



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

Newsletter February 2023

Welcome to this first newsletter for 2023.
Our next meeting will be on Monday 20 March
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.

Message from the President

Welcome to a new year in Pegasus U3A. It is an honour for me to take on the organisation's president role. U3A has great social significance, and members can get together in large and small groups to learn and explore. I have enjoyed the opportunities retirement has offered me now that I have the time to devote to new friendships and expand my knowledge and skill.

Accepting the nomination for the presidency was an easy decision, knowing I would be supported by a knowledgeable and skilled team, both elected and ex-officio. I want to extend a special welcome to Sue Beardsley, who has taken on the role of treasurer. The committee can consist of up to 12 people, and while many hands make light work, the opposite can be said when I start the year with four vacancies. I encourage you to tell us if we can add your name to the list of people willing to serve on the committee. If you are in doubt and would like to know more about how we operate, please contact me, and I will be more than happy to explain. The committee meets the first Friday of every month.

We need someone to assist with the sound system at the monthly meeting. You don't have to be a computer wizard; I will offer full training. There will always be someone ready to help if you encounter any problems. Interest groups are an essential part of the U3A social network. You may have a particular interest that is not represented – I have a couple – music and trying to learn French. I am pursuing these interests outside of the U3A, but it would be wonderful to share them with others. Who knows what other interests and skills are in our 250-strong membership? I look forward to working with you over the next year.

Jorgen Schousboe
President

Our February AGM & Speakers

The AGM was held on 20 February and the new committee is: President Jorgen Schoesboe, VP John Delugar, Secretary Pat Whitman, Treasurer Sue Beardsley, committee: Beth Bradley, Judy Calder, Paul Hammonds, Lyn Russell. Retiring members: Judy Eden, Barbara Hampton, Vivienne Allan. There were three agreed changes to the U3A rules:

- To create Life Membership. A person who has given dedicated and significant service would qualify. Criteria will be set by the committee and nominations ratified at the next AGM.
- Provision for meetings by Zoom as well as in person.
- Rules for co-opting members. At the moment we can only co-opt onto the committee if someone resigns. This alteration would allow co-option up to a maximum of 12 committee members to fill our needs.

The annual sub was increased from \$25 to \$28. Additional funding for some interest groups will be continued this financial year.

At the conclusion of the AGM, two new members gave a brief talk:

Helen Peate: gave a warm and amusing talk about her personal life, her education, her academic career and her varied interests in retirement. A copy of her talk will be posted on the website.

Yvonne Gray: talked about one aspect of her life as a volunteer involved in rescuing descendants of early milch goats in the Marlborough Sounds in danger of being culled. Together with a group of like-minded enthusiasts and lead by the owner of Willowbank Wildlife Reserve, the volunteers successfully herded the goats down the hills to a waiting barge where they were unloaded and eventually arrived in Canterbury. A copy of her experiences will be posted on the website.

Latest News & Updates

- Subs are now due and our Treasurer Sue recommends you pay online if possible. It's relatively easy. Our bank account is U3A PEGASUS 031355 0462188-000 Enter your surname, first initial and Sub23 in the reference. The sub for 2023 is \$28. Any questions contact Sue on 0274 134 186.
- Guest speakers: Mark your diaries for the next few months.
 - 20 March: Nick Ledgard: 'Wilding Pines – are we winning the war.'
 - 17 April: Helen Bickers: 'A Paramedic – her experiences with St Johns.'
 - 15 May: Linda White: 'Living in China, a different perspective.'
 - 19 June: Judith Coullie: 'The Ethics of Memory.'

INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

Armchair Travel



Our guest speaker for our February meeting was Lyn Russell who gave an entertaining and informative talk on her recent visit to the Kimberley region in Western Australia. Lyn travelled on a true outback adventure, the group carrying camping gear and erecting tents for overnight stops in the outback. They travelled from Broome visiting Windjama Gorge and El Questro to Lake Argyle before returning to Broome vis Fitzroy Crossing. Kimberley is renowned for its rock art and

many of its best-known indigenous artists come from the area. It is a vast landmass with a small population and is the northernmost of the nine regions that comprise WA. Broome is the largest town with a population of approximately 15,000 inhabitants. We welcome new members. (Contributed by Robin Fear while Lyn is on another adventure in Egypt this time.)

Art Appreciation

For our final art visit of 2022, we began with morning tea at Oddfellows in Disraeli Street, one of the best cafes in Christchurch (Ed) and then to No 96 City Art Depot where we explored 'Showcase 2022' with its displayed works by artists represented by the gallery. Names we recognised included Henry Turner, Clare Logan and Francis van Hout. The question for the day was "what is gesso?," one of the materials mentioned in Henry Turner's 3 mainly white objects(see photo). We learnt "gesso" means "chalk" in Italian. It is a white paint mixture made up of a binder mixed with chalk, gypsum or pigment to provide a base for paint and other materials. It is then applied to give a lightly textured surface.



Our first outing for the new year was to Linwood's Eastside Gallery. For some this was in walking distance from Under the Red Verandah our morning tea choice. On show was "It's not about You, an exhibition featuring 15 artists who interpreted the theme in a variety of ways but in a personal way.



Subjects included family relationships, cultural differences and concern for the environment. Media included pastel, charcoal, watercolour, acrylic, oil and mixed media, sometimes including recycled materials. "Mother's prayer", a driftwood work by Jo Seizova took our eye (image left), as did "This is me and my shadows/crowned prince", Claudia Du.XZ's silverpoint on paper work.

(Contributed by Helen Harkness)

Book Discussion Group

Our holiday read was 'The Vanishing Half' by Brit Bennett - historical fiction which centres on the lives of two sisters, identical twins who separate when they leave home. It debuted at the top of the New York Times best seller list in 2020 and is a particularly challenging story of the twins and their daughters and how, if at all, there is any reconciliation at the end. Bennett delves into the two issues of racism and domestic abuse in the US from the 1940s to the 90s and the extent to which particularly racism alters during the intervening 50 years. The book which won several American awards was also rumoured to be rescripted for a television series. (Contributed by Vivienne Allan.)



Café Group 1



Our group is all ready for the first gathering for 2023. Next Tuesday afternoon (28 February) we meet at Dotcom in Sumner. Our group has had a constant and regular membership for a number of years now and we gather over coffee and eats, but it is also time for a friendly get-together – a time to share about families, interests, hobbies, local news and meaty topics like the Census, politics and international relations. We don't have a set topic each month, but we do find that our conversation roams around a lot many different fields of interest. We will continue to meet monthly, to experience a variety of cafes throughout the year and to spend time together as friends. (Contributed by Judy Calder)

Canterbury History Group



Our February speaker was Edmund Bohan. With 22 books to his credit and 40 years as an international opera singer, Edmund Bohan is also an historian and leading authority on 19th century New Zealand political history. With biographies on



Governor George Grey, Philip Burdon and Edward Stafford to his credit, Bohan recently launched his new publication called “Heart of the City – The Story of Christchurch's Controversial Cathedral.” And it was this topic, the fights, battles, controversies and arguments about the Christchurch Cathedral, that he presented to us. But first he set the scene for the arrival of the first colonists under the Canterbury Association's 1848 plan for an Anglican settlement in New Zealand. The plan, for a cross-section of English society to escape, resettle and begin anew, fell apart from its infancy and the association didn't last long either. In spite of that, the town thrived, but the controversies and rivalries remained a constant.

So it wasn't just the arguments about the cathedral in the post-earthquake period. It was right from its infancy when stone was used instead of wood. “Just look at what happened to St Michaels in Oxford Terrace,” said Bohan. “Very little earthquake damage there, but the cathedral was an entirely different matter.” Arguments continued throughout its history, from the selected architect, to payment for the building, the visitors centre, internal alterations, liturgical reforms and finally to the present – demolish, deconstruct, repair or rebuild. After considerable thought, Bohan himself came out strongly in support of retaining the building which has come to belong to the people of Canterbury. Our large group of listeners was amazed to hear that for over 174 years, the cathedral of Christchurch has constantly remained a topic for discussion, argument, support, dislike and acceptance. When asked why he had chosen to specialise in writing about the 19th century period of New Zealand history, Bohan answered, “The personalities involved are all dead. They can't sue me now!” It was an interesting morning, with new views to listen to.

Visits planned for the coming months

Monday 13 March - St Cuthberts Church and Cemetery, Governors Bay

Monday 8 May - Merchiston House in Riverlaw Terrace, St Martins

(Contributed by Judy Calder)

Cycling Group

The cycling group will have a new plan for 2023 with members all taking a turn in deciding where the monthly rides will be. Philippa Rendall is taking over from Jan Dobson as the coordinator and she will compile the calendar of rides as members let her know their ideas. The cyclists will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of every month, excluding the winter months of June/July/August. (Contributed by Jan Dobson)



Garden Group

We have had a busy couple of months with our first visit on 23rd January to 'The Blue House' in Amberley. It was interesting, instructive and delight to the eyes. Jenny Cooper's garden is planned with plantings to cope with dry conditions, only growing low growing perennials that don't catch the prevailing wind, and she has put in lots of shade for shady plants. Visits are by appointment via her website.



The Blue House



The delightful shed



Part of the garden



On 14 February we visited a small home with a huge collection of Begonias in Hoon Hay and enjoyed the wonderful displays in all the hanging baskets and shade house. (pictured left)

We are planning a visit on Monday 27th February to Gilroy Nurseries in Clarkville to see their rose garden and plants. We are in good spirits and have a full programme for the rest of the year and we would welcome any new members to join us.

(Contributed by Gaynor Bunting & Bronwyn Goldschmidt.)

Geology/Botany

The group has already several activities and events planned for the coming months.

Monday 3 March: A talk by a young geologist Josh Dagleish on seismology. This will be particularly interesting for many of us who lived through the earthquakes.

Wednesday 15 March: Double trip to Casa Rossa gardens in West Melton and to Sherlin alpacas. The baby alpacas will be younger than last year.



Wednesday 19 April: A bus trip to the headwaters of the Rangitata and a talk with the manager.

If anyone is interested in joining any of the planned talks/visits, please contact Pat.

(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 look forward to welcoming more members in the New Year.

(Contributed by
Alison Harrington.)

Writers' Group

Our first meeting for 2023 will be on 9 March and our group continues to grow and flourish. Giving life and light to our personal stories is a great gift to our families and those close to us. Memoirs are becoming increasingly diverse and interesting as we realise that we don't have to recall just the fun things and we can write about the more complex and often challenging experiences we have had.

(Contributed by Vivienne Allan.)

2023 The Year of the Rabbit

A whimsical note on which to end this newsletter. Rabbits are known for being cute, lovable and high spirited, and, they are also enigmatic, according to the Zodiac's opinion of personality traits. People born in the year of the Rabbit are socially graceful, charming and diplomatic, but they also need time to themselves. In general, Rabbit years abound with creativity and an appreciation for the arts. 2023 as the year of the Rabbit will encourage more cordiality and social niceties (which is good for our U3A!) and if disputes arise, diplomacy will win out. 2023's zodiac element is water which apparently signifies travel and movement. (Ed)



CLUB DIRECTORY

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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/>

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL	Meets monthly in members' homes on 1 st Tuesday of the month at 3pm in members' homes. Contact Robin Fear Ph 9664278 or Mob 027 430 9937. Email randhfear@gmail.com
ART APPRECIATION	Meets monthly, 2 nd Friday of the month. Contact Helen Harkness Ph 384 2890 Email donandhelen@xtra.co.nz
BOOK DISCUSSION	Meets monthly after the U3A lecture, 3 rd Monday of the month in the Café Mt Pleasant Community Centre. Contact Vivienne Allan on 021 067 9420 Email ayndavar@outlook.com
CAFÉ GROUP 1	Meets monthly, 2.30pm on Tuesday of the week following 3 rd Monday of the month. Contacts Frances Cole Ph 326 8522 or Erin Higgins Ph 384 4385
CAFÉ GROUP 2	Meets monthly, after the U3A lecture, 3 rd 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 colin-norma36@xtra.co.nz
CANTERBURY HISTORY	Meets monthly, 2 nd Monday of the month. Contact Judy Calder Ph 384 1269 Email judycalder@hotmail.com
CYCLING GROUP	Meets monthly, 2 nd Tuesday. Contact Philippa Rendall Email Roper.rendall@gmail.com Ph 33763605
DVD: SERIES	New groups will begin again shortly. Contact Judy Calder Ph 384 1269 Email judycalder@hotmail.com
GARDEN GROUP	Meets 4 th Monday of the month. A mixture of speakers, garden visits and 'tea & cuttings'. Contact Lyn Russell Email: nylrus1951@gmail.com or Gaynor Button Email: buttonmg@gmail.com
GEOLOGY/BOTANY	Meets twice a month on 1 st Monday at Redcliffs Bowling Centre and 3 rd Wednesday for an outing. Contact Pat Whitman Ph 384 3475 Email patwandpate@gmail.com
SCRABBLE	Meets fortnightly Tuesdays 1.30pm. Contact Alison Harrington Ph 022 307 4039 Email Alison.harrington@xtra.co.nz
WRITING GROUP – OUR LIFE STORIES	Meets once a month on the second Thursday at 10am. Contact Vivienne Allan on 021 067 9420 or email ayndavar@outlook.com