



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

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022

MONTHLY MEETINGS: MARK THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

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, 10.30 am: meeting starts in main hall.

Monday 21 February 2022. Our first meeting of the year is the **AGM**. In keeping with tradition, our speakers will be U3A members – this year, Mona & Jorgen Schousboe, Jenny Long and Judy Calder. Judy will give an update on our interest groups. Please remember to wear your mask, and have your Covid pass with you. There will be no morning tea ahead of the AGM due to Covid restrictions.

Monday 21 March 2022. Our guest speaker for the March meeting will be Kamala Hayman, editor of the Press.

CLUB DIRECTORY

President:	John Delugar	Ph: 376 6386	Email: johnantheadelugar@gmail.com
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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear members,

It's been quite a year for us with Covid rules requiring us to restrict numbers, ensure there are spaces between seats and often having to restrict the usual welcoming cup of tea at our monthly meetings. Nevertheless, our interest groups have continued to flourish. They are the life-blood of our organisation and I am grateful to the conveners for their ongoing work. Speakers for this past year have resulted in some good questions and lively discussions and we look forward to this continuing in the coming year, Omicron notwithstanding.

Your committee has very capably organised our monthly meetings and I want to thank them for always setting up the hall, meeting and greeting members and organizing speakers. In particular my thanks go to the sterling work that Barbara Hampton does as our treasurer, Pat Whitman as our secretary and special thanks to Heather Freer who has resigned from the committee. She has established our newsletter as a major means of sharing information for members as well as maintaining the website.

We look forward to a good year to come with entertaining speakers and the prospect of being able to have a belated celebration of our anniversary. In the meantime, I wish everyone good health and safe travels. As U3A, we value our members and the contribution they make to our organisation.

John Delugar
President

NOTICES

- **AGM** The 20th Annual General Meeting of U3A Pegasus will be held in the Mt Pleasant Community Centre on Monday 21st February 2022. The agenda including President's Report and Financial Statement will be emailed to members separately.

- **INFORMATION ON CLUB WEBSITE** 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 now be viewed on the website.
- **Newsletters:** If you need to refer to one of our old club newsletters, 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:** Check out the fascinating stories shared by members and available to peruse at your leisure.

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER IS 31 MARCH 2022

SPEAKERS – NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2021

15 November: 'Considering NZ's Changes to the Laws of Free Speech' Carolyn Mason

In June 2021, the NZ government asked the public to submit on "Proposals against the Incitement of Hatred and Discrimination." Carolyn clarified the topic by beginning with a definition which includes for example pornography, manifestos, placards, moko and tattoos, performance, music and song words, art and cartoons.

Our current laws gives everyone the right to freedom of expression, to seek, impart information and opinions of any form as is outlined in our Bill of Rights. It bans threats, abuse, insults and anything abusive of racial and/or ethnic origins. It is criminal to publish or use abuse to incite ill will. Example is Brian Tamaki who was banned on Facebook for

Muslim hate; a neo-Nazi male was jailed for sending out the mosque video attack. The right to free speech is important, however rights can be negative as well as positive.

Carolyn outlined the proposed changes to the laws of free speech including:

- It is proposed to change the law so that someone who incites hatred against anyone based on colour, race, sexuality, gender, religion or disability would break the law if they did it in a threatening, abusive or insulting manner.
- It is proposed to change the law so that a person who intentionally incites, stirs up or normalizes hatred based on colour, race, sexuality, gender, religion or disability would break the law if they did so by being threatening, abusive or insulting including inciting to violence.

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13 December: Arts on Tour - Steve Thomas

Steve Thomas gave a very entertaining talk about **Arts on Tour**, a group which tours around New Zealand’s smaller centres. He explained its purpose is to bring the arts to remote regions of the country and support up and coming artists. Funded by Creative New Zealand (formerly the QE11 Arts Council), **Arts on Tour** started in 1985 and has continued to flourish.

Steve was born in Cardiff and was influenced by the work of the famous poet and writer Dylan Thomas. He came to New Zealand in 1974 with a musician friend, toured the country in a Humber Sprite and decided to make his home in Dunedin. In 1983, he became the director of the Nelson Arts Festival and following the restructure of the QE11 Arts Council in 1985, he founded Arts on Tour working alongside such notable Kiwis as Margaret Mahy, Mervyn Thompson, Michael Hurst, Adam McGrath and David Ladderman. The group has 230 gigs already booked for 2022.

Steve is a poet and has published three books. He entertained U3A members with humorous poetry readings including *Beaujolaish Dog*, a rhyming skit on politicians, and the Welsh River Taff from the mountains to the sea.

He enjoys collecting bad reviews and liked the following: ‘Think you’re a poet Laureate? I’ve seen better lines on the side of the road.’ Although Steve said he has retired from touring, he remains on the **Arts on Tour** Board of Trustees which is funded by Creative New Zealand and other local trusts. His talk provided an enjoyable finish to U3A’s last meeting of 2021.

INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

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

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL



The Armchair Travel group met in December for a most interesting meeting, firstly a helicopter flight over the US Grand Canyon viewing the spectacular scenery and amazing colours of the canyon.

Then, much closer to home we watched a video of a tramp up the Hawdon Valley in the Arthurs Pass National Park for an overnight stay in the DOC hut, plus a video showing some of the spectacular scenery in the South Island of our own country. We are all looking forward to our next meeting in February when Vivienne Allan tells of her time in Israel.

Pictured left: Robin and Heather Fear following their helicopter ride.

ART APPRECIATION

November: Despite it being a public holiday, our group met for morning tea and a chat at the Museum Café then crossed to the Arts Centre to the Central Gallery to see works by artists unfamiliar to us. By the end of our visit, we



could see why Leigh Martin's paintings were shown alongside Chauncey Flay's work from stone. They both manipulate their materials so that when viewed from different angles, different effects are achieved. We learned how Martin applies a colourless 'interference' paint resulting in colour or shade differences depending from where the paintings are viewed. Flay uses North Island greywacke combining raw stone with cut highly polished greywacke blocks fitted into the raw stone with tiny magnets (viewed here). Once again different effects are achieved just by moving round each "sculpture". It took time to appreciate this exhibition, but understanding the aims and methods of the artists and studying each work, meant you could see you would not tire of them. By chance, it was the opening day of "Sculpture Festival 2021" in the Great Hall where more than 40 well known artists exhibited 250 works, some for sale. Included were ceramics, jewellery, glass objects and mixed media. A real "feast" for our group to enjoy.

December: Our group had missed just one monthly outing in 2021 due to Covid so that it was no hardship to use our new "passports" to enter Doubles Cafe and The Christchurch Art Gallery for our December meeting. The exhibition, "The



Moon and the Manor House" is described as "Aestheticism, Arts and Crafts and the avid pursuit of beauty" and is on until 1 May 2022. Items on display were sourced from the University of Canterbury's collection and from private collectors which were added to those from the gallery's own collection. When one of our members mentioned "black things hanging down" in a display on the gallery balcony, we discovered Jen Bowmast: "When the Veil is Thin" on until 20 Feb. 2022. This sculptural installation uses symbols from the pagan Wheel of the Year, an annual cycle of seasonal festivals relating to those who believe nature is sacred. Mixed media materials included acrylics, agate, bronze, clay, copper, dried flowers, fabric, rock, paper, plaster, ribbon, rope and berries- beautifully executed in mostly black on a green background. There was just time to check out the gallery's shop for Christmas gifts.

CAFÉ GROUP 1

Our final visit for 2021 was to a favourite café that we all enjoy. The setting, the atmosphere, the furnishings, the elegant three tiered cake stands, the High Teas ('fit for a Queen') and the fine bone china teapots and crockery, enticed us back once again to "The Penny Black" at The Tannery. Housed in a Victorian setting that aligns well with the character of the main building, we were seated together around one table in a room to the side of the main eatery. With our masks removed, and the delivery of our coffee and delicious eats, we joined in together with interesting, challenging and topical discussions – as usual! This is a special time with our group – people we have come to know well, enjoy their company and spend worthwhile companionship together. 'A Decadent and indulgent Victorian Tea Room' - or not - our visit was a good one.



CAFÉ GROUP 2

Each U3A lecture morning, our plan is to invite the guest speaker to join with our discussion group in the Front room Cafe next door. We have been very fortunate throughout the year in managing to link in with most speakers, so that

they are able to stay behind for coffee and a chat. It gives us a welcome opportunity to find out more about the speaker, to ask in depth questions about what we have just heard and to share a topics relating to the morning lecture.



Our December guest was Steve Thomas from Arts on Tour. Our chat with him began with a quick overview of his special experiences in the theatre both as an active participant on stage, then behind the scenes as an executive producer. But soon he managed to cleverly move the whole conversation around, so that he was interviewing us! It turned out that we all had fascinating and different life stories, and they all were all interesting. With no membership list for our group, nor a need to book a seat, participants are welcome to turn up by just staying on after the morning's U3A lecture and heading into the Front Room Café to join in.

DVD GROUP: THE GREAT TOURS - FRANCE THROUGH THE AGES

With only a couple more lectures left to go on our course, the focus is now on Paris – the City of Light. (NO - not because it is a well-lit city, but because of a request in 1667 by King Louis XIV to make the city more safe. Besides quadrupling the police force, lanterns were placed on almost every main street and residents were asked to light up their windows with candles and oil lamps to prevent law breakers from dodging the police or hiding in dark alleys). Photography came of age in Paris and the cinema became a meaningful part of the city's cultural life. We learned about some of the world famous fashion houses, the Sevres porcelain factory and the Cordon Bleu culinary school.

And the future for Paris? Additions, adaptations, new uses, or extended life for old, but beautiful buildings? The lecturer took us to view some of the successful waves of modernisation, including the Eiffel Tower and the Grand Palais. Then it was down under to the fast and efficient Metro followed by public works such as the Centre Pompidou and the Pyramide du Louvre. Altogether fascinating.

We've greatly enjoyed this series on France and have continued to share a meal together each time by contributing a dish each to the evening. Now we look forward to keeping together as a well-connected group of friends and selecting a new DVD course to share over the next few months.

Pictured below: The Pyramide du Louvre on Champs-Elysees and a display from the Sevres Porcelain factory.



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Our December meeting was a special Christmas lunch held at the home of Jenny Jordan who was recuperating after a knee operation. Everyone brought something delicious to eat while we discussed the pros and cons of 'The Body – a Guide to Occupants' a clever and thoughtful discourse by the noted international author Bill Bryson (pictured left). Like so many of his books, Bryson delves into his topic with enthusiasm, sometimes more than the reader would like, giving descriptive details of the anatomy and its multiple uses. The Goodreads reviewers described the book as compulsively readable and comprehensive, that it is Bryson at his best. We didn't always agree with the review but it is definitely comprehensive and a manual that is worthy of including in the bookshelf along with some of others, most notably 'At Home' and 'A Walk in the woods.'

Our great read for the summer was James McNeish's book **'Breaking Ranks'** which is focused on three outstanding New Zealanders – John Saxby, Reggie Miles and Peter Mahon, the latter being well known to many of us for his formal inquiry into the air disaster on Mt Erebus. McNeish researched each of his subjects in meticulous detail giving the reader insight into some of New Zealand's more complex history, specifically mental health, World War 11 and the back story to the Erebus inquiry. The book was his last biography which he completed aged 85 in November 2016.

GARDEN GROUP



In December we enjoyed a visit to Sue Swift's cottage in Redcliffs where we presented her with a garden sculpture to thank her for all her work in rejuvenating the group and organising a wonderful programme. Sue has now "retired" as convenor of the group.

The four-person steering group has met and drawn up a draft programme of one meeting per month (on the fourth Monday) for the year, which consists of a mixture of speakers, garden visits, and tea & cuttings meetings at members' homes. Covid restrictions have struck already and

the February visit to a local begonia enthusiast has been cancelled at his request. We are instead going to revert to our January speaker Susan Kuschla and the visit to the Sumner Community Garden at 1.30pm to listen to Susan and then carpooling (if desired) to go to Van Asch School in Sumner to view the garden there.

GEOLOGY/BOTANY

Guided Walk through Riccarton Bush

On Wednesday 17 November, we had a \$10 guided walk through Riccarton Bush. It is well worth doing. You are fitted with comfortable headphones so you can hear every word of the commentary. Mike, the ranger, has been in the job for



less than a year but was full of knowledge about the flora and fauna, from rare 6" geckos to 600-year-old kahikatea tress. We saw a black fantail and heard a shining cuckoo calling as well as bellbirds singing. The predator-free fence has seen a huge increase in bird life since rats and mice, possums, cats and dogs and some humans have been kept out.

The variety of native trees was amazing: stringy-barked totaras, dented bark kahikateas, flowering whitewood, dangling rimu, cabbage trees, ribbonwoods and a good stand of titoki. This is the southern limit for them and frost

wiped out all of them in 1895. They were brought back and now there are lots of juveniles growing well. In the 1970s they used to tidy up the forest floor and burn all the fallen bark and debris but now they have a policy of letting things happen naturally. Trees are only cut down if deemed dangerous and then the wood is left in the forest to rot.

A council-controlled private trust runs the place and contributes enough for maintenance. The café leases rooms in the house to supplement their income.



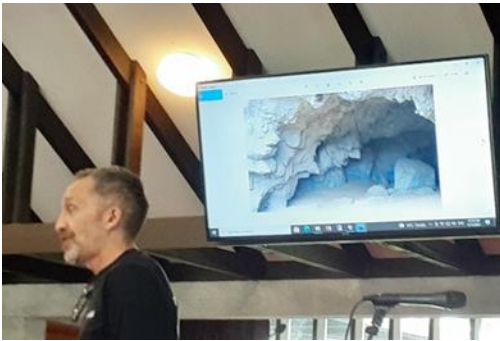
CANTERBURY HISTORY GROUP

Early Maori history in the Sumner, Redcliffs and Mt Pleasant area was the focus of our final meeting of last year. Joseph Hullen, a keen archaeologist and conservation officer was our Ngāi Tahu speaker. It is his job to be out in the field, researching and gathering information for Cultural Impact Assessment Reports and Values Statements where land use is changed through the impact of earthquake demolitions like the Redcliffs School site, land re-development or a change in land use.

Redcliffs in particular, has a long association with early Maori settlers. The Waitaha people, followed by the Ngāti Mamoe tribe, were displaced by Ngāi Tahu in the 17th century and they were still living here when the first Europeans arrived. There is a lot of evidence of early settlement in the flat areas of Redcliffs and McCormacks Bay. The many caves found in the area have proved a great hunting ground for archaeologists. Moncks Cave and the large Moa Bone Point

Cave, used by early moa hunters and later, shellfish gatherers, have given up a number of interesting artefacts and bones. Some of these are in display in the Canterbury Museum.

The Moa Bone cave, which has been intensively researched over time, has three chambers, varying in size. The largest chamber is the entry that fronts the Main Road in Redcliffs, (now fenced off after the earthquakes). It measures 'over one hundred feet in length.' Ovens and middens in the sand dunes provided further evidence of early occupation in this area. There must be much more to discover!



If you find an early artefact on your land, who owns it? Finders keepers – or not? Well, not quite. The 1975 Protected Objects Act states that tāonga do not belong to the land owners. They are to be ‘cared for by the Crown until the ownership is established.’ Newly found tāonga may be claimed by the traditional owners, which is usually iwi or hapu in the area of the find.

CYCLING GROUP

We are a small group of about six active riders, mostly on e-bikes and we meet around 1030 on the second Tuesday of the month. Each member decides on the ride for the month and we enjoy finding new places to go. Our rides last between 1-2 hours and we always have a coffee stop.

A HISTORY OF WORLD LITERATURE DVD GROUP

The DVD Literature group is steadily working through the 48 lectures in this very interesting series, with the end in sight. Some of the literature discussed by Professor Voth is familiar to members and other titles have been completely unknown. Consequently, the possibility of reading or rereading some of the literature is on our "to-do" lists. We have worked our way up to the 20th Century and look forward to hearing about such writers as Faulkner, Beckett and several non-European writers.

DVD GROUP: GREAT TRIALS OF WORLD HISTORY



The group recently started this 24 lecture series on great trials - from Socrates, Thomas More, and the Salem Witches through to Oscar Wilde, the Mississippi Burning, Nuremburg, Mandela and OJ Simpson to name just a few. Background history to the trials has been fascinating as has the trial process itself. The group meets fortnightly on a Thursday evening at 6.30pm for supper and DVD viewing. New members would be welcome. We start again on Thursday 3 February.

SCRABBLE GROUP

Our group meets every fortnight on Tuesdays at 1.30pm. We are a new group, and welcome more members.

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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 1st Tuesday of month.
Contact: Robin Fear Phone: 9664278 Mobile: 027 430 9937 Email: randhfear@gmail.com

ART APPRECIATION: **Vacancies** Meets monthly, 2nd Friday of the month.
Contact: Helen Harkness Phone: 384 2890 Email: donandhelen@xtra.co.nz

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: **Vacancies** Meets monthly 3rd Monday atrium Mount Pleasant Community Centre after the main U3A monthly lecture. Contact: Vivienne Allan Email: ayndavar@outlook.com

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

CAFÉ GROUP 2: **Vacancies** Meets monthly 3rd 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

CANTERBURY HISTORY: **Vacancies** Meets monthly, 2nd Monday of the month.
Contact: Judy Calder Email: judycalder@hotmail.com Phone: 384 1269

CYCLING: **Vacancies** Meets monthly, 2nd Tuesday of the month.
Contact: Jan Dobson Email: donandjanclear@gmail.com Phone: 3818925



DVD GROUP: GREAT TRIALS OF WORLD HISTORY: **Vacancies** Meets fortnightly on a Thursday evening at 6.30pm for supper and DVD viewing. Email: nylrus1951@gmail.com

GARDEN GROUP: **Vacancies** Meets 4th Monday of month. A mixture of speakers, garden visits and "tea & cuttings" at members' homes. Contact: Lynne Haslett mobile: 027.2292294, email: lynnehaslett@gmail.com

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

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

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 Phone: 326 4295

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

WRITING GROUP - OUR STORIES: This group is currently in recess.