



Mt Aspiring U3A

News Letter

February 2020

Number 21

Next Meeting	Thursday February 27
Venue	St John Rooms Link Way
First Speaker	Steve & Jenny Moss: 'Pilbara Mining alongside Ancient Indigenous Rock Art.'
Main Speaker	Dr Caroline Orchiston 'The Seismic Hazard of the Alpine Fault - planning for a future earthquake'.

Speaker Profiles

Jenny & Steve spent 6 months last year on a roadie in Western Australia in a Prado with a tent. Western Australia is well known for its mining industry. Not so much is known about ancient Aboriginal History. The focus of this talk is to explain a little, how in theory, Pilbara mining and ancient rock art co-exist.

Dr. Orchiston is Deputy Director of the Centre for Sustainability, University of Otago, and Science Lead for Project AF8. Her recent work has involved close collaboration with Civil Defence Emergency Management for Project AF8 (Alpine Fault magnitude 8), which aims to improve our collective response capability for a future South Island earthquake, and to outreach the science to improve risk awareness and preparedness. She is funded by Resilience to Nature's Challenges (National Science Challenge) and QuakeCoRE, for various projects investigating aspects of societal resilience to disasters, including heritage precincts in Oamaru, Wellington CBD cordoning and rural and cultural resilience in multi-hazard environments. Caroline has three children and a busy family life, and occasionally does the garden and plays her guitar. She is regular visitor to the area, with a family crib in Hawea being frequented for the last 30 years.

A Word from the President

A Happy New Year to all our members. May the year 2020 be a good one for you.

The weather on January 1st, the sickly haze, was a vivid reminder of the dreadful situation caused by the fires in Australia. Our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to those who have lost friends or relatives, homes, livestock and livelihood. We are also conscious of the tragic loss of wildlife.

In place of a general meeting in January, on 16th, we repeated the Open Air Concert that was so successful last year. What an idyllic evening, perfect in every way! The beautiful setting of the Olive Grove, the weather gods smiling upon us, and the wonderful music from Allen and "Three's a Crowd". I can recall the atmosphere now with a wonderful frisson! My grateful thanks to Jill, John and Robin Blennerhassett, our hosts, to "Three's a Crowd"; Allen Hogan, on flute, and his colleagues Denis Costello (piano and vocals), Bob Fellows (bass guitar) and Chris Heine (drums). (If you'd like to hire them for a gig contact Allen !) And not forgetting those who volunteered as traffic marshals; Gaynor and Mike Corkery, Helen and Ron Horner. Thank you all for contributing to a memorable evening, enjoyed by about eighty members and guests. See the photos, elsewhere.

Considering how "picky" they usually are, how come the QLDC planners approved the execrable facade of 28 Helwick Street ?!

Best wishes,

Rich.d Paxman

Last Month's Jazz Concert





It was lovely to welcome Pam Kane's cousin Janet van der Merwe from South Africa. Janet bought greetings from her U3A West Rand in Roodepoort to our Mt Aspiring U3A.

Janet and Richard had quite a conversation.

Study Group News. Refer Study Group Shedule for more Information

Announcing a new Study Group. To be called "The Science Group" it will deal with all aspects of science (and scientists) except the social sciences. You don't have to be a scientist to join but a well developed sense of curiosity would be an advantage.

The expected format will be the presentation of a topic by a member of the group, probably by means of a video or PowerPoint images, and subsequent discussion by the group. Down the track you will be expected to make such a presentation. Plenty of help will be on offer.

Meetings will be held on the First Thursday of each month at 1.30 pm. The first meeting will be at the home of Geoff Tomkins, 2 Galloway Terrace, on 5th March. Geoff will discuss Genetic Engineering. At the second meeting, 2nd April, Richard Paxman will consider Zero Gravity. These meetings will give you an idea of what is expected. Membership will have to be restricted to ten.

Joint convenors: Geoff Tomkins gtomkins@actrix.gen.nz and Ron Horner hr.horner@gmail.com

Local History Group continue to meet at 1.30pm the first Friday of each month. We intend to consolidate topics covered so far and branch out through group and individual research on a cross section of our past history to share at monthly meetings along with invited speakers and local excursions. For our first meeting this year we met at The Upper Clutha Historical Records Room at The Wanaka Library where Margaret and Ken Thomlinson explained the history behind this archive room, how the resources are organised and how we can access these resources for our own research.

Convenor Jenny Moss jennykaymoss@gmail.com

History of Medicine Group

This group continues to meet monthly. Their February Meeting is February 20.

Convenor Allan Maclean a.maclean@ucl.ac.uk

Lunch Group met Thursday January 30 at Lipsky and Sons.

Lipsky and Sons has recently opened in Wanaka and is serving lunches and dinners. The restaurant was formally The Venue and has recently been renovated to a very high standard and there are plenty of options for dining or wining. The food was of a very high standard and well presented . The customer service excellent. Highly recommend.

Convenor Margaret Hyder marghyder@hotmail.com

The Writers' Group

Resumes on Friday Feb 28 at 10am at Gaynor's place. This will be followed by a 2020 celebration barbecue that same evening at 6pm.

If you're a keen writer and keen to join our study group this year, email

Gaynor: gaynor.corkery@hotmail.co.nz

Book Group

Several members have expressed an interest in joining a book group. Barbara Lindsay is happy to help get one (or several) up and running.

Ideally, a book group should comprise 6 - 8 members and those members can then agree on the conditions under which it is to operate. While some may prefer to stick to fiction, it may be that there is a demand for another group who like to read non-fiction. Not a problem! If you are interested in joining a book group, contact Barbara lindsay_barb@xtra.co.nz who will invite you to attend a preliminary get-together.

Whisky Appreciation Group (WAG)

This group have had their first meeting and the next meeting is March 9. Currently this group is full. Allen Hogan ajhogan05@yahoo.co.nz Allan Maclean a.maclean@ucl.ac.uk .

Astro Photography Group

Next meeting Tuesday February 18 johnbinney@iinet.au

All Things Flowers Group

Penny is keen to begin this group again (formally The Floral Art Group). Penny has much experience in horticulture and working with flowers. Contact Penny if you would like to join this hands-group. pninahartley@gmail.com

Current Affairs Group

This group meets regularly to discuss and learn more about the stories behind local, national and international current happenings. If you would like to join this group contact Barney Sundstrum bsundstrum@xtra.co.nz

Another New Group ! Soil Health

Randolf Holst is keen to begin a group investigating and learning about practical application for optimum soil health. Come along and learn how you can improve the health of the soil in your garden for the benefit of your plants. wanaka52@xtra.co.nz

THE DEFINITION OF "TRUMPERY" – (Merriam-Webster, Oxford)

trum•pery (n) – Late Middle English (tromper – to cheat), Middle French (tromperie – deceit), 1425–1485. Worthless nonsense, to deceive, swindle, something without worth or value, rubbish, trash, fraud, foolish talk or actions, showy but worthless finery, attractive articles of little value or use, gaudy.

Goodness me, it's as if the word had to wait nearly 400 years for its exemplar !

Notice Board

- March 8 is International Women's Day. This is a day for all genders to stop and reflect on the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. This year the focus is on the importance of Equality for All Women around the globe. The first International Women's Day was held more than one hundred years ago. International Women's Day is non Political and does not belong to any specific country, group or organization.
- Skirt Tales Book 1 is available for sale at the Wanaka Library.



Back in August our member Mal Law spoke of his efforts to raise money for charity by setting himself challenging physical goals. During 2019 he set out to ascend (climb) one million feet during the calendar year. Let's try and put that in perspective for you, it's 305 km, it's climbing Mt Everest, from sea level, thirty four times, or climbing Mt Iron four times a day, every day of the year !

On New Year's Eve Mal completed his objective with a final run up Mt Iron. On the left is Mal with his wife Sally, and below the group of supporters who joined him. One million (and thirteen) feet in the year. Well done Mal !



*If you'd like to acknowledge Mal's effort by making a contribution, the web site is:
<https://events.mentalhealth.org.nz/fundraisers/malcolmlaw/--Million-Feet-for-Mental-Health>*

Note From The Editor



Kia ora

I am really enjoying the rosehips on my rose bushes this year. They are huge and bright red. I am about to pick some and make Rosehip Tea. Very healthy from what I have read online. I have made rosehip jelly and rosehip infused oil in previous years from the wild Briar Rose hips. If you are interested have a search online.

Jenny

Mt Aspiring U3A Committee and Contacts

President, Richard Paxman: paxmanr0@gmail.com

Vice-president; Study Group co-ordinator: also speaker convenor Gaynor Corkery:
Gaynor.corkery@hotmail.co.nz

Treasurer/Membership Helen Horner: hr.horner@gmail.com

Secretary /Publicity John Binney: johnbinney@iinet.net.au

Venue Liaison Allan MacLean: a.maclean@ucl.ac.uk

Newsletter Editor Jenny Moss jennykaymoss@gmail.com

Penny Hartley: pninahartley@gmail.com

Allen Hogan: ajhogan05@yahoo.co.nz

Barbara Lindsay: lindsay_barb@xtra.co.nz