



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

Newsletter March 2024

Welcome to this March newsletter

**Our next meeting will be on Monday 18 March 2024
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.

**Our guest speaker will be Hayley Guiglietta talking about the
regeneration of the residential Red Zone. This is likely to be of
interest to many of our members so please come early.**



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Last month's proposed changes to our Rules regarding life membership caused quite some discussion among members at our AGM.

It was pointed out to me that the motion from the floor should not have been accepted because notifications about changes must be presented to members two weeks before a Special General Meeting (SGM).

I apologise for any confusion this created and as a consequence of being advised about our Rules, we will maintain the current status quo until such time that if a proposed change is still warranted, we will call an SGM.

At the conclusion of our March meeting (18 March), we will be hosting a meeting for new members. A separate invitation has been sent to them. It is an opportunity for them to meet the committee and the interest group leaders, to get a better idea of what we do, and what groups they are able to join.

We have now reconvened the 2024 committee and welcomed Roger Chapman and Vivienne Allan as new members. On Monday 25 March, we will bring the interest group convenors together to discuss whether they have any issues or concerns.

While most people have now paid their subscription for the new year, I remind members who haven't paid, that the grace period is reduced from three to two months from the date of the February 19 AGM.

I hope you all continue to enjoy U3A Pegasus throughout 2024. Remember, the list of committee members with contact details is included at the end of this newsletter. You are welcome to contact us if you have any concerns.

Jorgen Schousboe

LATEST NEWS & UPDATES

- **If members are hard of hearing, please sit in the front of the auditorium. Sometimes the microphones don't give a good sound for people with hearing aids.**
- **We are advised that Spark intends charging a fee for people who are using the email address xtra.co.nz by May this year. This will impact on at least 60 of our members. Please ask a relative or a friend to help you change your email address and let us know when that is done. If you don't have anyone to help you, we can provide a help guide.**

INTEREST GROUP'S UPDATES

Interest Groups

Committee member Caroline Carlton has convened a meeting of all interest group organisers for Monday 25 March at 10am to be held at the Community Centre. The idea is to meet everyone and to get a sense of what the groups do, when they meet, what their expenses are, whether they need assistance from the Committee (including finance) and whether there are other interests that could result in a new group being established.

We currently have several interest groups all of which are listed at the end of this newsletter with their contact details.

Adventures in Travel (formerly Armchair Travel)

We have a new name and a new convenor and deputy for the new year. Grateful thanks to Robin Fear who established the group a few years ago and who has organised our meetings over a long period of time, coming up with good ideas and sharing his many travels with Heather as well. We are very glad he remains a member of our group.

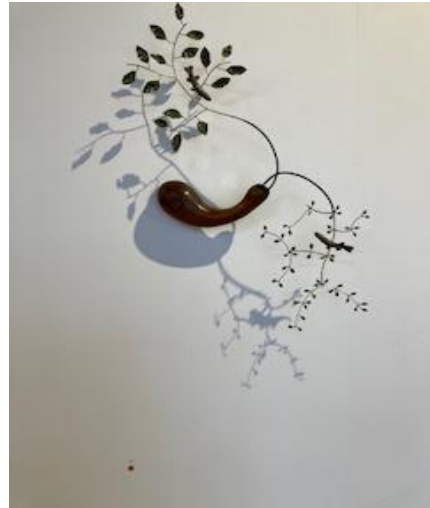


Our new convenor is Lyn Russell and our deputy is Barbara Crooks. We will keep our meeting date and time as usual, i.e. the first Tuesday of the month at 3pm, and we will continue to meet in

members' homes. We have some exciting new ideas in train, and welcome anyone interested in joining us. See the end page of this newsletter for contact details.

Art Appreciation

Following morning tea at Fiddlesticks, we visited two exhibitions at the Arts Centre for our February outing. At the Central Gallery 'Sharing the Dry' expressed in art form Bing Dawe's concern for storing and protection of water. Gourd-like objects made from Rimu wood represented systems of storage and tree-forms represented branches of themselves as well as of rivers and waterways (pictured right: 'Still-life Container with Galaxiidae and branches Olearia'). Using painted steel, copper and bronze, NZ tree stems, leaves and flowers were both exact and beautifully made. Many of the works had been sold which didn't surprise us.



The Physics Room exhibition 'I am so into you' is described as 'about points of contact with the spaces we inhabit.' Sometimes we find installations particularly hard to understand. This was one of these especially as it was almost in darkness – no photos for us.



Our March meeting included a visit to the PG Gallery on 192 Bealey Ave, a short drive from Under the Red Verandah where we gathered. Running from 5 March to 5 April, Euan Macleod's 'June and Henry' displays 18 oil on polyester works. Based in Sydney since the 1980s, Macleod originally came from Christchurch. In this exhibition he imagines his aging mother, June, against the Port Hills and other places people will recognize. Sometimes her great grandson Henry appears in the same painting although they have never met. (See left).

There is plenty to discuss and, as intended by the artist, we can't help reflecting on life's journey. If you enjoy discussing art works, our group welcomes new members.

(Contributed by Helen Harkness.)

Book Discussion Group

Our holiday read was 'Remember Me' by Charity Norman, winner of the 2023 Ngaio Marsh Novel of the Year. Described by the judges as having 'an Olympian degree of difficulty in the novel,' the story focuses on a father suffering from increasing dementia who is hiding a secret he has kept for years. Rather than tell too much about the secret, it is best to read the book. Charity Norman was born in Uganda, a barrister practising in England, she moved to New Zealand with her family in 2002 and since then has published several books to high acclaim. (Published by Allen & Unwin).

Definitely one for the book shelf, to give to friends, or encourage people to get it from the library. Our book group rated it very highly.



Our current book is by Christchurch author Carl Nixon and his novel 'The Tally Stick' (Vintage Publishing) which he worked on in Menton as a Katherine Mansfield Fellow in 2018. It is set on the West Coast and has been described by one reviewer as 'among what is called a literature of unease, so it is very ominous and very foreboding. It is also described by Penguin publishers as 'A compulsive and chilling novel about subjugation, survival and the meaning of family. The car containing the four sleeping children left the earth....' (Contributed by Vivienne Allan.)

Canterbury History Group

VISIT TO ENGLEFIELD – A 'SPECIAL CHARACTER AREA' OF CHCH

Few of our group knew of this mysterious part of our city, tucked away behind one of our well-known four avenues.

Englefield is part of William Brittan's farm. Brittan, a founder of the Canterbury settlement and Commissioner of Lands, once lived in Oxford Terrace with his family, but later moved to his rural land on the edge of Fitzgerald Avenue. He built his large homestead in 1855/56, with big gardens, running down to the Avon River and in time worker's cottage became part of the surrounding landscape.



Englefield Lodge built in 1855/56



Englefield Lodge now – no progress

But our focus for the morning was not on this part of the land. Instead we visited the delightfully enchanting cottage belonging to Robyn Kilty. In 1993, influenced by a love of the old cottages in this area, Robyn purchased her home in Hanmer Street (“it was a wreck of a home”), and spent many of



the following years restoring and enhancing both the interior, exterior and the garden. First came the tiny detailed work involved in the mosaic pathways throughout the garden that gave more colour and vibrancy. Then out came all the unwanted “green stuff” (plants and grass) and in time there was not a blade of grass to be seen anywhere. Influenced by her trips to Piet Oudolf (Netherlands) and Monet's (Giverny) gardens, she replanted every spare inch of the land. Now, all of the outdoors helps enhance and blend in with the paint colours of the house.



Stepping inside, Robyn talked about the work she undertook to restore this tiny cottage, but also to make it more livable in today's times. As we moved around the house, it was wonderful to see how the maximum use had been made of every little space – a place for everything and everything in its place. Cramped with character furniture, rich in paintings covering the walls (nearly all done by Robyn) and a lovely flow to the house from room to room as well as from indoors to outdoor. We all felt that this conversion was an amazing challenge and a massive undertaking that Robyn had grappled with and achieved outstandingly well. Robyn Kilty – artist, gardener, writer, restorer – a talented and special person, we all agreed.

A walk around the Heritage Rose Gardens (more of Robyn's work) and a trip to Under the Red Verandah for coffee, concluded a really interesting morning for our large group of local historians. (Contributed by Judy Calder.)



Cycling Group

We started the year with our usual bike and AGM combination. Jenny led a delightful ride from MPCC round to The Brewery and along the new extension of the Heathcote Expressway and through Ferrymead Park, linking with the cycleway via Redcliffs and a circuit through Sumner and back to Redcliffs for our meeting. We had a wonderful turnout Jenny, even if the weather gods didn't entirely go with us, it was a pleasant ride in spite of the occasional drizzle. Then a very efficient AGM where we agreed much as we did last year. So....



Wednesday of the month, with leader of the ride but generally 9:30 or 10 at the meeting point. This year we will give the winter

months a try as well. Generally agreed that if the weather causes the scheduled date to be cancelled, we will try to do the ride the following Wednesday if that works for the leader that month. Rides will be organised two weeks before the time, with details of the ride, starting point, distance and the café we will go to (very important for our group). We welcome any new members, on push power or e-power. Please contact Philippa Rendall on roper.rendall@gmail.com for further information. (Contributed by Philippa Rendall.)

DVD Lecture and Documentary Groups

Committee member Yvonne Boulton has taken on the organising of the use of the DVD series that we own. We have sets of DVDs which cover a range of topics including France Through the Ages, the World's Best Paintings, The British Isles, Greece and Turkey, and many others. These sets are available at no cost to any group of members who wish to learn more about the topic. They are in sets of half hour lectures and people usually meet in member's homes at a mutually agreed date and time to watch the lectures and have a discussion about the topic.

Yvonne advises that we are 'starting from scratch' this year with various options for members to make best use of what is currently available, also if there are any other topics anyone is interested in learning about. For more information about the DVDs, what they are, and how to activate a group, please contact Yvonne on 3844243 or Email yvonneboulton@xtra.co.nz

Garden Group

2014 has started with a bang. In January we held a Tips & Cuttings meeting (a fellowship meeting held at a member's house). This month it was shared by two members who live close to each other on Moncks Spur Road. We enjoyed good weather, great views over the Estuary and Pegasus Bay, and two different gardens with a variety of fruit trees, shrubs and perennials. Plus of course the enjoyment of catching up with fellow members after the Christmas/New Year break.

Also in January, our members were invited to and very much enjoyed Somerfield Garden Club's members' garden tour.

In February we visited two businesses tucked away in Rangiora – Edible Flowers and Making Gardens



Affordable.

Edible Flowers has a thriving business supplying edible flowers to Christchurch restaurants, cafes etc. Fresh cut flowers and honey are also part of the business.

We had an interesting talk on the uses of edible flowers and a visit through the owner's growing beds.

After lunch at a café we then moved on to Making Gardens Affordable. The owner sources cuttings and small plants which are then grown on and sold at reasonable prices.

Our March meeting will be a Tips & Cuttings at a member's house. (Contributed by Lyn Russell.)

Geology/Botany



For our first trip of the year, on 21 February, we crossed to Diamond Harbour on the ferry. It was a calm, sunny morning and the water sparkled. We sauntered up through the domain to the top, walked across to view Margaret Stoddart's house and then had our picnic lunch.

An ice cream at the shop can be recommended and then we wandered slowly back down the hill. Just a social visit to start the year in a relaxed manner.

On 4 March, we had a talk by Laura Jones, who is a volunteer at the Botanic Gardens with a good knowledge of trees and plants. She told us that deciduous trees which lose their leaves each year, are more common in the temperate northern hemisphere and New Zealand has only 10 native deciduous trees. As the light changes and temperatures fall, the trees recycle the nutrients in their leaves and retrieve the chlorophyll. Removing this green allows the existing colours to show and red gradually turns to yellow, then brown and the leaf finally withers and falls. Because of the intense sun in New Zealand many plants protect themselves with purple pigments called anthocyanins e.g. blackberries, dark plums, blueberries etc. This is why they are so good for us as anti-oxidants, protecting us too. (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 met in February to plan the year. Everyone is enthusiastic about writing their memoirs in whatever form and shape they select. We have identified subjects and events that we all remember having happened in our lifetime and if they are relevant to the individual, they will be included. Writing a memoir is very personal and it takes time, commitment and often courage to put down on paper what has happened in our lives. Of course, the best thing is that we can be selective about what we say and choose to share. While our group is full, another group can be established if members would like. (Contributed by Vivienne Allan.)

CLUB DIRECTORY

President:	Jorgen Schousboe	Ph: 021 1443315	Email: jschousboe@gmail.com
Vice President:			
(Acting)	Yvonne Boulton	Ph: 3844243	Email: yvonneboulton@xtra.co.nz
Secretary:	Pat Whitman	Ph: 384 3475	Email: patwandpate@gmail.com
Treasurer &	Sue Beardsley	Ph: 0274 134 186	Email: sueandgrant21@gmail.com
Membership:	Sue Beardsley	Ph: 0274 134 186	Email: sueandgrant21@gmail.com
Committee:			
	Vivienne Allan	Ph: 0210679420	Email: ayndavar@outlook.com
	Caroline Carlton	Ph: 2040395980	Email: carolinecarlton@gmail.com
	Roger Chapman	Ph: 0275117440	Email: chapsnz@gmail.com
	Paul Hammonds	Ph: 384 8117	Email: hphammonds@gmail.com
	Lyn Russell	Ph: 021 2388 788	Email: nylrus1951@gmail.com

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.

ADVENTURES IN TRAVEL	Meets monthly in members' homes on 1 st Tuesday of the month at 3pm in members' homes. Contact Lyn Russell 021 2388 788 Email: nylrus1951@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 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. Contact Jenny Long jennylong@xtra.co.nz 384 8463.
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
INTEREST GROUPS	Contact Caroline Carlton Ph: 2040395980 Email: carolinecarlton@gmail.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 (This group is now full.)

U3A Pegasus email address: u3apegasus@protonmail.com

U3A Pegasus website address: www.u3apegasus.org.nz