



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

## Newsletter October 2022

**Monthly Meetings: Mark the Dates in Your Diary**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at Mt Pleasant Community Centre, 3 McCormacks Bay Road, Christchurch.**

**10-10.20am: Social time in the foyer. Meeting starts in the main hall at 10.30am.**

**Next Meeting: Monday 17 October 2022. Our guest speaker will be Josie Ogden Schroeder, Chief Executive of Christchurch YMCA.**

**Additional meetings to note in diaries are:**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November: Assoc Prof (History) Peter Field on ' Life after Trump'**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December: Wallace Woodley ' History of the Piano'.**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all our U3A members -

It is good news that all covid restrictions that could affect U3A activities have now been lifted. Also, spring has arrived to lift our spirits. I am pleased to report that there have been very good attendances at our recent monthly lectures and Interest Groups continue to flourish. Although over 70 members resigned in the early months of the year that number has been replaced by new members joining.

Our membership remains at 250 with a waiting list of people wanting to join. Much of U3A's success depends on the efforts of a relatively small number of people - almost all women.

At its last meeting your committee decided to propose some changes to our organisation's Rules before next year's AGM for members' approval. I'm taking the opportunity now to explain the proposed Rule changes, the rationale for those changes, and to seek your feedback before the proposed changes are put into a final form.

1. The first change is to provide the option for committee meetings to be held by using audio or audio visual means, so that all members participating can hear each other throughout the meeting. This provision would enable the committee to continue to meet via Zoom during lockdowns such as we have recently experienced.

2. The second change is to provide for the creation of life members. A life membership would be the highest honour that can be bestowed on a member for longstanding and valued service to U3A. The committee has yet to decide who can make a proposal for someone to be created a life member. Should it be solely the committee or should individual members be able to make a proposal for someone to be elevated to life membership with, for example, one person nominating and another seconding the proposal? As there will need to be agreed criteria for a person to qualify for life membership which will need to be consistently applied, I favour placing the sole right to make a proposal for a member to be elevated to life membership in the hands of the committee. This would ensure that an application received objective scrutiny measured against agreed criteria. However, I welcome your feedback on this point.
3. The third and final change is to give sitting committee members the right to co-opt new committee members up to the maximum number of twelve (12), that being the ceiling figure for committee membership. At present the committee's right to co-opt is limited to replacing a committee member who retires. The rationale for this change is to give the committee greater flexibility to undertake succession planning to ensure there is a balance of experience and new blood at all times on the committee.

If you have a view on any of the above matters, please send me an email.

On another note, our end of year function this year on Monday 12 December, will also serve as our 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> birthday celebration. The committee is now planning how these important anniversaries will be celebrated.

John Delugar  
President

## September's Guest Speaker: Prof Bronwyn Hayward

### Our Children's Climate – Why Teens Need to Vote on this Suffrage Day



Bronwyn is Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Canterbury University and is on several climate change bodies. She is keen to get us thinking about the past and future of our children, and especially about their voting age. Should they be able to vote at 16 and 17? She believes the arguments against this are the same as when votes for women were mooted e.g. they are not developed enough, will be influenced by parents, we shouldn't bother them...

It is crucial that we talk to youngsters about issues and challenges as we have had experience in facing them. There will be great pressures on them over climate change in the future. Time is very short and NZ is not doing enough to implement changes. If the temperature rises 2°, we don't know if recovery will be possible. She talked about the problems of rising water, coastal erosion, insect reduction and pollination affecting food supplies, weather changes.

About half the world's population lives in cities and about 3-3.6 billion live in hot spots, mostly in Africa and Asia. Some schools are working from 6-11am to avoid the worst heat and in flooded countries children lose months of education when schools have to close. If disaster strikes the logistics of moving vast numbers of people would be impossible.

Plans are needed for the future that are fair to everyone, prioritise green spaces, ensure better health care and education, provide good housing, have cultural sensitivity and use local knowledge in decision making. Many students feel the responsibility to help, such as the Student Army, so we should support the vote for 16 and 17 year olds. At that age they are still at home and can be helped by their parents in understanding voting procedure. Prof Hayward ended by urging us to talk to friends and family and to our MPs about supporting this voting age change.

(Notes contributed by Pat Whitman.)

## OUR GUEST FOR THIS NEWSLETTER

### Introducing Helen Harkness...

**(Helen is our fourth guest to be interviewed for our newsletter in this new series. We invite members to suggest guests for forthcoming newsletters. The only criteria is that the person is a member of Pegasus U3A – Ed)**



Art and tramping – a joyous combination for Helen Harkness who, together with husband Don, lives in St Florian Place with a view of the Port Hills and Balmoral Hill where they lived in the pre-quake era. Like so many of us, down-sizing wasn't easy, and like so many of us who had furniture that doesn't fit into modern smaller homes, selling them for a song or giving them away was difficult. However, Helen is an optimist and an art enthusiast from secondary school days when she scoured the Nelson Girls' College library for books on art. Education took her towards libraries rather than art, but it is an acquired love that will never cease. 'I always wanted to know more about the artist,' she says. Joining U3A and

taking over from Shirley Croll as convenor of the art appreciation group has enabled her to find exhibitions and galleries across Canterbury.

'Galleries move and change with the times,' she notes. Finding ones that will suit the group's members can be a challenge especially parking, finding a café close by and always dealing with the vagaries of weather. Does she have a favourite genre or artist? Not especially, although she took a fancy to Raoul Dufy decades ago while at Helen Conan Hall - a French Fauvist painter who was heavily influenced by the impressionists particularly Claude Monet and Camille Pissarro. Helen has a compact booklet of Dufy's paintings which has been well thumbed through and examined over time.

University studies completed, Helen worked for ten years at the Canterbury University library, then a further 21 years at the Engineering library, completing her library career at Lincoln. In the early days, she says, the chief librarian at the School of Engineering loved art and would arrange for a Bill Sutton or a Gretchen Albrecht to hang on the walls for the students and staff to admire.

Helen and Don are well travelled although not always to explore art galleries. Adventures included South America in the 1970s and the Trans-Siberian Railway in the '80s. Helen, a keen multi-day trumper and walker especially in the UK, says the art at St Ives was a great attraction when she walked around Cornwall as part of the SW Coast Path. (St Ives is noted for its art galleries.)

Currently Helen is planning the next art appreciation visit somewhere in Canterbury. She says membership stalled a bit with Covid as with everything else, but she is hoping that with better weather and the relaxation of mask rules, existing and new members will join her group.

## Latest News & Updates

### Tinnitus Research

Are any of our members interested in participating in this research, MinChul Park (MAud(Hons) MNZAS), a clinical audiologist and PhD candidate at Canterbury University would like you to contact him. He has written to us as a potential recruitment source. He writes his research focus is on tinnitus (which is the annoying ringing sound in the ears/head) and as part of his study, he needs help from people with the same hearing in both ears without tinnitus.

You can contact MinChul Park at

[mpa650@uclive.ac.nz](mailto:mpa650@uclive.ac.nz)

**ShakeOut is the national earthquake drill which will take place on Thursday 27 October at 9.30am. for more information:**  
<https://getready.govt.nz/en/involved/shakeout/>

### Events at Christchurch Library: Tūranga

There are several events and activities on at Tūranga in October that may be of interest to U3A members including:

- A 6-week introductory course to family history using the library's research resources: from 26<sup>th</sup> October 2-4pm \$15 plus booking fee
- A 6-week beginner's guide to local history every Thursday from 27<sup>th</sup> October 10-12pm \$15

### Christchurch Heritage Festival 7-24 October

Lots of events and activities going on in the city for the fortnight. Check it out at <https://ccc.govt.nz/news-and-events/whats-on/programme/72>

## INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

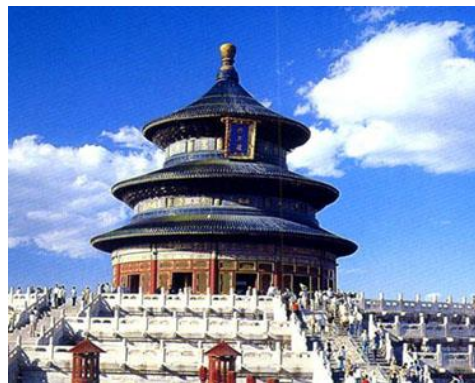
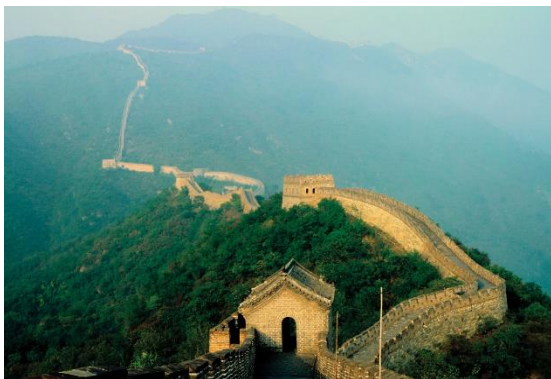
### **Armchair Travel**

At our September meeting, Pat Whitman entertained us with a talk about one of her trips to Scotland, a country she knows well. Her talk was preceded by a delicious afternoon tea which included home-made cheese biscuits. We all requested the recipe which Pat duly provided. Pat started her talk with a map showing the routes taken, places seen and their current and historical points of interest. No stranger to the highlands and lowlands, she took us on a delightful tour showing us many of the brightest and best spots, often well away from the tourist trails so that

we gained another insight into the natural habitat and environment of a northern hemisphere country. (below left: Marching to applause. Below right: Cattle grazing on a country roadside.)



Our October meeting was a whirlwind tour of China by Di Madgin. She is familiar with the country having taken guided tours there with her (late) husband Prof Bill Willmott over several years. Her slide presentation covered the country, north, south, east and west, across mighty rivers and extensive mountain ranges, in the Gobi Desert, along narrow water villages, regional street food, in old established formal gardens and new plots of green surrounded by high rise apartments.



With Di's extensive knowledge of China's flora and fauna, we were able to appreciate the centuries-long methods of tree preservation, the Great Wall (above left), the rising Temple of Heaven (above right), and the magnificence of the Forbidden City (left) which is the imperial palace complex in the heart of Beijing. We also saw some superb

examples of Qing Dynasty rosewood furniture. It was an excellent afternoon, giving those of us who haven't travelled to China, some knowledge of the history and geographical size and scope of the country's vast landscape.

## Art Appreciation

Our plan for August was morning tea at Fiddlesticks in Worcester Boulevard then visits to three close-by galleries showing different art forms. Alas, NMG at their new venue 141 Cambridge Terrace was unexpectedly closed due to staffing problems. You could see through the windows but Gretchen Albrecht's colourful paintings "Nine Illuminations 1975-1978", deserved better.



Hannah Kidds's "Southern Comfort" at The Central Art Gallery made up for this disappointment. We expected dog sculptures but these life-sized corrugated iron works were a complete delight even to the least doggy amongst us. Skill in their execution and colour choices applied equally to the dogs and to the corrugated iron rugs and cushions they were placed on. On display also were Hannah Kidd's painted and glazed ceramics each telling a story or with a message - very clever. At The Physics Room we saw Heidi Brickell's multi-media installation, a commissioned work from Auckland's St Paul Gallery "Pakanga for the Lost girl." We especially liked the canvas works suspended from the ceiling. Painted in muted tones, they invited viewing from different directions.

In September, coming down the stairs from the Museum Cafe on our way to see The Arts Centre Sculpture Festival at the Great Hall, we caught sight of the Creative Fibre Canterbury Exhibition which we just had to see first. Described as "creative projects" made from fibre, we saw finely woven scarves of merino and silk hand dyed in beautiful soft shades whereas more chunky or felted items could be vibrantly colourful. They were definitely works of art.



Back on track at the Great Hall sculpture, we moved easily about the carefully positioned items also checking out the bigger ones displayed on the lawn outside. Curated by the founder of Form Gallery, Koji Miyazaki, this Festival is now in its third year and follows his vision of a public art event displaying small sculpture and objects at no charge to the public, along with providing workshops and demonstrations for which there are charges. The ideas and range of materials used was impressive- perfect for discussion. (Contributed by Helen Harkness.)

## Book Discussion Group



Our book for September was 'The Writers' Festival' by Kiwi author Stephanie Johnson. The book was published in 2015 and is her 14<sup>th</sup> novel. It is a complex story with a myriad of characters which, like anything written by Fyodor Dostoevsky, almost requires pen and paper to come to grips with the people, who they are and the roles they play in the lead up to the festival let alone the event itself.

The book won high praise from several reviewers many of whom have attended festivals as described in Johnson's book, and the author herself initiated the Auckland Writers and Readers Festival in 1998, so perhaps she has written this novel from first-hand experience. However, although Johnson is a highly recognised and praised author, the winner

of several awards including the Katherine Mansfield in 2000 and is a Member of the NZ Order of Merit for literature, most of our group didn't enjoy the book and look forward to reading Linda Grant's novel 'The Dark Circle.' (Contributed by Vivienne Allan.)

## Café Group 1

### At the Spur in Redcliffs

Once a month, wet or fine, our Tuesday afternoon group continues to meet to drink good coffee, sample an exciting range of eats and treats and to discuss or challenge each other with our news and views on current issues. Although we try to visit a wide range of cafes to experience their delicious options, we regularly return to some of our local favourites. And last week was another return visit to The Spur on the Main Road of Redcliffs. Here we had our table booked, and friendly service awaited us. Known to staff now, we feel quite at home at this 'local' and with my freshly baked friand and hot chocolate, I settled in for a cosy afternoon on this cold day. (Contributed by Judy Calder.)



## Café Group 2

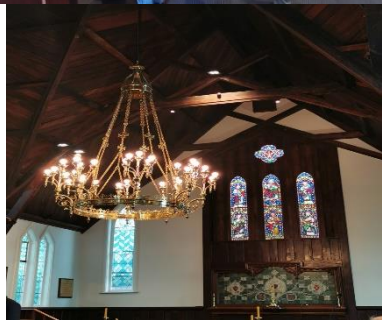
Bronwyn Hayward MNZOM is considered a world expert on sustainability and youth politics. With a 'Supreme Women of Influence' Award (2021), a doctorate in Political Science & Geography plus numerous



publications on climate change, politics and children, citizenship and the environment, she has several international appointments to add to her background and experience. She is currently Professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Canterbury. She talked with our group and answered questions particularly about her idea of giving 14–16-year-olds the vote. While at first this seemed to a few of us, a dubious decision, discussion showed some interesting points emerged that could look more favourably at this giant step. Initially, most countries set the voting age at 21 or even higher, but in the '70s there was a big swing down to 18. At present, only Austria (2007) and Scotland (2015) plus a few South American countries have lowered the age to 16 years. What about brain development, maturity and knowledge in teens? It was a question we all wanted to explore. To our surprise, we discovered that studies of young voters' behaviour showed them to be as capable as older voters in their ability to articulate their beliefs and make appropriate decisions. In addition, their knowledge of the political process was only slightly less than older cohorts while trust in democracy and willingness to participate in the process were markedly higher. It was time for each of us to further explore our own thinking in this area. (Pictured from left: Judy Eden, Beth Bradley, Judy Calder, Bronwyn Hayward, Norma Hampton) (Contributed by Judy Calder.)

### Canterbury History Group

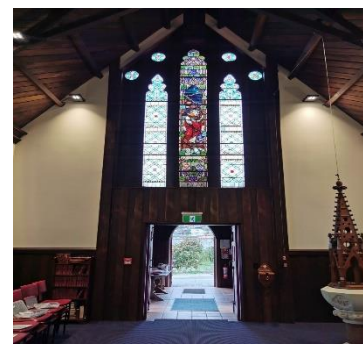
Our group visited St Saviours at Holy Trinity Church in



Lyttelton: two churches – now one. What a strange mixture, the interior of this church building presented to us. From the magnificent corona (below left) that provides elegant lighting (gifted by Queen Victoria), to the pulley and rope for the baptismal font, St Saviours – the church building that repeatedly moved – provided us with a fascinating mixture of old and new. Michael Williams, a local historian, set the scene for this visit by explaining the make up of the Lyttelton population from the early days. When Holy Trinity was originally built in 1852, green wood was used. But as the wood dried out, yes, the building became unsafe and was demolished just five years later. But by 1860 this church was replaced using red volcanic stone from nearby and sandstone from Quail Island. But in the highly stratified society that was early Lyttelton, it was deemed



important to have a separate church for seafarers and other locals who didn't feel at home in the first church. Holy Trinity at Lyttelton West became the new worshipping place for these people and that group included Robert Falcon Scott and his crews from the "Discovery" and "Terra Nova" polar expeditions. By 1976, when this western church was no longer required, it was moved over the hill to Christchurch to be used by Cathedral Grammar School. But it was to return, back over Dyers Pass in three sections and re-erected on the Trinity site in the post-quake period when the original Holy Trinity building was demolished. Consecrated in 2015 and renamed as St Saviours at Holy Trinity, this old and new church now displays an unusual





collection of old, treasured items and more modern elements. But to me, the amazing standout is how on earth do you move such a wide and tall building twice over Dyers Pass Road and put it all together again! (Contributed by Judy Calder.)

### Cycling Group

Jan Dobson writes that the U3A Cycling Group awaits the warmer weather in a couple of months (or maybe earlier) before venturing out again into the Canterbury countryside!



### DVD Series

Three of our DVD groups are now in full swing.

- **The Great Trials of World History** (a lecture series); Leader is Lyn Russell. Ph 021 238 8788. Email: [nylrus1951@gmail.com](mailto:nylrus1951@gmail.com)
- **The History of World Literature** (no vacancies). Leader is Uschi Cable. Ph 326 4295 Email: [hughcable@yahoo.com](mailto:hughcable@yahoo.com)
- **The Great Tours – France Through the Ages** started on 28<sup>th</sup> June and continues to meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10am. Leader is Lyn Russell: Email [nylrus1951@gmail.com](mailto:nylrus1951@gmail.com).
- **The World's Greatest Paintings** (a lecture series) needs 2-3 more participants before it begins as does **Journeys Through the British Isles**.

When a viable number of people, 6-7, record their names on the lists in the atrium, they will be contacted to establish a new group. Lists of all the lecture series and documentary programmes are always available on the display tables at our monthly meeting. Put your name down on one of the list or contact Judy Calder ph 384 1269 for more information.

### Garden Group

It was a blustery day on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September when our intrepid band ventured into the Christchurch Botanical Gardens to view the spring growth. The Townend House conservatory had a



wonderful display of cineraria plants and the display beds alongside the Museum were in full flower. It certainly doesn't take long for the perennials to take off and the perennial walk looked good as did a number of rhododendrons dotted about the gardens. We found the new crevice garden and the adjacent alpine garden.

A reward of a sweet treat and coffee at Ilex Café followed our walk



around. (Contributed by Lyn Russell.)

## Geology/Botany Group

Our guest speaker on 5 September was Jan Wright talking about climate change. She gave us four main ideas about reducing greenhouse gases.



1. We need to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but some seemingly green plans actually aren't very green and have bad side effects.
2. If we reduce fossil fuels, we will need more electricity generated by wind or sun. These are both intermittent sources depending on the weather and storage is difficult. Demand is also variable and we need a reliable source when winter strikes.
3. Economies of scale mean it is more cost effective to build big wind or solar farms than smaller individual items.
4. Hopefully new technology will rescue us, but the latest idea of hydrogen as a fuel has problems. It would be exorbitant to convert all our cars and machines to it.

Someone asked about farming and we got a laugh when she suggested cattle might have a small lighter implanted on their bottom lip, so every time they burped methane it would light up!



On 3 October, Dr Terry Heiler gave us an excellent talk on international water systems and New Zealand. Dr Heiler is an internationally recognised expert on water problems and irrigation who has served on the Landcare Research Board, the Regional Committee of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, the National Infrastructure Advisory Committee and was Chair of the government's advisory board on External Aid & Development. He talked of wars being started because a river begins in one country and what happens in that country can affect people in another country downstream. He warned us that water shortage is one of the main future problems of the world. New Zealand should be very aware of foreign interests trying to buy our land with the water rights that go with it.

Upcoming geo/bot events include:

- 19 Oct: Trip to Lincoln University Entomology Dept and Mahoe Reserve
  - 7 Nov: Talk by Tim Lindley on Improvement of Waterways and Greening the East.
- (Contributed by Pat Whitman.)

## Scrabble Group

We continue to meet fortnightly at members' homes starting at 1.30pm on alternate Tuesdays. It is great fun and we welcome new members. (Contributed by Alison Harrington.)

## Writing Group

Our first session was an introductory one, getting to know one another and an idea of expectations. Because it coincided with the death of our Queen, we agreed to write about any experiences we might have had with one or another member of the Royal family over the decades. It was a surprise to learn that all NZ school children received a medal on a blue ribbon when the Queen and Prince Philip came here in 1953. Some goodly people have kept theirs in safe places – others, like me, wouldn't know what happened to it. Do you? At our October meeting we will meet a Cantab who has penned her personal family history and we look forward to finding out how she went about it. (Contributed by Vivienne Allan.)



## INTEREST GROUP DETAILS

Below is the list of U3A Pegasus Interest Groups, their convenors and contact details. If you would like to join any of the groups, please contact the convenor.

Details of the groups are highlighted on the table in the foyer of Mt Pleasant Community Centre. You can also read past and present reports by different interest group convenors on our website at <https://u3apegasus.org.nz/interest-groups/>

<b>ARMCHAIR TRAVEL</b>	Meets monthly in members' homes on 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 3pm in members' homes. Contact Robin Fear Ph 9664278 or Mob 027 430 9937. Email <a href="mailto:randhfear@gmail.com">randhfear@gmail.com</a>
<b>ART APPRECIATION</b>	Meets monthly, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month. Contact Helen Harkness Ph 384 2890 Email <a href="mailto:donandhelen@xtra.co.nz">donandhelen@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>BOOK DISCUSSION</b>	Meets monthly after the U3A lecture, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month in the Café Mt Pleasant Community Centre. Contact Vivienne Allan on 021 067 9420 Email <a href="mailto:ayndavar@outlook.com">ayndavar@outlook.com</a>
<b>CAFÉ GROUP 1</b>	Meets monthly, 2.30pm on Tuesday of the week following 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. Contacts Frances Cole Ph 326 8522 or Erin Higgins Ph 384 4385
<b>CAFÉ GROUP 2</b>	Meets monthly, after the U3A lecture, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month in the room off the Café Mt Pleasant Community Centre to meet the guest speaker over a cup of coffee. Contact Norma Hampton Ph 332 8990 Email <a href="mailto:colin-norma36@xtra.co.nz">colin-norma36@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>CANTERBURY HISTORY</b>	Meets monthly, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. Contact Judy Calder Ph 384 1269 Email <a href="mailto:judycalder@hotmail.com">judycalder@hotmail.com</a>
<b>CYCLING GROUP</b>	Meets monthly, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday. Contact Jan Dobson Email <a href="mailto:donandjanclear@gmail.com">donandjanclear@gmail.com</a> Ph 381 8925
<b>DVD: SERIES</b>	Several groups have started again this month. Check the section Interest Group Updates for more information or contact Judy Calder Ph 384 1269 Email <a href="mailto:judycalder@hotmail.com">judycalder@hotmail.com</a>
<b>GARDEN GROUP</b>	Meets 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. A mixture of speakers, garden visits and 'tea & cuttings'. Contact Lynne Haslett Ph 027 229 2294 Email <a href="mailto:lynnehaslett@gmail.com">lynnehaslett@gmail.com</a>
<b>GEOLOGY/BOTANY</b>	Meets twice a month on 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday at Redcliffs Bowling Centre and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday for an outing. Contact Pat Whitman Ph 384 3475 Email <a href="mailto:patwandpate@gmail.com">patwandpate@gmail.com</a>
<b>SCRABBLE</b>	Meets fortnightly Tuesdays 1.30pm. Contact Alison Harrington Ph 022 307 4039 Email <a href="mailto:Alison.harrington@xtra.co.nz">Alison.harrington@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>WRITING GROUP – OUR LIFE STORIES</b>	Meets once a month on the second Thursday at 10am. Contact Vivienne Allan on 021 067 9420 or email <a href="mailto:ayndavar@outlook.com">ayndavar@outlook.com</a>

## CLUB DIRECTORY

<b>President:</b>	John Delugar	Ph: 376 6386	Email: <a href="mailto:delugar@xtra.co.nz">delugar@xtra.co.nz</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>
	Address: 16 McCormacks Bay Rd		
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	Jorgen Schousboe	Ph: 021 1443315	Email: <a href="mailto:jschousboe@gmail.com">jschousboe@gmail.com</a>
	Judy Calder	Ph: 384 1269	Email: <a href="mailto:judycalder@hotmail.com">judycalder@hotmail.com</a>
	Judy Eden	Ph: 384 4857	Email: <a href="mailto:edenjudith@xtra.co.nz">edenjudith@xtra.co.nz</a>
	Paul Hammonds	Ph: 384 8117	Email: <a href="mailto:hphammonds@gmail.com">hphammonds@gmail.com</a>
	Lyn Russell	Ph: 021 2388 788	Email: <a href="mailto:nylrus1951@gmail.com">nylrus1951@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Vivienne Allan	Ph: 021 067 9420	Email: <a href="mailto:ayndavar@outlook.com">ayndavar@outlook.com</a>

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