



Mt Aspiring U3A

Newsletter

June 2021

Number 37

Next Meeting Thursday 24 June 2021 at 1.45 pm

Venue St John meeting room, 4 Link Way

Speakers **Jenny Moss**, 'The Current Crisis in Early Childhood Education'
Allen Hogan, 'Maintenance in Exotic Locations'

Jenny Moss, Adv Dep Tch, ECE Dip, M Ed (Hons), ANZEI
A founding member of our Mt Aspiring U3A and an active member of the committee, Jenny has taught both in Primary and Early Childhood sectors in Auckland, Waikato, Hawkes Bay, Mosgiel and in Wanaka.

Allen Hogan and his wife Joyce spent eight and a half years sailing a boat around the world: he is going to share their experiences with us. He has recently published a book on the subject entitled '*Maintenance in Exotic Locations*' and will have copies of the book available at the discounted price of \$30 for U3A members. Allen has also been an active member of our committee over several years.

JUNE REPORT from the President

- 1 Our AGM and May meeting was the first time we have used the facilities of the New Life Church. I know there were some problems during the afternoon drinks break, which we have recognised and will remedy. As our U3A increases in number, the use of this larger facility is preferred and likely to be our venue from 2022.
- 2 Our Finances remain stable and we have therefore kept our subscriptions at \$30 per person. We will issue notices shortly, along with details of how to perform inter-bank transfers.

- 3 You will see that we have new members on our Committee - I am grateful to them for accepting the invitation, and thank the members who are leaving the Committee.
- 4 Barbara Lindsay has accurately summarised the presentation of Russell Bishop from our last meeting. We know there are very talented individuals within our community, and encourage them, or their supporters to volunteer to contribute to future meetings.
- 5 There are many frustrated because the chances of visiting Europe this year become less. If you would like to join a Study Group to discuss London and its history, please contact me at a.maclean@ucl.ac.uk

Last Month's Speaker

Emeritus Professor Russell Bishop, 'Teaching to the North-East: a reflection on a career in Maori Education'



Over an engrossing sixty minutes or so, Russell outlined the background to his years of research and practice and unravelled the mystery of the title of his address.

His interest in Maori learning started with his mother's family in Kingston. His Master's doctorate at Otago University concentrated on discovering ancestors via genealogists: his grandfather (born in 1843) had given Russell's mother all the names. As a result, in 1992 Russell attended a family reunion at Port Waikato and found 6,000 descendants. His move to Waikato cemented family relationships and these helped both in his research and in his PhD studies. It became clear that the locals did not want more research that did not benefit Maori; the challenge was to produce an outcome benefitting both parties.



The achievement differential between indigenous Maori and Pacific Island children was first identified in the Curry Report in the 1960s. Russell's 1999 hypothesis suggested the answer was the formation of extended family-like relationships in education.

A joint project with the Ministry of Education focussed on the child, the structure of the school, and the relationship between child and teacher. Corroborated by families and principals, it was identified that teachers blamed the students for their lack of progress, claiming that their culture was holding them back.



Studies were carried out in secondary schools, teacher training given, and books written over several years: the key point being that teachers must improve their relationships with students, practising interaction rather than monologue. Pupils need to know they care for them. 'North-East' was a metaphor for a sweet spot (high relationship/high teaching skills on a chart drawn up), giving the opportunity to improve educational outcomes for Maori and disadvantaged groups, and turning teaching into the profession it should be.

One hundred schools are running the programme and the improvements have been spectacular, the biggest in maths. However, by monitoring and modifying practices, improvements may be achieved with all students: in order to be effective teaching must be relationship based.

www://cognitiveeducation.co.nz/relationships first

Study Groups

Current Events

Do you enjoy having a good laugh? Does socializing with a fun group of guys and gals who get together to talk about anything under the sun interest you? The Current Events Study Group offers you all this and more. Trump, China, UK, Brexit, Covid-19 are just a few of the diverse topics that have been discussed over scones and tea. These folks have one cardinal rule, 'we don't have to agree with each other'.

On the first Tuesday of every month a guest is invited to give a talk. The Tuesday I dropped in, someone spoke about online real-estate auctions and the latest property price trends in Wanaka and New Zealand.

Every Wednesday morning, the study group meets informally at Edgewater to have a chat and a laugh about anything that comes to mind.

If you can link up with these fine people, I promise you that it won't be boring and you will always hear something interesting. To find out more, email Chris at: hello@tempestonwanaka.co.nz



Article by Randolph Holst, Study Group Coordinator

Te Reo for Beginners

Our Te Reo Group is now set to start on Thursday 17 June. The first course will be taught by Jeremy Van Riel from Hawea, with the follow-up course in October being run by our own Russell Bishop.

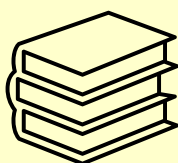
At present the course is fully subscribed.

Convenor Penny Hartley pninahartley@gmail.com



The **Lunch Group** enjoyed a convivial get-together and a light lunch in May at the Paddons Paddock Winery.

Convenor Margaret Hyder
marghyder@hotmail.com



Book Group #2 has changed its meeting day and time to 3.00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

The members have chosen to pick a genre for all to read each month, rather than a random choice of literature, so are starting the ball rolling by reading biographies for their next meeting.

There is still room in the group for more members to join in.

Contact convenor Barbara lindsay_barb@xtra.co.nz

Notice Board



NZ Garden Bird Survey

At the end of June, the 15th national Garden Bird Survey begins, New Zealand's longest running citizen science project that counts garden birds. With 15 years of data collected, patterns of environmental change are becoming apparent. The more that is known about our birds, the better our environment can be protected for the future.

The survey is led by **Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research**. It takes place over nine days between 26 June and 4 July and people are asked to go into their gardens/backyards/marae/schools/local parks for one hour on any one of those days and count all the birds they see or hear.

For more information go to the NZ Garden Bird Survey website:

<https://gardenbirdsurvey.landcareresearch.co.nz/>

Members' Forum

This is a section devoted to contributions from members: these are personal opinions and in no way reflect the views of, or are endorsed by, the Mt Aspiring U3A. Contributions are limited to 200 words.

I couldn't resist capturing this cloud effect,
displayed exclusively for members of Book Group
#2 as they left their last get-together in May.

Ed.



Mt Aspiring U3A Committee and Contacts

President/Venue Liaison
Vice-president
Past President/Archivist
Secretary
Treasurer
Main Speaker Convenor
Newsletter Editor
Membership Secretary
Catering Convenor
Study Group Convenor
Publicity/First Speaker Convenor

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