

U3A Plettenberg Bay

Members' Newsletter July 2022

Dear Members,

What we have been anxiously anticipating for the last two years has finally come about. All restrictive COVID regulations have been lifted! The collective sigh of relief has been almost audible as our lives head in to "THE NEW NORM".

Our Plett U3A is embarking on a "Fresh Start" under the leadership of newly elected chairperson, Jan Hough. We have enthusiastic new committee members with exciting new ideas. There has been widespread curiosity about the recently circulated questionnaires that members were asked to complete. The results have been analysed by new committee member Peter Grube who has identified interesting new U3A possibilities which will soon be acted upon. More on the subject of Peter's work is included in this newsletter

Lynette Timme will be continuing with programme co-ordination which she has so ably dealt with in the past. Lynette's programme for July is attached. Ian Hogan will continue his excellent work as Treasurer and Judy Yuill as membership secretary.

New committee member Beth Hackland, has in addition to being secretary, undertaken the daunting task of organising regular outings to places of interest. The first of these outings to LA CARLA MASKS. More on this subject later in this newsletter.

As in the past, we will devote our Monday meetings to video presentations and Wednesdays to invited speakers or outings when outings can be conveniently arranged for a Wednesday.

Just a reminder, there are a number of unclaimed 2022 membership cards for those who paid their subscription shortly before the COVID closedown and who are accordingly still paid up members. If you receive this newsletter via email you are on our membership list as a paid up member and are welcome to claim your card and join in with Plett U3A activities.

Best Wishes, the rest of 2022 promises to offer fulfilling activities for Plett U3A members.

David Yuill

Special Interest Groups

Peter Grube's analysis which is illustrated hereunder gives a clear indication of number of members interested in various topics and how these can be provided for.

There are currently two active special interest groups that managed to continue operating during the last two Covid years:-

FRENCH CONVERSATION
This group led by Merle Decot caters for those able to converse in French, and meets on Fridays at 10.00. This is not a beginners/learners group!

SCIENCE
This group led by Henry Timme is for those that share an interest in Physics and Mathematics.The group meets about once per month. More information on the Science Group and an invitation to the next meeting will be sent to all that expressed interest in science in the questionnaire. Any others interested in receiving further information or joining the Science Group for the next get together may contact Henri Timme at 078 877 5829.

New groups that are currently being set up include:-

BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS
This group which is to be led by Chrissy Hay is unfortunately fully subscribed at this stage.

COMPUTER BASICS TRAINING
This group will be led by Peter Grube. For more information contact Peter at 083 381 5929.

The intention of smaller special interest groups is for like minded members to get together when and where it suits them. A group may well be set up to discuss and exchange ideas on a matter of current topical interest, and may only exist for a few meetings. Anything goes. There are no fixed rules. Anyone willing to host such a group, please contact the programme co-ordinator Lynne Timme at 079 313 9641. An announcement inviting members to join the group can then be made at a Monday or Wednesday meeting if the group host so wishes.

Abridged result Peter's questionnaire in respect of member's special interests

Group		Served how
Movie Club	42	Monday meetings at FGV
Armchair Travel	35	Cater for on Mondays
History	34	Talks
Music	29	Listen and talk meetings?
Arts & Crafts	26	??? and outings
Opera	23	Include in Music above
Geology	22	Talks and outings
Literature	22	???
Wine Appreciation	22	Outings and innings?
Science	19	Group lead by Henry Timme

Some July Activities

The programme overleaf sets out what has been planned for July. The outing to MASKS BY CARLA and the talk by renowned astronomer Case Reijstijk will certainly be not to miss highlights.

On Mondays, we will be alternating between History and Armchair Travel, both of which topics scored high in the questionnaire. For History enthusiasts we will be making selections from the series “The World was Never The Same : Events that Changed History”. The master story teller Is Professor J Rufus Fears who has documented no less than 36 episodes ranging from Hamurabi’s Code of Law Written in 1750 BC up to and including September 11, 2001. Sadly, Professor Fears did not live long enough to give us his take on COVID 19!

On alternate Mondays, Armchair Travellers will enjoy Joanna Lumley’s Greek Odyssey. Joanna is not just a pretty face! Her Odyssey is both informative and hugely interesting.

On Wednesday !3 July, renowned Astronomer Case Rijsdijk will be talking about and answering questions on the most powerful space science telescope ever built. The James Webb telescope will solve mysteries in our solar system and look beyond to distant worlds around other stars. From its position 1,5 million kms away the telescope’s first images will be officially released by NASA on 12 July, just one day before Case’s talk to us! What could be more topical?

On Friday 15 July, Henry Timme will be meeting with the Plett U3A Science Group. The topic is a discussion of the origin/development and importance in many fields science of the number 2.718281828……now named after Leonard Euler who used the letter e for this number in his letter to Gauss in 1731 proving that it was an irrational number. Booking is essential.
Phone Henri Timme on 078 877 5829.

On Wednesday 20th July there will be an outing—-Venetian Masks by Carla

We are thrilled to announce the first club outing for members in 2 years. We will be visiting a local business which specialises in creating exquisite custom made Venetian-style masks right here, just a few kilometres from Plett. Join us to hear Carla at 9.30 for 10 on Wed 20 July, where she will tell the story of these masks and see how they are individually made with loving care. Due to space limitations, bookings are essential please. Directions will only be supplied after confirmation of reservation.

Please reserve your place by emailing

u3aplett@gmail.com with the subject:

CARLA MASKS

