

Hi,

*Simon Pollard, adjunct Professor of Science Communication at Canterbury University was a delightfully humorous speaker at our last meeting who was able to clearly define the difference between science and Pseudo Science with many serious and not so serious examples.*

*His presentation covered, “Why do people believe strange things?” Were the moon landings faked? Is the earth flat? Are vaccines dangerous? He talked about how science works and why it is different from the pseudoscientific claims of its often-vocal detractors.*

*“Science,” Simon said, “Is self-regulating and correcting.” As new scientific facts are gained so old understandings are corrected. By denying facts we can gain very incorrect ideas.*

*Simon outlined seven ways to Identify pseudoscience.*



*The use of psychobabble – words that sound scientific and professional but are used incorrectly, or in a misleading manner.*

*A substantial reliance on anecdotal evidence.*

*Extraordinary claims in the absence of extraordinary evidence.*

*Claims that cannot be proven false.*

*Claims that counter established scientific fact.*

*Absence of adequate peer review.*

*Claims that are repeated despite being refuted.*

*An example of number one Simon gave was, “Simon’s magic cubes*

*are harmonized with synaptic neurotransmitters from suboesophageal ganglion using neobananarama frequencies.”*

*Therefore, what is Science? A quote from Marcia McNutt the Editor in Chief of Journal Science explains, “Science is a method for deciding whether what we believe has a basis in the laws of nature or not.”*

## **May AGM Meeting:**

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Venue: Darfield Baptist Church, 15 Greendale Road, Darfield

Time: 10am (Cuppa, then members announcements followed by the speaker)

Topic: Protecting yourself from Frauds and Scams. **(Note a change of Speaker)**

Speaker: Nicholas Myer

*Nicholas Myers from ANZ will cover a general overview of the most common scams, how people can protect themselves, and where to go for help.*

*Nicholas has worked with ANZ for 6 years, and in leadership roles across the Business and Personal banking segments for the last two.*

*He will be accompanied by Jessica Kennedy who has also been with ANZ in leadership roles for a number of years.*

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## **AGM 2021**

There will be an election of Officers and 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 or on the day at the desk.

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

## **Speakers for rest of 2021**

**June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** Understanding Highland Clearances.

*Martin Sutherland grew up in Darfield and spent a number of years working in the Justice department before completing a PhD in History at the University of Canterbury and training for the Baptist Ministry. Martin will explore the mass movement of communities and the subsequent depopulation of the Scottish Highlands between 1760 and 1860 that had many causes.*

**July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021:** The Global Pandemic: what are the lessons?

The speaker is Lance C. Jennings QSO, MSc, PhD, FRCPath, FFSc(RCPA) - Retired as the Clinical Virologist to the Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB), and as Director of New Zealand's WHO National Measles Laboratory, in 2017. He retains a CDHB Virology advisory role and a Clinical Associate Professorship in the Pathology and Biomedical Sciences Department, University of Otago, Christchurch.

*Throughout history, new human infectious diseases have emerged. Understanding the "bigger picture" of their natural ecology and how new viruses emerge and cause pandemics of human disease is pivotal for their control. The World Health*

*Organization has the mandate to coordinate the global response, but how has it, and other organisations performed during the current COVID-19 pandemic? Personal experiences of working with the WHO, pandemic preparedness planning and responding to new influenza and SARS viruses will illustrate the many lessons.*

**August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**                      Influence of Religion in USA

*Dr Peter Field says: “An American, I have lived in Canterbury for 20 years on and off. I also teach in the USA, although not lately!*

*I am completing my 4th book—this one on Abraham Lincoln. The first two books were related to American religion.*

*I am now head of Humanities and Creative Arts at Canterbury. In truth, I am a teacher. And I love my job.*

*America and religion is a complex issue. The country was settled in part by very religious folk. Yet its Founding was decidedly secular. Today there is a great divide between the religious (Right) and the agnostic Left. Yet, paradoxically, the Right seem to be devotees of the Founding and the Left seem to manifest traits some have compared to religious enthusiasm. Let’s see what we can sort out in under an hour.”*

**September 10<sup>th</sup>,2021**                      Retired Police Commissioner John Price will speak on Communications and demands timelines for the Mosque shootings and earthquakes.

**October 8<sup>th</sup> ,2021**                      Frieda Looser will present Persia to Iran.

**November 5<sup>th</sup> ,2021**                      Sue Bagshaw has agreed to speak on Youth of Tomorrow.

### **Attendance Notice**

Attendance at Darfield Baptist Church in 2021 for U3A meetings will be in accordance with common Covid-19 practice. Attendees will need to register their presence by telling the people on the desk. Remember to bring your name tags! New attendees will be asked for their name, email and phone number.

Financial members who have paid a sub since the last meeting will be able to collect name tags from the entry table.

Anyone who is unwell or feels uncomfortable about being in crowds at this time is encouraged to stay at home.

### **Subscriptions**

The next year’s subscription is to be set at the AGM on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It will be payable online, or in a cash deposit at Kiwi Bank, or on a meeting day to the treasurer. Those who are not financial are casual attendees and will be asked for a koha per meeting until joining.

### ***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.

**Mahjong**. Members are very active meeting 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month with Susan Baldwin tutoring. Contact Ruth Warren: [rwifwarren@gmail.com](mailto:rwifwarren@gmail.com)

**Current Affairs** 12 members meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rwifwarren@gmail.com)

**NZ and Local History**. This month's SIG meeting (discussion on Greendale and Kirwee) is at Judith Pascoe's house 40 Stott Drive at 1pm on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April**. Judith is on a back section and she is one of four houses – go left at the head of the laneway. Judith Pascoe 0211522900

The meeting on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May** will be a trek around Kirwee and to Kirwee House (which has been sold). Meet at the Water Race Monument on Main West Coast Road at 1pm. All members welcome.

There will be a trip to Ashburton Air Museum on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August** at 1pm. This trip will be open to other U3A members and bookings will be taken as it will be possible to carpool.

Contact Jim Copland: Phone: 03 3181712 or email [adjimcopland@gmail.com](mailto:adjimcopland@gmail.com)

**Everyday Te Reo**. Up to 5 members currently meeting weekly at 4pm on Wednesdays in Darfield. Contact Margaret Copland: [coplalex@snap.net.nz](mailto: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 318-1712 or email [adjimcopland@gmail.com](mailto:adjimcopland@gmail.com) and Judith Phone 021 1522900 or email [jcpascoe@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jcpascoe@xtra.co.nz)

### ***Topical Series – Preparation for End of Life***

A two-part half day series on end of life is being planned for August 2021. Will let you have details as soon as they are available. There will be a small cost for these sessions.

### ***Frieda Looser's next programme***

Attached is the Frieda Looser's History Programme for the next term from our speaker at the October meeting.

*We look forward to seeing those of you able to attend the meeting in May.*

*Janet MacDougall, Newsletter and Website Co-ordinator*