



Mt Aspiring U3A

News Letter

May

2020

Number

24

Next Meeting **AGM** **July 23** **1.45pm**

Venue **St Johns Room 4 Link Way**

Main Speaker **Dr Chris Judd "Fake news, conspiracy theories and lies:
a Threat to Democracy?"**

Dr Chris Rudd is a senior lecturer in the Politics Programme at the University of Otago where he teaches courses on politics and the media, and New Zealand public policy. He is the co-editor of the two editions of *Politics and the Media* (Auckland University Press, 2013 and 2016) and a third edition is planned 2021.

Abstract What is fake news? How does such news spread so rapidly and why do extremist ideas and movements flourish as a result? Does fake news pose a genuine threat to democracy?

Annual General Meeting Mt Aspiring U3A

Some of our current committee will not be seeking re election. If you are interested in being on our committee please contact John Binney at johnbinney@iinet.net.au.

He will be very happy to hear from you. This is a great opportunity to be more active and make new friends.

Our AGM will be followed by our Main Speaker.

PLEASE NOTE

Our committee are recommending and will seek your approval at the AGM to reduce the 2020- 2021 subscriptions for Mt Aspiring U3A to \$40. Reason being the unusual circumstances we are currently living through during The Covid 19 Pandemic.

A Word From Our President

We slowly return to normality. How good was the first take-away flat white, how good the first café meal! (How good will be the first haircut!) I hope the lock-down period was not too unkind to you and that you have emerged unscathed?

Events, circumstances and decisions have changed so fast in the past couple of months that to avoid uncertainty the committee have set a date of 23rd July for our next General Meeting. We believe this will take into account the prevailing government controls, St John's preparedness to host us, and of course members' willingness to attend.

The lockdown has also impacted on the Constitution of the Society: at the AGM we will propose an amendment which should correct the anomaly. Which leads me on to remind members that at the AGM we will be electing a new committee. The Constitution requires that I step down from the office of president, having served two years (how quickly that has passed!), Gaynor our vice president, is also retiring from office and Helen our Treasurer feels it is time to train a replacement.

So please give serious thought to joining the committee. It is not a chore, it is an opportunity to join and get to know an interesting and enthusiastic group of people. See it like another Study Group.

To put your name forward please contact me (tel. 022 673 4594) or any member of the committee. You will find their email addresses at the foot of the newsletter.

Best wishes,

Rich.d Paxman

Study Group News

Gaynor Corkery is our committee member responsible for co-ordinating Study Groups. Please contact her if you need more information and/or would like to start a new study group. gaynor.corkery@hotmail.co.nz

"Members of Mt Aspiring U3A are encouraged to convene or join a study group that interests or educates them. The society will register and promote any study group that has a member prepared to convene it. Membership of a Study Group will be restricted to paid-up members of Mt Aspiring U3A, and subject to the decisions and goodwill of the volunteering convenor. Each convenor of a study group will have autonomy over the members; criteria for membership; venues; and operating costs."

Mt Aspiring U3A Constitution

Please find attachment for up to date study group information.

Contributions from Members

A Mystery Trip

Margaret Hyder is organising a mystery day out in June. She needs 10 people and has 8 so far. Contact Marg if interested. marghyder@hotmail.com

Moloka'i

Written by Alan Brennert

This is a big book with a big heart set in Hawaii in the 1890s and represents part of the region's past that I knew nothing about.

What is Hansen's Disease and why was it so feared? It destroyed lives, families and careers but, in most cases, not the spirit of those who suffered from it.

Rachel Kalama experiences the trauma of being torn away from her loving family to a life of shame, pain and decisions that only a sufferer could understand.

Moloka'i is an exceedingly well researched, engrossing, heart wrenching story about the real world of life in a leper colony, and I shed many a tear throughout the days of 'unput-downable' reading.

Although it's historical fiction, Alan Brennert has produced a family saga, a travelogue and a look at the politics involved in an infectious disease in that era, all rolled into one. A truly magnificent book.

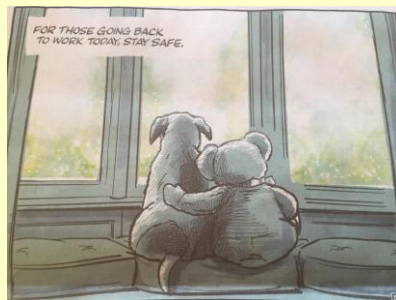
Su Anderson.



Can you spot the Lockdown? Richard Paxman

Lockdown Memories by Jenny





From The Editor

Our Nation has had a closedown like never before. Hopefully we can face our winter months with confidence. It will be a very difficult time ahead for many in our community. We are a caring community and it will need all our collective wisdom and actions to support those in need and rebuild our social and economic foundations.

Kia Kaha

Jenny

Mt Aspiring U3A Committee and Contacts

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Richard Paxman

**Day 7 at home and the
dog is looking at me
like, "See? This is why
I chew the furniture."**