



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

## Newsletter February 2023

**Welcome to this second newsletter for 2023.**  
**Our next meeting will be on Monday 17 April**  
**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



The U3A year is now in full swing, and more than a hundred people came to our March meeting to listen to a fascinating lecture on Wilding Pines and the threat they pose to our environment. The problems at our committee have been alleviated a little as Yvonne Boulton has kindly agreed to join us, and she was co-opted formally by the committee at our last meeting. Thank you so much, Yvonne. We also received one suggestion for a speaker, and no less than three musicians came forward. Was nobody ever taught piano or a string instrument? That can't be right. We need more to sign up.

The more feedback the committee gets from members, the more likely we can operate this vibrant organisation in a manner everyone can enjoy. You may have special interests or skills and might be willing to be added to our list of people ready to serve on the committee. Please, let us know. Whatever you want to discuss, email [u3apegasus@protonmail.com](mailto:u3apegasus@protonmail.com) and I will get in touch.

I am amazed by the variety of courses some U3A branches offer – sailing, languages, classic movies, computer and internet training, painting and drawing, and music appreciation. Without feedback from our members, we would not know where to start. We can act when we see a handful of people share an interest.

Before I forget – many members have yet to pay their subscriptions. We have 35 people on the waiting list, and they can't join us until we know the final number of members due to the fire regulations at the centre. Please don't delay.

*Jorgen Schousboe*

## Our March Speaker



Our guest speaker was Nick Ledgard, retired forestry scientist, whose topic was ‘Wilding Pines – are we winning the war.’ On average, it can be assumed we are, judging by Nick’s presentation, although sometimes, it mightn’t look that way. Nick gave a geographic overview of the problem from north to south. The national programme to eradicate wilding pines involves a collaborative and coordinated approach working with such organisations as Forest and Bird, DOC, local

government agencies and many stakeholder groups as well as volunteers. Nick explained that wilding pines refer to several species of conifer, fir, larch and pines that spread widely and grow faster than native species. In the right place conifers offer shelter and opportunities for recreation and income but left to spread they become a pest, infesting farmland, native ecosystems and water catchments.

NZ has a national strategy for the control of wilding pines which was launched in 2014. Planted in the right place, conifer trees provide timber, store carbon, decrease erosion, filter soil nutrients, improve water quality and provide shelter and shade for stock. Planted in the wrong place, they are a major threat to our ecosystems, landscape and farms. Nick demonstrated the progress by implementing the strategy across NZ. Most interesting for our audience was the work done in the South Island, particularly Molesworth Station and in Central Otago. (Nick pictured above searching for birds along the Ashley River – RNZ Website)

(Nick co-authored an excellent article on the regeneration of the Port Hills after the fire in 2017 <https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/opinion/89737111/making-sure-we-get-the-regreening-of-the-port-hills-right> which is well worth reading. Ed)

## 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. We have 33 people on our waiting list so please let Sue know on 0274 134 186 if you don’t wish to continue your membership.
  - Turanga (Christchurch central library) is marking Anzac Day this year with special readings from the book ‘Voices of Gallipoli’ by Maurice Shadbolt. The readings will start at 2pm on Friday 21 April. Afternoon tea will be available.
  - Guest speakers: Mark your diaries for the next few months.
    - 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’
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## INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

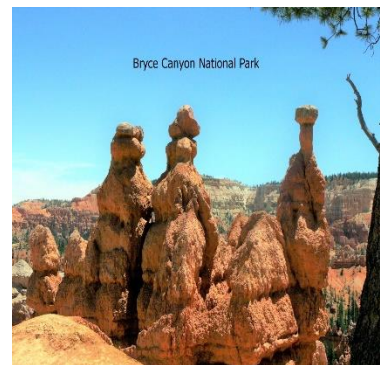
### Armchair Travel

Robin Fear was our guest speaker for our March meeting telling us about a trip through the USA National Parks he did with Heather in 2007. The tour included Yosemite where they admired the giant sequoia trees as well as walking to a number of the many waterfalls. They looked up at El Capitan, a 3500ft vertical rock face that attracts climbers from around the world. They travelled on through Death Valley, the hottest, driest, lowest national park in the US – early settlers travelled here by horse and carriage taking some days.

Next Robin and Heather went to the Zion national park where they walked up the very steep west rim. They also visited the Hoover Dam hydro power station which was built in the 1930s. They then went to Bryce Canyon National Park with more walks and climbs, also looked with amazement at the



Hoodoos – some fascinating rock pillars. They also visited the Navajo National Monument visiting historic houses and sites. We were also given a demonstration of musical instruments and some of the girls on the tour took up an



offer of hair plaiting (see left).

They then travelled on to the Grand Canyon where they accepted the challenge of a tramp down the Bright Angel Trail to Plateau Point – a 19km round trip with a 975m climb back up. They finished their tour with a helicopter flight over the canyon.

Our group hasn't met in April. We will meet again in May.

(Contributed by Robin Fear)

### Art Appreciation

Until a few years ago, following morning tea at Robert Harris in South City, we could visit three close-by art galleries. Now NMG has moved to 141 Cambridge Tce and Chambers Gallery to 80 Durham Street. In March we began at the National, previously the neighbour of Chambers Gallery and still at 249 Moorhouse Ave, then in pleasant sunshine walked across the Durham St overbridge to Chambers Gallery. The National featured contemporary jewellery 'Tablelands', 'The Shelf Life' of Anna Wallis, silver and gold jewellery and the 'Unbelievers' of Jane Dodd (see photo), wood, cow bone and silver. These quaint little figures are actually brooches and totally intrigued us.



Chambers Gallery has working studios as well that we could check out although our focus was on both 'Overlap' Elizabeth Moyles oil-on-canvas paintings (see left) which looks at how the present 'runs through, with, and overlaps the past' and 'Cinematic Ontologies' Mark Soltero's work achieved through many processes – drawing, computer processing, scaling, transferring, hand tracing and stencilling before acrylic paint is

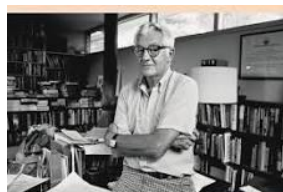




applied. We then looked at 'Home to Me' Robyn Webster's harakeke impressions in oil-based inks.  
(Contributed by Helen Harkness)

### Book Discussion Group

Our first book for the year was *The Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner written in 1971, and which won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction a year later. writing, and elegance of phrasing was as good the actual story. The novel features a historian who decides to write about his research is based in part on the letters of Mary



His prose, style of a topic for discussion as wheelchair-bound grandparents. His Hallock Foote, an

American author and illustrator (1848-1938) which created some controversy among literary scholars who questioned Stegner's use of the letters in his novel. The title of his book has also engendered much discussion. Angle of repose is an engineering term referring to the angle at which rocks and soil settle when tumbling down off a slope before coming to a stop. Stegner has used it metaphorically for the family he writes about their movements before they eventually settle in the American west. The book, described by Amazon, as a 'masterpiece and iconic novel' was rated highly by our group as the best novel we have read to date. (Mary Foote's memoir is called 'A Victorian Gentlewoman in the Far West.' Her works, writing and illustrations are currently enjoying a revival in the US.)



A complete contrast was Anne Tyler's novel *Back When We Were Grown-ups*, lighter although no less engrossing than Stegner's book. The reviews variously paint it as funny, beautifully written and superb. Possibly best known for *The Accidental Tourist* which she wrote in 1985, again like Stegner, Tyler is a Pulitzer prize winner (*Breathing Lessons* 1989), and a literary critic. This time, her book takes a while to

get into, however, once there, it is a compelling read. NB: Our book group is now full. We welcome two new members Sue Chapman and Mary Lynch and thank Jill Saunders for her great company over many years. Jill has resigned from the group, although still a member of U3A.) Photo taken at our Xmas lunch. From left: Stella Kinniburgh, Di Madgin, Philippa Rendall, Vivienne Allan, Jenny Jordan, Helen Peate, Margaret Everard, Judy Eden and Jill Saunders. (Absent Beitske Haitsma)



### Café 1 – In Situ



It was a wild and wet Tuesday afternoon when our Cafe One group headed out to find shelter in a cafe with a difference. In Situ (meaning in the original place) calls itself a 'neighbourhood eatery in Opawa Road, Hillsborough with a communal style.' While the rain bucketed down outside, we sat at our already booked table and awaited food. My choice was a yummy blueberry slice and a hot chocolate to while away our afternoon chat with a group of eight. Our hot drinks helped warm

us up a little as it wasn't particularly warm indoors that day. However, it was a pleasant afternoon together – but – on the way home my car behaved badly, causing a bit of concern for a while. (Contributed by Frances Cole)

## Café 2

Nick Ledgard explained about the wilding pines fiscal envelope at our after-meeting coffee last month. As well as being labelled 'the Wilding Pine Man,' Nick Ledgard has also spent the past 20 years working to protect the Ashley River and its bird species in North Canterbury. We were really interested to hear how pro-active he has been for many years in restoration projects to protect our natural environment. Nick was a very willing participant in our group, providing in depth answers to our non-stop questions. I was surprised to hear that when some people with wilding pines on their property were given the opportunity to get rid of them at government expense, they did not take advantage of this. (Contributed by Norma Hampton)



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## Canterbury History Group

Our planned visit for March was to be to St Cuthberts Church in Allandale. But the morning dawned cold, wet and very, very windy. Besides visiting the restored church building, we had planned to tour the old and new cemeteries situated on a steep, slippery hillside in front and at the rear of the church. With stories like that of Mary Compton of Little River awaiting our attention, it was a pity the weather postponed our visit. Mary herself had an interesting life and upon her death in 1869 had her body carried by 8 men for over 40 miles from Little River to St Cuthberts, so that “she whom they loved” might rest in a real cemetery. Our visit will keep for another day – and be something to look forward to.

Monday 8 May will be our next visit – this time the weather won't put us off. We're heading over to St Martins to view the historic family-owned property named Merchiston. It was one of the first houses to have a flushing toilet! And the homestead has on display many interesting artifacts from earlier years. (Contributed by Judy Calder)

## Cycling Group

Our group takes turns to organize our monthly rides (usually the second Wednesday of the month.) In March, Mary took the group to Bottle Lake Forest for a relatively easy 20km ride. It started along the eastern mountain bike track, joining the southern Pegasus Bay track as far as Spencer Park where we had our obligatory coffee stop. Thankfully the weather improved as we went along. We returned along the western mountain bike track. This month, we have delayed our ride to allow for Easter breaks, and on 19<sup>th</sup> April Jane is taking the group from Mt Pleasant Community Centre into town and around the inner city shared footpaths to C1 for coffee then back via the Heathcote Expressway. New members are welcome to join the group. (Contributed by Philippa Rendall)



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### DVD Group: France Through The Ages

For 6 months we've been together, meeting every second Thursday in the early evening. The 24 lectures provided in this course have taken us on an interesting journey. From the birth and rise of Paris and the splendour of Versailles to the Basque region and the Pyrenees, Avignon, the French Alps, Alsace and many other fascinating regions of this intriguing country, our attention was held by the quality of the lecturer and the material he discussed. We found the course well worthwhile and decided to end it with a French banquet meal.

With our meal planned by a chef within our group, we began by sitting outdoors in the garden, with a glass of French wine in hand. Then it was indoors at the table, where the delicious aromas from the kitchen tantalised our taste buds. Our plates filled quickly with Beef bourguignon , (meaning 'cooked



Enjoying our French dinner



Followed by Berry Friands

in red wine') - a rich stew of Charolais beef with onions, garlic, thyme, carrots, potatoes, mushrooms, orange peel and a robust red wine) from Burgundy, Coq au vin (translated as 'rooster in wine') with chicken, bacon, and sauteed onions simmered in wine, and Gratin Dauphinois, potatoes soaked in garlic infused cream and slowly baked. A short break and then we prepared for dessert. Friands from France were our special treat. Called Financiers in France these special treats were first created by a pastry chef who worked near the stock exchange. He made them in the shape of gold bars or ingots (little rectangles.) Our berry friands like his, were made with ground almonds and whipped egg whites and we served them with a vanilla yoghurt and French vanilla ice cream. What a delicious meal. (Contributed by Judy Calder)

### DVD Lecture Groups

There have been many people involved in the DVD groups over the past few years. People have selected a topic, decided together on a day and time to hold the course and met mainly at fortnightly intervals. It's good to see these discs being well used and in addition providing a reason for gathering together and meeting new friends. However, there are a number of groups just waiting to get off the ground, but they require another couple of people to make them work well. Six to 8 people seems to be a good size. Most groups view two lectures at a sitting, with morning tea, afternoon tea or supper in between.

There are still a few spaces in these groups before they can begin - The World's Greatest Paintings (our most popular course), The Celtic World, France Through the Ages, Understanding Imperial China, History of World Literature, and a few vacancies elsewhere.

Please email [judycalder@hotmail.com](mailto:judycalder@hotmail.com) if you would like to be included in one of the above groups so those waiting to begin can get started.

### Garden Group

The March meeting was a 'tips and cuttings' session over afternoon tea at Dolina's house on St Andrew's Hill. The weather was glorious and Dolina's home has a lovely view over the Estuary. We



had a large number of the group attend and it was a good opportunity to catch up with everyone's news. Pat P gave a short talk on how she became a guide at the Botanic Gardens and she



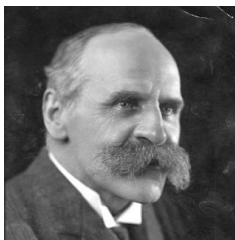
encouraged members to consider joining the team. Our April meeting will be a visit to an organics/permaculture enthusiast who lives at Moncks Spur. (Contributed by Lyn Russell)

### Geology/Botany

Helen Peate gave us a most enlightening talk entitled Three Famous Scientists on 3 April at the Redcliffs Bowling Club rooms.



**The Hairy Russian, Dimitri Mendeleev**, famous for the creation of the Periodic Table in chemistry. At the time only 63 elements were known and he began to see similarities in some of them. He wrote out a card for each, listing its atomic weight and properties and found that they seemed to form families with increasing weights. He rearranged his cards and in 1869 published the result, still in use today.



**The Crazy Scotsman, John Scott Haldane** who was professor of physiology at Oxford University. He specialised in breathing problems and worked to save miners from carbon monoxide poisoning by using mice and canaries as early warning signs of the gas. He also suggested a staged return to the surface for divers to avoid the bends, an agonising problem when nitrogen escapes into the joints. A type of gas mask was invented for use in WW1 and oxygen therapy was used in lung diseases.



**The Scandalous Pole, Marie Curie** who was awarded two Nobel Prizes for her work in physics and chemistry. She and her husband managed to isolate polonium and radium from pitchblende and all her life she worked researching the effects and uses of radiation. She founded the Curie Institute when radium was found to cure cancers. Her daughter and husband also helped with research. After her death a new element was named after her, curium, and her body was taken to the Pantheon, a great honour. She mixed with many

great scientists including Einstein and Rutherford, who greatly admired her work.

(Contributed by Pat Whitman)

### Scrabble Group



We continue to meet fortnightly at members' homes starting at 1.30pm on alternate Tuesdays.

We are always on the lookout for more members. You don't have to be a super wordsmith to come along.

(Contributed by  
Alison Harrington.)

### Writers' Group

Our group continues to grow and flourish and, having discussed the mechanics of writing our life stories from the difference between a memoir and an autobiography, studied the many literary forms that both entail, and debated who our audiences might be – whether personal, i.e. restricted to family and close friends or wider into the general arena – we are now ready to present aspects of our life and work to the group. It is always great fun with lots of learning and we look forward to welcoming Ingrid Thomas back from France next month. (Contributed by Vivienne Allan.)

### Anzac Day



Tuesday 25 April marks another milestone in the Anzac History when we remember the men and women who fought in wars - the Boer War, WW1, WW2, Korea, Vietnam and more recently have toured in Afghanistan or gone to Ukraine to support the fight against Russia, and whose lives have been lost. Many of us at U3A have family members who were or still are returned Service men and women. Services will be held in Canterbury when we can

wear our poppies, place them on the memorials at the end and recite the fourth verse of Laurence Binyon's poem *For the Fallen*.

*They shall grow not old as we who are left grow old  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.....*

## CLUB DIRECTORY

|  |                  |                  |   |
|--|------------------|------------------|---|
| <b>President:</b>                            | Jorgen Schousboe | Ph: 021 1443315  | Email: <a href="mailto:jschousboe@gmail.com">jschousboe@gmail.com</a>         |
| <b>Vice 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 Committee:</b> | Sue Beardsley    | Ph: 0274 134 186 | Email: <a href="mailto:sueandgrant21@gmail.com">sueandgrant21@gmail.com</a>   |
|  | Yvonne Boulton   | Ph: 3844242      | Email: <a href="mailto:yvonneboulton@xtra.co.nz">yvonneboulton@xtra.co.nz</a> |
|  | Beth Bradley     | Ph: 382 1386     | Email: <a href="mailto:bethannie@xtra.co.nz">bethannie@xtra.co.nz</a>         |
|  | Judy Calder      | Ph: 384 1269     | Email: <a href="mailto:judycalder@hotmail.com">judycalder@hotmail.com</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>         |



## 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 foyer Mt Pleasant Community Centre. Contact Vivienne Allan on 021 067 9420 Email <a href="mailto:ayndavar@outlook.com">ayndavar@outlook.com</a> (This group is now full)                                       |
| <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 Philippa Rendall Email <a href="mailto:Roper.rendall@gmail.com">Roper.rendall@gmail.com</a> Ph 33763605  |
| <b>DVD: SERIES</b>                      | New groups will begin again shortly. 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 Lyn Russell Email: <a href="mailto:nylrus1951@gmail.com">nylrus1951@gmail.com</a> or Gaynor Button Email: <a href="mailto:buttonmg@gmail.com">buttonmg@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>  |

**U3A Pegasus email address: [u3apegasus@protonmail.com](mailto:u3apegasus@protonmail.com)**

**U3A Pegasus website address: [www.u3apegasus.org.nz](http://www.u3apegasus.org.nz)**