



Marlborough U3A

Marlborough University of the Third Age

Newsletter April–June 2021

Locally owned, modern premises & family focused...




Cloudy Bay
FUNERAL SERVICES
Marlborough's Only Locally
Owned Funeral Home 
13 Boyce Street, Blenheim
email: info@cloudybayfunerals.co.nz
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Meeting Arrangements



Monthly Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the Month
at 2.00pm

at Cloudy Bay Funeral Services, Boyce Street, Blenheim
*Please enter through the main doors from the carpark, not
off Boyce Street.*

Meeting Dates

- April 12 David Ayres, Marlborough District Council
- May 10 Commander Larry Robbins, Mercy Ships
- June 14 Tony Orman, Author
- July 12 Birthday Celebrations

Afternoon Tea Roster

- April 12 Memory Lane Music
- May 10 Museum Masterpieces
- June 14 Play Reading 1
- July 12 Birthday Celebrations - Catered

Committee

President	Gwyneth Lowe	578 8878
Vice President/Editor	Helen Hannay	578 1574
Secretary	Paul Stanley	579 2521
Treasurer	Angus Welsh	577 9114
Catering	Jackie Hall	579 3355
Historian	Jacqui Buttle	579 4821
New Members	Lyn Coates	578 5273
Speakers	John Craighead	578 7359
Groups Co-ordinator	Ann Moore	927 3754

Honours Board - Life Members

Doug Stafford, Jacqui Buttle, Charles Riley, Ann MacDonald,
Murray MacDonald, Lindsay Moir.

President's Report

Kia ora

Autumn has swung around again along with another adjustment to daylight saving and what has turned into a prolonged drought! Covid is still lurking at the borders and vaccinations are on the way - it is all go! As I write I am sitting in the sun at Seatoun doing Grandma duty for a few days. A change of scene is a welcome respite from the ravaged garden at home.

Meanwhile there are lots of positives to enjoy - U3A Marlborough continues to flourish with an ongoing increase in membership - we welcome you all but must remind all members that it is important to have subs paid promptly ie as soon after the AGM in October as possible. We are now six months through the financial year and many are still outstanding. Please check your financial status as we will shortly begin contacting those who have unpaid dues.

Courses are going ahead without interruption this year, which is a joy. It has been suggested that small groups could form with just a handful of participants. This would make courses more available as they could be held in smaller venues, ie 5 or 6 members could be comfortably accommodated in most people's lounges. We could perhaps help out with technology advice for those unfamiliar with DVD playing.

Our 20th birthday in July will be celebrated at our lovely Cloudy Bay FS venue and will be catered and served at U3A expense so no-one misses out on participating in the socialising.

There has been lots of positive feedback on our re-locations and it seems to have engendered quite a "light-hearted" atmosphere at our monthly gatherings.

Paul has done a lot of work to streamline the running of this committee and group and asks members to note our new dedicated email address **u3a.marlbrough@gmail.com**

Contributions to the newsletter should be sent to Helen at **hjhannay@slingshot.co.nz**

Thank you for your continued support for Marlborough U3A - it is a pleasure to lead such a positive organisation.

Best wishes to all

Gwyneth

Club Notes




Some subscriptions for the 2020/2021 financial year are now well overdue for payment.



Please check with the Treasurer, Angus Welsh, whether you are one of the late payers, or let him know if there is a problem with making your payment.

**If you wish to pay by direct credit the bank deposit number is:
ANZ 010 598 0033084 01**



Thinking
of you

Our deepest sympathy to members who have lost dear ones during the year.

Get well wishes to all our members who are not feeling well or are in hospital. We hope you will soon be feeling better and back with us again before very long.



If you are driving to the monthly meetings or to any of your groups, please check if anyone you know needs a ride. Some members are struggling to get to meetings because of health or transport difficulties and it would be so kind if you could help (and kinder to the environment of course).



February 2021 Meeting Report

The February meeting saw 111 members fill the seats and enjoying another interesting time. After the usual business Murray McDonald, assisted by Steve Thornton and Pam Taylor, gave a very interesting report on the activities of the Classic Films (2) Group, which has been running since 2006. They all shared some of their personal experiences which related to the films they had watched.

Due to the unavailability of our intended guest speaker, John Craighead, speaker coordinator, filled in with a series of reflections on the changes he has seen over his 81 years. He started by mentioning the first ever 'Mondayisation' of Waitangi Day, and the imminent introduction of a Matariki holiday, going on to the implications of the Matariki star cluster, also known as the Pleiades, the Seven Sisters and Subaru, on agricultural timings in both the N and S Hemispheres. He moved on to hedgerows and so onto transport and the transformation from gravel to sealed roads in most places, then to more personal memories of his home life before digressing onto a wide range of other topics.

He then invited members to volunteer some of their own particular memories, of which the most telling came from Glenda who was teaching 9 year-olds in Dallas and watching JFK's visit on TV with them at lunchtime when he was assassinated. The school was in a fairly right-wing area and apparently many of the children cheered! Although she was cautioned by the Principal not to tell anyone (as was her flatmate who taught at a different school), they passed the story to the press only to find themselves subsequently besieged both by reporters and by angry mobs, so that they needed a police escort out of the city the next day. She said she likes to pretend her accent is Canadian!

Angus Welsh and Gloria Mitchell also regaled us with some of their memories, as did John Craighead's brother-in-law, who had been stationed at Christmas Island with the RAF when the UK was preparing it as a base for conducting their first H-Bomb test some 400 miles to the East.

Another successful and entertaining afternoon!
Paul Stanley, Secretary

March 2021 Meeting Report

Once again a great turnout of our folk (94) attended the March meeting, including a number of new and/or prospective members. It's great to see so many of you at our new premises enjoying the conviviality and companionship of others.

We are fortunate to have access to a wide range of very interesting speakers in our midst and thank them for giving us their time. We are also very keen to hear from our own members - either as a 10 minute speaker or in the half hour slot. Please talk to President Gwyneth or John Craighead if you would like to share your knowledge and experiences with us.



Ten- Minute Speaker: Gavin Kerr reported on sales of his Covid lock-down poetry collection, which has now been through several reprints and has raised \$1,500 for Alzheimer's. He also reminded members of the prevalence of dementia

in NZ (currently about 75,000 and forecast to treble over the next few decades). Gavin then read some of his more recent poems:

- ♥ 'Tip of my Tongue' a light-hearted take on the short-term recall problems we all can identify with
- ♥ 'Enigma – or Hey Riddle Riddle' about how some well-known poets produce beautiful sounds but their meaning is obscure...
- ♥ Variation on Tarantella – using the latter as an inspiration and pattern for his own poem to his late wife
- ♥ 'Catastrophic' – indulging his love for puns by 'punishing' cats.
- ♥ 'Where are you from?' – providing his answer to the often asked question and why he always replies 'Te Wai Pounamu'.

His efforts were well-acclaimed by the membership.

Note: Another of Gavin's poems is on page 8.

Guest Speaker: Jim Jessop gave a history of aquaculture in the Marlborough Sounds, which started following an Act of Parliament in 1972 whereby the Ministry of Fisheries issued licences to potential farms



March 2021 Meeting Report

which were virtually perpetual because of rights of renewal. He became involved in the early 1980s, making a switch from sheep farming just in time for the US FDA to ban the use of mussel extracts as an anti-inflammatory – which had been the mainstay of the industry until then. The industry recovered a few years later and he went on to become Chair of the industry association.

He explained how mussel spat harvested on Ninety Mile Beach, where it blows ashore on very fine seaweed at certain times of year, is used to seed the mussel ropes which are suspended on surface long-lines supported by mussel buoys. It takes 18-24 months for the mussels to reach harvestable size (95 mm).

The long-line backbones each support a single crop-line up to 5,000 m long, which is suspended in loops and extra buoys are added as the mussels grow in size – a single buoy can support 1 tonne of mussels, and he recently harvested 190 tonnes off a total of five long-lines.

Some of the crop is steamed open in the processing factory, the top shell removed and the rest snap-frozen for human consumption as ‘half-shell mussels’, but increasingly the product is used in the production of nutraceuticals – which are approved by the US FDA. Thee product from Marlborough is highly-prized and the name ‘Greenshell Mussel’ has been trade-marked.

Currently there are about 500 mussel farms in the Sounds, generating about \$100m in exports and providing about 3,000 jobs. Jim stated that mussel farming is non-polluting, and other ‘clean’ marine farming activities such as growing seaweed for harvest are also starting up; and added that even salmon farming is less of a problem than is often claimed.

Contributed by Paul Stanley



JAMES COOK CONFRONTS WILLIAM WORDSWORTH ON THE SHORES OF LAKE PUKAKI

"Earth hath not anything to show more fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty"

So wrote William Wordsworth,
Romantic protagonist of nature, finding majesty
In man-made works from Westminster Bridge
In his " beauty of the morning, silent and bare".

Good on you William,
Your lenses are not monocular!

But now, stir yourself, if you can,
From your Abbey pedestal,
Leave your dank St Oswald's grave and join me here,
Sunlit and windless, on Pukaki's shore.
Encased now in Nature's envelope.

Nothing more fair than here, William,
Leave London's cramped morning beauty behind.

Look now!

Across the cobalt waters, Aorangi/Mt Cook,
Set against a cerulean sky, preens its white garments,
Deep shadows of the folds and creases
Bold contrast to the snow's virgin white,
Reversible in the mirroring waters,
Reaching out to stunned onlookers on the
shore:
"Come, join me!"

No erroneously-named cloud-piercer today
In this faultless sky.
Instead, a proclamation of probity:
"I am the ' Cloud of Heaven' ".

What would you think, William,
Confronted with this splendour
As you put it from the bridge:
"All bright and glittering in the smokeless air" ?

You, from the land of skies permanently dulled
By man's hand, seeing now in unaccustomed clarity
Distance at your doorstep.

To use your words, William, this sight
"To me did seem
Apparelled in celestial light
The glory and freshness of a dream".

As you summoned Milton, so do I you.
Surely, "thou shouldst be living at this hour".



Lake Pukaki - Gavin Kerr

Gavin Kerr
March 2021

Course Coordinator's Report

Greetings to you all

We have had a good start to 2021 with several new groups being set up. New topics being covered include The Celtic World, Stories of Mystery and Suspense, Masterpieces of the National Gallery, From Monet to Van Gogh and Winston Churchill. There are good reports back from these groups about the quality and interest they provide.

We were able to purchase these courses simply because they were offered by The Great Courses at a huge discount – probably because Covid-19 has prevented U3A groups around the globe from meeting regularly. We are blessed here in NZ! There could be more coming before the end of the year!

I am also encouraging everyone to study the list of courses still available in the newsletter. It is much more preferable to have these out in U3A groups being watched, listened to and discussed than to just have them sitting around in the cabinet. Small groups of up to six would be a great way of getting them used.

Understanding Genetics has set up as a small group and should be underway shortly. If you have a request please get in touch with me so I can promote it at the general meeting to see if there is interest in setting it up.

Thank you

Ann Moore
Courses Coordinator anncm09@gmail.com



Small Group Study Resources

U3A Marlborough has the following resources for our small groups. The DVD courses are usually seen as a series of lectures which can engender much discussion among members. Some are currently being used but others are available for new groups to start up. If you are interested in any please let our Course Coordinator, Ann Moore, know.

- ◇ 102 Classical Music DVDs
- ◇ European Art History
- ◇ Continents on the Move
- ◇ Foundations of Eastern Civilization
- ◇ Everyday Engineering
- ◇ Geological Wonders
- ◇ Masterpieces of the Imaginative Mind
- ◇ Masterworks of Early 20th Century Literature
- ◇ Maya to Aztec: Ancient Mesoamerica Revealed
- ◇ My Favourite Universe
- ◇ Renaissance Italy
- ◇ The American Civil War
- ◇ The Great ideas of Philosophy
- ◇ The Great Tours - From Athens to Istanbul
- ◇ The Great Tours – England, Scotland, Wales
- ◇ The Iliad – Homer (currently missing - if you know where this is please let Ann know)
- ◇ The Odyssey of Homer
- ◇ The Shakespeare Collection
- ◇ Understanding Genetics
- ◇ Voyage of Charles Darwin
- ◇ The Secrets of Great Mystery and Suspense Fiction
- ◇ How Winston Churchill Changed the World
- ◇ Museum Masterpieces
- ◇ Monet to Van Gogh
- ◇ The Celtic World



Interest Group Happenings

Wine Group 2

After some very hot days the morning of our visit to Marisco dawned cool and cloudy. Phew, a bit of a relief for many of us, I'm sure. A sizeable group of us gathered at the awesome venue where we were met by Dave and Sebastian, two of the Winemakers, who immediately made us most welcome.

Wrapped up for the chilly tour of the winery we entered and were given a run down on the process and some of Marisco history. The modern equipment was most impressive. All the tanks from small to huge are earthquake protected. Lots of the equipment, pipes, hoses etc, is in the ceiling & underground making for a very clean, tidy building.

A surprise to many of us was that Marisco had bought, adjoining Waihopai Valley, "Leefield" and built another winery there. So they have "Leefield" wine range as well as "The Ned", "The King's Series" & "The Craft Series". Many of their Wines are international gold medal winners. All except the Champagne are bottled at Wine Works in Riverlands & Daniel le Brun handles the bubbles!

For the tasting we drove along to the River Cottage--a delightful building, on wheels so that it can be towed away when the Waihopai River floods (which it does occasionally). The weather warmed up so we sat outside at BBQ tables where Seb and Dave gave us the tastings. 2 champagnes and 5 exceptionally good "Leefield" wines. A leisurely picnic followed.

'Marisco' is quite obviously staffed by an extremely happy and enthusiastic team which flowed through the whole booking, presentation and delivery. A gem! Quality wines & brilliant hosts! What more could you ask for? Members took advantage of the opportunity and discounted prices and stocked up on their favourites. This tasting will be hard to beat.

Juliet Kirke

The photo shows us in the barrel room with a magnificent Amphora, from Florence, on the right.



Interest Group Happenings

Armchair Travel

The Armchair Travel Group will continue this year but with shared responsibility for our monthly topic or speaker. We are confident this will prove to be an interesting year with a wide variety of topics covered.

This month each member contributed a short description of a man-made creation that they were impressed and or inspired by.

We started off the gathering with Ann marvelling at the scale and detail of the Terracotta Army, created over 2000 years ago but discovered only 50 years ago.



Rosemary described the wonders of the Amber Room at St Catherine's Palace near St Petersburg, followed by Paula who was awed by the Christ the Redeemer Statue in Rio de Janeiro and she later showed us a short video of the workmen repairing

the lightening conductors on the outstretched arms. These men were walking along with only a harness to save them from falling - no scaffolding to be seen anywhere!



St Chappelle near Notre Dame with its 17 metre high walls of stained glass windows blew Gavin Bayliss's mind and he felt they outclassed Notre Dame but were not anywhere as well known.



Thomas Telford's 1000ft long aqueduct in North Wales on its slender stone piers and carefully calibrated fall, 1 inch to the mile, impressed Russell greatly.



Interest Group Happenings



Gavin Kerr marvelled at the engineering feats involved in the construction of the Khyber Pass road and railway in such remote and challenging terrain and the challenging trip he and Liz took



while living in Pakistan - it was on his bucket list of things to do.

John was impressed by the Museum of London in the Barbican and Mary marvelled at the grace of an oak clinker built ship in the Viking Museum in Oslo. This led to a further discussion of other great ships we had seen on our travels.



Jill shared her enjoyment of the beautiful gardens at Sissinghurst and Murray described some of the aesthetic and technical features of the elegant wind turbines

seen around the world.



Stella kept us grounded with a reminder of the very clever and effective 'Benghazi Boiler', otherwise known as the Thermette, invented in 1929 by a New Zealander, and put to good use by NZ troops during the war years.

Helen finished off by talking about the beauty of the paintings she had seen during her travels in many parts of the world and the enjoyment of hearing unexpected concerts, organ recitals, singing and dance in various countries.

What an amazing roundup of 'treasures' and a great way to start our 2021 gatherings. Our next speaker will be fellow U3A member Sari Lewis who has spent time working and trekking in Nepal.

Ann MacDonald

Interest Group Happenings

Watercolour Painting

I've lost count of the number of years this group has been operating, along, at times, with a beginners group but it is well into its teens by now.

Of course, membership has changed but most of the present group have been attending for quite a few years. Recent newcomers have learned quickly and are progressing well, and it is in some ways a pity that space won't accommodate more than the present seven.

Since we have moved recently from issuing instruction guides for each project, instead now doing more primary analysis of the task ahead combined with demonstrations, members are forging ahead rapidly and moving more into their own interpretations of what is in front of them. This has included a variety of subjects from landscapes to portraits to still life.

Some now are also attending more professional workshops when time and availability permit and it is good to see some now exhibiting their work in the Marlborough Art Society exhibitions.

We meet basically every first and third Monday morning but have varied this in 2021 to most Mondays to make up time while the tutor selfishly takes off away from Blenheim, taking time out to attend to personal matters while he can.

We have a few simple housekeeping rules that the group follows. This makes for a successful and happy tutor and bunch of artists! These include:

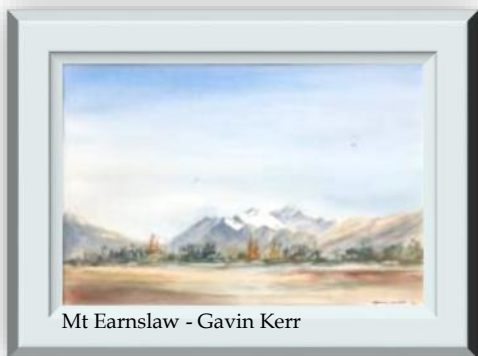
- ♥ A request to please let Gavin know in advance if you are unable to attend. He usually arranges the "studio" on Sunday evening, so any time before then is good.
- ♥ If you do not have certain equipment, you are welcome to borrow from Gavin's stock - but not take away!!
- ♥ A small voluntary contribution of at least \$2 a class is asked for to cover incidental costs. That is over to members and no check is made! A container is on the table for this.

Interest Group Happenings

- ♥ We have a voluntary roster – usually decided mutually for the next session - to provide the eats for morning/afternoon tea each session. Keeping it simple – it's not a competition! Tea/ coffee etc are part of our \$2 contribution.
- ♥ In winter, although the area is insulated, it can get a bit cool in the “studio” so members are advised to be prepared to rug up if necessary. If it is too cold we may have instructional DVDs or other indoor instruction.
- ♥ We are unlikely to have a tsunami here but in case of earthquake or fire we will gather outside, on the parking area.

Gavin Kerr, Tutor

*The Master at Work -
this is how it's done!*



Mt Earnslaw - Gavin Kerr



Class comments:

We are a light-hearted happy group soaking up Gavin's teachings, and hopefully improving. He has extracted skills in watercolour that we didn't know we had. Here's to 1st and 3rd Mondays. *Jean*

Rainy Days - Helen

I think U3A Blenheim is very fortunate to have the talents of watercolour artist Gavin Kerr. I, along with several members, have been tutored by Gavin over several years, even back as far as when we used to drive down to Brookby Road every second Monday. A very icy road it was in the winter but we were all there, so keen to learn even in Gavin's draughty garage. The heater provided could not compete with the draughts and it was first in to get the warmest position. Fortunately he now has a lovely new house and we are spoilt with a very warm



Sun's Out

Interest Group Happenings

garage. We take turns at providing morning tea, and discuss each other's painting efforts over coffee.

Evelyn

I love Monday painting classes - a great way to clear the mind and focus on (trying) to create a masterpiece - one day maybe!! Sometimes what I think is a disaster turns out okay on reflection! Even though we all are painting the same picture it's amazing how different they all are in the end.

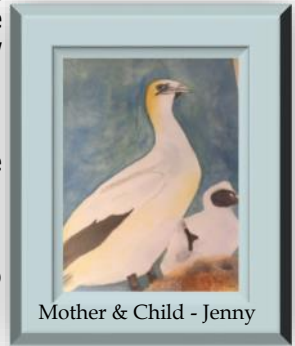
Helen

Gavin's painting sessions are very informative and enjoyable to attend, I do enjoy them.

Yvonne

Watercolour painting classes with Gavin are so enjoyable and fun.

Jenny



Mother & Child - Jenny



Sailing Away - Jean



Mediterranean Port - Helen



Vernon Bluffs - Yvonne



Down by the Lake - Evelyn

Interest Groups and Contacts

Please get in touch with the listed Group Contact Person if you are interested in joining any of the following groups - they will advise you of any vacancies.

Armchair Travel: 4th Friday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is Wendy Cannan, 027 348 3283.

Books and Authors Group 1: 2nd Thursday of each month.
Contact is Jackie Hall, 579 3355.

Book and Authors Group 2: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is Wendy Cass, 578 9144. **Vacancies**

Card Making: 1st Thursday of the month at 10.00am.
Contact is Gloria Mitchell, 577 7833. **Vacancies**

Classic Films Group 1: 1st Thursday of each month at 2.00pm.
Contact is Bruce Dale, 578 9672.

Classic Films Group 2: 3rd Thursday of each month at 1.30pm.
Contact is Murray MacDonald, 579 4844. **Vacancies**

Classical Music: 1st Monday of each month, at 10 a.m.
Contact is Ann Moore, 9273754. **Vacancies**

Current Issues: 1st Tuesday of each month at 9.45am.
Contact is Lindsay Moir, 578 5262.

Documentary Films: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is Lindsay Moir, 578 5262. **Vacancies**

From Monet to Van Gogh: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2 pm.
Contact is Marilyn Cowe, 022 648 8692.

Garden Group: 1st Friday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is Jan Richardson 578 0989.

Great Tours - England, Scotland & Wales: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2pm.
Contact is Gill Buttle, 578 4821.

Interest Groups and Contacts

Great Ideas of Philosophy: 4th Thursday of each month at 2.p.m.
Contact is Paul Stanley, 579 2521. **Vacancies**

History: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm.
Contact is Margaret Fairhall, 578 2507.

Life Writing: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm.
Contact is Lis Davys, 579 3167.

Luncheon Plus: 2nd Thursday of each month at 11.30am.
Contact is Rhondda Tannock, 579 4916.

Mah-jong Group: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 2.00pm.
Contact is Evan Wood, 578 2093, evin42@hotmail.com

Marlborough History: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10.00am.
In Recess - a new Coordinator is required please.

Memory Lane Music: Last Thursday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is John Best, 578 0595.

Museum Masterpieces: 3rd Monday of each month at 2pm.
Contact is Wendy Cannan, 579 4946.

Play Reading Group 1: 4th Monday of each month at 9.30am.
Contact is Margaret Jarman, 578 8805.

Play Reading Group 2: 4th Tuesday of each month at 9.30am.
Contact is Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.

Poetry Appreciation: 2nd Friday of each month at 2.00pm.
Contact is Lyndsay Moir, 578 5262.

Photography: 1st Monday of each month at 1.30pm.
Contact is Charles Riley, 578 0109.

Scrabble One: 1st Monday of each month at 2.00pm.
Contact is Pam Taylor, 578 8816.

Interest Groups and Contacts

Scrabble Two: 3rd Thursday of each month at 1.30pm.
Contact is Lorraine Jensen, 027 365 862.

Secrets of Great Mystery and Suspense: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10 am.
Contact is Jenni Walker 021 133 0582.

Shakespeare: 3rd Thursday of each month at 1.30pm.
Contact is Charles Riley, 578 0109.

The Celtic World: 1st Thursday of each month at 2pm.
Contact is Gloria Mitchell 577 7833.

The Odyssey: 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is Helen Hannay, 578 1574.

Ukulele: 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 10.00am.
Contact is Neville Lawson, 021 480 073.

Water Colour Painting: 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 9.30am.
Contact is Gavin Kerr, 572 7238.

Wine Appreciation 1: 3rd Friday of the month, usually at 11am.
Contact is Murray MacDonald, 579 4844. **Vacancies**

Wine Appreciation 2: Last Friday of each month at 11.30am.
Contact is Juliet Kirke, 578 0692.

Winston Churchill: 3rd Friday of each month at 10am.
Contact is Ann Moore 927 3754.

Writing for Grandchildren: 1st and 3rd Mondays at 9.45am.
Contact is Gladys Sloss, 578 3191.

Return Address:

8a Purkiss Street
Springlands
Blenheim 7201



