



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 FOURTH NEWSLETTER FOR 2024

Following our successful lecture series on "The Criminal Justice System", we can now confirm details of our fourth series of lectures which will cover a range of topics. Throughout the year we receive a number of offers for a one-off topic rather than for a course of 5 lectures. To get the benefit of these excellent lectures we group a set of 5 lectures together in a course which we call a pot-pourri.

Detail of the next series of lectures plus the lecture which we had to defer follow.

5 July - Policing in New Zealand

Detective Mark Kolner will deliver a lecture on **Policing in New Zealand**. This replaces the earlier advertised lecture on "The Police Service" which was originally set to run on 31 May.

12 July - NZ Sign Language Act 2006

In 2006, the NZ Sign Language Act was passed making New Zealand Sign Language an official language of New Zealand.

Hon Ruth Dyson QSO will deliver a presentation on the process involved in shepherding the NZ Sign Language Act through Parliament. We often just assume that an Act just somehow happens but the reality is a long process of seeking and obtaining community and political support through a public and select committee process before it becomes an Act of Parliament. Ruth in her capacity as Minister for Disability Issues led this process for this Act to a successful conclusion.

Ruth Suzanne Dyson, of Christchurch, has had a lengthy political career, serving as a Christchurch Member of Parliament from 1993 to 2020. She held Ministerial portfolios between 1999 and 2008 including for ACC, Disability Issues, Labour, Senior Citizens and Social Development. She chaired several Select Committees and became Assistant Speaker before retiring from Parliament in 2020.

She is the Patron of several organisations and is the Deputy Chair of both Fire and Emergency New Zealand and the Earthquake Commission Toka Tu Ake Boards. She is a Life Member of the Avon Heathcote Ihutai Estuary Trust and an Honorary Life Member of the Sumner Volunteer Fire Brigade.

19 July – Wool: Past, Present and Future

Errol Wood is a graduate of the University of Canterbury, with a BSc (First Class Honours) degree, a PhD in Physics, and a Diploma in Teaching with Distinction.

He has been a teacher of physics and mathematics, a scientist, research leader and eventually a division head at the Wool Research Organisation of New Zealand (WRONZ) at Lincoln, a parttime professor and head of the Wool Science Department at Lincoln University and Education and Information Services Manager at WRONZ.

He has published over 50 international journal papers and technical reports on wool processing, wool metrology, and digital imaging of textiles. Errol set up a private training establishment (PTE) at WRONZ, and was responsible for the resource development and delivery of NZQA-certified training to the scouring, yarn spinning and carpet manufacturing sectors in New Zealand. He has also contributed significantly to the establishment of advanced wool technology programmes at the University of New England at Armidale, Australia, and the Indian

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Since Errol retired in 2010, EWE (Errol Wood Education) has continued to provide textile courses for AUT University and various businesses in the NZ wool processing pipeline. From 2000 to 2013 Errol was a part-time lecturer in Environmental Physics at Lincoln University. Currently he provides technical writing courses, on behalf of the Organisation Development Institute, for scientists and engineers in CRIs, local bodies and private companies.

26 July - Anna McMillan on Hearing Loss

Anna writes

"I have had the pleasure of being an Audiologist for 21 years now! I gained my Master of Audiology (Hons) at Auckland University in 2003. I am a Christchurch local and had the exciting opportunity of working in London from 2005-2009, including 3 years at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. I have been involved in Audiology research, in collaboration with the Universities of Canterbury and Auckland, and have had the privilege of speaking about that research at several New Zealand Audiological Society Conferences and at the World Symposium of Audiology (2014) in Brisbane. I believe that educating people about hearing loss is really important, especially considering the impact that it has on us socially, mentally, emotionally and physically. I am passionate about empowering people to make decisions that will improve their ability to communicate and improve their brain function. Also if people wear hearing aids and are not hearing well with them, I love getting the opportunity to do some fine-tuning to make them more effective. I look forward to talking to you soon"

2 August – Amateur Radio and its role in Emergencies

Amateur Radio Emergency Communication (AREC) has been around for more than 90 years, having formed after the 1932 Napier Earthquake. AREC is the public service arm of the national organisation for Amateur Radio operators in New Zealand (NZART) and provides advice, skilled operators and technical support to Search and Rescue and Civil Defence and Emergency Management. Additionally over the years AREC has been involved in providing safety communications for many sporting and community events. **Steve Davis** will provide a brief history of AREC and provide some details on how they serve the community using the skills and experience from their "hobby" of Amateur Radio.

Steve has held his amateur radio operator's licence for more than 40 years and been involved in AREC activities for more than 30 of them (years). Through AREC Steve has attended many Search and Rescue events and provided safe communications and technology support for sporting events and at disasters around New Zealand and the world.

9 August – Mark Soltero, Visual Artist

A presentation on Mark's personal art practice, early history and critical developments. Mark was born in San Francisco in the late 60's. A fifth generation San Franciscan, Mark was raised in the Richmond and Sunset districts and later attended Art School where he met his wife, the New Zealand artist Kim Hennessy. Mark and Kim moved to NZ in 1995 and have raised two sons in Governors Bay. Mark's practice contains a number of seemingly disparate threads from Typography and Camouflage to Architecture and Cinema interiors. For the past decade Mark's work has been largely monochromatic but recently, beginning with the use of Silver and Gold, the work has begun to return to his earlier practice with colour.

Mark is also a member of the collective Art Associates Aotearoa. He has given public presentations on his practice at Dunedin School of Art, Ara Institute of Canterbury and the Christchurch Art Gallery. He holds an MFA from Dunedin School of Art and is represented by Artfull.online, Chambers Art Gallery Christchurch and McAtamney Gallery Geraldine.

Next series

Course 5 will commence on August 30. The title is **"Truth and Lies in an Age of Misinformation"**.

We have assembled an excellent group of specialists, some of whom you may already have seen on television or heard on the radio, with experience and training in understanding the spread of misinformation. We will provide more detailed information in the next Newsletter.

Bus Trip and End of Year Lunch

We will be considering this at our next Committee meeting in early July. Thank you to all those that have already sent suggestions for consideration but it is not yet too late to let us know if you have ideas for consideration.