



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

Newsletter March 2025

Welcome to this March Newsletter

Our next meeting will be on Monday 17th March 2025 at 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.

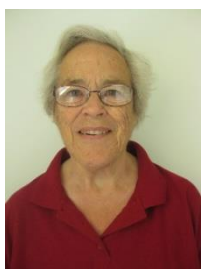
Our guest speaker will be Dr Tony Bywater, Emeritus Professor of Agricultural Systems at Lincoln University.

His topic is: *Feeding over 9 billion people – Global food and resource issues and challenges.*

The world population is scheduled to increase from around 7.4 billion people to around 9.6 billion by 2050. Food demand is projected to rise by somewhere between 60% and 110%, but we are running out of fresh water, land available per capita is shrinking. Can we even sustain current levels of food production let alone increase them by 110%? Possibly. Or possibly not!

Message from the President

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Welcome to another year of interesting talks and activities with our Pegasus U3A. Your new committee has met and come up with a few ideas to try out. We are hoping to get more accurate numbers of those attending meetings, in the hope that we can allow a few more people to join from the long waiting list. We are also thinking of reinstating the series of lectures that we had a few years ago. Frieda Looser was one of the speakers but there are many others too we could use. This will depend on how many people are interested in coming to them for a small charge. We want to make the newsletters more concise, so ask Interest Group leaders to write just a paragraph with one or two photos only.

Pat Whitman

Our Previous Meeting

Our previous meeting included our AGM. This was followed by a talk from Judith Coulie on the topic of 'Memory.' Her specialisation was life writing (autobiography, memoir, testimony) and her PhD focused on life writing published by South Africans in English during the apartheid period.

INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

Botany/Geology Group

19th Feb Trip to an ostrich farm

We had a lovely sunny day for our trip to Glenmark Springs farm at Amberley which backs onto Frog Rock in the Weka Pass. Ian Knowles runs a normal farm but keeps



ostriches as a sideline. The eggs are incubated by a friend for safety and he has about 30 youngsters few months old. By 6 months they will be adult size. The male birds are black and the females a dowdy fawn colour. The cost of selling them for meat is prohibitive but he does occasionally eat some himself. It tastes like a mixture of duck and venison.



Cycle group

We were lucky enough on our first bike trip of 2025, to have perfect weather – sunny and virtually no wind – a rare thing for this summer, with our trip off to Godley Head. John Kitson nobly rode up Evans Pass on a non e-bike, and managed all the way along to Godley Head with the rest of us, making us feeling a bit less energetic than him.

Anyone who is keen to join us but doesn't fancy that long hard ride up Evans Pass, can, of course, drive up to their with their bike on the back of the car, then ride along what is still a beautiful ride with a few ups and downs!



We returned back down the hill to Sumner to enjoy a well earned cup of coffee at Ocean Café at the end of the Esplanade.

We're aiming to bike throughout the year again, unless the weather is so bad, that it would be sheer madness, so do get in touch if you're keen to join us.

Garden Group Report

January saw the Garden Group visiting Amberley – first out to the retirement village one of the ex-members had moved to. A chance to catch up with Adrienne, explore the village and meet the other residents and their gardens. We even had a presentation by the enthusiastic manager.



Our next port of call was a visit to Rose Shier’s “Corner Garden” in Bankview Place, Amberley. A small property which was full of interesting areas, so much packed into the gardens – both ornamental and vegetable, with welcoming outdoor areas for entertaining.

February the Group visited Ribblesdale Gardens, just outside of Oxford. A four acre garden featuring a wide variety of landscape settings: Hosta haven, Native garden, Stumpery, Railway woodland track, Parkland garden, Woodland memories walk, Fragrant garden, Moonlight garden, Secret room, and an azalea and rhododendron garden - plus there is a boutique nursery where some of our members found a few treasures to take home. We had



lovely weather to enjoy the garden. We finished the day out with lunch in Oxford at one of the many cafes there are to choose from and a visit to the excellent book store.



Our travel adventure this month took us to Las Vegas – a destination that turned out to have more to see than just casino floors. Lyn spent four days exploring the City and found a Kelly Tarlton-sized aquarium housed in one of the huge casino complexes; an exhibition called The Bodies which presented all parts of the human body in great detail; The Mob Museum which housed four floors of the history of murder and mayhem from the last 1800s through to modern day; a bird sanctuary, the Bellagio fountains, and much more.



The complex Lyn stayed in – Paris, with its half-sized replica of the Eiffel Tower resided on 74 acres – one of the smaller lots – no wonder walking distances averaged around 15 km a day.



The Art Appreciation group is looking for new members. Please contact Helen Harkness if interested on phone 384 2890 or email helenharkness294@gmail.com.

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