



U3A Avon Ōtākaro

Series 6: Heritage Matters

7 October – 25 November, 2024

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 6: Heritage Matters

Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration. (UNESCO)

7 Oct **Stories of the 19th century: buildings, swaggers, cooks, and significant employees of Rakaia Terrace Station**

Kate Foster. A great granddaughter of Sir John Hall and Rose, Lady Hall, and lives in the family home of Terrace Station at Hororata. She is surrounded by archives, portraits and pleasurable reminders of those early settlers.

21 Oct **The archaeology of Christchurch c.1850–c.1900**

Katharine Watson, Director, Christchurch Archaeology Project / Museum of Archaeology Ōtautahi.

A whirlwind tour of the history of Christchurch between 1850 and 1900, as revealed by the city's archeology.

Followed by the Annual General Meeting.

4 Nov **Air Freight & Property at Christchurch International Airport – Connecting Te Waipounamu to the world**

François Baudet, Project Delivery Manager, Christchurch Airport

An explanation of how CIAL's Air Freight and Property Development Strategies help build economic prosperity for our community.

18 Nov **Architectural Modelling**

Richard Gardiner, Scaled Down Architectural Model Maker.

The presentation will cover how scaled down architectural models are made, how they have been used with respect to the rebuild of Christchurch after the earthquakes, and as aids to town planning and understanding of the built environment. Some physical scale models will be

displayed along with images of others to illustrate the talk. See: www.scaleddown.co.nz

25 Nov **Movement is Medicine: the importance of movement and exercise on pain, health and longevity**

Antony Bush, Canterbury Sport & Spinal Physiotherapy.

Why is back pain the world's greatest disability? How does movement and strength affect our mortality?

2 Dec **End-of-year Luncheon**

Richmond Club, 12.00pm, \$30 each.

Location: corner of Stanmore Rd and London St. Entry to the parking area is off either London St or Avalon St. Details later.

Notices

2023–24 Annual General Meeting: 21 October

Nomination forms are available and nominations for officers and committee must be received by 10 October. In addition to the officers (president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary we need a minimum of six committee members. The more committee members we have the less the workload for individuals, so please consider standing for the committee. Yes, we've all "been there, done that" so that's no excuse! If you have an item for the agenda please contact the secretary.

UC Biomedical Engineering Project

We recently received an email from Debbie Munro, Associate Professor in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Canterbury (UC). They are working to re-establish their student biomedical engineering work experience in Tonga. They plan to return this summer with up to 8 students who will assist with implementing a biomedical technician training programme at the new Tonga National University, and help with hospital equipment repair. They are offering to speak to U3As on various topics associated with this project and put their honorarium towards funding the trip. We already have

all our speakers for the final series and cannot fit them in, and our rules have no allowance for donations outside the honorarium. If members wish to donate to this worthy cause please contact Debbie Munro at debbie.munro@canterbury.ac.nz. For more information see: <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/news-and-events/news/uc-students-engineer-medical-solutions-in-tonga>.

Reminder: Invite a Non-member Friend

As part of our strategy to increase our membership, we are offering non-members the ability to attend one of our series for a cost of \$20. This is a one-off charge for the complete series. There is no option to just pay for one or two presentations in a series. It is \$20 whether they attend one or the complete lecture series. We encourage you to publicise this to your acquaintances.

Contact changes

If you have changed your phone number, street or email address since renewing your subscription, or are likely to change it between now and February next year, please tell Murray Edlin: phone: 354 3441; or email him (mredlin@xtra.co.nz) with the details.

2024 Committee

Our thanks to the Officers and Committee for their work over the year, and we also welcome the new committee members (yet to be elected).

President: Miles Ellery

Vice President: Judith Miller

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

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

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

Smartphones—again

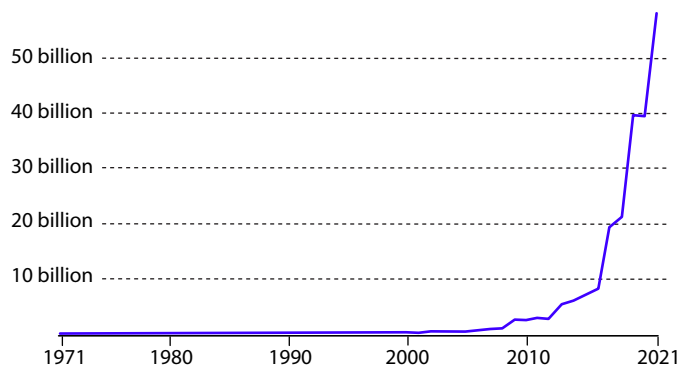
There will be a final series of short introductions to useful smartphone apps from Tony Mander before each talk, starting 21 October. Detailed notes for the whole series will be distributed after the first introduction.

More people now use smartphones than use computers. This is largely due to their rapidly increasing capability while still fitting in your pocket—a result of what came to be called “Moore’s Law”, first described by Gordon Moore, co-founder of Intel, in 1965. This is illustrated in the generalised linear-scale graph below for 1971–2021. Since 2021 the number of components has nearly doubled again. This is achieved by the components becoming ever smaller, so the physical size and power consumption have not also increased proportionately.

Apple’s iPhone in 2007 introduced the “second-age” phone (‘smartphone’), and its shape, high-resolution touchscreen, full internet access, a capable camera, and third-party apps, set the pattern for all subsequent smartphones. Android followed in 2008 and is now the dominant mobile operating system.

Moore’s Law: the number of transistors per microprocessors

Moore’s Law is the observation that the number of transistors in an integrated circuit doubles about every two years, thanks to improvements in production.



Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/transistors-per-microprocessor> (see also: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transistor_count and: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smartphone>)

Along with the increase in transistors is a comparable increase in computing power. Hence the rapidly increasing capability of smartphones, especially recently. While smartphone microprocessors do not have as many transistors as those of desktop computers, they are still impressive. It has enabled face recognition, greater use of embedded sensors (e.g. accelerometer, gyroscope, GPS, magnetometer, barometer, LiDAR, RGB sensors, near field communication, etc.), and artificial intelligence (AI) in many applications. The same increase in computing power is also rapidly improving the capability of hearing aids and other devices with microprocessors. It will also enable the now-beginning “third-age” of smartphones with greater and beneficial use of AI—along with the consequent risks of it being misused. More change is on the way, and it will happen ever more rapidly—but we don’t need to know every feature on our smartphones, just those we find useful.

Because society is increasingly dependent on smartphones some worry about their security. While they can be infected with malware it usually requires your cooperation to do so. You are much more likely to be the victim of a scam by a phone call or email than from your phone being hacked. To report various scams download the document from this website which has links to NZ Police, Netsafe, DIA, etc.: <https://www.cert.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/documents/Where-to-report-spam-and-scams.pdf>

Older people are, sadly, the most scammed. For a comprehensive list of the various scams, especially those enabled by artificial intelligence, see: <https://www.insightneuropsychology.com/news/aiscams> —ignore the embedded URLs as it is an American website, but the scams are international. For a comprehensive New Zealand list see: <https://netsafe.org.nz/scams> and don’t think you won’t fall for a scam—everyone who has also thought that...

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