

# Mt Aspiring U3A

## Newsletter

*August 2023*

*Number 61*

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 24 August, at 1.45 pm

**Venue:** New Life Church, Reece Crescent

### **SPEAKERS FOR AUGUST MEETING**

#### **Mini Speaker:**

Joanna Perry of Upper Clutha LINK and Community Networks will talk to us about her work Reconnecting Seniors.

#### **Main Speaker:**

##### “Trials and Triumphs”

Commonly known as Wanaka’s “Grebe Man”, John Darby will be our guest speaker on Thursday August 24. This year John’s extensive work rescuing penguins and grebes was recognised in the King’s Honours list.

John immigrated from the United Kingdom at a very young age and for many years worked at the Museum of Otago. He now lives in Wanaka and is one of our U3A members. He has taken responsibility, and is a wonderful advocate for conservation of grebes and other native bird species. He will talk to us about his life and work in wildlife conservation, and what brought him to this.

### **LAST MONTH’S SPEAKERS**

Paul Tamati from Affinity Funerals spoke on ways of being prepared for our, or close family member’s, funeral, He outlined what Affinity Funerals offers, but also gave other options such as natural burials and cremations. He also spoke about what you must do if you do not want to be embalmed.

Paul provided a variety of materials for people to take away and peruse.

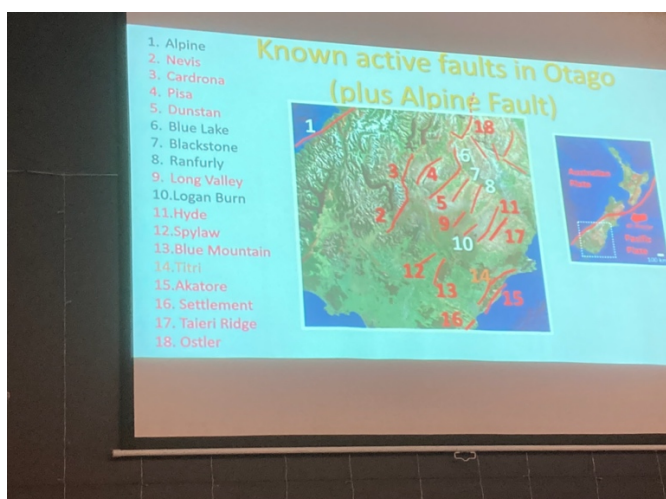


## Main Speaker:

Mark Stirling from Otago University spoke about the various fault lines in Otago and the likelihood of them becoming active. In the past 180 years there have been no earthquakes of significance in Otago. But as with the Christchurch earthquakes that occurred on little-known faults he is suggesting that Otago could be overdue for a large earthquake/s in the foreseeable future. As the photo shows there are at least 15 known faults throughout Otago.



Mark Stirling



Otago Fault lines

## President's Monthly Update.

Hi Everyone

Last weekend was a disappointing one for me. Not only because I personally passed another decade(!) but also because of the outcome of our **Winter Gathering**.

It was a little disappointing that only 50 of our U3A members came to the mid-winter event, but that didn't matter because we were a great group of people, and because the band filled out our numbers. We were privileged to have five U3A members who, as Aspiring Village residents, hosted us for the evening; and we are very grateful for the hard work of Diana, Sue, Richard and co.

The event started well at 7.30pm. Penny Hartley's lovely floral arrangement and lights decorated the Aspiring Village lounge; Kelvin's piano music welcomed us; and volunteer bar-people poured complimentary drinks. The food by Alexa of "Pub-Grub" was delicious, and Doubtful SouNZ is a really great band. They played lots of Beatles music and other old favourites, and everyone got up to dance.

So it was very disappointing when a resident of Aspiring Village complained about the noise at 9.30pm, resulting in a security guard announcing "The Manager says to shut it down!" at 9.45pm. We were out of there by 9.55pm.

Yes, we can laugh about being our age and shut down because we are loud or unruly - and true - none of us are night-owls anyway. But it was incredibly disappointing that we didn't eat all the food - that the band never got to play their most practised and rowdy bracket - and that the event was truncated.

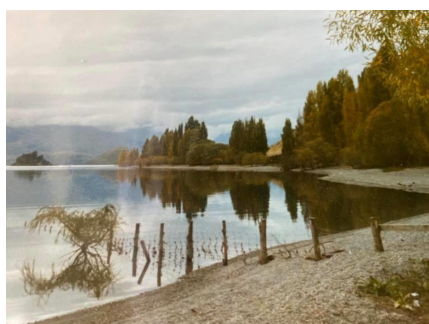
Since Friday I sought and received an apology from the Manager of Aspiring Village who assures me there was a communication breakdown with the security guard who misinterpreted: "Shut down the music" as "shut down the event". Whatever. It was the music I was sorry to have missed.

So there you have it! An abbreviated **Winter Gathering** that left us all wanting MORE. But rest assured - your committee won't be organising another in the foreseeable future (much to the Band's disappointment!) Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our mini- **Winter Gathering**. It's given us all something to laugh about.

Gaynor

### Editor's section.

50 years ago the Wanaka Tree was just a sprouting fence post at the end of the fence line used to keep stock from wandering. This photo was taken in March 2021 before the tree was vandalised and the low branch on the right removed.



This photo from the collection of the late Ces Anderson, Luggate, is of the Wanaka Tree taken approximately 40 years ago.



**MT ASPIRING U3A WINTER GATHERING AUGUST 4.** On Friday August 4 Mt Aspiring U3A were guests at Aspiring Village for our Winter Gathering. Imagine the President's horror when she was informed that due to a complaint the music had to be shut down immediately! .... At 9.45pm!!! Photos follow.





Penny Hartley created this masterpiece of a floral arrangement.



## Study Groups

### NEW: Local History

Jenny and Steve Moss plan to run this every fortnight for 6 sessions beginning on Friday September 22 @1.30pm, and finishing on December 1. The focus will be on the early geology (1st session) and then settlement history of the Upper Clutha. There is still room for up to 6 further members for this study group.

Contact Jenny Moss 021 550 107 or [jennykaymoss@gmail.com](mailto:jennykaymoss@gmail.com) .

## Art Appreciation -

More than 20 members of this Study Group enjoyed last month's excursion to the studios of three local jewellers: Alice Herald in the Precinct; Amy Bixby in Albert Town; and Geoff Wilson in Infinity Drive. Next week we will all go to Sandra Binney's house in Mt Barker to view her art collection and also favourite pieces belonging to other members of our group - Jacquie, Heather and Angela. We are certainly getting a regular art fix!

Gaynor, Rob and Angela

## Current Study Groups

	Group	Convenor	Contact	Status	Meeting
1	Art Appreciation Study Group	Rob Norman Gaynor Corkery	rnorman252bpr@gmail.com 021 022 08653 gaynor.corkery@gmail.com	Open	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. 2-3 hours. Sometimes morning or afternoon
2	Book Ends	Jill Paxman	Jill.paxman@gmail.com 021 244 0080	Closed - full	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of month 4.00pm
3	250 years ago	Allan MacLean	03 265 3056	closed	TBC
4	Chess	Richard Paxman	paxmanrO@gmail.com 022 673 4594		Tuesdays fortnightly 1.30pm
5	Current Affairs	Chris Tempest	027 271 7862 hello@tempestonwanaka.co.nz	Open	Formal. 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month. Ad Hoc Weekly Wednesdays Edgewater 10.30am
6	History of Medicine	Allan MacLean	03 265 3056 a.maclea@ucl.ac.uk	Open	TBC
7	Whisky Appreciation Group (2)	Allan MacLean	03 265 3056	Open	Monthly
8	Lunch Group	Margaret Hyder	021 053 7137 marghyder@hotmail.com	Open	Monthly on a Thursday

9	Mahjong Group	Sandra Binney	022 124 7851 <a href="mailto:Sandrabinney8@gmail.com">Sandrabinney8@gmail.com</a>	Closed	Tuesdays 3-5pm
10	Movie Group	Sandra Binney	022 124 7851 Sandrabinney8@gmail.com	Open	Not fixed. Depends on Movies
11	Science Group	Geoff Tomkins Ron Horner	021 440 721 gtomkins@actrix.gen.nz 022 393 2140 <a href="mailto:hr.horner@gmail.com">hr.horner@gmail.com</a>	Open	Monthly. First or Second Thursday 1.30pm
12	Walking Group (Ladies)	Ruth Alderson	021 125 3770 ralderson8@gmail.com	Open	Wednesdays 10.00am (9.30 summer)
13	Whisky Appreciation Group (1)	Allan MacLean  Allen Hogan	03 265 3056 a.maclean@ucl.ac.uk 021 085 00737	Closed Full	Monthly on Monday pm
15	The Writing Group	Gaynor Corkery	In recess until September So members can write	Full	Fortnightly every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday 10.00- 12 noon
16	Local History	Jenny & Steve Moss	021550107 (Jenny) <a href="mailto:jennykaymoss@gmail.com">jennykaymoss@gmail.com</a>	Open up to 10 people	Fortnightly from Friday September 22 1.30pm

## Mt Aspiring U3A Committee and Contacts

*President*

*Main speaker Convenor*

*Deputy President*

*Past President/ Archivist*

*Secretary*

*Treasurer*

*Membership Secretary*

*Mini-speaker Convenor*

*Newsletter Editor*

*Study Group Convenor*

*☪ Lady*

**Gaynor Corkery**

**Gaynor Corkery**

**Ron Horner**

**Allan MacLean**

**Diana Wattie**

**Ellen Forch**

**Penny Hartley**

**Mike Elliot**

**Steve Moss**

**Geoff Tomkins**

**Marly Wheen**

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