



Mt Aspiring U3A

Newsletter

October 2020

Number 29

Next Meeting	Thursday 22 October 2020 at 1.45 pm
Venue	St John meeting room, 4 Link Way
First Speaker	Liz and Mike Elliott, "Gorilla Encounter"
Main Speaker	Cassandra Treadwell, "Does International Aid Work? An Empirical Analysis"

Speaker Profiles

Liz and Mike Elliott retired to Wanaka about three years ago, but before settling into the local lifestyle they wanted to travel. Their interest in animals led them into a David Attenborough-style adventure in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

Cassandra Treadwell gained a master's degree in medical law and ethics from King's College, London University. She is a Fellow in Medical Law and Ethics at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney.

Having spent a year in Argentina on a student exchange when she was 16, Cassandra worked in an orphanage and was confronted for the first time with third world poverty. This experience ignited her determination to work in overseas aid to make a sustainable difference to poverty. Cassandra gains so much from the people in the communities she works with. They teach her to be grateful for what she has, rather than complaining about what she does not have.

Cassandra has four children and with her family lives in Wanaka enjoying the outdoor lifestyle offered.

A Word from our President

Greetings all,

As the threat of the coronavirus recedes, daylight saving has been switched on for another season and the temperatures rise, it is great to find Mt Aspiring U3A thriving.

Welcome to new Members - membership will have different meanings for different people, and this month Hans Limacher has commented on his background and what he is looking for. We know some are seeking friendship among similar-aged residents, and some are looking for academic stimulus. One way of getting to know others is to join one or more Study Groups - there is no limit to the number you can join and maybe we need to widen the week. Some are registered as "full", but that is only by limitation of the number of seats available in our homes. I am intending to re-start the "History of Medicine" group in the New Year, and John Binney his "Astronomy" course, plus several new groups being conceived as I write, so if you are interested let us, as Group leaders, or Allen Hogan, as Study Group Convenor, know of your intentions.

We would welcome comments from other new members on what they are seeking, or if they cannot find what they seek, ideas on how we might accommodate such dreams eg half day trips to areas of interest, outings as we had a year ago to the Cardrona Distillery, or if we cannot bring a nominated speaker to talk to us, how we might go to hear such a speaker.

Last month's speakers, Helen Howarth and Monique Kelly, drew a good attendance and an appreciative audience. These are locally living people, and there are probably many such suitable and potential speakers living or visiting Wanaka. If you have a daughter or son, or friend, with interesting messages for our audience, please contact Ian Hall or Jenny Moss who are the Convenors for our speakers.

There were some sitting towards the back of the Hall who had difficulty seeing some of the details within the visual presentations. Many, though not every speaker, is happy to "lend" their PowerPoint presentation. Some are difficult to transfer electronically, but if you would like to look again please contact John Binney, within a month or so of the lecture specified.

Finally, we are hoping to have Jill and John Blennerhassett host us for another Summer Concert in the Olive Grove and with the delightful entertainment provided by Allen Hogan and "Three is a Crowd" - we will let you know the January date and time.

Cheers,

Allan B MacLean

Last Month's Speakers **Helen Howarth** outlined the history of Bullock Creek, from the press report revealing the early European residents' view of the creek being merely a vehicle to remove various forms of rubbish, through to

the present where the Friends of Bullock Creek group actively aims to protect and restore the creek to the pure state it is as it emerges from the hillside in the vicinity of the former hatchery.

Monique Kelly's law studies at Otago University led her to working with the United Nations in Geneva. With social justice as her personal goal, the challenge is now for us to adapt to the 'tsunami of change', the biggest since WWII. The We Are One movement acknowledges the steps involved and seeks a vehicle to inspire and progress. The eighteen Sustainable Development Goals, interlinked by partnership and collaboration, are all taken into consideration.

Since 2018 when the foundational work was done, Wanaka is proving to be an ideal base to establish action groups, all volunteer based, empowering youth and various sectors of society to establish goals and inspire future progress.



In order to further these ideals, WAO is organising a Summit to be held in late October. For information see the website

<https://resetsummit2020.com/>

Study Groups

Soil Health Group

If you are a food gardener and you are interested in your health or eating food that tastes the way food should, I invite you to join our Soil Health Study Group, which meets every two weeks to learn about the four soil basics that gardens need to manage well: soil air, soil water, soil microbiology and soil fertility.



The goal of our study group is to enable its members to evaluate their soil health and to understand the tactics and strategies that they can implement to improve the health of their crops and soil. Contact Randolph Holst: wanaka52@xtra.co.nz

Are you interested in joining a new Mahjong
Group ?
for beginners as well as players who
already know the game

Contact Sandra Binney: sandrabinney8@gmail.com

The **Science Group** meets monthly at 1:30pm on the first Thursday of the month.



The subjects covered so far have been diverse:-

- Genetic Engineering, and CRISPR and how it will affect us
- Lake Onslow - Pumped water / power storage scheme at Roxborough
- Virus structure, viral genetic trees and tracing, and information on Covid 19
- "Levels of involvement": a discussion on some overt and many hidden processes in human pathology
- Effects of Infinity i.e. Weightlessness on life in space

Coming up / proposed subjects are:-

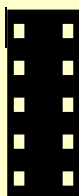
- A brief review of Science research and Science opportunities in industry in New Zealand
- Battery storage technology
- Evaluation & Quantification of Risk of common events by the public

The level of science understanding does not need to be great, the discussion is half the fun! The group is open for a few more to join.

Convenors : Ron Horner hr.horner@gmail.com

Geoff Tomkins gtomkins@actrix.gen.nz

The **Movie Group** has been meeting regularly within covid restrictions.



Movies seen of late include 'Radioactive', 'The Hermitage', 'Military Wives', 'House of Cardin', 'Romantic Road' and 'Tenet': all very different in subject content and all enjoyed by group members.

*From the **Book Group**, a review:*

"The Museum of Broken Promises", a novel by the English author Elizabeth Buchan. The setting changes between contemporary Paris and 1985 Prague during the cold war. A young English girl becomes the au pair to the communist Kobes family in Paris, who then move to Prague where Laure finds life behind the Iron Curtain to be challenging and complicated. Her innocent/naïve involvement with a group of dissidents has life-changing consequences. Years later Laure creates the museum in Paris in which each of the donated exhibits represents a moment of grief or betrayal. Until she finally learns the fate of her past love, Tomas, the museum becomes her way of coping with the events that ended her stay in Prague. This is a cracking good story, well written and hard to put down.

Notice Board

The main meeting for Mt Aspiring U3A is held at **1.45 pm** on the **fourth Thursday** of each month.

The final meeting for 2020 is planned for Thursday 26 November. There will be no meeting in December.

Members' Forum

Constantly keeping pace with technological developments in the printing industry and later in the networking of IT systems required me to undergo ongoing training and further education. In addition, all my life I was interested in exact sciences, modern history and socio-political developments. In the U3A I would like to learn new things and of course get closer to people who share these and similar interests with me. Meeting people and further education should never stop in anyone's life.

Hans Limacher

What is that light at the end of the tunnel?

As time flies and in our final hours
It's difficult just to smell the flowers
For there is the feeling of having missed
Many things that were on our list.
But rest assured there's time left yet
For taking out that final bet
For life's a gamble that's for sure
And there's no point in remaining pure

When opportunities abound
And diversions happen all around
So grab the nettle take the chance
In this your opportunity to have a dance
Make your move ignore the knockers
Let's become one of the shockers
What is that light at the end of the tunnel?
Is it the end or just the beginning? -
what a muddle
So don't be blinded by that light
Or allow yourself to take fright
From constant talk of doom
For the elephant that's in the room
Is that this is the reality - this final fling
It's not a practice for the real thing

Allen Hogan

Mt Aspiring U3A Committee and Contact Details

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