



U3A Stilbaai News Letter: No. 9, March 2016

General Meetings (GM):

Our next GM will be on **Monday, 28 March 2016 at 09h30 in the Waenhuis**

Our speaker for March:

The talk will be by Professor Max Döckel (former Econ Prof and Unisa Vice Chancellor) on the Budget and the state of the SA Economy. We know how close SA may be for our debt to be declared "junk" status and we know of the political struggle around our Finance and SARS leaders and our persistently low economic growth rate, the declining Rand etc. This talk therefore comes at a very opportune time as the stakes are very high, business confidence is low and our future is at stake.

We will again collect membership fees from 09h00 for the period until 31 May 2016 (of R30 p.p., per year but only R 10 if you join on Monday).

U3A Stilbaai Courses

1. Julie Wilson already teaches **Botanical Fine Art in watercolours.**
wilson.julie222@gmail.com
2. Niel van Wyk will be Course Coordinator for the U3A **Natural Science Course.**
3. Cheryl Worth will be Course Coordinator for U3A **Hiking groups.**
4. Brian Tennet will be Course Coordinator for the U3A **Armchair Travel Course.**
5. Johan van Rooyen will be Course Coordinator for the **Bird Watching group**

Cost of attending a course:

Any paid-up U3A member may attend a course and fees are a minimum of R 5 per course/event but if the group is happy to pay more, say for example R 8 per course/meeting attended, the Coordinator can provide tea/coffee and cake/biscuits too. (That R 5 per head is now 5 years old and inflation is eating into coffee and tea prices too so we should not be forced to keep to this price.) R 1 of that fee comes to the U3A and the rest is meant to cover expenses on refreshments.

Courses are mostly held once per month on a fixed date/time (such as 1st Monday morning of each month at 10h00) but hiking groups often meet once a week.

But we want Course Coordinators to set their own fee to ensure they will not be out of pocket. Obviously the intention is not that anyone makes a profit either. Members attending a course must be informed in advance what they will be expected to pay.

In practise the hiking groups still pay the R 5 per hike of which R 1 goes to U3A and the rest is pooled. As they often hike 50 times per year (weather permitting) there is usually enough in the kitty to enjoy a lunch 'on the house' after the last hike of the year.

NEW COURSES:

Natural Science Course. Coordinator: Niel van Wyk nvanwyk@telkomsa.net

Both Brian and Stefan will assist Niel getting speakers on science topics but offers, input and communication from other members will be most welcome. Niel has already given us a talk on the Goukou Estuary and will do another at a GM on 'The Stilbaai Dunes'. I know a few members asked me about astronomy earlier. It happens to be one of Brian's interests (he has even built a telescope) so hopefully we will get a few talks on this topic. Venue to be announced.

Hiking Group(s). Coordinator: Cheryl Worth cheryl@kmint.co.za

I suggest that as far as Hiking is concerned, we start with a shorter hike to sort out pace and fitness. Perhaps something like hiking from the jetty on the west side to the harbour and back along the river. That should take an hour. Or a 2-hour (and 9 km) hike could be from the jetty through the harbour to Morris Point, then along Skulpiesbaai to the parking area for the Vywers and back via gravel road next to the bird nesting dam (or the sewage farm as it's called). By then we will know who can do the Jongensfontein to Stilbaai hike along the coast (11 kms). It is also likely that we may form 2 hiking groups as everyone's pace and fitness levels will vary. At U3A Cape Town we had 12 hiking groups for exactly this reason.

Armchair Travel. Coordinator: Brian Tennett travel@u3astilbaai.org

Armchair Travel can start with Blu Ray travel documentaries as we already have two, (Antarctica and the Ganges River) but then we hope to get talks by famous travellers amongst ourselves such as Roberto Anastagi and many others. We will find out who else undertook interesting journeys and invite them to talk too. We will start at Brian's house and move to bigger premises if our numbers outgrow that venue.

The first thing to do if you would like to join one or more of these groups is to email the Course Coordinators (names above)

Your name and email address will be added to that group. The next thing is that the Coordinator will negotiate what day and time will suit most.

Other speakers and topics volunteered for GMs later this year are:

- David Carter "A trip to the stone churches in Eastern Ethiopia":
- Daan Toerien "Besigheidsontwikkeling in die dorpe van die Gouritz Biosfeer Reservaat"
- Niel van Wyk "The Stilbaai Dunes"
- Belinda Gordon "The ABO - the Colesberg Actions from November 1899 - March 1900. "
- Roberto Anastagi (a travel talk - title to follow soon.)

(Most addresses will be given in part English and part Afrikaans.)