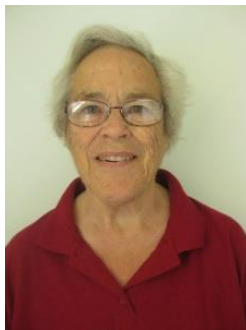




University of the Third Age
The Age of Active Retirement: People Exchanging Knowledge

U3A Pegasus Newsletter July 2025

Message from the President



What a great turn out we had for Jim Wilson's talk. That has encouraged Katherine to book another one by a local member, David Rogers. It will be on Sept 29th at 10.30am, so mark your diaries now. It's the 5th Monday so shouldn't clash with other interest Groups. His topic in his own words is *"A 21year old's impressions of Antarctica 68 years ago! Travelling on the Endeavor with Sir Edmund Hillary and his team and the building of Scott base."* He has the most amazing photographs.

On the subject of Interest Groups; I've been looking at other U3As and they have far more activities than us. With a membership of over 200, there must be people who could volunteer to run an activity that they enjoy. At our committee meeting we thought of baking, crafts, dining out, photography, movies, wine tasting, potluck dinners, Ted Talk discussion The DVDs are still available for anyone with the technology to play them. At the next meeting we will put up a list for your ideas and people to run them.

We also ask you to look to the future because we want to keep and grow our vibrant club and continue to enjoy the social interaction and the thought-provoking lectures and interest groups. Next year several of our committee members will leave and we need new people to come on to bring new ideas and new energy to Pegasus U3A. Please think seriously about this. Could it be you?

Information about the Next Speaker

Our next speaker at the July meeting is Dr Toni Pitcher, Senior Research Fellow, Dept. Medicine, University of Otago, Christchurch & New Zealand Brain Research Institute.

Dr Pitcher has been engaged in Parkinson's research for the past 16 years. She co-leads a Parkinson's epidemiology research programme, which uses local and national data to understand the 'who', 'where' and 'why' of Parkinson's in New Zealand.

Her topic: "Parkinson's disease and how to keep the brain healthy". The talk will give an overview of what Parkinson's disease is and our current understanding about its causes and will also cover some ways to help keep our brains healthy as we age.

Information about Previous Meetings

15th June

Street Art in Christchurch

Dr. Reuben Woods

After the earthquake the emergence of street art was rich and unexpected in Christchurch and over the last 15 years it has been constant and widespread in many cities worldwide. Reuben



has a website called Watch this Space, which is worth visiting. He also wrote "Ghosts on Every Corner".

A well-known artwork is the Ballerina, now half hidden behind The Piano. He said you can get a clear view by climbing apparatus in the Margaret Mahy playground!

Most murals tell a story and there have been many festivals and exhibitions as well as individual works. He talked of a street art exhibition held in the Museum before its demolition called Shift, where over 100 artists painted every square inch of space over 4 floors. Everything was later whitewashed over to stop souvenir hunters.



The Lonely Planet mentions Christchurch as a place to see murals. The City Council funds street art projects for local artists and in March there were 16 new permanent works and 40 temporary ones. A number of events are planned for New Brighton, Ferrymead and Sumner coastal areas soon.

Jim Wilson has spent a lifetime studying world religions and philosophy. He began his talk with reference to the bombing by Israel, and then the US of Iran because of the threat that they might build nuclear weapons. He emphasized that we shouldn't blame all Jews, Muslims and Christians for war as it was the leaders that were responsible. The relationships between religions are complicated and contradictory. They have a talent to form hostile groups to torture and kill other groups, often started by some minor disagreement.

He talked of the origins of the 3 main religions. Jews were in captivity till Moses led them out, directed by a warlike Jahweh. The OT has many threats about what you could inflict on enemies. Jesus told us to love our enemies and do good to them, but in practice this hasn't happened. Burning Christians at the stake and Catholic v Protestant wars. Islam: Mohammed was called by Allah to war against the people of Mecca and as far as Spain. However, OT prophets also tell us to act justly and show mercy, Islam calls Allah the All merciful and compassionate and tells Muslims to look after the poor and widows. Christianity has inspired many people to spend their lives doing good.

Hinduism and Buddhism are concerned more with personal development than a supreme being. It is a world of suffering, so we need to detach ourselves from it. They don't have one particular leader with absolute power. Hinduism has two main deities, one female. The caste system is an abomination with 4 levels, leaders, warriors, artisans and the lowest rank, untouchables, as they are so impure. In most religions there is male dominance and the leaders are men. Sex is a problem too.

At the end he spoke briefly about pre-European Māori beliefs, Confucius and Taoism.

INTEREST GROUP UPDATES

Art Appreciation

Usually, it is a pleasant walk from cafe Under the Red Verandah to Eastside Gallery. On a damp and chilly June 13th, we chose to go by car. Located on the corner of Worcester St and Stanmore Rd, this home to Linwood Arts encourages local artists. Weekly classes are available and exhibiting encouraged with 371 having exhibited in 2024." Stride by Stride" comprised recent work by 10 artists, providing another step on their "progressive pathway" of exhibition



opportunities. A range of acrylics, oil, watercolour on canvas and aluminium on paper included Boram Hong's "Cinque Terre (2) (see photo) oil on canvas. The subject of bathers enjoying the warmth appealed and contrasted with Masako Fisher's print "Winter Morning" dry point on paper.



Book Group

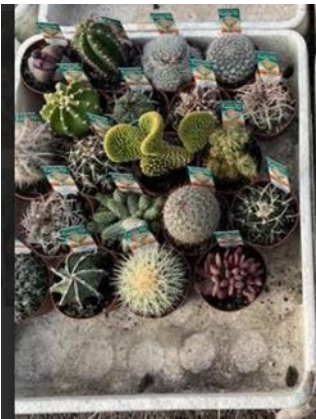
We enjoyed a lively discussion after last Monday's lecture. For most people Anita Shreve was a trip down memory lane and evoked positive and guarded responses – how our attitudes have changed!

Maurice Gee died in mid-June, and it seemed appropriate to make the works of Maurice our focus for the July Book Group. No doubt we will share the joys and frustrations of children, young adults and general reading from this creative writing master.

We will, again, meet after the U3A Lecture. We will meet in the foyer as our group was a little too large to meet and hear each other in the busy Café. However, Talin has agreed to receive our paid lunch orders before we go into the lecture. Our tea/coffee/ and lunch items will be delivered to us in the foyer!

We are now a co-ed group and have reached our maximum number. If you wish to join a book group, please ring Mary 021 387 088 or Judy 02747265386 and there will be a sign-up sheet on the table before/after our July U3A meeting.

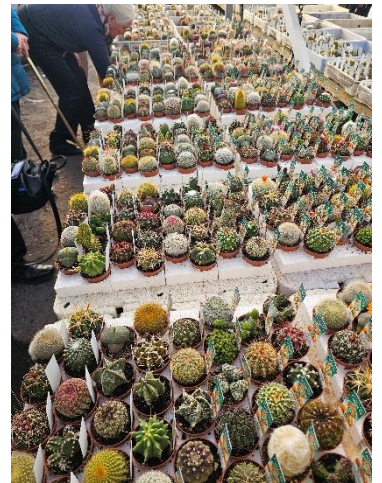
Garden Group



The June meeting of the Garden Group was a very interesting visit to The Castle Rock Cactus Company which is situated in Horotane Valley. Assisted by knowledgeable and helpful staff we were free to wander around the very large hothouse, so we were out of the cold. The variety of cacti and succulents was huge and far exceeded our expectations, many varieties we had never seen before. Some were



developing from the seed stage and others more developed. A variety of succulent and cactus plants were being transplanted from their starter trays into small pots. The Cactus Company sends their plants all around NZ and you would see them in Mitre 10, Bunnings, Oderings, etc. The company is happy to have drop-in visitors, and they do have cash purchasing, which I am sure you can imagine the members took full advantage of. We finished the afternoon with coffee at the Silo Cafe in Heathcote.



Dr Kate Pedley has designed this garden of rocks to show the geology of the South Island. The rocks form a cross section of the land from the West Coast across the Alps and down to



Invercargill. She told us the age and attributes of each one. One highlight was the concretions, similar to the Moeraki Boulders, but from Waipara. One had split on landing and showed remnants of bones of a sea monster 80 million years old. Also



interesting was the volcano, which is activated for school parties and explodes 20m into the air with imitation rocks flying different distances according to their size.

Bigger ones go furthest. She has QR codes next to most rocks giving info, so a visit, even by yourself, is very worthwhile.

Canterbury History Group

JUNE VISIT ST PAULS LUTHERAN CHURCH, BURWOOD



This visit took us to a little-known scene to learn about a little-known church in New Zealand. When Martin Luther (a monk and a professor) nailed his 95 theses (points for discussion), onto the door of the Wittenburg Church in Germany, he was not to know that this act was to begin the start of the Reformation and the beginning of Protestant churches and the "Lutheran Church."

Pastor Mark Whitfield (Emeritus Bishop of the LCNZ) led us through journeys of new settlers, new countries and new congregations as he explored the establishment of Lutheran Churches in New Zealand. The Christchurch Deutsche Kirche (German Church) was first established in 1872, as there was a growing congregation of German arrivals here. The German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck gifted three large church bells to be hung in bell tower of the beautifully designed first building that stood in the central city area where the Art Gallery is now. (In 1918 these bells were confiscated by the NZ Government and melted down). Later a second church was built on this site. And now the church has a new building on the corner of Burwood and Travis Roads.

We learned of Scandinavian, German, American and Australian Lutherans who moved to NZ and brought their culture and religion with them. One highlight mentioned was the celebration of the Reformation Jubilee in 2017, when a large contingent of Lutherans visited the Chatham Islands, to be the first congregation in the world to be part of this event as the first sun rose. Bishop Dr Margot Kabmann from Germany joined in. Ending his presentation, Pastor Mark sat at the keyboard of his much-treasured Werner Bosch Ogelbau organ from Kassel in Germany and played several pieces written by John Baptist Peyer, a contemporary of Bach. As his fingers danced across the keys, it was easy for us to see, hear and enjoy this special time.

CLUB DIRECTORY

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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 1st Tuesday of the month at 3pm in members' homes. Contact Lyn Russell 021 2388 788

Email: nylrus1951@gmail.com

ART APPRECIATION

Meets monthly, 2nd Friday of the month. Contact Helen Harkness Ph 384 2890 Email

helenharkness294@gmail.com

BOOK DISCUSSION

Meets monthly after the U3A lecture, 3rd Monday of the month in the Mt Pleasant Community Centre. Contact Mary Lynch email granmarylynch12@gmail.com or Judy Eden edenjudith@xtra.co.nz

(This group is now full.)

CAFÉ GROUP

Meets monthly, 2.30pm on Tuesday of the week following 3rd Monday of the month.
Contact Jenny Long jennylong@xtra.co.nz 384 8463.

CANTERBURY HISTORY

Meets monthly, 2nd Monday of the month.
Contact Judy Calder

Ph 384 1269 Email judycalder@hotmail.com

CYCLING GROUP

Meets monthly, 2nd Wednesday.

Contact Jane Cowan-Harris Email:
janechbythesea@gmail.com, Mob 021 043 5342

DVD INTEREST GROUP

Lists of the DVDs are held by Lyn Russell.
Contact her on Ph: 0212388788or Email
nylrus1951@gmail.com

GARDEN GROUP

Meets 4th 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 1st Monday at Redcliffs Bowling Centre and 3rd 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@outlook.co.nz

INTEREST GROUPS COORDINATOR

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