



Lifelong Learning

Newsletter March 2024

Judith Coullie Dickens' Early Works

Tuesday 26th March 2024
Event Centre Bradford Room
Doors open 9.30am Speaker starts at 10.15am

Please invite your friends to this series as casual visitors and a chance for them to learn about belonging to U3A.



Our guest speaker this month is **Judith Coullie** who will speak on the topic of "Dickens' Early Works".

At the tender age of 21, Charles Dickens began contributing stories and descriptive essays to magazines and newspapers. A collection of these, *Sketches by "Boz"*, was published in February 1836, the month in which Dickens turned 24. In this lecture, we explore key events in Dickens' childhood and youth; we sample selections from some of Dickens' stories

in his first solo publication, viz., *Sketches by "Boz"*.

Judith Coullie

Position: Learning Advisor University of Canterbury (recently retired)

Field: English Literature

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 from South Africa, she was Professor of English at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

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).

Tuesday 23rd April

Roger Sutton

Our Electric Future

Recently resigned from EA Networks

U3A Committee

- ♦ Carol Gunn
President,
Marketing,
& Newsletter
- ♦ Andrea Lambie-Shaw
Treasurer
- ♦ Alison Westwood
Programme Leader
- ♦ Lynne Judkins
Minute Taker &
Report Writer
- ♦ Mary Buckland
Membership & IT
- ♦ Malcolm Luxton
Programmes
- ♦ Andrae Gold
Programmes

Contact U3A:

u3a.ashburton@gmail.com



The event centre has a hearing loop which is always

on (apart from the odd exception). You may need to adjust your own hearing aid to the loop if needed.

Please do not use the Cinema carparks. Most of the parks outside the Event Centre are for limited times.



Lifelong Learning

- Speakers are informative, stimulating and insightful on wide range of topics —provide members with new discussion and learning opportunities
- Meetings held 4th Tuesday of each month, February to November. 10.15am start
- Short seminar series and special interest groups—see website for details
- Meetings are advertised in this monthly newsletter, on our website, the Keep Learning website and in local media outlets
- U3A Ashburton is part of a network of over 60 groups nationwide
- Membership fee \$60 for 12 meetings; casual \$10 per session

For more information email:
u3a.ashburton@gmail.com

U3A Special Interest Groups:

- Book Group
- Men's Discussion Group
- Geology Field Trips
- Operatunity—visiting light opera series
- Flourishing Group 3AF (3rd Age Forum) - A discussion group centred around 3rd age renewal and growth

For further information email
u3a.ashburton@gmail.com
to register your interest in any of these groups.



A voice is a human gift; it should be cherished and used, to utter fully human speech as possible. Powerlessness and silence go together.

— Margaret Atwood

AZ QUOTES

Survey Results—Speakers

General positive comments

- ◆ The varied speakers and topics are excellent
- ◆ At virtually every session we learn lots and continue discussing it at home, thank you very much!
- ◆ Cannot fault the diversity of topics your programme committee brings to U3A.
- ◆ I don't often attend in person, but like that I can look up the on-line notes afterwards.
- ◆ The valuable experience that older folks can have into contributing to society

We now have a long list of possible topics—I am pleased to report that our sessions confirmed until July meet some of the suggestions.

Agriculture/water use/food production/gardens/forestry/tree crops

Architecture

Art/Literary Works (*Judith Coullie 26th March – Dickens' Early Works*)

Artificial intelligence. (AI), Chatgpt (*Prof Anthony Robins 28th May*)

Astrology/black hole/space/stars

Clothing history

Current Affairs and State of the world eg explaining/information on the war in Israel/Gazza, process of supporting refugees to our country/town

Drug Use/from an addict's perspective/what the common drugs are, how they affect people, signs someone is an addict

Economics

Environmental - Climate change, plastics, seismic topics, volcanoes, sea level rise, air quality, agriculture (*Roger Sutton 23rd April – Our Electric Future*)

Financial/investments/insurance

Fostering/grandparents raising grandchildren

Geography

Geology (*Glenn Vallender 23rd July*)

Heritage

History

Legal/trusts

Longitudinal Studies from Dunedin

Medical & Health/advanced care/holistic/health Services or lack of/healthy aging/nutrition/well-being

Music/ entertainment/speakers with a story to tell (*Courtney Hickmott 26th November*)

NZ History/MC area/first settlers/Maori

Our community/support of elderly in our town/diversity in our community/multicultural society/who our migrants are, how we can assimilate/assist, Newcomers Network

Personal experiences of mountaineering/war zones/Antarctic.

Political Science

Research-based – medical and scientific

Retirement village/apartment – ins and outs

Sport (*Barry Maister from International Olympic Committee 25th May*)