



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

Newsletter November 2024

Welcome to this November Newsletter

Our next meeting will be on Monday 16 December 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 Canterbury writer Sandra Arnold.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Your committee has had a busy time trying to find a way to give as many people as possible a chance to join a U3A group while at the same time handling the capacity problems at MPCC and allowing people the ability to choose which location they want to attend. Port Hills U3A has similar issues, and we have liaised with them to support the formation of a new U3A operating from St Mark's Church in Opawa.

Pegasus U3A will continue to operate from MPCC **every 3rd Monday of the month** as before. There is an acute shortage of Committee members, so any help you can offer will be

much appreciated.

The U3A at St Mark's Church, Opawa Road, will operate **every 2nd Tuesday of the month**. They have **a founding meeting on Tuesday, the 10th of December 2024, at 10 am**. Everyone is welcome. It is an important meeting, and we urge anyone interested or currently on the waiting list at Pegasus U3A or Port Hills U3A to attend.

You can be a member of one of the groups or both. If you are a member of both, you can then attend any activities they plan.

If you want to be on the mailing list for the U3A at St Mark's, please email u3anewclub@gmail.com with your name, address and phone number. You can also sign up at the meeting on the 10th of December.

We are now preparing for our Pegasus end-of-year function at MPCC on the 16th of December, where we will share a few nibbles following the speaker's presentation. There is no meeting in January, but we will meet on the 17th of February for our AGM, including the election of the new committee and executives. Nominations must be handed to the secretary by the 10th of February at the latest.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the end-of-year meeting.

Jorgen Schousboe

LATEST NEWS & UPDATES

- **Our end-of-year function will be held on Monday 16 December with guest speaker Sandra Arnold, novelist, short story, flash fiction and non-fiction writer. She has a MLitt (High Distinction) and PhD in creative writing from Central Queensland University. She held the Seresin Landfall Otago University Press Writers Residency in 2014 and the Robert Lord Cottage Writers Residency in 2020. Following Sandra's talk, there will be a light lunch to celebrate the end of another successful year.**

GUEST SPEAKERS



Our October Guest Speaker

Peter Field, Head of the School of Humanities and Associate Professor of American History at Canterbury University, spoke without notes and gave a lecture that was at one and the same time, a challenge and a frustration. The frustration was that his subject was the religious influence on American politics about which he is very knowledgeable yet he doesn't divulge much. The challenge was that his audience, in true university style, was left pondering on what he said. A former New Yorker, he prefers

Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher, over Sigmund Freud or Karl Marx. He quoted Mark Twain when discussing the sociology of religion and believes that America has been more a force for good than for evil.

Peter spoke about the Kantian theory of the Categorical Imperative (CI) – that the supreme principle of morality is a principle of practical rationality. Put simply, all specific moral requirements are justified by this principle which means that all immoral actions are irrational because they violate the CI. How that relates to religious influence in American politics, if any, was left to the audience's perception or imagination.

The government, according to Peter Field, is not in the business of religion and it should be kept out of politics. He believes that people should be treated as 'subjects' and not 'objects', which is why, in his opinion, Hilary Clinton lost the 2016 election – she talked 'down' to her audiences. Whether Trump treated his audiences as equals, was not covered. Trump, he said, is not religious. He didn't state Harris' religious beliefs, if any.

When Peter last talked to our U3A, it was about America post Trump. The question left hanging was whether there will be another four years with Trump or Harris. (As we know, Donald Trump won the election with a massive majority in Congress as well as the electoral vote.)



Our November Guest Speaker

Dr Errol Wood enlightened us with his lecture on the wool industry in NZ – it's origins, its development, trends and future directions. He explained the 30 different sheep breeds in NZ from the fine-wool of the merino, usually bred in the high country, and the well-known Romney bred for strong wool. His slides included the different microns depending on the breed, and the crimp belonging with each. The finer the wool, the more expensive it is. Dr Wood explained the wool scouring process and from there to carpets, garments and more latterly innovations from insulation to pilate mats.

In the 1960s and 70s the wool flock numbered more than 70 million. With the influence of politics and the changes in farm practices, numbers are now about 25 million, even so, production and quality remains very high.

As a former lecturer in Environmental Physics at Lincoln University and a staff member of AgResearch, as well as a referee for international journals on textiles including wool, Dr Wood was the ideal person to educate us on the history of wool in New Zealand. He is also a member of U3A Ellesmere.

(Contributed by Pat Whitman.)

INTEREST GROUPS' UPDATES

Adventures in Travel

On 1 October, Pat took us on a trip to Adelaide and the surrounding countryside. It is a wine growing area with plenty of vineyards to visit for tastings. Although it was end of season we did see a few Southern right whales along the coast. A short trip on the Murray River was interesting. Its level is much lower than it used to be because so much water is taken off for irrigation.



Hahndorf was an interesting town started by German immigrants. Its shops sold luscious cakes, sharp knives, candles, cuckoo clocks...

Back in Adelaide city we enjoyed Rundle Mall, the Rundle lantern, Port Adelaide, Glenelg and the local lake.



For our November meeting, we enjoyed the magical beauty of Provence in all its summer glory with fields of lavender vying with those of golden sunflowers was a wonderful reminder of France when we spent our November meeting watching two of the Pegasus DVD series on France.

We were treated to a quality lecture tour of Provence, its towns and villages, followed by Burgundy and its capital Dijon, and then the Loire Valley. The lecture series are a valuable resource and many of our group having been to France, and travelled to several of the towns, cities and historical sites, were able to sit in Lyn Russell's comfortable chairs and enjoy the scenery with the occasional comment on what we had seen and experienced ourselves.

Art Appreciation



SEPTEMBER

372a Ferry Road is the new site of the recently opened LEstrange Gallery. Tucked in behind Steadfast Books, the reroofed building is big and in a previous life must have had an industrial use. The concrete floor has been painted a glossy white and together with the slatted "ceiling" presents a fresh light welcome.

We arrived from Leeves at Portstone to find artist and gallery director Bryan LEstrange disentangling one of the Sumner container art works created following the 2011 earthquake. He generously shared his enthusiasm and knowledge with us (see left) as we explored the works of 10 artists who had been involved in the container artwork e.g. Tony De Lautour's detail of original container canvas, Nigel Brown's "A cry is a cry" acrylic on aluminium and Glen Curtin's "Woven" enamel on panel. Many of the

works seemed very personal and provided plenty of discussion.

Our October outing began with morning tea and chat at Atawhai Cafe which is practically next door to the Arts Centre where the Sculpture Festival 2024 was on in the Great Hall and outside in the North Quad. We were immediately drawn to the galloping horse on the lawn. Made from recycled

steel and copper, Gawie Bosman's Metallicus (see right) took 260 hours, 3 oil drums and nearly 4 copper cylinders to create.

After 5 years as curator, 2024 is the last year in the role for Koji Miyazaki in what is described as a "showcase of approachable NZ sculpture in diverse media and styles". This year's festival comprised 250 pieces from 37 artists. e.g. Rebecca Heap's blown glass Dot Geode (blue), Asheley Elizabeth's veneer with carved acrylic, and Jane Whales's ceramic porcelain Amphitrites Lament.

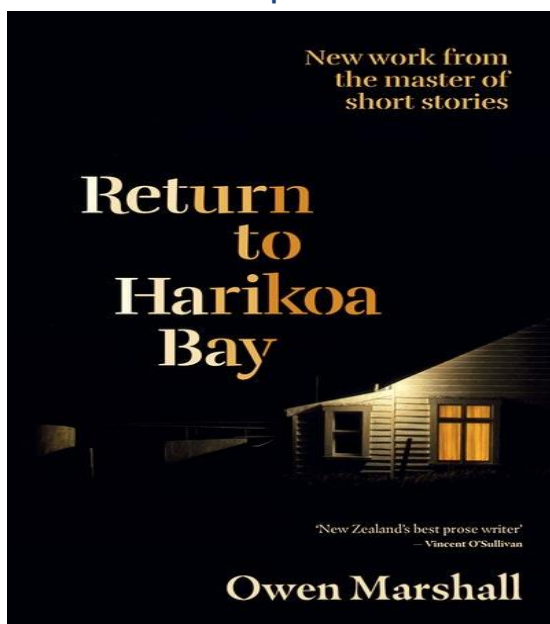


Our last outing for 2024 in November, took us to two Disraeli St. favourites- Oddfellows cafe and City Art Depot.

Photographer Ella Hickford's "Degeneration" was art with a message. As the title suggests, subjects from Banks Peninsula were selected to show how human endeavour has modified landscapes and usually not for the better. eg. "Eroded loess, Makara Magnet Bay" (see left). The works are presented as prints on aluminium panels some being curved e.g. "Stock fence

in Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere" which really draws you in. (Contributed by Helen Harkness)

Book Discussion Group



The November book was 'Return to Harikoa Bay' by Owen Marshall who is the best and most celebrated living New Zealand short story writer. As with all of his collections of short stories, this latest is outstanding. The 33 stories had a wide range of subjects, men and women – lawyers, lecturers, librarians, farmers, architects, dentists, writers, teachers, retirees and even an undertaker in the most gruesome tale. They dealt with the realities, regrets and reminiscences involved in family relationships, friendships, work situations and chance meetings. The settings were mainly in New Zealand and Christchurch featured in several. Owen Marshall paints pictures with words and we gave the book a rare 5/5 score as befits the author's skills. (Contributed by Helen Peate.)

Café Group

For our November meeting we met at Silos Café at the Malthouse in the Heathcote Valley, with lots of lovely food and good coffee. As usual our group discussed a wide range of the topics currently making the news especially the elections in the US and the Coalition Government here in NZ. As usual, our opinions varied widely and the resulting conversation was most enjoyable. (Contributed by Jenny Long.)

Canterbury History Group

October Visit: Rangiora and the Northbrook Private Museum

Where exactly is Rangiora? Well, one carload headed off towards Picton, while another went south on its way to Timaru. (The drivers will remain nameless). However, all went well as a little belatedly we gathered in the large grounds at Spark Lane on the rural, northern edge of Rangiora. And what an experience we had here!

Richard Spark, the owner of this special place, welcomed us warmly with tea, coffee, jam and cream scones, savouries and cakes as he introduced himself and his passion that completely surrounded him.



Beginning with a few old milk bottles forty two years ago, Richard Spark gathered “stuff” which became the foundation for this treasure house of amazing collectables, carefully sorted and stored. Behind him was the entry to four massive interconnected barns that displayed much of our early heritage.

As we silently traipsed into the first display area, we let out a massive “Oh, oh” of enormous surprise. Before us lay room after room, shelf after shelf, box after box, table after table, street after street, etc. of everything you could think of – and more. Carefully labelled items helped



explain when we got stuck, but we certainly could recognise many things from our childhood as familiar names and brands no longer in existence.

In a few places little notices asked for help in identifying a mysterious object that no one had been able to identify. Suddenly Sally looked on a shelf and noticed a strange silver pronged “thing.”

“I know. I know what that is,” she said. It’s for when you are poured a flute of champagne. You prick and burst the bubbles with it. Then they don’t go up your nose as you drink.”

Mystery solved. Now the note will have a proper label thanks to Sally.



Sally on the hunt for more odd objects

This was a fascinating visit as Richard opened up only a fraction of the display areas to show us. This place would require a number of visits to have a really good look around. It's well worth a visit.

November: Our Lyttelton Walkabout

GRUBB COTTAGE



Along London street, the shopping street of Lyttelton, stands an old wooden cottage that has a long history. It was built in 1851 by John Grubb for his ever growing family. He also built the first Heathcote punt and other small trading vessels, plus the first jetty in the harbour. Listed as a Category Heritage 2 building, the house sits on a piece of land that was the first land sale by one European to another European. The Grubb Cottage Heritage Trust restored the building, which now remains in a very original condition.

PILGRIMS ROCK

This rock marks the spot where the first Canterbury Settlers stepped foot on New Zealand soil in 1850.

Now sited well above the harbour water's edge it indicates how much the port has developed as land reclamation extended to build a railway line and additional waterfront facilities.



At Pilgrim's Rock



Strikers' Food Collection Centre

THE STRIKERS' FOOD COLLECTION CENTRE

Lasting for 151 days in 1951, this waterfront New Zealand wide strike was our longest strike. It was a time when our population was only two million, but 22,000 workers were put out of work for some time.

The dispute polarised people and groups as "wharfies" were locked out. But no pay – no food. While the government sent in the army to load and unload ships, the police were given emergency powers to search and arrest and make it an offence for citizens to assist strikers. Even giving food to their children was outlawed. However, in Lyttelton, sympathetic supporters of the workers donated food to their own townsfolk and it was collected from this building.

LYTTELTON JAIL

Brightly coloured beds of roses provide some sort of camouflage for the dark, grim walls of Lyttelton Jail. Once New Zealand's largest jail, it housed 'murderers, lunatics, debtors and thieves' and it was also the site of the hanging of seven men. Three hundred of the worst South Island criminals were housed at this gruesome looking site. Opened in 1852, it was built by the convicts themselves, who also built many of the stone walls and roads around the town. The remains of the jail can be seen above the school and swimming pool site.

Our walkabout also took us past the nearby Upham Clock, a prominent landmark. Built in sandstone in the 1950s it is a tribute to Dr Charles Upham, who was a much loved local doctor. Across the road



from the jail site, we noted the two storeyed house once occupied by the local jail warden. It was a fascinating visit for all of us and ended with good coffee and conversation at the several local cafes. (Contributed by Judy Calder.)

Coffee & Current Affairs

Our October meeting was led by Yvonne Boulton on the topic of the current state of the health sector. Opinions covered the full range from nursing to ED, how the sector has developed – more often for the better in terms of technological advances, however often to the detriment of the patient and treatment.

Our November meeting was led by Judy Calder on the topic of today's education and whether we believe the system is good enough in the 2020s. Judy referred to articles which suggest that New Zealand students are not doing as well as other countries and there was some spirited discussion as to the reasons why. (The group will reconvene again in the new year.)

Cycling Group

On Wednesday 13th November, nine of us met at Mt Pleasant Community Centre at 9.30 to do a Heathcote River ride through all of the community reserves along the river. We started the river trip on the footpath on the south bank of the river at the Ferry Road bridge. This footpath (way safer than biking on bridle path road) winds its way through some bush to connect with Ferrymead Park drive which we took to past the golf club and then along the river edge track.

We followed this through the newly planted native bush where the row of pine trees previously stood, under the tunnel road, then at the start of the Heathcote loop, took the left track (a bit rough in places) round the loop to the Heathcote Expressway.

We did the rest of the trip keeping as close to the river as we could at all times, through Radley Park, then met the main river again and through the Laura Kent Reserve. The only time we left the south bank was to cross the last footbridge in Aynsley Terrace into Hansen Park, then back to the south side at the next bridge (there is a track through King George V reserve opposite Hansen Park, but it has a no bikes sign on it and goes through some private property). Continuing on our South Bank journey we wended our way through Farnley Reserve, Donkey Track, past the South Library (soon to become a re-build site) and Ernle Clark reserve to a well-deserved coffee at Zeros. After that we crossed the road and the nearest bridge to get on the north bank of the river.

Heading east we took a shortcut from Waimea Terrace across Sandwich Road, then continued round the river to the first footbridge, over that, up Buxton Terrace, right into St Martins, left into Centaurus, then 2nd left at the roundabout to get back into Hansen Park. We followed the river then crossed at the Heathcote expressway bridge, continued left around to Radley Street, and at the bridge crossed road, then over the bridge to pick up the river track where it starts right beside Ferry Road (it's a bit hard to see till you are on top of it). This goes right round the river to the Ferrymead main bridge. We went back to Mt Pleasant Community Centre via the Coastal Pathway.

The total ride length was 30k, 19 of these on the way out. It's a fun ride as it includes going through nine bush reserves along the way and if you haven't done it before, gives a new appreciation of the Ōpawāho Heathcote River. Great ride, excellent company! (Contributed by Tim Lindley.)

DVD Lecture Group

We concluded a 20-episode epic on Marco Polo in mid-November. Although the production was more about Kubla Khan than Marco Polo, it was insightful albeit gruesome in places. For those of us who studied English at secondary school in the days when Keats, Byron and Coleridge were part of the curriculum, it was an opportunity to revisit Coleridge's poem which, apparently was written after he had read a book describing Shangdu, the summer capital of the Mongol Yuan dynasty founded by Kublai Khan. Coleridge had taken opium and wrote his famous poem, under its influence, which was not published for some years later. Aspects of the poem came from the writings of Marco Polo who was in Xanadu around 1275.

Garden Group

October saw the Garden Group gathering at Marg McCarthy's hilltop home for a Tips & Cuttings afternoon. Lovely views, great company and good nibbles were enjoyed by those attending. The committee is looking towards 2025 and has sent out a survey to members seeking their input into activities and garden visits they may wish to see organised. A good response but more would be helpful. Our November meeting will see us in Rolleston - visiting a charming small garden first and then moving on Cedar Park Gardens for our end-of-year lunch and stroll round the extensive property. (Contributed by Lyn Russell.)

Geology/Botany

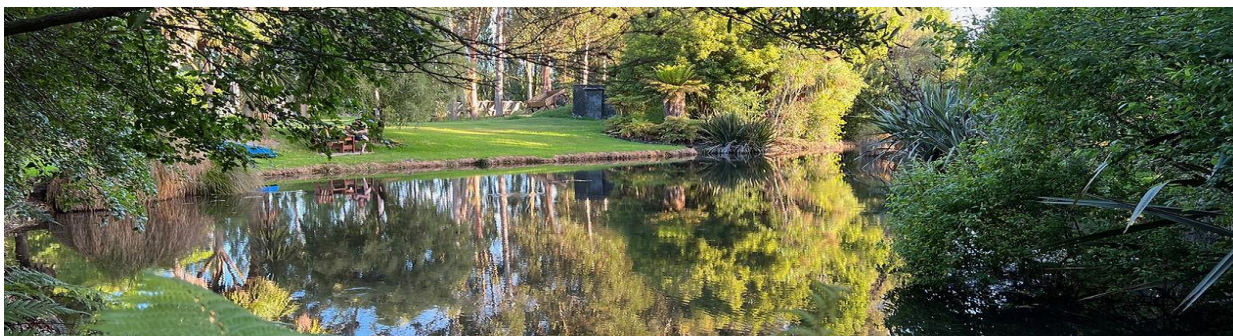
On 7 October, Gill Fountain gave a talk entitled 'Volcanoes I have known.' She talked about earthquakes and volcanoes which she has visited around the world as well as local phenomena. Because tsunamis are associated with eruptions and earthquakes,



Redcliffs school used to have a path up the cliffs and held regular evacuation practices. She showed pictures Mount Vesuvius, Santorini, Mount St Helens and many others and explained the stages of an eruption and its after effects on locals. As well as lava inundating villages the effects of ash clouds on flights can cause major disruptions.

She talked about the Ring of Fire, a system of tectonic plates round the Pacific which we are on and said Japan has most earthquakes and eruptions and New Zealand is second! Luckily our local volcano has been dormant for five million years.

On 20 November, we went to Willow Springs, a 7 acre garden in Quaid's Road. When it was bought in 2009, it was just bare paddocks overgrown with waist high grass. After the earthquakes, Chris the owner realised that many people were upset at leaving their precious gardens and he set about rescuing what he could. Using heavy machinery, he dug up and collected around 400 trees and shrubs, some so big that he had to transport them at night when there was no traffic, because they filled both road lanes.



The garden is beautiful with big areas of native trees, and other parts park-like with lawns and flowering plants. The peonies were particularly good. In many places he indicated that everything we could see had been rescued. It was an inspiring spectacle and a very enjoyable trip. (Contributed by Pat Whitman.)



Scrabble Group

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

We welcome new members.

Contact Alison Harrington for more information.

(see convenor list at the end of the newsletter for Alison's contact details.)



In Memoriam: John Delugar died on 13 November this year after a long illness with cancer. John was the president of U3A Pegasus for two years during which time he worked assiduously to rewrite our rules. He was a keen member of the history and geo-botany groups. And, he supported the concept of the U3A network in Canterbury. Judy Calder recalls his involvement in Habitat for Humanity and his pride in the many houses that the organisation built in Auckland.

John and Anthea were regular attendees at the monthly meetings. They hosted a DVD group and John was a keen cook. They often went to the UK which was Anthea's homeland and they had family living there.

CLUB DIRECTORY

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| President: | Jorgen Schousboe | Ph: 021 1443315 | Email: jschousboe@gmail.com |
| Vice President: (Acting) | Yvonne Boulton | Ph: 021442275 | 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: Committee: | Christine Toner | Ph: 0274339598 | Email: christinetoner139@gmail.com |
| | Vivienne Allan | Ph: 0210679420 | Email: ayndavar@outlook.com |
| | Caroline Carlton | Ph: 02040395980 | Email: carolinecarlton52@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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ADVENTURES IN TRAVEL | Meets monthly in members' homes on 1 st Tuesday of the month at 3pm in members' homes. Email: nylrus1951@gmail.com |
| ART APPRECIATION | Meets monthly, 2 nd Friday of the month. Contact Helen Harkness Ph 384 2890 Email helenharkness294@gmail.com |
| BOOK DISCUSSION | Meets monthly after the U3A lecture, 3 rd Monday of the month in the Mt Pleasant Community Centre. Contact Mary Lynch email granmarylynch12@gmail.com or Judy Eden edenjudith@xtra.co.nz |
| CAFÉ GROUP | 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 |
| COFFEE & CURRENT AFFAIRS | Meets once a month on the second Thursday at 11am. Contact Vivienne Allan. 021 067 9420. (This group is now full.) |
| CYCLING GROUP | Meets monthly, 2 nd Wednesday. Contact Philippa Rendall Email Roper.rendall@gmail.com Ph 3376360 Mob: 027 686 4126 |
| DVD INTEREST GROUP | Lists of the DVDs are held by Yvonne Boulton. Contact her on Ph: 021442275 Email yvonneboulton@xtra.co.nz for more information. |
| GARDEN GROUP | Meets 4 th Monday of the month. A mixture of speakers, garden visits and 'tea & cuttings'. Contact: 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 |
| INTEREST GROUPS | Contact Caroline Carlton Email: carolinecarlton52@gmail.com Ph: 0204 039 5980 |
| SCRABBLE | Meets fortnightly Tuesdays 1.30pm. Contact Alison Harrington Ph 022 307 4039 Email: alison.harrington@outlook.co.nz |
| WRITERS GROUP | Meets first Thursday of the month. Contact Vivienne Allan ayndavar@outlook.com This group is now full. |

U3A Pegasus email address: u3apegasus@protonmail.com
U3A Pegasus website address: www.u3apegasus.org.nz