



U3A PEGASUS BULLETIN

No 13

June 2024

Update from President Jorgen



The committee has spent some time discussing whether we communicate effectively with our members. We communicate via Newsletters, Bulletins, the website and some Interest Groups led by

convenors. Except for the Interest Groups, the methods that all have in common is that “we” are talking to “you”.

I miss you talking to me/us – i.e. two-way conversations, so that we can exchange views, explain why something might not be to your liking or how to bring new ideas to fruition. Of course, we hear about issues via the grapevine, but it would be so much better if we could meet over a cup of coffee to discuss matters that are important to you. All of us on the committee would welcome that – we are only an email or a phone call away.

Next month, we will launch a new initiative, a mid-winter Christmas dinner. Many U3A branches in Canterbury arrange “Christmas” dinners like that. We hope you will join us for some food and enjoyable two-way communication.

Regards

Jorgen



Mid-Winter Christmas Dinner

You are invited to our first mid-winter festive dinner to be held at the Tannery in the Blue Smoke Room on Saturday 13 July at 6.30pm. Cost is \$66pp for a 2-course meal. The menu allows for plenty of options and dietary needs. If you are keen to be there, please contact Yvonne Boulton on 021 442 275 or email her as soon as possible at yvonneboulton@xtra.co.nz The Tannery needs to know numbers to confirm the booking. If you belong to an interest group and want to come together, that’s great, or bring your partner, or come along and be prepared to have a fun dinner and evening.



June Speaker

On Monday, June 17: our speaker will be Peter Field on the subject of ‘Religious influence in the USA.’ Some of our members may have remembered Peter talking to us about American politics. His topic this time promises to be very interesting. A warming cup of tea/coffee available from 10am.



Reminder...

The Special General Meeting will be held immediately following Peter Field’s talk.



Joining Our Interest Groups

The list of interest groups can be found on our website and groups where there are still vacancies are always put out on the table in the foyer for anyone who would like to join. The new coffee & current affairs group will have its first get together this Thursday at 11.15am at Ten27 (Casual & Country).



May Speaker

Barbara Garrie lectures on Art History at Canterbury University. Her topic at our May meeting was 'Conceptual Art'. She began by reassuring us that we didn't have to like it. The first image was of Tracey



Emin's "Bed" which was nominated for the Turner Prize, but didn't win it. It was painted in 1998 after a relationship break up.

From here she took us through stages of art and artists from Damian Hurst and the Chapman brothers in the 1980s where the cynicism of the current culture and political and economic upheaval was shown, via High Art Life which a wider audience would understand. Modernism started in the 1960s with 2 dimensional paintings on flat canvasses and 3-D sculptures. Earlier in the 1950s Jason Pollack painted abstract illusions where the eye had to travel through the painting.



No subject, but more about the materials and the emotional reactions. Part of the post-war expressionism. In the second half of the 20th century pop art was recognizable but made fun of the art. People like Donald Judd used industrial materials, symmetry and repetition. It was something between painting and sculpture. Carl Andre used bricks in geometrical shapes. In conceptual art the idea is paramount and the material unimportant. It's the message, not the medium. Just an idea may develop into some form. It is

not rational but often uses mathematical or geometrical systems. Sometimes it is the planning that counts and a set of instructions is the work so that anyone can actually follow them and draw the art in different locations. Lawrence Weiner just had the statement, "One quart of exterior green industrial enamel thrown on a brick wall". Edward Ruscha published a booklet of 26 black and white gasoline stations he passed on a journey.

In 1990, Anna Chave said that minimalism and conceptual art tend to be masculine and soft flexible things are not valued. In 1992, Janine Antoni gave a performance using her painted body and dye in her hair to make a painting as she rolled around the floor. Barbara recommended watching 'Herb & Dorothy' on You Tube. (Contributed by Pat Whitman.)



New Members & Our Waiting List

Our current membership is 250 with 46 people on the waiting list. It can take several months for a vacancy to come up. So, we are emailing the Bulletin and the Newsletter (they are on alternate months) to everyone to keep pending members up to date with what we are doing, our activities and our guest speakers. We encourage everyone to check our website which has a wealth of information about the interest groups and contact details for the committee and the interest group convenors. Anyone who is on the waiting list is welcome to join an interest group. We have one small condition that the person agrees to become a paid-up member of U3A Pegasus when a vacancy occurs. We always advise the next person when that will happen.



The Mystery of the Missing UK DVD

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the DVD series about the UK? It seems to have gone missing. If anyone has any information, could they please contact Yvonne Boulton on [021 442 275](tel:021442275) or email her at yvonneboulton@xtra.co.nz

