



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

NEWSLETTER APRIL/MAY 2022

MONTHLY MEETINGS: MARK THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

Pegasus U3A meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at Mount Pleasant Community Centre,
3 McCormacks Bay Road, Christchurch

Because of Easter, there will be no U3A meeting in April. The next meeting will be on Monday 16 May.

CLUB DIRECTORY

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| President: | John Delugar | Ph: 376 6386 | Email: johnantheadelugar@gmail.com |
| Secretary: | Pat Whitman | Ph: 384 3475 | Email: patwandpate@gmail.com |
| Treasurer & Membership | Barbara Hampton | Ph: 384 2411 | Email: barbsie98@hotmail.com |
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| | Judy Calder | Ph: 384 1269 | Email: judycalder@hotmail.com |
| | Judy Eden | Ph: 384 4857 | Email: edenjudith@xtra.co.nz |
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| | Paul Hammonds | Ph: 384 8117 | Email: hphammonds@gmail.com |
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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

We have started another year with Covid still casting a shadow over our meetings and activities. At time of writing this editorial, it seems that this shadow will lift almost completely in the very near future. Under present Covid settings we can still have meetings at the Mt Pleasant Community Centre and limited to 100 people, however, according to the Prime Minister's announcement on 23 March, it appears that this will change shortly enabling us to have more of our members at our monthly meetings, and perhaps we will be able to serve morning tea. It will also mean an end to

vaccine passes and QR codes. We will update you further ahead of our next meeting which will be on Monday 16 May. We decided to cancel the April meeting because it falls on Easter Monday.

Pegasus U3A's AGM was held, as our Rules require, at the first meeting of the year in February. At the AGM the same committee who were in office at the end of 2021, with the exception of Heather Fear, were re-elected. This will ensure continuity in the management of Pegasus U3A's affairs.

Two new members of the committee - Vivienne Allan and Jorgen Schousboe - had been co-opted onto the committee in late 2021. Pat Whitman and Barbara Hampton were re-elected respectively as secretary and treasurer. Both Pat and Barbara have done sterling work in their respective roles over a long period.

Barbara has given notice that she wishes to retire from her role as Treasurer at the end of the year and will not seek re-election next year. Therefore, I'm seeking a replacement for Barbara to join the committee and work with Barbara for the balance of the year. If you have accounting or book-keeping skills and would like to assist with the book-keeping role please contact me. The treasurer's job is very important and at times very busy. I would like to find Barbara's replacement as soon as possible. Of course any person joining the committee now would need to be elected as treasurer next year.

Now a word about the annual sub. The committee recommended and the AGM approved the sub be set at \$25 per member for the current year which is the same as for the previous several years. Although we have a comfortable level of funds in the bank the committee felt the sub should remain at the same level because we don't know what costs we may incur because of Covid. Half of our members have paid this year's sub and we thank you. As we do not have an April meeting, can we please encourage members who haven't paid yet, to do so online. Our bank account detail are U3A Pegasus 031355 0462188 00. Please include your details and the amount \$25.

If you no longer wish to remain a member, can you please email our Membership committee, at barbsie98@hotmail.com or phone Barb on 3842411 and leave a message on the answer phone. We currently have 15 people on a waiting list wishing to join.

I conclude my comments by repeating the thanks I gave at the AGM to all our wonderful Interest Group leaders and committee members for the great work they do to make Pegasus U3A an effective organization.

John Delugar
President, Pegasus U3A



Heather Fear (left) with the bouquet of flowers presented to her at the February AGM to say a big 'thanks' for several years serving on the Committee and for compiling and uploading our Pegasus newsletter.

NOTICES

INFORMATION ON CLUB WEBSITE www.pegasus.u3a.nz

The Pegasus U3A website is a valuable way of keeping up with the latest information. Check it out!

In the 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 JUNE NEWSLETTER IS 24 MAY 2022

SPEAKERS – FEBRUARY & MARCH 2021

February: At the AGM, we usually invite three speakers from within our organisation to give a brief talk about themselves or something that is of interest to them. The February meeting therefore included the following:

Judy Calder: Interest Groups

Because we haven't been able to hold the Welcome Lunches for new members, Judy outlined the various Interest Groups. We're all in the 3rd Age and as well as helping families, we need to do some things that we enjoy and that extend our knowledge of the things that interest us.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Armchair Travel | Meets to share travel experiences and show photos. |
| Art Appreciation | Helen organises interesting trips to art venues round town |
| Book Discussion | Vivienne runs a monthly group to discuss books got from Book Discussion Groups |
| Café Group 1 | No vacancies. They have favourite cafes where they put the world to rights. |
| Café Group 2 | Norah welcomes anyone. They can go and meet with the speaker after their talk. |
| Canterbury History | Judy organises study groups and trips. Recently, early history from a Māori view. |
| Cycling | A small group run by Jan Dobson. |
| Geology/Botany | Pat and her committee organise monthly talks and trips. The biggest group. |
| Scrabble | Alison Harrington would welcome new members. Good for winter. |
| DVD collections | These groups meet in members' homes, often with a shared meal or refreshments. Judy has recently purchased 5 new DVDs. Living Planet by David Attenborough, Civilisation by Kenneth Clark, The Wonders Collection by Brian Cox, The Best of Europe, Russia – Land of the Tsars. |

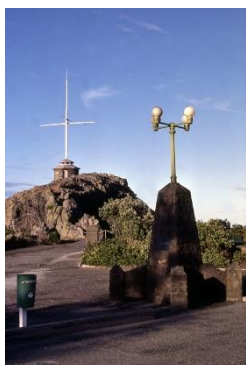
Members can sign up on the sheets in the Foyer, or contact the group coordinator (contact details at the end of the Newsletter, and groups will start with a leader and sufficient numbers.

Jenny Long: Around the Bays

Jenny collects early New Zealand postcards from about 1898 to 1920. The technology to reproduce pictures in print started in 1895 when The Press had its first one published. In 1898 the first postcard was printed and many families started collections. There is good social history to be found on the cards and from their messages. The protection date on the cards tells the date the picture was taken.

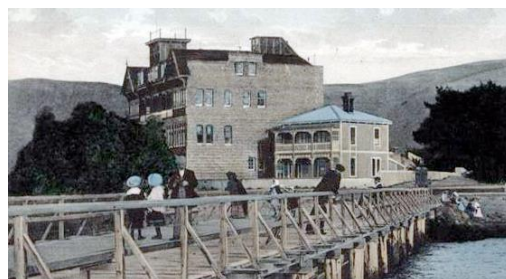
Many of her cards showed the progression of transport to Sumner. 1883 there was a pier just before Cave Rock, where coastal vessels unloaded cargo. Later the lifeboat was stationed at its end. 1888 there was Clifton Bridge across the water and in 1898 the hut on top of Cave Rock was built.

She showed a photo of a church outing in 1897 where there were 4 engines and 19 trailers taking people to Sumner. Many were travelling on the roofs of the carriages. The trams did 10 trips a day at 6^d each. It was electrified in 1907. In 1906 the Café Continental Hotel opposite the pier had 49 rooms an observatory on the top. It burnt down in June 1909. In 1912 shut the existing road and a causeway was built for the trams from Rock.



Sumner Beach was very popular, with galas there from 1906. There was a band rotunda the pier for concerts on Sundays, a carousel beach, tea rooms, hot seawater pools with bathing sheds for the modest, and donkey rides. One card showed a mass of people "promenading" along the beach. The first lamp monument was erected commemorating the coronation of Edward VII.

In 1913 the Esplanade was built, Norfolk pines planted and in 1927 11 more memorial lamps were erected. The clocktower was built in 1924, donated by R F Green, an early settler. By 1928 the box brownie camera was invented and people could take their own pictures and have them



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Shag

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printed on postcards. In 1931 the dunes were levelled and the sea wall built. By then the sand had receded a lot and the pier was no use. Her final cards showed Taylors Mistake with families relaxing by the cave baches. The Archbold one was built in 1897, one of about 30.

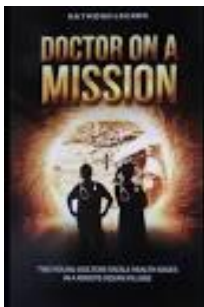
Jorgen Schousboe: His Medical Career

Jorgen trained as a medical doctor in Denmark and came to New Zealand in 1973 with his wife Mona, who is a pathologist. They had no visas or registration papers, but these problems were in those days quickly solved over the phone by a hospital manager who knew his way around bureaucracy. He worked in the hospital but was baffled by the chauvinism there. Women were almost non-existent, and he faced problems due to his accent, and his lack of direct connections to the old-boys network in Christchurch. The couple were seconded to Greymouth a place they thoroughly enjoyed. Firewood was free (if you collected it from the beach!) Coming back to Christchurch he established the Wainoni Medical Centre and he became one of the founding directors of both the 24-hour Surgery and Pegasus Health. In 1988 he was appointed Honorary Consul General for Denmark, a post he held till 2012, meeting dignitaries, organising passports and dealing with Danish issues. In 2006 he was created a Knight of the Order of Dannebrog by Her Majesty Queen Margarethe.

Both he and Mona had studied tropical medicine and they spent some time working in a village two hour’s journey from Rayagada, a district in Southern Odisha, India. The village had no running water, sewage or electricity. They were met by 5 lads who had come from troubled backgrounds. One even arrived in a basket carried by a German nun, who had extracted him from a village and from almost certain death. The children came from environments offering no hope for the future and some had been rescued from hunger, physical and mental abuse. Since then, one has been adopted by a Danish couple and all four others have done well in good careers, initially supported financially by Danish sponsors. When Jorgen and Mona left the place, it was being closed down, but luckily a young couple who were expecting their first child, had the stamina and skill to step into the role as “parents” for the younger boys.

The Medical work took Jorgen and Mona to remote villages, where negotiations with village leaders had to take place before they would accept medical services. The usual currency was an offer of free scabies treatment to all the youngsters.

Jorgen told us about one of his patients. A young boy had fallen into a fireplace, probably due to epileptic seizures. The child’s terrible burns had been treated with cow dung leaving him extremely ill from tetanus. As no modern equipment was available, 600 tiny pieces of skin were grafted onto his back, and it was a proud day when he could be discharged.



The hills behind the village have an abundance of bauxite needed for aluminium smelting, and mining this is now threatening to displace the remote hill tribes known as Dongrea-Khonds. He showed us several pictures of the local men, who wear white capes, carry an axe over their shoulder and a red embroidered piece of cloth to show they are married.

In 2018 Jorgen had the opportunity to visit the village with his son, meeting all his friends from so many years ago. Since then, he has written a book about his time there called “Doctor on a Mission’, under the pen name Raymond LeCren. It is available on Amazon.

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21 March: Kamala Hayman, Editor of the Press

Our guest speaker for the March meeting was editor of the Press, Kamala Hayman, a Cantabrian who practised journalism overseas before coming back to Christchurch and working first as the health reporter, then rising in the ranks to become the social media editor and then editor following the resignation of Joanna Norris. Kamala’s talk ‘Lie Detection’ focused on current events and the rise of websites that query mainstream media and give alternative options, sometimes for the unwary. She used graphic examples of what happened in Wellington and Christchurch when anti-government protesters became violent. She also gave an explanation of the fund established by the government to assist media in NZ when advertising fell away due to the onset of Covid two years ago, and that one of its requirements is to give more prominence to te reo and Maori. She was quick to point out however that the Press hasn’t received anything from the fund to date. The basic premise of fact over fiction was covered in detail referencing the differences between mainstream media and other websites that give other versions of the ‘truth’ hence the title of her address as ‘Lie Detection.’

OUR GUEST FOR THIS NEWSLETTER

Introducing Geoff Harrow...



Geoff loves the Press. He eschews other media including television in favour of a newspaper he has been reading for 90 years. He started reading the daily paper aged 5 and hasn't stopped, he says, except for overseas travel – everywhere from Alaska to Antarctica and points in between. A keen hiker, trumper, mountaineer and skier in his younger days, Geoff recalls climbing Aoraki Mt Cook (3,724m) on many occasions including the three peaks at a time when they were still a challenge. He has also scaled Mt Christina (2,474m) pictured below (left) which is in the picturesque Lake Marian Valley. Mt Crosscut is behind Lake Marian in the centre with Mt Gunn on the right.

The views from the tops are comparable with any ranges



spectacular and are overseas, Geoff says. native birds, flora and years, he has travelled thrillers. 'There is is lucky, he says, having

A member of 'Forest & Bird' for 80 years, Geoff loves fauna. Together with Lyndsay, his life partner of 66 the globe and is an avid reader – anything except enough horror going on in the world, he reckons.' He family close by and he enjoys Pegasus U3A.

(Geoff is our first guest to be interviewed for our newsletter in a new series we are starting. We invite members to suggest guests for forthcoming newsletters. The only criteria is that the person is a member of Pegasus U3A – Ed)

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 has had two great meetings in February and March travelling to very different and interesting places around the world. Firstly in **February** Vivienne Allan told us about Israel and her many visits there over a period covering almost 50 years. Pictured left: Vivienne visiting the old city of Jaffa now a major tourist centre featuring cobble streets with boutiques selling locally made arts and crafts. Pictured right is one of the original walls of Masada where archaeologists have uncovered mosaics and



paintings over decades of painstaking work. Masada is located in the Judaeen Desert overlooking the Dead Sea. It is an ancient fortification built by King Herod which remained untouched for 13 centuries and is now a UNESCO world heritage site. It is accessed by a funicular or people can choose to walk.

Then in **March** Lyn Russell described her travels to Burano which is an island in the Venetian Lagoon in northern Italy, near Torcello which is known for its lace work and brightly coloured homes as pictured in the central photo below. Lyn then took us to Sicily (Italy's largest island) with beautiful photos of some of its historical buildings and landscape (photo right) and then on to Abu Dhabi (left), capital of the United Arab Emirates. The city occupies most of a small triangle island of the same name, just off the Persian Gulf Coast and is connected to the mainland by a short bridge. It boasts some of the tallest buildings including hotels in the world and by contrast the marble mosques are spectacular.

Our group is very fortunate to have so many travel experiences to enjoy ranging from Alaska to Antarctica. (Contributed by Robin Fear)



Abu Dhabi

Burano

Sicily

ART APPRECIATION

February: After morning tea at Fiddlesticks, we visited two harder-to-find galleries at the Arts Centre. Maxine Burney's Studio at Level 1 in the Boys High building may be tucked away but is a delight to visit. We loved her bright, colour combinations. Maxine explained that a walk in the nearby Botanical Gardens where she might photograph flowers, could inspire a painting. Her love of animals meant the occasional cat popped up in what was essentially a flower garden painting. Also on display was "Rustic & Quirky", photographs from the West Coast by Dave Shepherd, Maxine's current guest exhibitor. We finished by rifling through boxes of cards which both exhibitors had for sale.

The Physics Room Contemporary Art Space in the Registry building 301 Montreal Street, is accessed from the Arts Centre Market Square. Anticipating a more challenging exhibition in this gallery, we were not surprised when the volunteer on duty when asked if she could help explain things to us, handed out information in printed form explaining she was new at the job. "For the Feral Splendour" was work by three North Island based artists Owen Connors, Laura Duffy and Aliyah Winter who frequently work together. Of most interest was Connor's work using egg tempera where yolk is mixed with powdered pigment and built up slowly layer by layer, a method used in the time of the Renaissance. Interesting also, was Connor's frames which he had carved from macrocarpa.

March: With Omicron's spread, just a small group met for morning tea at the Museum Café before visiting the

University of Canterbury's Teece Museum in the Arts Centre.

The artistry of the mainly Greek and Roman items was our initial interest, however 'Myths & Mortals' provided related written explanations of life and beliefs. We wished we could remember it all – useful for quiz questions on TVNZ's 'The Chase'.

In complete contrast to these classical works, the nearby Central Art Gallery was showing "Lateral Series" by Elizabeth Thomson. Here skins of resin over photographs follows outsourcing of photographs to be photoshopped and manipulated using artificial intelligence until a 3D model on the computer develops movement in the final movement as visualized by the artist.

Resulting works are sometimes strongly geometrical and at other times much softer, although their subjects always reflect Thomson's interest in planets, landscapes and the cycles of life.

(Contributed by Helen Harkness)



CAFÉ GROUP 1

Café Metro

Tucked away in Humphreys Drive, near the back of Ferrymead Countdown, our Cafe Group met together in February, ready for our usual monthly Tuesday afternoon get-together. This cafe is sited directly opposite The Estuary, so there are always water views, people views and weather views to watch. There are two front doors leading into the Cafe Metro, one leading directly into the cafe and the other leading to a separate conservatory, where dogs are readily



welcomed by the staff, with a bowl of fresh water and a friendly pat. We didn't bring any dogs with us, so we headed indoors for the reserved. For some of us, fresh coffee was the thing of large importance, while others, (me included) quickly ordered those lovely little lemon tarts – not too rich – not too sharp – not too big – and oh so easy to pop into your mouth with just one bite! With drinks and food ready, we continued to extend our conversation skills and



discussion topics. However, this day it was mainly Covid, vaccinations, passports, sanctions, borders, families, the future, etc. etc. etc. ...This time will pass.

Our next outing will be down to The Spur in Redcliffs. We plan to extend our range of cafes to visit during 2022 and want to explore some new places to gather and share together. (Contributed by Judy Calder)

CAFÉ GROUP 2

With Kamala Hayman, Editor of the Press

Founded in 1861 by James Edward Fitzgerald, The Press was first a six page tabloid which sold for sixpence (6d) – equivalent now to about \$3.20. Named after Johannes Gutenberg's 16th century printing press, The Press is now the oldest surviving newspaper in the South Island and is also the largest circulating daily.

Famously sold for \$1 to Sinead Boucher in May 2020 when INL Australia wanted to let the paper go, many staff members were made redundant and revenue earned through advertising dropped away dramatically as societal changes occurred in this area.

Kamala Hayman was our coffee table guest at The Front Room Cafe in MPCC for March. After ten years of journalism experience in London, writing about politics and crime for a local newspaper and experience with BBC News Online Services, Kamala headed back home to Christchurch in 2001 to continue as a reporter, chief reporter and now Editor of The Press.



Her lecture to our U3A group previous to our Cafe gathering, covered some of her wide experience in journalism, but also focused on the major problem of 'Lie Detection' in journalism. In our Cafe Group, she listened to some of our local stories and experiences and asked searching questions, following people's stories and interests. Round our extended table there was a range of languages, careers, home countries, families and life styles which gave depth and value to this interesting morning with Kamala.

You are most welcome to join in these monthly coffee times which immediately follow our monthly lecture. No bookings required. No formal membership needed. Just stay on after the lecture and move across into The Front Room. (Contributed by Judy Calder)

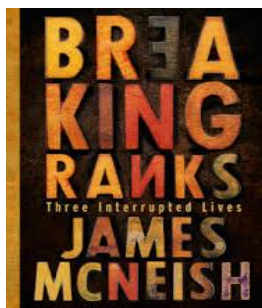
CYCLING GROUP

In February our group met for a ride along the Southshore track from Bridge Street along the estuary to almost the end of Rocking horse road, a bit drizzly at times but we kept going and back along Marine parade to end with a good coffee at Switch in New Brighton.

The group ride for March was postponed by a week and the group did the Prebbleton to Motukorara section of the Little River rail trail. Our next ride in April in the planning stage at present. (Contributed by Jan Dobson)

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

At our **February** meeting, Ranks: Three Lives of New Zealand's Ranks' was the outcome Dr John Saxby, Brigadier Mahon's analysis of the '...an orchestrated litany However through appreciate the way in country.



we enjoyed a spirited discussion about James McNeish's 'Breaking Interrupted', his last book before he died in 2016. Sir James was one of our greatest authors, and also a playwright and biographer. 'Breaking of comprehensive research about three talented New Zealanders – Reggie Miles and Peter Mahon. Most people will remember Peter Air New Zealand air disaster in Antarctica and his famous quote: of lies', and will therefore find his story particularly compelling. McNeish's accounts of both John Saxby and Reggie Miles, we can which they both made their own significant contribution to our

We were saddened at the death of Kay Thomas, who had been a member of our book group, and we remembered her vitality and her gritty determination in spite of her failing health.

Chessie Henry's acclaimed memoir 'We can Make a Life' was the choice for our March meeting. RNZ's Kim Hill described it as a 'gripping and very moving book.' The Listener reviewer said 'Henry has a clear voice, a fine sense of place and an unsentimental honesty in grappling with the unwieldy matters of family, collective trauma and writing.'

For those of us who lived through the horror of the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes, Henry's account of her father's experience is reflective of our own. It was interesting reading it as a series of questions and detailed responses which took place in 2017, so several years after the event, yet they remained fresh in her father's mind. We agreed that it is a remarkable 'first' book and it will be interesting to see what comes next.



(Contributed by Vivienne Allan)

GARDEN GROUP

Our **February** meeting was held at the Mt Pleasant Community Centre and our speaker was Susan Kuhchla one of the founding members of the re-formation of the Sumner Community Gardens and the Food Forest, both of which are situated at Van Asch School. The original Community Garden was located in Wakefield Street but the February earthquake saw a boulder come down into the garden and of course it was completely off limits.

Work at the new site started in November 2011. There is a core group of approximately 10 people and during the summer this can grow to 15 and is also supplemented by a variety of people – young mothers and babies (whilst they are at home), visiting parents and relatives of locals, the teachers and children from Van Asch and also children from the local schools.

Following Susan's talk we visited the Community Garden and the Food Forest they have cultivated. The photo shows the renovated tunnel house which was made possible via grant money from the Ferrymead Trust and Fonterra



a shed on site. Both areas – garden and amount of work to dig gardens and plant. The garden is self-funded and the main fundraiser is selling pea straw once a year. The food forest has a large variety of fruit trees and berry bushes. Sad to say that some of the crops in the food forest are stripped before the gardeners have a chance to enjoy them. (Contributed by Lyn Russell)

forest – required a prodigious over the ground, create

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GEOLOGY/BOTANY

On Wed 16th March the Geo/Bot group had a walk through the Botanic gardens from the kiosk to the museum and back. On the way we studied families of trees with similar leaves and cones, and methods of seed dispersal. There are three types of redwood. Their cones ranged from tiny ones from the biggest redwood in the gardens to the Australian bunya bunya which has cones weighing up to 10kg. The scales of these cones are the size of your palm with a nut in the middle that aborigines gather for food.



We enjoyed looking at the winged keys of the hornbeam and maples and watching the seeds that fly, like helicopters off the sycamore and the winged seeds that spiral off the lime trees.



On the walk back we looked at the herbaceous border at its peak in autumn but the dahlia bed was the star of the show. The flower variety of shape and colour was just magnificent.

(Contributed by Pat Whitman)



which is



CANTERBURY HISTORY GROUP

Our **February** meeting introduced us to a major project that Ngāi Tahu began in 2005. This cultural Mapping Project aims to record and map Ngāi Tahu stories, information, knowledge and place names as a living atlas for later



generations to use. It's an ongoing project that is using the latest Geographical Information system (GIS) technology to record onto a virtual landscape. This is an online digital atlas and at present holds more than 1000 traditional Maori place names. The research team has been careful to record this information accurately and to fully reference whanau manuscripts, published books, 19th century maps, newspaper articles and other unpublished material. We were told that most items already entered, have recorded more than one reference source, ensuring that a careful effort is made to record as accurately as possible. Takerei Norton, (right) our speaker for the morning, said he was 'unexpectedly shoulder-tapped for the job', and now finds himself fully immersed in the whole project. Tipene O'Regan calls this

project part of a burgeoning and sophisticated Ngāi Tahu archive system as the archive team gathers material from across a wide range of sources so that Ngāi Tahu is able to hold all its history in one place. It's a project that just keeps on growing. As Takerei opened the digital atlas on line for us to dip into, we were amazed at how widespread the collection is and how much information has been gathered. You can look online at this in depth record and see what has been gathered to date.



March: A Visit to Ngaio Marsh House

This planned visit had to be cancelled as the Trustees for the property informed us that as Covid in the community was a concern for both their tour guides and for visitors they closed the house. We'll re-programme this visit for later in the year. Meanwhile, our April programme looks back at Cycling in NZ in the early days. (Contributed by Judy Calder)

DVD GROUP : THE GREAT TOURS - FRANCE THROUGH THE AGES

Our final DVD disc (which covered the final six of the 24 lectures) took us on a journey from Alsace and Lorraine to Joan of Arc, the Hundred Years War, Strasbourg and Paris in post Revolution times.



Joan of Arc



The Hundred Years War



Renoir – Bohemian Paris

France's best known heroine, **Joan of Arc**, was born in Lorraine and there is a small hamlet in Domremy where you can still see her parents' house. As an uneducated, teenage woman from a peasant background Joan pestered to visit the court of the dauphin. She donned men's clothing, cut her hair and convinced Charles of her visions. The Siege of Orleans followed and she became forever remembered. Later she was found guilty of heresy and burned at the stake, aged 19 years. The Hundred Years War, (which really lasted 116 years) the wonderful Notre Dame Cathedral (which took from the 11th to the 15th century to build), the famous wines of the Alsace region, Napoleon Bonaparte's vision for Paris (wide streets and spacious parks, just like London), the underground sewerage system for Paris (with its 1300 miles of tunnels), and the parks and green spaces that gave Parisians fresh air and breathing spaces, were some of the fascinating focus areas of this journey through France.

This detailed tour of France, took our group on a journey covering all sides of a hexagon, beginning and ending in Paris. Sharing land borders with Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium provided us with much new learning and many different experiences. We were taken on a most worthwhile tour over quite a few months.

At present we are taking a Covid break, but we plan to regroup shortly to next select a course that covers some of the world's greatest literature.

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. Email: judycalder@hotmail.com

Phone: 384 1269

CYCLING: **Vacancies** Meets monthly, 2nd Tuesday of the month. Contact: Jan Dobson. Phone: 381 8925

Email: donandjanclear@gmail.com Phone:

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

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.