



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 SIXTH NEWSLETTER FOR 2024

Following an excellent series of lectures titled "Truth and Lies in an Age of Misinformation" the final series for the year beginning on October 18, will commence with a bus trip to Kate Valley Landfill as detailed in our last Newsletter. This will be followed by 4 lectures, the AGM and the End of Year luncheon. Details follow below.

With the exception of 22 November when the lecture will be preceded by our AGM, lectures commence at 10:30 am and are preceded by morning tea. Location of all lectures is at Rārākau Riccarton Centre at 199 Clarence Street

Please note that the Bus Tour is now full.

18 October

Bus tour to Kate Valley Landfill in Waipara.

The bus trip this year will be to Kate Valley, near Waipara, where the city's refuse goes to be buried.

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 bus departs at 10am from Burnside Park, 342 Avonhead Road – please arrive by 9.45am.

25 October

David Hodgson - "Beyond the Farm Gate"

This lecture looks at the rise of the New Zealand freezing works industry in the late 19th century following the advent of refrigeration. What processes are there? How has the product been shipped to market? What has caused freezing works closures in recent decades?

David was born and bred in Christchurch. He gained a degree at Canterbury University in the mid-1970's, majoring in History. David has been a secondary school teacher for 40 years, mostly at Kaiapoi High School, teaching mainly History, Social Studies and English. He worked for an educational tour company in England in the mid-1980's. This involved predominantly historical, but also literary and cathedral tours around Britain.

1 November

John Rogers - "The Antarctic Treaty"

The Antarctic Treaty and related agreements, collectively known as the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS), regulate international relations with respect to Antarctica, Earth's only continent without a native human population. It was the first arms control agreement established during the Cold War, designating the continent as a scientific preserve, establishing freedom of scientific investigation, and banning military activity; for the purposes of the treaty system, Antarctica is defined as all the land and ice shelves south of 60°S latitude..

John Rogers brief bio

History came early to John as his home town of Concord, Massachusetts is famous as the site of the first battle of the American Revolution and much early American literary culture.

John has travelled to every continent – the final one being Antarctica in 2001 as a passenger and then for several seasons as a guide. Along the way John has managed several trips north of the Arctic Circle backpacking, river rafting and exploring in Alaska,

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Norway and Iceland.

John's approach to the history is to concentrate on the stories of the places and people who inhabit and have explored to the extremes of the earth. Polar history is filled with remarkable stories of adventures, perseverance, triumph and defeat. He encourages anyone on this voyage with specialised knowledge, or with a family connection, to help others share in this fantastic legacy.

8 November

Ben Harris – “Who Are We? Our Microbiome”

Ben has been a Medical Microbiology Scientist for over 40 years, based in Christchurch, NZ. He lectures for University of Otago and operates a NZ Infection Prevention Control Consultancy. Ben has had an extensive career in the Medical Microbiology field. He gives many presentations nationally and internationally to multidisciplinary specialty conferences, seminars, as well as to community groups, GP's, specialists, rest homes, PHOs NZ wide via video link and Mobile Health, MOH, Pharmac, private and public hospitals, multidisciplinary specialty conferences, dental association, etc. His primary focus, fascination and passion is in Medical Microbiology including antibiotics, our microbiome and its relationship to health outcomes, Infection Prevention and Control education – helping prevent (e.g. education, vaccination, transmission cessation approaches), and when too late, managing infections, outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics – past and future.

15 November

Canterbury Anniversary Day

No meeting this week.

22 November

10:00 am Annual General Meeting of Arts Centre U3A

The Agenda for this meeting together with the Minutes of last year's AGM (which were sent out with the Final Newsletter for 2022) are attached.

Please note earlier start time for the AGM

10:30 am Judith Coullie - “Ethics of Memory”

When is remembering or forgetting right or wrong?

Memory is fundamental to the identity of both the collective and of the individual. In this lecture, we consider socially sanctioned and individual memory practices, and how we decide what should be remembered and what should be forgotten.

Judith obtained her MA in English literature from Syracuse University (USA) and PhD from the University of Natal (South Africa). For her doctorate, she studied the autobiographies of South Africans across racial, class and gender categories published during the apartheid period (1948-1994). Before immigrating to New Zealand, she was Professor of English at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. For nine years, she worked as a learning advisor at the University of Canterbury. She has published several chapters in books, and articles in academic journals. Her book publications include a compilation of South African women's life writing (*The Closest of Strangers*, 2004); an edited collection of critical essays on Breyten Breytenbach (2004); a CD on the poet Roy Campbell (2004); interviews on southern African auto/biography (2006); and the memoirs of Roy Campbell's daughters (2011). She also co-edited *Antjie Krog: An Ethics of Body and Otherness* (2014).

29 November

End of Year Lunch at 12 noon

Venue – Merrin Street Brewery Bar at 210 Withells Road: Shop 4/5 in Avonhead Mall.

Please register your attendance in the register by the last meeting of the series by noting the number who will be coming to the lunch.

Special thanks to Pip Voller, Wendy Gallagher, Merv Altmants and Sandra Lamont for organising this programme



**Agenda for U3A Arts Centre Annual General Meeting
held on 22 November, 2024**

Welcome

Apologies

Minutes of previous AGM (10 November, 2023)

Business Arising

Chair's Report

Treasurer's Report

Election of officers and Committee

General Business

Minutes of U3A Arts Centre AGM, 10th November 2023, 10.30am.

Welcome Wallace Woodley welcomed us to the meeting.

Apologies Susan McDonald, Peter & Lynne Williams, Jan Wikaira, Don McNickle, Jane Symonds.

Minutes of the last AGM These were taken as read and confirmed. Merv/Wendy.

Chairperson's Report Wallace presented a full report (enclosed), covering the lectures and activities for the year, and also thanked the committee for their contributions. He also brought to our attention that in spite of having visitor guests paying for individual courses, the increasing costs of maintaining our schedule such as building hire, speaker's fees, etc, the committee has determined that some hard decisions will need to be made as we move forward. He reported that under General Business today we will be discussing a possible change of meeting venue for next year or a large increase in our subscription fee. The treasurer, Clyde, will also discuss this further today. Wallace/Clyde.

Treasurer's Report Clyde presented the financial report (enclosed). As mentioned in the Chairperson's report, Clyde explained that at this stage we can't rely on our reserves any longer. This was shown on the data projector (also enclosed in a printed version). He reported that we have to make a decision whether to stay in the present location and raise the sub to \$120 or find a new venue where we could keep the sub at \$90 a year. Also some speakers are asking a higher fee now. It was mentioned that there are at least 5 other U3A groups in this vicinity and perhaps we should change our venue to another area. Clyde/Jenny.

General Business

Research into possible new venue

As discussed in both the Chairperson's report and the Treasurer's report, research needed to be made into the possibility of shifting to a new venue. Wendy Gallagher has very kindly put a lot of time and energy into doing this. Earlier in the week she arranged a meeting for the committee to inspect the Kahikitea Room at the Riccarton Community Centre, 199 Clarence Street.

The facilities available include stackable seats, projector, wide screen, full kitchen services, and ample nearby free parking. The charge would be \$32 per hour (no extra charge for the kitchen) and a smaller room would be available at \$16 for committee meetings (if required). The venue is currently unreserved on Friday mornings next year. We would need to bring to each meeting materials such as refreshment items and our banner. The building is only about 6 months old and includes high technology so we would not need to bring a data projector, etc.

Our subscription fee could remain the same, or be adjusted slightly, depending on the number of members opting to transfer, but the catchment area is wide and there is no apparent competition with other U3As nearby. New members may be attracted to this venue which is also on a bus route and close to Riccarton Mall.

After discussion, it was moved that we arrange to shift to the Riccarton Community Centre after completing the necessary application procedure. Again Wendy has agreed to do this. Wallace thanked Wendy for all the work she has put into this. It was a *unanimous* decision. Lorraine Walker/David Chilvers.

Election of Officers and Committee

After several years of skilled leadership Wallace has decided to stand down from being Chairperson. He was thanked for all his work and the committee decided to present him with Life Membership. Teresa has decided to stand down also. She was thanked for her long service to the committee and her work on the Welcome Desk.

The 2024 Officers and committee are as follows:

Chairperson Wendy Gallagher

Deputy Chairperson Merv Altmments

Secretary Pip Voller

Treasurer Clyde Phillips

Committee Annette Byers, Sandra Lamont, Jenny Tait, Peter Williams, Wallace Woodley.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.30am.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

With pleasure I present my sixth U3A Arts Centre Annual Report, this time covering the activities since the last Annual General Meeting in 2022.

We concluded the year, as usual, with our End-of-Year Lunch at Monteith's Bar, Avonhead Mall.

Our regular pattern of Friday morning weekly meetings resumed in mid-February, enjoying the cosy atmosphere of this Main Lounge. Unlike the previous year, our schedule was uninterrupted, apart from a small hiccup in September when our appointed speaker succumbed to the Covid virus and we needed to tweak our intended programme.

Our First Course of five talks (February-March) was presented by Frieda Looser, a regular lecturer here. Her topic was 'Slavery, Black Lives Matter and Human Rights'.

Course Two's title (April-May) was 'Pacific Past, Present and Future' and lecturers were Professor Steven Ratuva (generously, on three occasions), Dr Sam Hampton and Dr Madi Williams.

The Third Course (throughout June) was centred on 'Christchurch Voluntary Welfare Organisations'. We heard from Greta Bond, representing Age Concern Canterbury; our committee member, Wendy Gallagher, speaking about Lifeline; John Milligan from the Christchurch Food Bank; Michael Toothill of Kilmarnock Enterprises; and Corinne Haines from Christchurch City Mission.

Course Four (July-August) was a Pot Pourri of different topics. Kate Russell shared details of 'Hagar International – Stopping Slavery; Healing and Empowering Survivors'. Eric Livingstone spoke about 'The Life of Rewi Alley – Extraordinary New Zealander'. Gavin Bishop, children's author, told us of his 'Stories behind the stories'. Dr Colin Meurk's subject was 'Stand Up for “Sky Song City” of the Super South'; and Byron Clark canvassed modern conspiracy theories and 'How the 'alternative right' took hold in New Zealand'.

At the start of Course Five, due to the involuntary absence of our next popular and frequent lecturer, Dr Judith Coullie, and a fortnight before her talks eventually began in mid-September, we shared a BBC video documentary entitled 'The Untold Story of Jane Austen – Behind Closed Doors'. Subsequently, Dr Judith presented a series of five lectures entitled 'Re-reading Jane Austen' comprising an Introduction and week-by-week examination of the novels, *Northanger Abbey*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma* and *Persuasion*.

Our annual Bus Tour took place on Friday 20 October. Led by Dr Colin Meurk and Dr Sam Hampton, each of whom had earlier in the year presented a talk on their scholarly interest, the outing was a six-hour Landscape and Ecology field trip titled '360 Trail, The National Park City and Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Geopark'. 35 members enjoyed visiting numerous points around the city including Curletts Detention Basin, Sugarloaf Reserve, Pony Point (above Cass Bay), Lyttelton (for lunch), McCormacks Bay, and Travis Wetland. At the various stops our guest leaders explained the significance of each place in the vast and sometimes quite ancient geological and botanical history of the region.

Course Six, an abbreviated Pot Pourri series (October-November), began with a talk about 'The Regeneration of the Ōtākaro River Corridor' [Christchurch's Earthquake Red Zone] presented by Hayley Guglietta, Manager of the Avon Ōtākaro Network. The next speaker was Lily Purdon of Sports Canterbury who encouraged us to consider 'The Importance of Strength and Balance' in avoiding falls, and, following today's Annual General Meeting, Sniedze Plesovs will share with us, through videos, the experiences that she and 40,000 others had while attending the 'XXVII

Nationwide Latvian Song and XVII Dance Festival', a five-yearly event.

Next Friday is Canterbury Anniversary Day, a one-week gap before we complete our year's programme with the End-of-Year Lunch to be held again at Monteith's Brewery Bar in Avonhead Mall starting at 12 noon.

In summary, we will have enjoyed 31 presentations throughout 2023 by 20 lecturers, pretty good value for this year's \$90 subscription.

Unfortunately, for historical reasons, we are probably the smallest U3A, and though we have benefited to some extent from the financial advantage of having a few guests from other U3As join us for some sessions, because of the increasing costs of maintaining our schedule – building hire costs, speakers' fees, etc – your committee has determined that some hard decisions will need to be made as we move forward into the future. Under General Business today we shall be discussing a possible change of meeting venue for next year, or a necessarily large increase in our subscription fee. (Our Treasurer will speak more to that in due course.)

We are all truly grateful to the members of the committee who have met formally six times and served us so well during the past year. Specially warm acknowledgement is given to Merv (Altmonts), Deputy Chairman, for all his labours on our behalf, including the preparation and publishing of the Newsletters that have informed us of vital information connected with our scheduled weekly meetings, the various speakers and their topics. Thank you, Clyde (Phillips), our very able Treasurer, for keeping watch over our financial situation; thank you, Pip (Voller), our Secretary, for all your work; warm thanks to Sandra (Lamont) and Annette (Byers) for your weekly preparation and serving of morning refreshments; many thanks, Teresa (Macintyre) for hosting the Welcome Table and overseeing the weekly attendance register; and thank you, Jenny (Tait), Wendy (Gallagher) and Peter (Williams) for assisting with all other matters required to keep our U3A ticking along. Warm thanks to all committee members who have organised topics and speakers during the past twelve months, and a special 'thank you' to those committee men who have skilfully organised the preliminary setting up of electronic equipment required for our meetings.

On your behalf, Merv (Altmonts) and I have attended the quarterly committee meetings of the U3A Network Canterbury, which comprises 18 separate groups stretching from Timaru to Rangiora. (Four of these U3As meet on different days here at St Mark's Church.) A helpful benefit of this collaboration is gaining information about suitable speakers and the topics that have appealed to other groups.

We express our appreciation to St Mark's Presbyterian Church for the opportunity to gather here and for kindnesses received from the comfortable relationship we enjoy.

Finally, thank you, all members of U3A Arts Centre, for your friendly understanding and helpful co-operation during the past year, and for creating such a relaxed and warm social atmosphere as we have assembled here throughout 2023. As I have been your Chairman for six years since 2017, I think it is now time for you to have another person at the helm.

I wish all members a Very Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with delight, and look forward to your continued presence here when we resume in mid-February next year.

Thank you.

Wallace Woodley
Chairman