

Mt Aspiring U3A

Newsletter

May 2021

Number 36

Next Meeting Annual General Meeting, Thursday 27 May 2021 at 1.45 pm

Venue New Life Church, 50 Reece Crescent
(parking next door in the former Mitre 10 carpark)

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



Dr Bishop began teaching in 1973 at a secondary school in a newly developed commuter city adjacent to Wellington. He was surprised to find that most of the indigenous Maori and Pacific Island children scored consistently lower on standardised achievement tests across all age ranges than the Pakeha children. The students told him of their toxic in-class relationships; and that this pattern of negative interactions had been the case in their families for generations.

"These experiences set me off on a course of research and practice that was to take over my life leading me to explore my own ancestry, question my own educational practices and enter into a long-term academic career where I sought to address the issues associated with educational disparities and attempt to develop a means of addressing these problems."

A Word from our President

- 1 Our Annual General Meeting is to be hosted in the New Life Church, across the road in Reece Crescent. Parking should be easier, using the parking lot of the old Mitre 10. Our U3A has grown in numbers and we may struggle to get seated in St John, before much longer. Wayne and Judy Ward, of the Church, have been very welcoming but if we have moments of challenge over the Audio-Visual facilities or serving hot drinks, please forgive us. I would welcome any comments later.
- 2 We need a Quorum to approve the business side of our AGM. Hopefully the weather will be on our side, and certainly Ian Hall has been able to secure an excellent speaker for the second half of the afternoon. I urge you all to attend.

Allan B MacLean

Last Month's Speakers **Karyn Munro**, 'Why Gender Inclusive?'



Karyn was born in Matura in Southland, lived in Masterton and Greymouth and has been 28 years in Wanaka, now working with the newly formed suicide prevention group for the QLDC. Back in her day, nobody identified as gender diverse, and it was through her friend Glen in the USA opening up about his sexual past that Karyn became aware and then studied for a Bachelor of Gay Studies in 1992. Even at that time only a small percentage of the population

identified as straight homosexual or lesbian.

As a single mother, Karyn was very protective when people said her only son Leo was gay. Leo, a very creative person, is now in his 3rd year of a degree in performing arts. About the time he came out, the Sex and Gender Awareness Group (SAGA) was formed in Wanaka. There has been a changing landscape in awareness over the last five years, identifying anxiety and mood with high statistics of suicides. Terminology has become more specific: gender dysphoria is dissatisfaction with, transgender - does not align with, and non-binary - gender variant, LGBTAQIA plus. These days medical treatment and care is better tailored to the individual's specific needs.

Karyn recommended that we watch the TVNZ documentary "This Is Us", the students' statement of what they want us to know and (as a mark of respect) enabling the conversations to be led by them.

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/sunday/clips/this-is-us>

Tony Glynn 'Issues facing the farming community'

Tony entertained us with an address that, while being light on some detail relating to the farming community, was full of humour. He had enjoyed a great upbringing in Eastern Bush, Tuatapere, with dogs, guns, bulldozers, broken machinery and hunting. His love of horses led to his employment in Japan working with thoroughbreds. He described this as easy work, but very regimented and all under cover, not a natural environment for the horses. He then worked and got to travel around the world with the Dutch polo team.



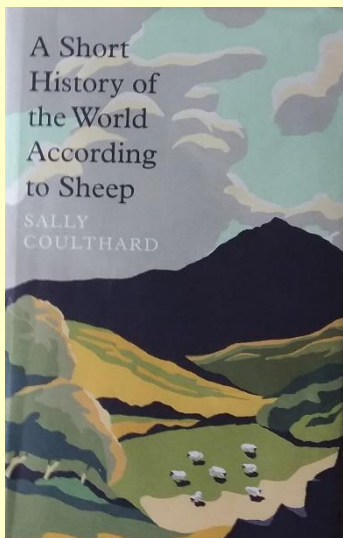
Tony now lives with his partner Debs on a block south of Luggate where they run a few sheep.

Having established the company 'Rural TV', he travels around New Zealand filming stud stock for the farmers, in order to promote them prior to the sales. He is also involved with A&P Shows around the country and was impressed with the rise in stock numbers at this year's Wanaka A&P Show, that is run by an amazing team.

In response to a question from the floor, he recommended the Rural Health Trust, while being short of funding, offers support to farmers and is raising awareness of mental health problems.

Study Groups

Book Group #1



There were the usual lively discussions when Book Group #1 met on Tuesday morning, and the customary variety of genres read. Here is one of the reviews presented:

Sally Coulthard, 'A Short History of the World According to Sheep'

The author maintains that sheep are the most important animal in the world. The book explores the first forays into sheep rearing by our Neolithic ancestors 11,000 years ago and continues to current times. Sally Coulthard weaves a rich and fascinating story of the domestication of sheep and celebrates just how pivotal these animals are to almost every aspect of human culture. These remarkable animals have fed us, clothed us, and provided a huge industry in the beauty business. Their product is fire retardant, water resistant, makes warm jumpers, and then there's cheese ...

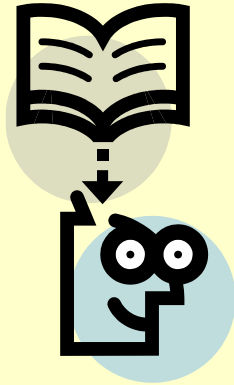
Book Group #2, which meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 4.30 pm, is very keen to recruit new members. We are still in the process of deciding how we 'manage' our group, so come along and add your wisdom.

Contact the convenor Barbara Lindsay lindsay_barb@xtra.co.nz

Notice Board

Inviting all Potential First (Mini) Speakers from our talented, experienced and dynamic Mt Aspiring U3A Membership to step forward!

In U3A we are learning together from each other. Many of us have past histories in careers, interests and community projects that others would benefit from hearing about.



Many of us are active members in other interest groups here in the Upper Clutha. Please consider volunteering to be one of our monthly 15-minute speakers. There is support if you wish to use a digital presentation but digital is not at all necessary. An interesting mini talk is what we are after.

Talk with Jenny and we can sort something out together.
jennykaymoss@gmail.com ph. 021 550 107

Lost property: After our meeting on 22 April a suede jacket was left on a chair in the back row of the St John meeting room. If it is yours, to retrieve it please contact Jenny Moss or any other member of the committee.

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.

One final 'amazing cloud photo' from local skies from Mary McLean:



Mt Aspiring U3A Committee and Contacts

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