

University of the Third Age Plettenberg Bay

Newsletter January 2023

Dear Members

All the best for 2023! Here's hoping that this year will prove to be better than the past two years.

The committee has been busy with the planning and organising of future events. Overviews of these are provided below and a calendar of the programme for the next three months is attached as a separate document. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for the year ahead.

Our annual general meeting (AGM) will be held on the 15th of March. Case Rijsdijk will be our keynote speaker on a topic yet to be announced. Details will follow closer to the time. Our Vice-Chairman, David Yuill, and his wife, Judy, will be standing down on that date. Please consider becoming a committee member so that you can help develop, expand and deliver the offerings of Plett u3a for your own benefit, as well as that of all members. The idea is to have fun as a committee member and not get bogged down in administrivia.

A friendly reminder: membership subscriptions for 2023 are due before 31 March. Membership runs from 1 January to 31 December. The 2023 fees are R200 per person.

We look forward to a great year ahead with you!

Best wishes
Plett u3a committee

Plett u3a events programme

Please note that the calendar of upcoming events is sent as a separate document together with the newsletter.

More detailed information regarding future talks and outings is sent to all members as 'Upcoming events' email notifications about two weeks prior to the event. A reminder is sent approximately 24 hours before the event.

Outings need to be booked through Beth Hackland 072-266-1821 or u3aplett@gmail.com.

General structure of the events programme

Mondays:	Documentary films
Tuesdays:	Currently no activities
Wednesdays:	Devoted to live presentations and outings
Thursdays and Fridays:	Used for Plett u3a special interest group meetings. (None are currently scheduled for 2023, other than French conversation.)

Overviews of forthcoming activities

Please don't miss our AGM on Wednesday 15 March. The business side of the meeting will be over in 15 minutes maximum (says our Chairman). Our keynote speaker will be Case Rijsdijk, a well-known South African astronomer. He is the President and honorary member of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa (ASSA), the Royal Society of South Africa (RSSA) and the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP). The topic of his presentation will be confirmed closer to the time. Refreshments (tea, coffee, sandwiches and pastries) will be served.

Documentaries

Francesco's Mediterranean Voyage is a 12-part BBC Television documentary series first aired in 2008. The Venetian architect Francesco da Mosto follows the historical Venetian trading route from Venice through the Adriatic Sea, Corinth Canal, Aegean Sea and Dardanelles to Istanbul. This route was taken by, among others, his ancestor Alvise da Mosto. Sailing as a member of the crew of the Camper and Nicholson ketch *Black Swan*, along the way he stops off at the ports that were visited by the earlier traders and were in many cases part of the Venetian Empire.

Talks

15 February: Stan Harman – Air traffic control in Hong Kong

Some of you may have travelled to Hong Kong before 1998 and will therefore recognise the hair-raising approach to the Kai Tak airport.

Kai Tak Airport was the international airport of Hong Kong from 1925 until 1998. It was replaced by the Hong Kong International Airport, which is the world's busiest cargo gateway and one of the world's busiest passenger airports.

Stan worked at both of these Hong Kong airports as an air traffic controller and will tell us about his experiences.



CNN International

Kai Tak Airport in Hong Kong ...

15 March (AGM): Case Rijsdijk – Topic of talk to be advised

Outings

Keurbooms River - Ferry trip and picnic

Tuesday 21 February 2023 - 10am through to about 1pm.

We will embark on the ferry just under the bridge and slowly chug upstream, while our guide chats to us about the river, its ecology and what lives in and around the river and in the adjacent forest. Hopefully we'll see some birdlife from the boat. After an hour or so on the water we will disembark near Whiskey Creek to enjoy a picnic brunch/lunch and other refreshments. The food can either be

self-catered, or there will be an option for a catered picnic hamper at a separate cost. Toilet facilities will be available.

After the break we will return by ferry back to the starting point.

Cost: R180pp + R60 Sanparks entry fee, if members do not have a Wildcard.
(Please note that the normal price is R260 per person. We have received a special discount.)

As there are only 24 places available, please book early via email to u3aplett@gmail.com

Robbie Leggat – Bronze sculpture pouring

Wednesday 29 March 2023 - 10am

Robbie is an exceptionally gifted artist and his bronze sculptures are exquisite. He is the creator of the life-sized bronze dolphin and calf of our dolphin circle in Main Street.

He will welcome us to his studio at Bronze Fields Foundry, where he will talk about the process of creating a bronze sculpture and will then demonstrate a pouring of one of his items.

There will be no charge for this demonstration.

Two-night visit to Sutherland and the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO)

Tuesday 18 April – Thursday 20 April 2023

This will be a self-drive trip to visit South Africa's world-renowned observatory and to experience all that the iconic Karoo town of Sutherland can offer. Options range from 3D theatre shows that explain how the observatory operates, day-time tours through the SALT facility itself, evening star-gazing in the crystal-clear night sky, walking tours of the town with a local guide who will talk about the early days of the village, including Boer War activity. There will also be an opportunity to have a talk by a local palaeontologist about fossil records from the surrounding area. Sutherland certainly has it all and our trip should be a memorable experience.

Various accommodation options are available. We will provide full details of the trip and accommodation, with prices, in due course.

A maximum of 20 places are available, so please reserve these dates in your diary and advise us (via u3aplett@gmail.com) as soon as possible if you are interested in joining this trip.

General

For those who find that the ever-increasing cost of living is making life tougher, perhaps this list of various discounts and special offers available to South African pensioners in 2023 may be helpful:
SA Pensioners, These Are All The Perks You Can Access in 2023 (goodthingsguy.com)

Committee		
Chairman	Jan Hough	084-674-4235
Secretary	Beth Hackland	072-266-1821
Facebook	Beth Hackland	072-266-1821
Finance & DVD library	Ian Hogan	083-261-5861
Marketing & communications	Felicity (Flick) Grube	082-557-7779
Membership	Peter Grube	083-381-5929
Newsletter	Felicity (Flick) Grube	082-557-7779
Outings	Beth Hackland	072-266-1821
Programme calendar	Lynette Timme	079-313-9641
Special interest groups		
Bridge for beginners	Chrissy Hay	083-648-0306
Computer basics	Peter Grube	083-381-5929
Science group	Henry Timme	078-877-5829
French conversation (full)	Merle Decot	
General enquiries	u3aplett@gmail.com	