



Mana U3A (INC)

www.u3amana.org.nz

P O Box 57 042, Mana 5026

Newsletter Number 82

July 2015

Third Quarterly Meeting 2015

When: Thursday 20 August 2015

Where: North Baptist Church, Whitby
Corner Discovery Drive - Whitby Shopping Centre

Reminder: Please remember - **No parking** beside the church or in dedicated local business parking places. Parking is available over the road in the Adventure Park carpark.

Time: Doors Open 1.20 pm for meeting commencing 1.30 pm.

Guest Speaker: Dr Les Molloy

Subject: MOUNTAINS, MAUSOLEUMS and MURDER along the SILK ROAD

The Silk Road of antiquity is steeped in mystery and exotic accounts of perilous travels by European explorers wanting to unravel its geography and its archaeological and ethnological treasures. This began with Marco Polo, followed by a succession of religious emissaries from various Popes, through to the British and Russian military spies in the Great Game and the Foreign Devils on the Silk Road as the Chinese called Sven Hedin, Aurel Stein, Albert von Le Coq, Paul Pelliot and the succession of European explorer-raiders who hauled off to Europe camel-loads of priceless paintings and manuscripts.

For the past 20 years, Point Howard resident and scientist/author Dr. Les Molloy has been visiting the wild places and historic sites of China, Pakistan, Central Asia, Mongolia, Siberia and Japan. Some of these visits have been on behalf of IUCN (The World Conservation Union) to evaluate mountain, forest, desert and steppe grassland sites for UNESCO natural World Heritage status.

Other visits have been guiding groups through the Silk Road and his highly illustrated talk will cover this historic exploration and show that today's remnants of the Silk Road of antiquity lie in the heart of one of the most politically-volatile regions in the world. Central Asia.

The various routes of the road span:

- the Taklimakan Desert of NW China (Gansu and Xinjiang),
- the Karakoram Mountains of northern Pakistan,
- the Hindu Kush of the NW Frontier (Pakistan) and the Wakhan Corridor of Afghanistan,
- the Pamir Mountains of Tajikistan,

- the beautiful alpine meadows, peaks (Tian Shan) and lakes of Kyrgyzstan, and
- the lowland valleys and deserts of Uzbekistan, around the Amu Darya (the Oxus crossed by Alexander the Great) and the Syr Darya (Jaxartes of antiquity), where lie the great historical cities of Tashkent, Bokhara, Samakand and Khiva, with their beautiful Mughal architecture.

Afternoon tea will be provided following the speaker.

Reminder: Please remember to wear name badges to meetings!

President's Ponderings:

By the time of the Third Quarterly Meeting I will be enjoying the sunny (hopefully) and warm climate of northern Italy and so Vice-President, Brian Mosen, will greet you. I am disappointed to miss the speaker and hope you have an enjoyable meeting and chatter over afternoon tea.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fourth Quarterly meeting on Thursday 19 November when we have our AGM. Our guest speaker will be Kristine Walker from the Salvation Army Family Tracing Service. Please consider standing for the committee. It is not onerous, with only four committee meetings per year.

Carolyn Rait (President)

Seminar on Capital Punishment in NZ

The Mana U3A Seminar held in June on Capital Punishment in New Zealand led by Sherwood Young, examined all aspects of this topic. It was well structured and Sherwood spoke to the book he published, many years ago. There was considerable audience participation by the 10 members attending.

We are always looking for seminar topics to arrange for Mana U3A members and if anyone has an idea for a subject that could be considered, please contact Brian Mosen Seminar coordinator 2330709.

New members:

We welcome the following as new members of Mana U3A and hope they enjoy their association with our organisation. Rhys Richards, Paul Geoghegan, John Watkins, Mary Phillips, Pam Sutherland, Julie Kropp, Warwick Austin, Jo Thomson, Helen & Robert Reilly, John Bache, Jan Gilbert, Lynne & Trevor Frederick



Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson were in the wilderness camping in a tent.

At about 3 am they both awoke and Holmes said to Watson:

"Watson, see all those stars in the sky - what do you deduce from that?"

"Well Holmes, we live on a planet, and we have a moon orbiting around us. Together we orbit a sun, which has several other planets and moons orbiting around it. And further out in space there are other suns, with planets and moons orbiting around them."

"And this goes on and on into infinity - and who knows - somewhere out there, there could even be life like ours, Holmes."

"No Watson - someone has stolen our tent!" (Contributed by Sherwood Young)