

Mt Aspiring U3A

Newsletter

February 2021

Number 33

Next Meeting Thursday 25 February 2021 at 1.45 pm

Venue St John meeting room, 4 Link Way

First Speaker **Jo Wilton, Upper Clutha Historical Records Society,**
'The Role of UCHRS in the Upper Clutha'

Main Speaker **Bridget Legnavsky**
'Wanaka and Snow: an overview'

Speaker Profiles **Jo Wilton** is a long-standing member of the UCHRS in Wanaka. She will explain the purpose of the Society and the important work they undertake for our community. Hopefully some of us may be inspired to join and volunteer our help.

Our guest speaker for our February meeting will be **Bridget Legnavsky** who will speak about:

Wanaka and Snow; an overview of the high level strategy for the Cardrona and Treble Cone fields and the link to the future development of the SOHO basin and associated masterplan.

Bridget is one of Wanaka's most high-profile business leaders, and is currently the *General Manager* of the Cardrona Alpine Resort and the Treble Cone Ski Area. Bridget is a past Chair of the Wanaka Chamber of Commerce and currently chairs the Climate Reference Group of the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). Bridget is a member of the Board of Trustees at Mount Aspiring College and a member of the Interim Skills Leadership Group of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Bridget holds an MBA degree from the University of Otago.



FEBRUARY 2021 "PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS"

We recently celebrated Burns' Night, with the steaming haggis, tatties and neeps, proposed toasts to the Bard and to the Lasses, and entertained with a selection of poems and songs. There are few "plough-boy poets" who have their birthdays so celebrated 262 years after their birth, and on the 25th January all around the World. The first "Burns' Supper" was held five years after his death, and the enthusiasm for Burns spread far and wide. It perhaps is not surprising that the early settlers to Dunedin should be interested in Burns - his nephew, Thomas Burns was one of the two leaders of the early settlement. Remarkably, the Dunedin Burns' Club was established in 1861, even before the University was founded. There are aspects of Burns' life eg his struggle with monogamy and his frequent mention of strong drink, which would not have sat comfortably with those Free Church men and women - this has been the theme of many Immortal Memories.

Less than fifteen years before Burns was born, Bonnie Prince Charlie had arrived in west Scotland, gathered the clans at Glenfinnan, defeated an English army just outside Edinburgh and then marched towards London with the intention of replacing the Hanoverian king with a member of the Scottish Stuart family. That they should halt and then retreat short of their intended target, and then suffer a humiliating defeat on Culloden Moor meant Burns was born into a country where the tartan was forbidden and Jacobite sentiments were greeted with alarm. Yet Burns is obviously Scottish and his patriotism is shown in poems such as "The Cotter's Saturday Night" ("O Scotia! my dear, my native soil!"), the rustic haggis-fed in "The Address to the Haggis" and "Bruce's Address to his Army at Bannockburn". There is an enthusiasm that pervades his poems and songs, whether he is writing about one of his many and varied lasses ("Green Grow the Rashes", "Ae fond kiss" or "The Rights of Woman"), his battles with "religious" hypocrisy ("Holy Willie's Prayer" and "Address to the Deil"), the coven of witches discovered in Alloway's auld haunted kirk ("Tam o' Shanter") or the louse creeping over a lady (Jenny)'s bonnet while she sat in the pew in front of him in the kirk. He could engage the humble folk, like himself, or those in positions of power or authority ("Address to the Unco Guid, or the Rigidly Righteous" and "A Man's a Man for a' That").

There were moments of profound pessimism-

"Still thou art blest, compar'd wi' me;

The present only toucheth thee:

But, Och! I backward cast my e'e

On prospects drear!

An' forward, tho' I canna see,

I guess an' fear!"

"To a Mouse, on turning her up in her nest with the plough".

I am not going to suggest we emulate Robert Burns - let's hope our views for the future are healthier, and he was dead by the age of 37. He did get into some dreadful fixes - but it would be good to have his way with words and to be fired with the energy he frequently exhibited.

Go well for 2021.

Allan B MacLean

Excursion to Mount Aspiring Station

Our monthly meeting in March will be on **Wednesday 24 March** when we'll travel together to be the guests of the Aspinall family at the historic Mount Aspiring Station. As well as learning more about the history of the property, we'll be informed about contemporary farming practices and the response of the Aspinalls to current environmental concerns.

We'll travel by bus which will leave the Wanaka Showgrounds at 1.00 pm and we'll return to the Showgrounds by 5.30 pm.

Spaces on the trip will be limited and can be booked at our monthly meeting on 25 February by bringing **\$25 cash** (no cheques or credit cards) which will cover the cost of transport, afternoon tea, and a donation to Search and Rescue as suggested by the Aspinalls.

Any spaces available after the 25 February meeting will be advertised to members. At this time, spaces are available to Members only.

Any questions to Ian Hall at ianwhall@gmail.com

Images from the Open-Air Jazz Concert in January



Study Groups

Book Group #2



The new 'evening' book group has come together, agreeing to meet at **4.30 pm** on the **third Wednesday** of each month, each member taking a turn to host a meeting. New members welcome: email convenor Barbara Lindsay lindsay_barb@xtra.co.nz

Creative Writing The Writers group meets fortnightly on a Friday morning at Convenor, Gaynor Corkery's house or at the home of a member. There are 8 of us currently so we have closed membership until someone pulls out. Several members of the group are writing their own books so we don't usually have homework - except perhaps "a topic to think about".

At each meeting we write in silence for 20 minutes on an assigned topic. Then we share what we've written, and members of the group comment on its strengths and weaknesses according to a standard format. Occasionally members will read extracts of their own writing and receive feedback.

We always have a coffee and usually conclude by lunchtime.



Mahjong Group

A quiet moment at one of our fun and informal Mahjong get-togethers. Sandra is our patient leader, dealing with a truly diverse range of experience - here Liz, Linda, Sandra and Gerarda ponder the next move.



History of Medicine

Our current series of meetings on "The History of Medicine" are almost completed, and I have members asking about when the next circuit will start.

If you would like to join our group, please email me at a.maclean@ucl.ac.uk by the end of February.

You do not need a medical background to be involved - the first session will look at the Ancient Babylonians and Egyptians and how they attempted to combat illness, with incantations and amulets!

Proposed 'Local Harvesting' Study Group

I would like to gauge interest in forming a 'Local Harvesting' Group that would meet for a limited number of weeks to be decided by the group. I'm suggesting three meetings of a fortnight apart to share our experiences, ideas and advice on how we harvest our locally grown (including foraged) flowers, veggies, fruit, herb, nuts and seeds.

I would like to lead the first get together with 'a hands on' session on how to make pot pourri from our garden flowers. I have been doing this for 40 years and would love to share this knowledge.

Then I would suggest we explore and share our experiences and knowledge with jellies, jams, pickles etc. Maybe someone can share experiences in using dehydrators for drying fruits and herbs. I am happy to share how I use wild briar rosehips. Does anyone make kombucha and fermented foods? All our own locally sourced foods.

Really it would be up to the group the direction we took and for how long. I'm thinking a March start.



Please contact Jenny Moss 021 550-107
jennykaymoss@gmail.com

From the Editor

U3A Excursions

We U3Aers are soon to venture into corners of our province unfamiliar to some. The poet Brian Turner has a lovely way with words and the gift of capturing the essence of Central Otago. As a starter:

*"The loveliest places of all
are those that look as if
there's nothing there
to those still learning to look."*

CLOUDS

We are sometimes treated to amazing cloud formations in the skies over Wanaka.

Let's see who can snap the most imaginative photos – maybe add a caption if appropriate and email to me lindsay_barb@xtra.co.nz

I will try to persuade a couple of Committee members to help me select the best and we will publish them in the Members' Forum over the next couple of months.

I have given my introductory contribution the caption *Finding Nemo*.



Mt Aspiring U3A Committee and Contacts

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