NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Ver – 28 aug- final

Greetings, Plett U3A members!

1 PLETT U3A EVENTS CALENDAR

Jan has prepared a one-page calendar of planned future events for your convenience: see below. You will note that this calendar includes a summary of all of the Monday programmes at Formosa Garden Village. The outings and presentations are highlighted in RED …. Remember that the full calendar is available on the website.

DATE			EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Mon	**1**	**SEP**	**South African Shoreline - Introduction & The Making of the series**	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Tue - Fri	**2-5**	**SEP**	**History and Fossil Trip to Graaff-Reinet**	**Full days**	**Graaff-Reinet**
Mon	**8**	**SEP**	**South African Shoreline - Cape Town to Cape Point**	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Wed	**10**	**SEP**	**A trip down the Danube - Talk by Basil van Rooyen**	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Mon	**15**	**SEP**	**South African Shoreline - Cape Point to Cape Agulhas**	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Mon	**22**	**SEP**	**South African Shoreline - Struisbaai to Knysna**	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Wed	***24***	***SEP***	***Heritage Day***	***All day***	
Mon	**29**	**SEP**	**South African Shoreline - Noetzie to Jeffries Bay**	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Mon	**6**	**OCT**	**South African Shoreline - Durban to Mtunzini**	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Mon	**13**	**OCT**	**South African Shoreline - Richards Bay to Kosi Bay**	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Wed	**15**	**OCT**	**From Footlights to Fishery - Talk by David Hall-Green**	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Mon	**20**	**OCT**	**History's Greatest Voyages of Exploration - Earliest Explorers & Xuanzang's Journey to the West**	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Mon	**27**	**OCT**	**History's Greatest Voyages of Exploration - Marco Polo and Sir John Mandeville, Portugal's Great Leap Forward**	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Welcome to new members

The Committee welcomes the following new members to Plett U3A:

Michael Slater Jones

Dianna Cartwright

Jenny Ponder

Jane Landey

Mary Toss

3 **OVERVIEW OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

3.1 Cruising Europe's Second Longest River – The Danube

Wednesday 10 September - Presentation by Basil v Rooyen

Basil van Rooyen will tell U3A members about his cruise of about 1,700 km through the Forgotten Part of Europe

He will cover seven countries (Romania, Bulgaria. Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia and Austria) and five capitals (Bucharest, Belgrade, Budapest, Bratislava and Vienna). Maps and timelines are used plus numerous photographs.

Basil will describe life on board a river ship. Thus, every day there were excursions lasting from 2 up to 12 hours. With local guides his group explored these countries, six of which were behind the iron curtain for 45 years. It is a part of Europe (except for Vienna) that most of us are totally unfamiliar with.

Basil will give members an opportunity to learn about the countries of the Balkans and Central Europe and their turbulent histories. So please diarize: **Wednesday 10 September at FGV starting 10h00**.

3.2 Outing to Stanley Island, Wednesday 1 October

We have decided to do a return trip to Stanley Island due to the overwhelming demand when we visited them in March this year. This will be a similar trip, with the ride on their little ferry over the Keurbooms river to this pretty little island. Once there, Celestine will host us and show us how their establishment has developed over the years. Barbara de Bruijn will again share her experiences as a Springbok water skier in her day.

Stanley Island will again provide refreshments in their restaurant afterwards. The limit on number of participants will be 20 due to inside space limitations, and preference will be given to those who did not attend the last time .

Bookings will only open from 9 September, so look out for that notice.

4 Looking ahead

Graaff-Reinet – History and Fossil tour – 2-5 September 2025

Plans are firmly in place for our forthcoming trip to the cultural centre of Graaff-Reinet in early September. We look forward hearing some interesting reports-back on this outing and hope that the weather behaves.

5 Some final thoughts ….

10 Words Whose Meanings Defy First Impressions

1. **Nonplussed**
   Meaning: Bewildered, unsure how to respond.
   Origin: Latin *non plus* — "no more," as in mentally halted.

2. **Enervate**
   Meaning: To weaken or drain of energy.
   Origin: Latin *enervare* — "to remove sinews," i.e., strength.

3. **Noisome**
   Meaning: Offensive to the senses, especially smell.
   Origin: Middle English *noysome* — from *annoy*, not *noise*.

4. **Sanguine**
   Meaning: Cheerfully optimistic.
   Origin: Latin *sanguis* — "blood"; linked to medieval humors.

5. **Restive**
   Meaning: Impatient, uneasy, hard to control.
   Origin: From *rest* — originally meant resisting control.

6. **Disinterested**
   Meaning: Impartial, unbiased
   Origin: Not lacking interest, but lacking personal stake.

7. **Bemused**
   Meaning: Confused or puzzled.
   Origin: From *muse* — to be lost in thought, not amused.

8. **Cleave**
   Meaning: To split apart *or* to cling tightly.
   Origin: Two separate Old English verbs with opposite meanings.

9. **Pulchritude**
   Meaning: Physical beauty.
   Origin: Latin *pulchritudo* — beauty, despite its harsh sound.

10. **Moot**
    Meaning: Debatable or irrelevant, depending on context.
    Origin: Old English *motian* — "to meet or debate."

Origin of the Word "Silly"

- **Old English**:
  The word began as *sælig* (or *sǣlīġ*), which meant **happy**, **fortunate**, or **blessed**.
- **Middle English Shift**:
  Over time, *silly* evolved to describe someone who was **innocent** or **harmless** — often used for children, the poor, or those considered spiritually pure.

- **Later Development**:
  By the 15th–16th centuries, the meaning had softened further to **naïve** or **lacking worldly wisdom**. Eventually, it came to mean **foolish**, **frivolous**, or **lacking seriousness** — the modern sense we know today.

So when someone calls a saintly hermit “silly” in a medieval text, they’re not being rude — they’re admiring their spiritual purity. Quite the reversal from today’s meaning.

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