



U3A *Golden Bay Mohua*

July 2020, Newsletter Two

Newsletters appear at random intervals several times a year. For up-to-date stuff, don't forget to go to the website <https://u3agoldenbaymohua.org.nz/>

Visiting Speakers

- **Jenny Pollock, 25th June**

The President of the Nelson Science Society gave a public talk to U3A members on 25 June on the topic of the "weird moons of our solar system". Jenny explained how our understanding of our solar system has changed recently, with the discovery of many more objects than were observed just a few decades ago. In particular, she talked about the many moons orbiting the other planets of our solar system, and how different they are from our own moon. Jenny also talked about the possibility of life that could have developed within sub-surface water on one or more moons of the outer planets of our solar system. This was our first public talk after lockdown, and we were pleased to see such good turnout of the membership.

- **Wendy Parr, 28th August**

How can the smell of a wine effortlessly evoke distant memories and related emotions? The talk will elaborate on the ways in which our mind/brain is implicated in how we appreciate a wine.

Wendy will outline how research in the discipline of cognitive psychology has contributed significantly to an understanding of wine-tasting phenomena. Appreciating the flavours and textures of the complex beverage known as wine (e.g. noting that a wine's odour reflects over-ripe fruit) involves not just our nose but sophisticated cognitive processing and related emotions. Cognitive processes are those that influence how we perceive, conceptualise, remember, image, make judgments, and communicate our experiences to others. Her talk will describe wine sensory-science research that makes evident the close links between olfactory (smell) memory, autobiographical memory and emotion, our susceptibility to colour-driven biases, and show us that wine is as cerebral as it is sensual.

Wendy is well-placed to give this talk, as she has a Ph. D. in Experimental Psychology (memory; judgment) and a Ph. D. in Wine Science (sensory phenomena), with extensive practical experience in France, UK, Chile and Brazil and even New Zealand - including her own boutique Limestone Bay winery at Pohara.

The Interest Groups

Most of the 18 Interest Groups are full, meaning that the homes where the meetings are held cannot accommodate more people. (If you want to join a group that is full, see later).

Subject	Convenor	Vacancies
Art History: Dutch masters and early 20 th C architecture	(Margaret Maloney & Jocelyn Tracey)	None
Art History: Early Renaissance to Impressionists	(Rosamund Arthur & Don Mead)	None
Astronomy	(Paul Taylor)	None
Book Discussion Group 1	(Liz Lee)	None
Book Discussion Group 2	(Margaret Holloway)	None
Classics	(Marian Vlaar)	2
Collecting in Western Culture	(Diane Dacre)	2-3
Early NZ History	(Christine Pullar)	None
Films	(John Pemberton)	None
Life and Times of Shakespeare	(Adrian Maloney)	8
Music Appreciation	(Sheila Climpson & Charles Naylor)	None
Musicals & Operas	(Paul Taylor)	None
New Democracy	(Pat Ballard & Peter Riley)	None
Philosophy	(David Squires)	None
Prehistoric Mysteries	(Piers Maclaren)	None
Saints & Sinners	(Pat Ballard and Robin Riley)	None
Sustainable development	(Chris Bennett) – starts Sept	4-6
TED Talk Discussion Group	(Richard English)	unlimited

You want to join a Group, but they're FULL?

First, contact the Group convenor (their email addresses and phone numbers are provided on the WEBSITE, see earlier). The chances are, there really is a vacancy on a particular date because someone can't be there. In the longer term, the odd person resigns from a Group for a variety of reasons and you will be the first on the waiting list to replace them.

Second, you can form your own Group. Daunting? Sure it is. But it is achievable. Many have done it and the U3A committee will help you through the process. Note, for example, that there are two Book Discussion groups. That is because the first one was full but there was enough demand for another.

Summary of what's happened since the start of 2020

- **Art History 1:** We have been studying the Northern Renaissance for the first half of the year and used Zoom to continue our sessions. Different people have been presenting the main artists of this period. In August we will be looking at modern architecture for the rest of the year and Erhard has offered to present an extra session on The Bauhaus. This group is full, but if interested, there is a waitlist. Contact Jocelyn Tracey (jocelyn.tracey@outlook.com) or Margaret Maloney (m.maloney@xtra.co.nz)
- **Art History Group 2:** During lockdown we looked at four women Renaissance artists, their careers and lives. We are now moving through the High Renaissance, the Northern Renaissance, Mannerism, and into the Baroque. We use videos, discussions and handouts so people can follow up points that arise during the session. We have room for one more person. Contact Rosamund Arthur (rosamundarthur@xtra.co.nz) or Don Mead (don.mead@gmail.com)
- **Astronomy Group:** Over lockdown, we watched introductory lectures on astronomy through an online course from the University of Arizona, as well as two very interesting Zoom lectures provided to our group live by Professor Euan Mason from the University of Canterbury. We're looking forward to returning this month to in-person meetings, with presentations on a variety of astronomy/space-related topics by our members. We've also recently submitted a proposal to the TDC to make protecting the district's dark skies from light pollution a goal within the TDC's new long-term plan. Our group is currently full, at 16 members, with 2 people on a waitlist. If any others are interested in being put on the waitlist, please contact Paul at ptaylor05@gmail.com.
- **Book Discussion Group 1:** This group continued to meet monthly, with two being held by Zoom during the lock down, the books being exchanged without physical contact, using letterbox drop. Our group does not have space for new members. Coordinator Liz Lee (leejl@xtra.co.nz)
- **Book Discussion Group 2:** Book Group 2 is happily moseying along. Our membership now stands at 10; we are not currently seeking more members. We are right now finalising our book choices and enrolment for the coming year. Convenor: Margaret Holloway (margaret.holloway80@gmail.com)
- **The Classics Group:** The Classics group has continued to meet over Zoom and again in person and are working their way through the Odyssey, which we think is an easier read than the Iliad. Apart from reading the book, we read summaries and also watch animated summaries. The discussions range far and wide. There are some places available for interested people. Coordinator: Marian Vlaar (marian.vlaar@gmail.com)
- **Collecting:** We've had two meetings so far, led by the knowledgeable Diane Dacre. The last meeting was on religious relics. Why have so many relics been accumulated across religions and cultures, with so many of them obviously fraudulent? Contact Diane Dacre (dianedacre@yahoo.co.nz)
- **Early NZ History:** This group has had two sessions and is developing a new programme of content. There is a waiting list. Convenor: Christine Pullar (christine.pullar@actrix.co.nz)

- **Films:** The film group has resumed post lockdown and meets on the second Monday of the month to watch a film selected by one of us. The group added 3 new members after the last AGM and is currently full. Convenor: John Pemberton (john.pemberton47@gmail.com)
- **Life and Times of Shakespeare:** This group will now start next year. There is room for more participants. Contact Adrian Maloney (am.maloney33@gmail.com) or (m.maloney@xtra.co.nz)
- **Musicals & Operas Group:** Just as we were ready to start this new group, COVID-19 and lockdown got in our way. We'll be starting again this month, watching one of the better-known operas or musicals each month at one of our member's home. We are currently closed, with 12 members, but anyone else interested is welcome to contact Paul (ptaylor05@gmail.com) to be put on a waitlist.
- **The Music Group:** With Charles's expert knowledge and guidance we have just finished studying symphonies ending with Shostakovich. We will now study chamber music (with the exception of string quartets) working forward from the 17th Century. This group is full. Convenors: Sheila Climpson and Charles Naylor (chaspam30@gmail.com)
- **New Democracy:** Meets 3rd Friday of month 9.30/10.00am. In 2020, we have looked at "NZ housing", "water" and (this week) the Local Government Commission. The group meets in each other's houses and is full. Convenors: Peter Riley/Pat Ballard (kdpballard@xtra.co.nz)
- **Philosophy Group:** This is now cancelled (insufficient takers).
- **Prehistoric Mysteries:** We've explored two mysteries so far this year. Why did the megafauna (woolly mammoths, sabre-tooth tigers, etc) die out in a short space of time about 13,000 years ago? The surprising answer, probably, is that there was an asteroid impact in North America and Europe. The second mystery may be linked. How did very early hunter-gatherer humans build the huge temple complex at Gobekli Tepe in Turkey about 12,000 years ago? Could it be that the builders were actually the survivors of an ancient civilisation, destroyed by the same asteroid impact? Convenor: piersmaclaren@gmail.com. This group is full.
- **Saints and Sinners:** Meets 2nd Tuesday of month 10.00am. In 2020 the group looked at "The Treaty, Past, Present & Future", including a very informed presentation by Anne Potaka. In July (this week) we will look at Education. The group meet in each other's houses and is full. Convenors: Robin Riley/Pat Ballard (kdpballard@xtra.co.nz)
- **Sustainable Development:** Chris Bennett is a very experienced engineer who has worked with the World Bank, among other agencies. He gave us an amusing and educational quiz on development issues, where we discovered that most of us scored lower than chance! In other words, we have a lot to learn. Contact Christopher R. Bennett (htcltd@gmail.com)
- **TED talks:** The group managed two (well attended) meetings before Lockdown intervened. January's Talk topic, facilitated by Robin Manson, was centred around science based modifications to food production, whilst February's Talk on Plant Based Diets, compiled and run by Karen Brookes, neatly complemented January's meeting.
Meetings resumed at the end of June with Richard English's attempt at demystifying the plethora of information surrounding the legalisation of cannabis by use of two TED Talks as

openers to discussions. See the website for more detail. Some 32 people were there, but there is still room for more! Our next meeting will be on 28th July, facilitated by Fill and Albie Burgers, on a topic yet to be published. De facto Convenor of the TED group is Richard English (rsenglish@xtra.co.nz)