



## Series 1: Catching up on things local

**Venue:** St Christopher's Church, 244 Avonhead Road

Talks are on **Mondays**, except for the second Monday of each month, **beginning** at 1.30 pm, followed by afternoon tea at 2.30 pm.

*From the President*

Greetings to my fellow U3A members. I trust you all had an enjoyable Christmas and have enjoyed the brilliant Summer weather through January.

I look forward to catching up with you all as we start our first series on 19 February.

Thanks to the Committee for organising a varied and interesting programme for the year.

Nga mihi nui.

*Miles*

### Series 1: Catching up on things local

This series has talks ranging from local examples of issues affecting all of us to those affecting only some groups.

#### 19 Feb: **Where our main street meets the hills**

**Alan Wills**, Malthouse Trustee and local historian.

It's Bricks, Blocks, Barley and beer, and why on earth did they build that there.

#### 26 Feb: **The Regional Land Transport Plan 2024–34**

**Peter Scott**, Chair, ECAN & The Regional Land, Transport Committee. Note: Public submissions now open on this matter and close on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

The title says it all for the talk. It's a significant part of the region's future.

#### 4 Mar: **Recycling and kerbside bin changes**

**Maria Lamb**, CCC: Waste Minimisation Adviser.

This waste education talk will cover the basics of what is accepted in each kerbside bin.

You will also learn about the new changes taking effect as of 1st February 2024 nationwide.

Plus, there will be discussion around alternative take back schemes.

#### 18 Mar: **Review into the Future for Local Government**

**Jim Palmer**, Chair of the Review into the Future for Local Government

The Future for Local Government review panel delivered its final report in June 2023. They concluded that a strong local government is critical for building community resilience, intergenerational wellbeing and enabling strong local democracies. However, the current system is not fit for the future and isn't well-placed to meet the challenges we face. Jim's presentation will focus on the key findings from the Review and the recommendations and opportunities for local and central government to build a stronger future-fit system.

#### 25 Mar: **The Climate Challenge for Christchurch: City Council's role and how residents can be involved.**

**Sara Templeton**, City Councillor who holds the Climate Change Portfolio for CCC.

Climate Change can seem overwhelming at times and it's hard to know what we can do to help. In this presentation Cr Sara Templeton will talk about the key risks for Ōtautahi Christchurch, what Council is doing to address it, and how individuals can get involved in addressing this shared challenge. Curiosity and questions are encouraged!

### Notices

#### 2024 Annual Subscription now due

The full annual subscription for 2024 is \$70. To thank you for finding new members we are offering you a discount of \$5.00 if you introduce a new member before you pay your subscription. Please let Murray know when you introduce the new member.

Please note that cheques are no longer accepted by our bank (*continued on the next page*).

## Payment Options are:

**Payment option 1:** Direct Credit to our BNZ account: **02-0800-0837415-00**. Include your first name(s) and surname when making the transfer.

**Payment option 2:** Those with no computer access can use phone banking to transfer money. If you have not already done this, phone your bank's 0800 number to set it up.

**Payment option 3:** If you are unable to use an option above, please put cash in an envelope with your name, and the words "Subscription", clearly on the outside. Give this to Murray or to a committee member if he is not available.

*Payment would be appreciated by 25 March, 2024 and is due by 15 April, 2024.*

## Safety on-line

This year we can expect to see even more scams and on-line disinformation. Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widely available and easy to use to produce fake videos ('deep-fakes') that are practically indistinguishable from the real thing. Similarly, fake on-line shopping sites can also be nearly indistinguishable from a genuine site (wonder if this will cause people to return to shopping at actual shops?).

NetSafe NZ offers tools for protecting yourself from on-line scams. See: <https://netsafe.org.nz/olderpeople/>

In addition their "Netsafe Little black book of scams" can be downloaded from: <https://netsafe.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/NetsafeLittleBlackBookofScamsv8-WEB.pdf>

There are also several major elections around the world this year and we can expect democracies in particular to have interference from hostile states. This will be most likely in the form of misinformation and disinformation especially. We need to be especially careful in selecting our sources of information and that we suspend judgement until we can ascertain its truth.

## Contact changes

If you have changed your phone number, street or email address since last year, please tell Murray Edlin: phone: 354 3441; or email him ([mredlin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mredlin@xtra.co.nz)) with the details.

## 2024 Committee

Officers and Committee have yellow name-tags to make it easier for you to identify them and to suggest programme and activity ideas.

President: Miles Ellery

Vice President: Judith Miller

Secretary: Vivienne Mander; email: [u3a.avon@gmail.com](mailto:u3a.avon@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Murray Edlin, ph: 354 3441,  
email: [mredlin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mredlin@xtra.co.nz)

Committee: Viv Grant, Chris Kissling, Gloria Street, Bryan Wright.

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## Marking the seasons

The autumn equinox occurs on 20 March. This is one of two days of the year when the sun crosses the equator; the other is the spring equinox on 23 September. In our hemisphere the sun will sink lower in the sky until the winter solstice on 21 June (shortest day), when the sun begins to slowly rise higher in the sky each day, reaching its peak on the summer solstice on 21 December (longest day).

These astronomical events have been celebrated by many cultures around the world for millennia, as they mark the changing of seasons and the consequent impact on growing food.

Complaining about a problem without posing a solution is called whining. – *Theodore Roosevelt*

It's not what you don't know that will get you into trouble. It's what you think you know that actually isn't true that will get you into trouble. – *Mark Twain*

Repeat a lie often enough and it becomes the truth. – *attributed to Joseph Goebbles, Nazi Reich Minister of Propaganda*

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*Note: Hyperlinks (in blue) are live links, just click on them to go to its website or to your email application.*

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