Newsletter - April 2026

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Greetings, U3A members!

By the time you receive this newsletter we should know the results of a poll sent to members on WhatsApp to get some guidance on outings this year. Thus, the poll asks for feedback on four possible outings and at the time of writing there has been a reasonable response. We therefore appeal to ALL members to give us feedback and even to make some suggestions for possible outings; this can be done by speaking to a committee member.

As from the month of May 2026, we are going to use the YouTube streaming service available to us at FGV. Our DVD library is still available to be drawn on when we find it appropriate to do so.

The reason we go to the Streaming is simply one of choice, endless choice. It also allows us to choose more up-to-date videos which we lack within our own DVD collection. We are aware of our members' preferences but obviously cannot make everybody happy at the same time, much like with the air-conditioning!! 😊

We will endeavour to choose items which provide good quality pictures and sound. Also, we are preferring subtitles in our choice of material, but they are not always available. Many videos are not 60minutes and here we have bundled the main video with an augmented short. They might be connected to the main topic but sometimes they are just a nice filler.

Where possible we stick to the same theme or interest i.e. Music, Nature or History for example. In introducing a prominent person, we might have to use 2 or 3 short videos, like with Kurt Vonnegut the author of "Slaughterhouse Five". This introduction could persuade some of you to read more about or of this person.

As always, the Committee welcomes our members' feedback on this new "trend".

Speaking of the Committee, we welcome Vanessa and Pia who have both volunteered to serve during the coming year. We also thank Henry who has agreed to be co-opted to look after all the technical issues that arise when setting up the videos at 9.30 on Mondays. We will recall that there have been a few issues in the past and so we welcome Henry's input. We also thank Thys who has volunteered to arrange two outings this year; as anyone who has arranged any kind of function will be only too aware, this entails a lot of work and time and administrative detail.

We will continue showing videos every Monday during the month of May, and details are given in the calendar below.

1. CALENDAR

Here is the calendar with the planned events for May 2026 and beyond.

DATE			EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Fri	*1*	*May*	*Workers' Day*	*All day*	
Mon	**4**	**MAY**	**Who Do You Think You Are - Jonathan Shapiro & Eric Pitman - The miraculous life of a Hummingbird** [YT]	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Sun	*10*	*May*	*Mother's Day*	*All day*	
Mon	**11**	**MAY**	**Malcolm Gladwell: Talking to Strangers - What We Should Know About the People We Don't Know & Monica Lewinsky: The Price of Shame** [YT]	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Wed	**13**	**MAY**	**The diversity of flower visitors to Southern Cape Forest trees. Talk by Rudi Crispin Swart**	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Mon	**18**	**MAY**	**Dr Jane Goodall: Famous Last Words** [NF]	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Mon	**25**	**MAY**	**Robson Green: Walking Hadrian's Wall (Part 1)** [YT]	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Mon	**1**	**JUN**	**Robson Green: Walking Hadrian's Wall Part 2** [YT]	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Mon	**8**	**JUN**	**South African Shoreline - Cape Town to Cape Point** [3.05]	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Mon	**15**	**JUN**	**Secrets Of the Great Wall | Ancient China from Above | National Geographic** [YT]	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Tue	*16*	*JUN*	*Youth Day*	*All day*	
Sun	*21*	*JUN*	*Father's Day*	*All day*	
Mon	**22**	**JUN**	**Operation Mincemeat: The Corpse that fooled the Axis** [YT]	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**
Mon	**29**	**JUN**	**Making Sense of a World in Crisis | Yuval Noah Harari** [YT]	**10 – 11am**	**Formosa Garden Village**

2 Membership Plett u3a

On 22 April, Plett U3A had a total of 206 members. This included 168 renewals, 27 new members who joined during the year and 11 honorary members.

There are 50 members who are still not on the WhatsApp group. As mentioned in the Introduction, the committee relies on the feedback from

members either in WhatsApp polls or verbally and the easiest way to do this is to be a member of the WhatsApp group; here you can give your opinion in polls or can take part in discussion.

3 Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 13 May: The diversity of flower visitors to Southern Cape Forest Trees. Talk by Rudi Crispin Swart

The talk by Rudi Crispin Swart explores the variety of insects and animals that visit flowers of indigenous tree species in the Southern Cape region. It highlights trees as a food source for insects, birds and mammals, biodiversity and conservation efforts.

Rudi Swart is currently a postdoctoral research associate, at Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth. He is investigating the pollination of Afrotemperate forest trees across the fragmented southern Cape landscape. His research interests include Afromontane forest ecology, insect diversity conservation and tree ecology. He is an avid tree climber and fascinated by the biodiversity within forest canopies.

He has many publications to his name and the following two seem to be the ones especially relevant to his presentation on the 13th:

- Geldenhuys, C. J., Moll, E. & Swart, R. C. (2026). Evergreen forests in South Africa – their composition, biogeography, ecological dynamics and sustainable use management. South African Journal of Botany. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sajb.2025.11.018
- Swart, R. C., Geerts, S., Pryke, J. P., & Coetzee, A. (2024). Generalist southern African temperate forest canopy tree species have distinct pollinator communities partially predicted by floral traits. Austral Ecology. **https://doi.org/10.1111/aec.13523**

Follow the link below for more:

https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=pMmXJ1YAAAAJ&hl=en

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Take care, your committee.

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