



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 THIRD NEWSLETTER FOR 2024

Following our successful lecture series on Cultural Icons of Christchurch, we can now confirm details of our third series of lectures on "**The Criminal Justice System**".

24 May - The Criminal Mind

Oliver Ploeg is currently completing a PhD in forensic psychology and training to become a Clinical Psychologist at the University of Canterbury. Through collaboration with the New Zealand Police, he has been researching violent crime in order to better understand how these events unfold. Outside of academia, Oliver serves as an interviewer and report writer for sentencing judges in criminal cases, drawing upon his expertise in psychology and criminology to identify the underlying drivers behind each offender's actions, contributing to informed and just legal outcomes.

31 May - The Police Service

Detective Sergeant Michael Freeman has been in the NZ Police for 31 years and currently manages the Christchurch Fraud Squad and has worked in a number of areas of Policing but predominantly in the CIB. He is married to Jo who is a learning support Teacher and has two adult children.

7 June – The Prison System

Claire Walls, Superintendent of Christchurch Womens' Prison will talk about the prison service.

14 June – Youth Justice System

Keith Allen is Service Manager Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Department of Corrections. He has studied Psychology at Massey University where he completed a BSc in Psychology/Sport and Exercise Science. Over the last 14 years he has held senior positions with Corrections in Rotorua, Kawerau and Christchurch. He currently acts as Youth Champion and Advocate for appropriate responses to youth offending. Keith will talk about pathways for young offenders

21 June – Prisoner Aid and Reintegration Service (PARS)

Three members of the PARS team will talk about pathways for life after prison.

Olwyn Palmer is a member of The Board of PARS and has been associated with the organisation for over 20 years in various capacities, mainly as a volunteer. On her retirement from paid work she wanted to be involved in voluntary work which would be both interesting and rewarding, and this has certainly been the case.

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Aimee Leefe is the Manager of PARS and has been working for the organisation for over 9 years. In 2015, Section 501 of Australia's Migration Act 1958 was amended to provide for the cancellation or refusal of the visa of any migrant who fails a "good character" test, thus resulting in an influx of '501' Deportees beginning to arrive in New Zealand as Aimee began her employment with PARS. She has strong views on this policy.

Melinda Stevenson has been a support worker at PARS for nearly 4 years...she loves her job and says it's the most challenging, fulfilling work she's ever done. PARS has been a good fit, given Melinda's lifelong interest in social justice and involvement in practically supporting and advocating for some of society's most vulnerable over the last 35 years internationally and here at home, in both paid and voluntary capacities.

Thanks

Thanks to Wendy Gallagher for organising this series.

Next series

Course 4 will commence on July 4. This will be a pot-pourri of interesting topics.

Further details about this course will be in the next Newsletter