
Book Groups - Two, both full	Liz Lee 525 8110. Margaret Holloway 525 7411
Saints & Sinners – full	Robin Riley, 525 7033
Art History: Medieval to early Renaissance, full	Jocelyn Tracey 525 9125, and Margaret Maloney 524 8699
Art History: Early Renaissance to Impressionism, full	Rosamund Arthur and Don Mead, 524 8130
Films - full (another group could be formed if enough interested)	John Pemberton, 525 9125
Astronomy – full	Paul Taylor, 021 045 7545
TED talks - no limit to membership	Richard English, 525 6179

## Study Group monthly schedule

Week of Month	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First week	10am Prehistory Mysteries	10am Classics: Iliad and Odyssey	9.30 Book Group 1		
Second	7.30pm Film Group	10am Saints and Sinners			am. Book Group 2
Third		1.30 Art History (both groups) 7pm Astronomy		10am Music.	am. Democracy
Last		10am TED Talks			
Variable	Music Appreciation				

## U3A Golden Bay Mohua Committee

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Our website is a good place for reference and to catch the news between newsletters. <https://u3agoldenbaymohua.org.nz/>

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.