



The Illustration at the top of the page is "The Arts Centre" Christchurch. From a Print by New Zealand Artist, Lawrence Leitch.

WELCOME TO THE FOURTH NEWSLETTER FOR 2023

Following on from an excellent series of lectures on Non-Profit Institutions in Christchurch the next series is a Pot-Pourri.

Series Four commences on July 21st 2023 and continues weekly on consecutive Fridays until 18th August.

21 July	Kate Russell - "Hagar International – Stopping slavery; Healing and Empowering Survivors"
28 July	Eric Livingstone - "The Life of Rewi Alley – Extraordinary Ordinary New Zealander"
4 August	Gavin Bishop - "Stories behind the stories"
11 August	Dr Colin Meurk - Stand Up for 'Sky Song City' of the Super South
18 August	Byron Clark – "How the 'alternative right' took hold in New Zealand".

As always lectures commence at **10:30 am** at **St Mark's Church (150 Withells Road)** and are preceded by morning tea.

Notes on Lectures and Speakers' backgrounds

Kate Russell ONZM, FFINZ, MCANZ

Hagar International – Stopping slavery; Healing and Empowering Survivors

With more than 50 million people enslaved today, more than at any other time in history, organisations such as Hagar International are rescuing and helping survivors to heal, whilst working alongside other organisations to prevent slavery and human trafficking throughout South East Asia and the Pacific.

Kate Russell has worked in the not for profit sector since 1995, leading several well-known NZ charities as well as being on the boards of governance for several more. Having served on several government health advisory committees and mentoring dozens of charities toward better governance through Business Mentors NZ, Kate was awarded a fellowship of the Fundraising Institute of NZ in 2010 and an ONZM in 2016 for services to health and governance. In her spare time, Kate is a marriage celebrant, mother of three and Nana to four wonderful little boys.

Eric Livingstone

Rewi Alley – Extraordinary Ordinary New Zealander

- What were the values that Rewi followed and the impact that his war experience had on him?
- What were his major achievements in China that most of us know about?
- What could have been his greatest work that we know little of and he refused to talk about?
- Why are there over thirty memorials to him in China with five more created in recent years?
- Why did a British Bishop say "I have met a saint"; a British academic say "He is amongst my list of immortals"; and David Lange say "New Zealand's greatest son"?

Chairperson

Wallace Woodley
Phone 358 4209
Email
wallace.woodley@gmail.com

Secretary

Pip Voller
Phone 021 257 6931
Email
pip.voller@gmail.com

Treasurer

Clyde Phillips
Phone 322 8849
Email
ctam@xtra.co.nz

Membership

Email
artscentre.u3a@gmail.com

Eric Livingstone

Retired Business Coach and Company Director
Past National President New Zealand China Friendship Society & Life Member
Past Chair Christchurch Gansu Sister City Committee
Chair Rewi Alley 2017 Anniversary Commemorations Committee
Advisory Patron Rewi Alley Foundation of New Zealand
Visited China 17 times on trade, leading delegations and tours

Gavin Bishop ONZM

Stories Behind the Stories

He will look at how his surroundings and his family stories affect his stories.

Gavin Bishop has published 70 books that have been translated into twelve languages. He has won Best NZ Children's Book of the Year five times and Best Illustrated Children's Book of the Year five times. Most recently he was awarded the **TE TOHU A TA KINGI IHAKA** for a lifetime contribution to Maori Art and culture and **The Prime Minister's Award** for Literacy Achievement.

Dr Colin Meurk ONZM

Stand Up for 'Sky Song City' of the Super South

We have dithered for too long – watching our naturally, culturally, and creatively diverse village be hollowed out by media, earthquakes, attacks on our cherished people, covid, AND the diversion of government investment to the north. I have a vision - to turn this around ... link arms with iwi and councils across Te Wai Pounamu; celebrate our nature - as rich as national parks; provide eco-sanctuaries to re-engage and wonder at our lost iconic wildlife; make NZ's first urban great walk the flagship for our people's health and slow tourism; embrace our cultural kindness; more art, music and dancing in the parks; be a hub of futures innovation; bring head offices to the south and commuter rail from Amberley to Ashburton; co-designing it all through citizen assemblies. That should do it!

Dr Colin Meurk, at Manaaki Whenua, Canterbury and Lincoln Universities, has theoretical and participant interests in biogeography, ecological restoration and design, landscape function, urban ecology and biophilia, subantarctic islands, conservation biology, citizen science (<https://inaturalist.nz>), people-nature connectivity, and 'futures' solutions (<http://ewea.org.nz/lectures.php>). Colin is on numerous councils, trusts, advisory and steering groups (ECan Biosecurity), for urban great walks, eco-literacy, teaching and student liaison. He has received a Christchurch Civic Award, Loder Cup, Ecology in Action Award (NZ Ecological Society), Golden Foot Award ([Christchurch 360 Degree Trail](#)), supreme Horticultural Design award (2012 Ellerslie International Flower Show), and most recently an ONZM.

Byron Clark

How the 'alternative right' took hold in New Zealand

Byron C Clark is a journalist specialising in New Zealand's far-right and conspiracy theorist movements. His book 'Fear: New Zealand's Hostile Underworld of Extremists' looks at the organisations and social media influencers that fed into the protest that occupied parliament grounds for three weeks in 2022.

This presentation will cover how the 'alternative right' took hold in New Zealand, the role of social media in spreading disinformation, the key groups and individuals, and what the future might hold in a new 'post-truth' era of politics.

Further information can be found in the February Stuff article at the following link.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/131220544/conspiracies-and-the-climate-of-fear-researcher-byron-c-clark-on-the-altright>