 **NEWSLETTER 110 9 August 2022**

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**Message from Wendy**

Kia ora katoa

We have weathered gale force winds, flooding, hail, thunder and lighting and Covid. Let’s hope they are all petering out as spring approaches, although spring weather is notoriously unstable and Covid has not run its course yet. Hang in there folk. Better times are coming.

We are definitely seeing more of the yellow stuff, daffodils are bravely blooming and lambs are making an appearance in our paddocks so spring is on the way.

Through all of this your conveners have kept the groups going, giving a sense of continuity and normality. Real normality is yet to come. 2024 has to be a better year!

Graeme has once again organised a successful Gathering with guest speaker, Celia Wade- Brown, a formidable woman who has travelled the Cape Reinga to Bluff trail **twice**, once by bike and once on foot. It was just a pity that Graeme was isolating and not able to enjoy it with us. However, I understand he had his own private screening, courtesy of Celia.

World affairs have certainly given our Current Affairs groups plenty to discuss with lots of good advice to Putin, Boris, Trump and Xi Jinping. If only they would listen. Our writers in Creative Writing and With Love continue to write creatively and historically and our readers in the book groups continue to read, evaluate and recommend books to group members while fascinating topics are discussed in TED talks and philosophy.

U3A is in good heart despite all.

Kia kaha

Wendy

***(1) Missing words and author***

*“I wandered lonely as a cloud*

*That floats on high o’er vales and hills*

*When …………………………………. (fill in the rest of the line – answer last page)*

*A host of golden daffodils;”*

**The Gathering**

As mentioned in Wendy’s message above, the latest Gathering was held on Wednesday 27 July, with Celia Wade-Brown, former Mayor of Wellington being the guest speaker. Her topic was her adventures along the Tour Aotearoa (cycling) and Te Araroa (walking) tracks from Cape Reinga, 3000 km south to Bluff. All who attended enjoyed the presentation which was full of interest and gave a great insight into what was involved in planning and undertaking these personal challenges.

The next meeting will be on 28September when the speaker will be Louise Rawlinson who worked with NAC and Air NZ for 38 years. Note your diaries but there will be several reminders closer to the date.

**Exec Meeting**

The two-monthly exec meeting was held on 1 August. Points of interest were:

* We’re still keen to revive a current affairs group in Martinborough but are still looking for a convenor
* Work is starting on updating the website
* No response has been received as yet regarding the possibility of starting up a History Group – if there is any interest, please contact Margaret Cole, our secretary 06 304 8499.

**Group reports**

**U3A Opera Appreciation Group**

We concluded our series of Baroque opera with Handel’s “Acis and Galatea”. In contrast, we moved to Donezetti’s ever-popular “La Fille du Regiment “, led by Natalie Dessay and Juan Diago Florez .This opera has an aria, for the male lead, containing nine high C-s, which Florez sang with ease and aplomb.

We continue to meet in private homes, with the hardcore attendance of 6 plus.

**Barbara Lovatt Convenor**

**Scrabble**

The group had to change its day once due to Covid. The group is meeting at a private house out of Martinborough.

**Graeme Burnard, Convenor**

**TED talks:**

Our group continues in good heart. The last 2 meetings covered Wairarapa geology and animal intelligence – both proved to be very interesting topics and as usual we all learned a lot.

We have a full list of members right now so anyone new will go on a waiting list – where they will be included in the after-meeting emails, giving a summary and links to those topics we discussed. Since we meet in a private house, space is limited.

**Margaret Cole, Convenor**

**South Wairarapa Current Affairs Group**

I was away in Canada for much of May and June and so didn’t attend any meetings.

Members report that there was a small but enjoyable meeting in May.

In June, David McCarthy led off with discussion around banks and markets, I think. This was a larger group and the discussion was enjoyed by all.

Our recent meeting on July 21st, had an attendance of 9 members. David Parr lead off with discussion around the trouble at the Pacific Islands Forum and the trouble in Sri Lanka. The common link being the influence of China. As usual, discussion migrates into other topics in steps from the original discussion.

**Paul Mallinson, Convenor**

***(2) Missing words and author***

*“Macbeth shall never vanquished be until*

*Great Birnam wood……………………….(fill in the rest of the line – answer last page)*

*Shall come against him”*

**Masterton Book Group.**

 We now have 13 members which is probably a maximum number as a larger group does not work as well when discussing books.  This month’s topic of Earth, Sea, Sky produced an amazing number of books.

**Between A Rock And A Hard Place** by Aron Ralston,

**The Coast** by Eleanor Limprecht**,**

**Red Sky at Noon** by Simon Sebag Montefiore,

**Reap the Wind** byIris Johansen,

**The Snow Goose** by Paul Gallico,

**The Pillars of the Earth** by Ken Follett,

**Red Lead** by Roland Perry,

**Cloud Cuckoo Land**by [Anthony Doerr](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/28186.Anthony_Doerr),

**All that lives** by James Oswald.

As you can see our interpretation of the topic was very wide with interesting books and ideas. August is personal choice reading.

**Catherine Graydon, Convenor**

**North-South Book Group**

We currently have 13 members and regularly have 10 or 11 of those who attend each meeting. We meet alternately at REAP House in Masterton and Roseneath Hall in Carterton. Our topic for June was a Scottish female author which gave rise to a variety of genre and some good discussion – not always about the book but current events compared to the events described in a book. July saw us looking for books containing letters sent between two people. Most were historical with several outlining letters sent during the two World Wars. Once again there was plenty of discussion about the books and the issues they describe.

**Jean Travers, Convenor**

**Philosophy**

Arising from our programme we have had two very challenging and interesting topics presented by Members- "The Philosophy of Alternative Energy" and "Truth". Much thought provoking with discussion. Unfortunately, the latter discussion was temporarily halted when the alarm system at The Spot descended deafeningly and we were grateful to adjourn to the warm residence of Sara Stewart to continue. For the five months of the year's programme we have three member's topics filled and hope to fill the gaps

**Tim Bannatyne, Convenor**

**Creative Writing**

Our numbers have been a little reduced in recent times due to a valued member leaving, and other personal circumstances.  We have continued to take on short stories or excerpts from bigger efforts with much enjoyment. For instance, last month the challenge was to take a real-life event, person, or situation and construct a story around it. And next month- "crime" in whatever triggers the imagination.

**Tim Bannatyne, Convenor**

***(3) Missing words and author***

*The curfew tolls the knell of parting day*

*The lowing herd winds slowly over the lea*

*The ploughman………………………….way*

*And leaves the world to darkness……………(fill in the rest of the line – answer last page)*

**Current Affairs Masterton**

Meetings are going well – usually about 6 people attend regularly.

**Richard Jackson, Convenor**

**With Love** .

Going along well – last topic was transport – with a wide variety of responses. Next topic is “What is home?”.

**Wendy Woodhouse, Convenor**

**Ukulele Group**

We continue to meet every Friday at Education House from 10am to 11am during term time. Each term we select 12 new songs to practise. On Saturday 13th August we will be meeting up with South End Strummers at Club Masterton to enjoy lunch and make music together. So we are focussing on 4 songs at the moment. Our current membership is 7 so new members would be welcome.

**Chris Fisher, Convenor**

***(4) Missing words and author***

***“if winter comes can………………”****(fill in the rest of the line – answer last page)*

**Wairarapa U3A Film Group**

There was lively discussion as 8 members gathered on Thursday morning, 28 July, at Wild Oats Carterton. Principal films discussed were "Whina" and "Toni Erdman". The first was an excellent portrayal of the life and legacy of Whina Cooper, aka "Whaea" and "mother of the nation". The film made good use of footage shot in 1975 as Whina led the hikoi across Auckland Harbour Bridge and finally to the forecourt of Parliament.

"Toni Erdman" screened on 8 July at Sunset Cinema, Carterton. Directed by Ms Maven Ade, this German/Austrian film portrayed Toni as a clownish self-styled life-coach trying to convince his stressed daughter that there is more to life than climbing the corporate ladder. At 162 minutes long, it still maintained viewer interest with surprising twists and turns.

A feast of Italian films is coming to the Screening Room, starting August 4.

And the New Zealand International Film Festival treats Masterton filmgoers with a host of movies, starting with "Fire of Love". This documentary features French volcanologists Maurice and Katia Krafft, who got up close and hot filming live volcanoes in the '70s and '80s. The footage impresses as to "how tiny and powerless we are in the face of geological time and power". This film screens at Regent 3 Masterton on Wednesday 17 August at 6.30 p.m.

Wild Oats has again been booked for members to gather in the warm and quiet upstairs room on Thursday, August 25 at 10.30 a.m. If this time clashes with other commitments, please reply to this email , and an effort will be made to fix future dates times and venues to suit as many members as possible.

**Mark and Lib Coubrough, Cinema Group co-convenors**

***Answers to “missing words and author”***

*1. when all at once I saw a crowd. Wordsworth*

*2. to high Dunsinane hill. Shakespeare “Macbeth”*

*3 homeward plods his weary. Thomas Gray*

*And to me .*

*4. Spring be far behind. Shelley*