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WELCOME TO THE FIFTH NEWSLETTER FOR 2024

Following our successful pot-pourri lecture series, we can now confirm details of our fifth series of lectures titled "Truth and Lies in an Age of Misinformation". This is a highly topical issue and we have gathered a group of speakers with international experience who have regularly appeared on TV and radio on this and related topics. We also have details of our annual bus trip.

Course 2024-5 Truth and Lies in an Age of Misinformation

August 30 Byron Clark - Case studies in disinformation: the UN Migration Compact and methane emissions.

September 6 Stephen Judd - Disinformation in Aotearoa, the groups, the influencers, and the platforms they use

September 13 Sarah Barasch - 'Hate in the States' looking at how hateful ideologies have risen to prominence in the US in recent years

September 20 - Anke Richter - Psychology of fringe ideas, how and why people are drawn into cults or cult like movements

September 27 Sarah Barasch - Countering fringe ideas: hate speech is not an unstoppable force, and there are many techniques for stemming its spread. We'll discuss a variety of real world examples and strategies, both here and abroad, that can help you feel prepared to confront extremism in your own life and in your home communities.

Speaker Bios

Byron Clark is the author of 'Fear: New Zealand's Hostile Underworld of Extremists' published last year. 'Fear' looks at the growth of the far-right in New Zealand that contributed to the occupation of parliament grounds in 2022. He is currently researching climate change disinformation in alternative media, with a particular focus on 'Reality Check Radio'.

Stephen Judd is spokesperson for FACT Aotearoa, and has been immersed in the local conspiracy theory scene for several years as a result. An IT professional, he has been a commentator on matters of public interest such as online voting, and recently contributed a chapter on the case for and against online voting to the BWB book 'Shouting Zeroes and Ones'.

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Sarah Barasch was a community organiser in the American Midwest. Her biggest area of activism for the past many years has been as a “people’s historian” of the Ferguson uprising that began in 2014 and spurred the Black Lives Matter movement. She has also spent time in Palestine/Israel as a journalist and solidarity volunteer and was an early leader of the IfNotNow movement.

Anke Richter is an international journalist originally from Germany and now living in Lyttelton. Her work has been published in New Zealand Geographic, North & South, The Spinoff, Canvas, Die Zeit, Der Spiegel, FAZ, taz, and others. She is the author of CULT TRIP. a co-founder of FACT Aotearoa. She is now organising ‘DECULT 2024’ the first cult conference in New Zealand.

Course organised by **Merv Altmments** and **Clyde Phillips**

October 18 - Bus Trip to Kate Valley

The bus trip this year will be to Kate Valley, near Waipara, where the city’s refuse goes to be buried. We have attached an information sheet to this Newsletter for your perusal.

Following the visit we will stop at the Nor’ Wester Café in Amberley where you will be able to purchase cabinet food or a full meal.

The cost, which only covers the bus costs, is \$20.00 per head. **NOTE** This does not cover the refreshments and food at the café which will be at your own expense.

As previously, you are free to bring a partner or friend with you if you wish. The attendance sheets for Course 5 will include a column for you to note your interest. Just note how many will be attending and then settle the amount to be paid with our treasurer, Clyde Phillips either online or in person.

Payment online will be to our Arts Centre U3A bank account **06-0996-0091423-00**

Please ensure that in the reference field you note your **name** together with the reference **U3A Bus Trip**.

Organised by **Pip Voller**.

Next series

Course 6 which will be a pot-pourri will commence on October 25 with our **AGM** being on November 22. Details will follow in the next Newsletter.

29 November - End of Year Lunch

This will be, as last year, at **Merrin Street Brewer Bar** which is in the Avonhead Mall. The attendance sheets for Course 6 will include a column for you to register your interest. Just note how many will be attending so we can advise the café as to how many places we need to have set aside for us.



Kate Valley Landfill Tour Information

Visits to the landfill by community groups are popular and a booking system is used to manage these site visits.

WM does not operate its own bus service or individual tours. Groups are required to arrange their own bus or van transport. A tour of the landfill by bus enables the closest views of the operations whilst maximising everyone's safety in our busy environment. Tours by private vehicle (car) are not permitted.

The WM tour guide will meet your bus at the Administration Building between 9.30 and 11.30 am (or an alternative time by arrangement). Please put your headlights on when turning onto the Private Road and follow the signs to the Administration Building.

There are limited toilet facilities available, so it is suggested you make a stop in Amberley or Waikari to use the public facilities there.

For groups of up to 25 people, the programme commences with a power point presentation in the Administration building and is followed by a bus tour of the landfill.

For groups larger than 25 people, the programme consists of the bus tour of the landfill only. Due to the design of our buildings and our Health & Safety requirements, we are unable to accommodate larger groups inside at our facility.

This tour is well worth doing and very informative, the activity at the landfill is all seen from the bus and our guide is happy to answer questions and explain processes whilst on the bus.

We reserve the right to postpone the tour in the event of poor weather (e.g. fog), or operational requirements, this does not happen often.

You may also like to visit the native forest restoration and conservation area called Tiromoana Bush, just down the valley from the Landfill. Most groups really enjoy the Tiromoana Bush overview - there is a short 10-minute walk to Barbara's Lookout, which requires participants to be physically mobile. The walkways travel through grassland, regenerating forest and wetland with sweeping views over the valley and coastline. Walking the complete track takes a good 3.5 to 4 hours, though with 3 lookouts, 3 picnic areas and the beach, walkers can spend more time enjoying their visit to Tiromoana Bush. This walkway may be closed due to current fire danger ratings – please check before planning to do the walk.

I am sure we will be able to provide you with an enjoyable and rewarding site visit.

Please direct all enquiries to Mel Witbrock or Sally Thomson

Email landfill@wm.nz

Phone 03 359 1800