



U3A Avon Ōtākaro

Series 1: Issues affecting Christchurch

20 February–27 March 2023

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.

Series 1/23: Issues affecting Christchurch

Our usual beginning-of-year series where we look at some of the issues likely to affect Christchurch during the year.

20 Feb **In defence of Hagley Park**

Chris Kissling, a Board member and past Chairman of the Christchurch Civic Trust. He is also a committee member of this U3A.

He will trace the legislative protections that apply to Hagley Park and how they have been abused. This will include the submissions made by the Trust in recent years aimed at making sure the heritage status of Hagley Park and its statutory management plan are confirmed in any further legislative proposals.

27 Feb **Three waters, what is it really about?**

Helen Beaumont, Christchurch City Council, head of Three Waters and Waste. She will be explaining the concepts behind the Government's "Three Waters" proposal and discussing the implications of a plan for Christchurch. This is a contentious issue, but how many of us know much about it? For background information see: <https://ccc.govt.nz/services/water-and-drainage/water-reform/>

6 Mar **YMCA: what it is and where it's going...**

Josie Schroeder, CEO of YMCA.

Josie will talk about the origins of the Y and its current plans. You may have noticed the new addition under construction at its site on the corner of Rolleston Ave, Hereford St and Cashel St.

20 Mar **Misinformation and the news media**

Kamala Hayman, editor of 'The Press'.

Misinformation is false or misleading, whereas disinformation is deliberate and often malicious in intent. How does the news media determine what is actually true when reporting?

27 Mar **The Museum renovations**

Trevor Watt, Athfield Architects.

This is a long-awaited project! Trevor is the architect in this project and will explain what is involved.

Notices

2023 Annual Subscription now due

The full annual subscription for 2023 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.

Members should have received an email confirming their sub for 2023. Please check and if you are not sure contact Murray by email: mredlin@xtra.co.nz or by phone: 354 3441. Please note that cheques are no longer accepted by our bank.

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 clearly on the outside. Give this to Murray or a committee member if he is not available.

Payment would be appreciated by 27 March 2023

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) with the corrections.

New name lanyards

At our first meeting you will be given our new name lanyards as you arrive. Please continue on to pick up your existing name tag, remove the name card and place

it in the lanyard. When your subscription for the year is paid you will be given a new name card to replace your old one in the lanyard. The lanyards then become your responsibility to look after and bring to meetings. Visitors will be given a temporary lanyard for the meeting they are attending.

Covid

Yep, it's still here, still a risk. Masks are effective so don't hesitate to wear one at our meetings, although the risk of infection there is probably quite low (our members wouldn't come if feeling unwell, and the building is large and well-ventilated).

New members

Please encourage anyone interested in joining us to come to a meeting. Imagine if we each invited one person to come... Give them a newsletter for the talk details or ask them to phone or email the secretary to be sent one. Visitors may attend two meetings at no cost.

NZ Census, Tuesday 7 March

The forms and instructions are starting to be delivered. You can start filling-in the forms when you receive them. For more information see: <https://www.census.govt.nz/about-the-census/doing-the-2023-census/>

Aviva Annual Street Appeal: helpers wanted

Aviva would like volunteers to assist in their street appeal on 5 & 6 May. If you could help please register at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkXB-voQRs17z2DitrmKSvYEltCR25e43Yyy13dxQzB3nClyQ/viewform>

Retirement Villages Act

The If you wish to know about current legislation see: <https://www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/your-rights-as-a-retirement-village-resident/>

The Act will be reviewed and to find out more see: <https://www.hud.govt.nz/news/review-of-retirement-villages-act-begins-in-2023/>

Artificial Intelligence (AI), ChatGPT, etc

In the past year several generative AI applications became publicly available. The first were text-to-image generators such as Midjourney, DALL-E 2, Stable Diffusion. Then came chatbots, such as ChatGPT*, which has been in the news. Some of us have probably tried them. They are going to be disruptive. A chatbot can generate an online conversation by text or text-to-speech. Apart from not necessarily being accurate when asking for explanations (they're only as good as the information fed into them), like all useful tools they also have potential for misuse. For example, AI can generate videos ('deep-fakes') where 'real' people are created to do or say things that they, in reality, haven't, or generate conversations supposedly from someone you know, increasing the potential for targeted scams. Be cautious about believing what you see on-line! (*for more information see: <https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/>)

Common scams and what to look out for

The number and variety of scams is increasing each year. They are also becoming more clever and harder to detect, as shown by some of the stories in the media. So look out for these (mostly from: <https://www.govt.nz/browse/law-crime-and-justice/scams/>)

- **phishing:** an email or text (e.g. supposedly from your bank) that tries to trick you into providing your personal details
- **computer virus scams:** where you get a phone call saying your computer has been infected with a virus, which the caller can fix, as long as you give them your credit card details and remote access to your computer
- **investment scams:** you're offered the chance of high returns for very little risk (if it sounds too good to be true...)
- **inheritance or lottery and competition scams:** where you're told you've inherited or won money, but you need to pay a fee or taxes before you can get your 'winnings'
- **online dating scams:** where a person you've only met online and have become romantically attached to starts asking for money or wants your personal details
- **door-to-door scams:** where someone knocks on your door and offers to do a job for you for an upfront fee, and then does it badly or not at all
- **phone scams:** someone calls pretending to be from your bank, or a government department, or a well-known company, and asks for your personal information
- **identity theft:** people try to find out your personal details and passwords so they can use your details to steal money or set up fake identities.
- **beware of emails from people you don't know** or from a company you haven't done business with which has attachments or links to websites. Do not open the attachments. If there is a link do not click on it but instead hover your mouse cursor over it to display its true destination—but do read the URL carefully, some are very similar to genuine (non-scam) sites and may differ by only a few letters.

If you think you have been scammed report it immediately: <https://report.netsafe.org.nz/hc/en-au/requests/new> (Click the 'Scams' button).

2023 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: Bryan Wright

Secretary: Vivienne Mander; email: u3a.avon@gmail.com

Treasurer: Murray Edlin, ph: 354 3441,
email: mredlin@xtra.co.nz

Committee: Viv Grant, Chris Kissling, Judith Miller, Gloria Streat, Jonet Ward.

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