



University of the Third Age    The Age of Active Retirement: People Exchanging Knowledge

## NEWSLETTER    NOVEMBER 2021

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

3rd Monday of the month at Mount Pleasant Community Centre, 3 McCormacks Bay Road, Christchurch  
 10 -10.20am: Social Time in foyer over a cuppa (at covid alert level 1 only)  
 10.30 am: meeting starts in main hall.

#### PROGRAMME 2021

15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER "*Freedom of Speech*"    *Carolyn Mason*    lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Canterbury, who has written many articles and presented papers relating to Ethics and Justice.

13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER "*Arts on Tour*"    *Steve Thomas*    Executive Producer of Arts on Tour providing a wide range of theatre and musical acts throughout New Zealand. Steve is also known as the Bard of Christchurch!

**Please note this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month**

21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2022    *Annual General Meeting*

### CLUB DIRECTORY

<b>President:</b>	John Delugar	Ph: 376 6386	Email: <a href="mailto:johnantheadelugar@gmail.com">johnantheadelugar@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President:</b>	Judy Calder	Ph: 3841269	Email: <a href="mailto:judycalder@hotmail.com">judycalder@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Pat Whitman	Ph. 384 3475	Email: <a href="mailto:patwandpate@gmail.com">patwandpate@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer &amp; Membership:</b>	Barbara Hampton	Ph. 384 2411	Email: <a href="mailto:barbsie98@hotmail.com">barbsie98@hotmail.com</a>
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	Heather Fear ( <i>Newsletter &amp; publicity</i> )	Ph: 9664278	Email: <a href="mailto:randhfear@gmail.com">randhfear@gmail.com</a>
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	Vivienne Allan	Ph: 0210679420	Email: <a href="mailto:ayndavar@outlook.com">ayndavar@outlook.com</a>
U3A Pegasus email address: <a href="mailto:u3apegasus@gmail.com">u3apegasus@gmail.com</a> U3A Pegasus website address: <a href="http://www.pegasus.u3a.nz">www.pegasus.u3a.nz</a>			

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

U3A activities have been a little constrained over recent months because of Covid 19 level 2 restrictions. However, the U3A committee is committed to continue those activities that can safely be carried out in compliance with level 2 requirements.

Our monthly meetings can continue at the Mt Pleasant Community Centre using the main hall and atrium area, provided 1 metre distancing is observed except for persons comprising a bubble who may sit at the usual shorter distance from each other. We trialed this at our October meeting and it went smoothly with the assistance of an audio system to reach persons in the atrium area.

I'm taking the opportunity in this newsletter to explain the requirements for our monthly meetings. First, all U3A members attending must be fully vaccinated ie you must have had both your first and second jabs. I'm sure members will understand this requirement as we all want the comfort of knowing that we are sitting in a room with persons who are fully vaccinated. Secondly, if you are attending with a group of people who comprise a bubble, please advise a committee member at the door so you and your fellow bubble members can be directed to appropriate seats. Obviously, the greater the number of people who can be seated together in a bubble grouping, the more people we can accommodate in total. Thirdly, and finally, attendees will be seated on a first come first served basis, in the main hall, and when that is full, in the atrium area.

Unfortunately, we can't serve food or drinks. This means we can't offer you a pre-meeting cuppa. Nor can we hold the new members lunch, planned for this month, or our Xmas end of year lunch. This is disappointing as we planned to have a special end of year function to celebrate 20 years since Pegasus U3A was founded. These functions, however are simply postponed and will be held when covid restrictions allow in the New Year.

Pegasus U3A has been exceptionally well served over the years by very capable and dedicated interest group leaders. Beverly Buist, the leader of the writing group and Sue Swift, the leader of the garden group have decided to step down from their respective leadership roles of those groups. I record my grateful thanks to both Beverly and Sue for the service each has given as leader of those groups

If there are members of the writing group and the garden group who would be willing to take a leadership role, please contact me or Judy Calder.

As this is our last newsletter for 2021, I extend to all members warm Xmas greetings

John Delugar  
President

## NOTICES

- **INFORMATION ON CLUB WEBSITE** [www.pegasus.u3a.nz](http://www.pegasus.u3a.nz)

**In the PDF noticeboard section of the website there are a number of files of interest to members**

**U3A Pegasus Rules:** The club rules can be viewed on the website.

**Newsletters:** If you need to refer to one of our club newsletters that you have deleted or can't find, check out past editions on the U3A Pegasus website – just click on the tab to open the newsletter you want to look at

**Life Stories:** the fascinating stories shared by members are available for you to peruse at your leisure.

The cancellation of our end of year lunch has also meant that the celebrations to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of U3A Pegasus, have had to be deferred until next year. Through the contributions of many people, over the past 20 years, U3A Pegasus has grown to be the vibrant organisation it is today, and the committee looks forward to being able to celebrate this in style in the New Year.



## SPEAKERS PAST

### **OCTOBER**

*Jenny and Trevor Agnew*

**Early Chinese migrants in Otago - Seeking an Ancestor**

Jenny's interest in her family's history began when she was asked to draw up her family tree and was given an A2 sheet for it. She needed two extra pages! She showed us a photo of a family reunion with over 400 people there.

In China she got the names of sons but daughters were not recorded, yet the women she talked to were the ones who remembered the family history. Choie Sew Hoy, her great grandfather, was brought up in a small village, Sha Kong, with no water. In the 1850s at age 13 his family moved to the Californian goldfields and staked a claim. The family group was successful and Choie went back to China, married and produced two sons and two daughters. His next move was to Melbourne where he worked for a trader, Lowe Kong Meng.

When the NZ gold rush started, he set up a store in Dunedin's Stafford St. Experienced miners were invited from China, and Choie set up several goldfields in Otago. The workers were warm and well fed. He set up a store to provide them with rice and Chinese foods. He chartered a ship, the Anna Dorothea, which took scrap metal from horse shoes to Hong Kong and beef bones for Mah-jong tiles to China. It also carried edible fungus and 140 workers returning to China.

He joined in the social life of Dunedin, joining the Chamber of Commerce, the Masons, the Jockey Club and the Caledonian Society. Macetown wasn't prospering until gold-bearing quartz was found. It had to be dug out instead of being sluiced like the Shotover River site, where hydraulic dredgers were used.

He had a second "wife" Eliza Prescott, who bore him Violet and Henry. She never went to China and his first wife never left it. In the Nokomai Valley he spent \$15,000 extending water races for 40 miles and used a hydraulic elevator to extract the deep gold. As a successful business man, he was enrolled into the NZ Hall of fame in 2017 and some of his sites were registered as historic.

Choie died in 1901 and his body was shipped to China, but unfortunately the ship foundered outside the Hokianga Harbour. The bones and bodies of other miners being returned to China were washed up on the shore and are cared for by the local people. His last wish was that the miners should be buried beside him, so in a way, that has happened.

## INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

Details for all Interest groups including the contact person are on the last page of this newsletter

- **A HISTORY OF WORLD LITERATURE DVD GROUP**

11 November sees the end of the series which we started in October last year. A combination of holidays and lock downs has extended the duration of the series. The second to last lecture dealt with Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot". Some people will remember the Court Theatre produced the play some time ago and some of you may have seen the French film recently entitled "The Big Hit" which featured this play. The DVD group has enjoyed its fortnightly dinners.



- **BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

Our books this year reflect the different interests and perspectives of our members and we always enjoy great discussions and sometimes critique of the authors and their subject matter. Last month the book was about genes and how they can change our lives and vice versa. Written by Dr Sharon Moalem, it was based on his observations as a medical expert. Was it bed-time reading especially during a pandemic?

By complete contrast, Rhiannon Navin's debut novel 'Only Child' is definitely America in the 21st Century, starting with a shooting at a school. For those of us who have lived through more than a decade of earthquakes, the mosque killings and now the pandemic, nothing will be a surprise.

## • ART APPRECIATION

### OCTOBER

Having agreed not to meet in September because of Covid, Friday Oct. 8th was eagerly awaited. As we arrived for morning tea at Fiddlesticks in Worcester Boulevard, we had to forget our dignity as we decided whether to go under or over furniture to reach our perches in what proved to be a cosy corner nicely distanced from other patrons.

First stop at the Christchurch Art Gallery was "Starting for Work" a perfect example of artworks selected from a gallery's own collection linked together by topic to create a fresh exhibition. This ensures a span of years, an interesting mix of artists and of various media which in this case included lino cuts, water colours, oils plus archived photographs of early Christchurch factories screened on the wall. The latter reminded us how, even in the mid-20th century, working conditions were a complete contrast to today's highly regulated ones. As we moved round the exhibition, it was fun to spot old favourites, some of which we had not seen for a long time, along with others we did not recall at all.

When our group dispersed, those with time and energy explored other exhibitions, one of these being "Lonnie Hutchinson: Ahi Timataka/Trace Elements" - beautifully executed works by this multi-media artist.

Something to look forward to, is a visit to Ravenscar House Museum at 52 Rolleston Avenue. This private collection of art and objects collected by Jim and Susan Wakefield, is scheduled to open to the public on Monday 8th November. Hopefully, we will visit as a group on our usual 2nd Friday of the month in November or December.



- **CAFÉ ONE**

Red Eight Cafe, once based at Kaiapoi, is now comfortably resident in the grounds of the Portstone Garden Centre in Ferry Road. Our Cafe Group, which loves to experience the wide variety of cafe options around our city, visited this newly refreshed cafe recently. We found it a comfortable place to sit, good service and a wide variety of options on the menu. A favourite for some of us on this visit was “Sweet Nibbles.” We were able to take our time, enjoy the company of the seven or eight people in our group and put the world to rights with our conversation for the afternoon. Yes, you could guess the favoured topics – Covid, politics and the climate crisis. Probably every group selects this trio of topics for conversation, but although we couldn't right the world, we still managed to strongly air our varying views with each other. Our next visit will be to The Penny Black in The Tannery.



The newly refurbished Cafe at Portstone Nursery

- **ARMCHAIR TRAVEL**

The Armchair Travel group are fortunate to have enjoyed two wonderful journeys.

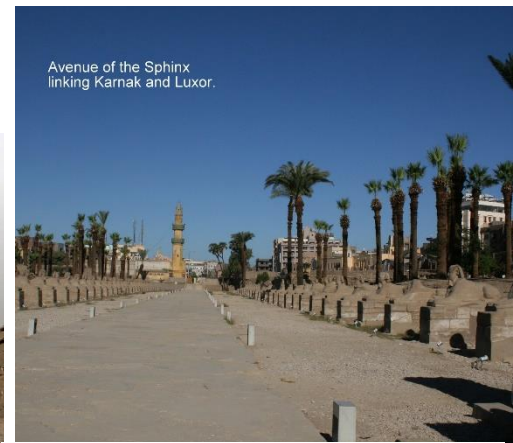
In October when we met at Heather Birchs to hear about her travels through Egypt, with magnificent photos showing much of the ancient memorabilia that she visited on her journey, Heather had some interesting stories to tell us of the history of these places.



*Colossus of Memnon – single pieces of stone*



*The Step Pyramid*



*Avenue of the Sphinx linking Karnak and Luxor*

Then in November - we met at Pat Whitmans to hear about her travels through the National Parks of the USA, including Yosemite, Bryce Canyon, Zion and The Grand Canyon. Pat had a great collection of photos for us, both in an album and shown on a screen.

In these difficult times we are fortunate to be able to travel to these faraway places with our group members who have so much to share with us.



Today the lovely old church stands alone and lonely in a large green field – unused and badly in need of restoration. It remains to be seen if anyone will take up the challenge, so this important piece of Canterbury history remains for all to visit. With the north west arch hanging overhead we moved down the road to visit the large and beautifully kept urupa (cemetery). A lunch visit to “Paris for the Weekend” in the old Kaiapoi Railway Station ended a really interesting morning out.

- **GEOLOGY/BOTANY**

**OCTOBER**

**Visit to Ilam Gardens**

A small group of us met at the Ilam Homestead on a rather grey morning. In some ways this was an advantage as it intensified the wonderful colours of the azaleas and rhododendrons. After hearing a little about the history of the house and gardens and admiring the water wheel we meandered through the grounds, stopping often to admire the plants. They come in every size, shape and colour. From the shape of the buds, the twisted trunks, to the flamboyant petals and interesting seed heads, there is something to catch the eye at every point along the path.



**NOVEMBER**

**Photographing Geology**

**Kate Pedley**

Kate works in the School of Earth and Environment at the university. She has given many talks and led field trips on all aspects of geology. This time she shared with us her passion for photography as well, giving us photographs from around New Zealand and the rest of the world. We also got tips on improving our photos and things to look for in the scenery to make the shots more interesting. The whole talk was enhanced by her explanations of the type and age of the rocks and how their formations, colours and patterns came about.

- **DVD GROUP: THE GREAT TOURS – FRANCE THROUGH THE AGES**

France – the world’s most visited tourist destination (at least before Covid, it was). This series of 24 lectures began by revealing how Paris evolved from an ancient settlement on the Seine to a Roman city and then the capital of France. Our journey through this remarkable country has taken us from Louis XIV, also known as the Sun King, who lived in the Palace of Versailles (pictured right), a self-contained world, where he was a Patron of the Arts.



We have visited the 1789 French Revolution, the city of Rheims (the region where some of the world’s greatest champagnes are produced), the beaches of Normandy (site of the unfolding of the D-Day invasion), the Normandy coast with its beauty and clear light that became a magnet for 19<sup>th</sup> century painters (e.g. Monet) and the Celtic culture of Brittany and its walled port city of Saint-Malo.

Our group is greatly enjoying this special series of lectures where we are discovering what French love the most – History, Food and Wine. We continue to enjoy our fortnightly gatherings following in the footsteps of the French, by sharing good food and wine and learning more about this amazing European country.



## INTEREST GROUP DETAILS

**Just a reminder - you need to be a member of U3A, to join our interest groups.  
Contact the convener if you are interested in knowing more about any of our interest groups**

**ARMCHAIR TRAVEL:** **Vacancies** Meets monthly in members' homes 3pm 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month.  
Contact: Robin Fear Phone: 9664278 Mobile: 027 430 9937 Email: [randhfear@gmail.com](mailto:randhfear@gmail.com)

**ART APPRECIATION:** **Vacancies** Meets monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month.  
Contact: Helen Harkness Phone: 384 2890 Email: [donandhelen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:donandhelen@xtra.co.nz)

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP:** **Vacancy** Meets monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday atrium Mount Pleasant Community Centre after the main U3A monthly lecture. Contact: Vivienne Allan Phone 0210 679-420 Email: [ayndavar@outlook.com](mailto:ayndavar@outlook.com):

**CAFÉ GROUP 1:** **No Vacancies.** Meets monthly, 2.30pm on Tuesday of the week following 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. Contacts: Frances Cole Ph. 326 5822 or Erin Higgins Ph. 384 4385

**CAFÉ GROUP 2:** **Vacancies** Meets monthly 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday immediately after the main U3A monthly lecture in the cafe at the Mount Pleasant Community Centre to discuss the morning's lecture over a cup of coffee.  
Contact: Norma Hampton Phone: 332-8990 Email: [colin-norma36@xtra.co.nz](mailto:colin-norma36@xtra.co.nz)

**CANTERBURY HISTORY:** **Vacancies** Meets monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month.  
Contact: Judy Calder Email: [judycalder@hotmail.com](mailto:judycalder@hotmail.com) Phone: 384 1269

**CYCLING:** **Vacancies** Meets monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.  
Contact: Jan Dobson Email: [donandjanclear@gmail.com](mailto:donandjanclear@gmail.com) Phone: 3818925



**GARDEN GROUP:** **Vacancies** Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month in members' homes "Tea and Cuttings" & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday for an outing or lecture. Contact: Sue Swift Phone: 384 5377 Mobile: 021 216 1971 Email: [sswiftysp@gmail.com](mailto:sswiftysp@gmail.com)

**GEOLOGY/BOTANY:** **Vacancies** Meets twice monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at Redcliffs Bowling centre and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday for an outing. Contact: Pat Whitman Ph. 384 3475 Email: [patwandpate@gmail.com](mailto:patwandpate@gmail.com)

**WRITING GROUP - OUR STORIES:** **Vacancies** Taking a break for now. More information is available from  
Contact: Beverley Buist Ph. 376 4960 Mobile: 027 628 7809 Email: [candbbuist@xtra.co.nz](mailto:candbbuist@xtra.co.nz)

**HISTORY OF WORLD LITERATURE (DVD/Dinner Series):** **No Vacancies.** Meets fortnightly in members' homes 6pm Thursdays Contact: Lyn Russell Ph: 021 2388788 Email: [nylrus1951@gmail.com](mailto:nylrus1951@gmail.com)

**THE GREAT TOURS - FRANCE THROUGH THE AGES (DVD/Dinner Series) No vacancies**  
Meets in homes of members Contact: Hugh and Uschi Cable Email: [hughcable@yahoo.com](mailto:hughcable@yahoo.com) Phone: 326 4295

**THE CELTIC WORLD DVD Group** **Vacancies** Meets fortnightly on Monday afternoons, commencing 19th July  
Contact: Barbara Crooks Email: Ph: Barbara 384-3190 Email: [barbaracrooks273@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracrooks273@gmail.com)

**SCRABBLE** Meets fortnightly Tuesdays 1:30pm **Vacancies**  
Contact: Alison Harrington Ph: 022 307-4039 Email: [alison.harrington@xtra.co.nz](mailto:alison.harrington@xtra.co.nz)