



Mt Aspiring U3A

Newsletter

January 2021

Number 32

The **Jazz Concert** on 21 Jan replaces a January meeting (see separate flier)

A Word from our President

HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone and welcome to 2021 and to a programme of activities for our U3A.

One of the skills to learn in retirement is how to slow down. Many of us, during our working lives, travelled faster and burnt more fuel or energy than was always good for us: sometimes the years or health challenges caught up with us, either coming to a screeching halt or recognising enough warning lights that we needed to slow down and could no longer maintain that speed of living.

The appearance of Speed Restriction Signs on many of our Wanaka roads has come as an annoyance, partly because no-one ie QLDC or the Transport Agency prepared us for these restrictions or justified where the signs would be placed. A reduction in speed has benefits when it is announced that there were 11 deaths this holiday period, but the limitations are required in open road or other identified roads of hazard, and do our town's 40kph restrictions help?

A recent visit to Christchurch made me realise that in their central area, bounded by the four Avenues, speeds are restricted to 30kph. For some time this seemed justified because the state of the road surfaces meant anything faster would threaten the car's suspension and injure occupants against the roof; or the multiple diversions and "New Road Layout Ahead" guarded by thousands of orange cones could not have been negotiated at any higher speeds. Unfortunately the speed control in my car does not set at speeds less than 40kph, so these restrictions do keep the drivers alert.

Why have these speed restrictions? Was there an audit last Christmas holidays of vehicle accidents and human or animal casualties in Wanaka, and can there be a comparison with accidents

over the last month? Do we have figures on medical casualties versus vehicles damaged? Has anyone been documenting road-rage where drivers from elsewhere explode at the queues forming at roundabouts or along Ardmore St? Have we reduced petrol consumption or carbon dioxide production - unlikely by the numbers of powerboats racing up and down the lake with no speed controls outside the launching areas?

I suspect the answers will include - "no data collected", "too difficult to separate from alcohol associated accidents" and "no-one else has comparable figures". Maybe we should be grateful that we are not expected to travel at 50-60kph around town to avoid being tail-gated. We should be welcoming the opportunities to slow down and enjoy the "Journey".

Meantime, we hope you will find events in which you can participate with our U3A, renew old acquaintances and make new friendships.

Allan B MacLean

Notice Board

The following are U3A events coming up:

21 January	Jazz Concert
25 February	Meeting in St John room
24 March	Bus trip to Mt Aspiring Station (Members will recall that this event is on a Wednesday . Details will be advised in the February Newsletter.)

The Mt Aspiring U3A has a new member, John Wood. Unfortunately we do not have any contact details for him. If anyone knows John please get in touch with any committee member, or ask John to do so.

Study Groups

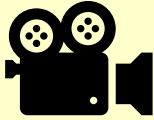
Attached is the updated schedule of Study Groups with relevant information. Contact the convenor of any group you would like to join. Study Group convenors will advise their members the first meeting dates for the year.

Lunch Group

The Lunch Group enjoyed a very pleasant Christmas dinner at Kota on 17 December, with a good attendance of 11 members.

We are looking forward to 2021 when we will be able to continue to support local restaurants in Wanaka and in the surrounding area.





The **Film Group** is up and running already,
"A Call to Spy" being the first movie seen in 2021

Members' Forum

Whakatauki to think about

In our recent New Year's Honours list is Sir Ian Taylor.

High-tech digital pioneer, Sir Ian Taylor, who established Animation Research Limited in 1990, has received the honour for services to broadcasting, business and the community.

Sir Ian grew up in a house without electricity in a small town in the 1950s and was often asked how a Māori man from a poor background became so successful.

"I always used to say 'I surrounded myself with clever white people' and, for years, I believed that."

His perspective changed after he learned about the innovation, technology, and logistics employed by Māori and Pacific Island people in exploration.

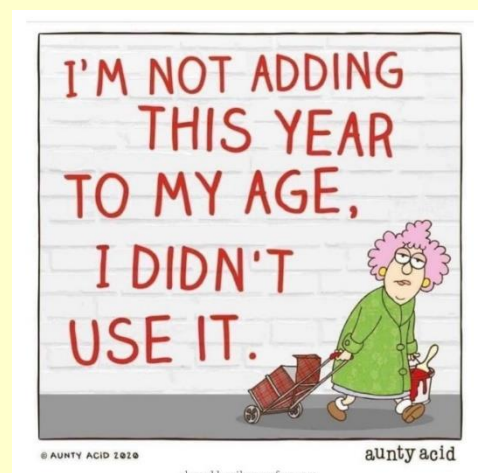
"I've come to realise that this stuff is in my DNA."

"In the Maori worldview there's this saying: ko nga tahu a o tapuwai inanahi, hei taura mo apopo, which is the footsteps you lay down in your past create the paving stones of where you stand today."

Sir Ian Taylor (ODT December 31 2020)

Well worth thinking about.
Jenny Moss

2020 - the year that we might like to forget ...



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