

Report on PrimeTimers 2016 Twenty Sixteen

Our first meeting of the year was held on Thursday 11 February where we welcomed Kate Murray and Abbey from Community Networks who filled us in on the nuts and bolts of social services in our fair town.

The trip on the SS Earnslaw later in the month was a great way to launch the first of our outings, a marvellous cruise and gourmet BBQ meal enjoyed by many happy PrimeTimers.

On March 10 we welcomed our new volunteers, James Bird and James Rasmussen, from Mt Aspiring College who fitted in well with our regulars Judy Davies, Jonathon Downer, Diana Meechan and we were so pleased to see Jacqui Roberts back on board.

Sharon Bell from the Buddy programme informed us about her service for young and old mentoring while ex-Wanaka British identity Sarah Ballard serenaded us with her sweet voice. And Helen Herbert told us about her new novel, something to inspire us all to try out our own skills.

St Patrick's Day, 17 March, saw us all dressed in our greens celebrating lunch at the Trout restaurant with the ever smiling and friendly Ruth.

On April 7 we were lucky enough to have Madge Snow talk to us about her most recent book **Snow in the Lindis** and invite us to see her garden later in the year. It was also lovely to hear from Liz Breslin from the College, a lighthearted and lively speaker to lift our spirits.

We had a beautiful trip to the Arrowtown Festival in autumn's mid April,, dressed in our best hats for the Queen's 90th Birthday and enjoyed a lively musical show with sherry and afternoon tea.

At our May meeting Don Buick, who had photographically recorded our journey, showed us his shots and videos of the

wonderful autumnal landscape and festivities while Janice Cleghorn gave us an insight into Colour Therapy.

And we all had a laugh at Cinema Paradiso at the hilarious film **Hunting for the Wilderpeople** in May and, while I played with my grandchildren in Singapore in June, Michelle Staneburn from Age Concern and John Small, Fire Risk Safety Officer gave you good and sensible advice to keep you safe and warm.

And once again at the end of June the Trout Restaurant helped us celebrate the midwinter Xmas lunch with their delicious lunch with all the trimmings as evidenced by a classy picture printed in the Wanaka Sun.

We heard about a new more personalised taxi service available in Wanaka from Lynne Johnstone in July, and Freda Ryder entertained us with tales of her life and art and retirement, another inspirational personality.

A visit to Clyde at the end of July included lunch at Oliver's for some, an exploration of the town, and a tissue compulsory movie called Me Before You at the famous Clyde Cinema.

And so to today, 11 August, our AGM and the wonderful scones from the Lions Club of Wanaka!

There is even more excitement to come in the following months....a lunch at the new Rippon Hall, a much anticipated talk about her trip from Doreen Tyree, a tireless committee member, a visit to the Cardrona Whiskey Distillery and the Aspiring Village and new nearby Hospice, just for a peek mind you, and a trip over the hill to do some Xmas shopping at Frankton and check out a new café!