

Hi,

It was great to see so many people at our April Meeting. This month we will ease our restrictions and have a cuppa and bite to eat at our next meeting

The meeting on Braided Rivers was really informative. They are north of us, with the Waimakariri and south with the Rakaia, Rangitata and Waitaki but how much do we know about them? Philip Grove our April U3A speaker gave an interesting and knowledgeable talk on their geomorphology, ecology and the threats to their ecosystems. Philip is a science team leader with Environment Canterbury Regional Council and is a terrestrial and wetland ecologist.

Braided rivers are found throughout the world where they originate from mountains with high rainfall and relatively friable rocks making their way through confined upper reaches, through foothills to spread across unconfined plains. Here they form multiple channels or braids with islands, and wetlands on the fringes. The riverbed is active as floods eroding the sediment and spreading across its width make new channels. The sediment supply is enhanced naturally through the collapse of valley sides and earthquakes but mankind through forestry affects has also added to the supply. This all leads to a highly disturbed and mobile channel system. Side streams, springs and ponds on the margins provide an ever changing and diverse habitat resulting in a high turnover but in constant proportions.

However now vegetation, stop banks, flood protection and channelling has restricted the room that the rivers are able to move in while dams and abstraction have altered the river flow. The Canterbury Water Management Plan has objectives to maintain ecological values within the Canterbury Plains so as to ensure water quality. Wetland areas are still there even under the introduced trees that abound the river margins and within these wetland areas can be found native flora and fauna. A survey taken between 1990 and 2012 showed that there had been 11600 hectares of land within the river confines developed for intensive farming and a further 1200 hectares to 2019. The question posed is, has this development led to ecological values being lost? *Thanks to Ian Warren for this review. Further information can be found at <https://braidedrivers.org.nz> also on the Ecan website.*

Details for our AGM in May are below.

May 2022 Meeting:

Date: 13th May 2022

Venue: Darfield Baptist Church, 15 Greendale Road, Darfield.

Time: 10am (There will be a cuppa, so the session will start at 10:15am with AGM, members announcements followed by the speaker).

Topic: "Environmental Issues": The Achilles heel of China's Rise!

- a challenge to the Chinese Civilisation State.
- an emphasis on water

Speaker: Alan Blackburn has an MA Hons in Geography from Otago University. He has travelled extensively in China and has developed an academic interest in “China’s rise”.

He attributes his interest in the Asian sphere to the late Ron Lister (Professor of Geography at Otago University) and courses in the History Department under the leadership of Professor Angus Ross.

Attendance Notice

Attendance at Darfield Baptist Church in 2022 for U3A meetings will be in accordance with current Covid-19 practice. Currently this is at orange.

Attendees will need to register their presence by telling the people on the desk.

We will ensure well-spaced seating and masks will be worn by all members of the committee and be worn by attendees. Anyone who is unwell is encouraged to stay at home and that is the same if you feel uncomfortable about being in crowds at this time.

Programme from June to December 2022.

June 10th 2022	Matariki	Tahi Roberts
July 8th 2022	Vitamin C in Human Disease	Anitra Carr
August 12th 2022	Suffragists in Selwyn	Lynda Seaton
September 9th 2022	Chatham Islands and Moriori History	Frieda Looser
October 14th 2022	Guardians of the Future	Suky Thompson
November 4th 2022	Malvern Hills Geology	Prof James Shulmeister

Note: There may be an extra meeting in December as we have missed the March meeting.

Subscriptions

The subscription year starts on 1st April 2022. New members who paid after 31st December 2021 and before 1st April 2022 will have valid membership until 31st March 2023.

The subscription will remain at \$25 for the 2022 – 2023 year and is due from 1st April 2022. Those who are not financial are casual attendees and will be asked for a koha per meeting until joining.

Bank Account with Kiwi Bank

Account Name: U3A Malvern

Account number: 38 9022 0205868 00

When paying subs please include a name so we can identify the payee. This is especially important if you are paying for more than one person. Those who were not members in the last financial year will get a name tag at the next meeting.

AGM 2022

There will be an election of Officers and discussion of any motions that have been notified prior to the meeting.

Nominations for the committee will need to be in prior to the meeting start at 10am. Forms are available online, attached to this newsletter or on the day at the desk.

We are looking for new committee members as Jim Copland is retiring after being a foundation member. We thank him for his loyal support and active membership as our Special Interest Group Co-ordinator and look forward to seeing Jim at our meetings.

Note: Only financial members will be eligible to vote should one be required.

Special Interest Groups

We have the following groups operating and will start a waiting list for those groups that are full so contact the Group leaders to register your interest. Note: Meetings are dependent on being in an appropriate Covid 19 level.

Mahjong. Members are meeting 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from April. Please let Ruth know if you are interested. Contact Ruth Warren: rwifwarren@gmail.com

Current Affairs 8 members meeting on 4th Monday of the month. Interesting discussions on elections, economic recovery etc. A topic is set at each meeting so members can research for the next meeting. Contact Ian Warren: rwifwarren@gmail.com

Local and NZ History.

Meetings have started on the 4th Wednesday of the month for 2022. Contact Jim 03 318 1712 or adjimcopland@gmail.com

Everyday Te Reo. With 5 members currently meeting weekly at 4pm on Wednesdays in Darfield. The group uses mixed media to assist with language and are progressing well. Contact Margaret Copland: coplalex@snap.net.nz

Jim Copland and Judith Pascoe are keen to hear from you with ideas for **new topics for interest groups**. There will be a box to post ideas in at each meeting.

For Jim Phone 03 318-1712 or email adjimcopland@gmail.com and Judith Phone 021 1522900 or email jcpascoe@xtra.co.nz

Frieda Looser Term 2 2022 Programme

Attached is the Term 2 brochure and you will note that the two Sunday afternoon sessions will be offered on campus in South Arts A4 as well as on Zoom. All evening lectures this term will only be via Zoom. Many participants are choosing to be cautious while Covid-19 numbers are still high in Canterbury, and Frieda will be

working from home on Mondays and Wednesdays during the University's Term 2, so it makes sense to teach evening classes also online from home.

Eldercare Canterbury Selwyn forum.

You are warmly invited to the next ECC Selwyn Forum run by Presbyterian Support.

WHEN Tuesday 26 April

TIME 10.30am - 12.30pm

WHERE Darfield Library, 1 South Terrace, Darfield

Guests

Jenny Cations-Brown Wellness Events Co-ordinator from the North
Canterbury Support Trust

Wendy Wanhill Te Waiora House (a retreat in Hororata)

- Service and resource updates
- General networking
- Refreshments provided

Please pass on this invitation to anyone who may be interested in attending

We look forward to seeing you at our meeting in May 2022.

Janet MacDougall, Newsletter and Website Co-ordinator, u3amalvern@gmail.com