

Happy New Year 2021

Hi,

A Happy New Year to you all. I hope the Christmas holidays have treated you well. Just some reminders for the beginning of the year. Note the change of day for our meetings from now on.

First Meeting for 2021:

Date: 12 February 2021

Venue: Darfield Baptist Church, 15 Greendale Road, Darfield

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

Topic: **China: “a civilisation state” the rise of china / or perhaps China’s return to be the world’s major power** as it has been through most of human history!

Speaker: Alan Blackburn

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.

Speakers until June 2021

March 12th, 2021 Polish Immigrants: Borkowskis, Szymanskis, Gierszewskis and Kiesanowskis

Margaret Copland, a professional storyteller, will use slides and poems to tell of those Polish Immigrants who arrived in 1872 and settled in Marshland.

Polish/German speaking and Catholic, they experienced many of the problems that new immigrants still face.

April 9th, 2021: Pseudo Science and how to tell the Difference.

Were the moon landings faked? Is the earth flat? Are vaccines dangerous? Dr Simon Pollard from Canterbury University will talk about how science works and why it is different from the pseudoscientific claims of its often-vocal detractors.

May 14th, 2021 (AGM): Canterbury Vegetation.

Peter Gatehouse will explore what was the natural vegetation of the Canterbury Plains.

June 11th, 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.

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 current subscription is \$25 for the period from our first meeting in February 2020 until the second AGM on May 14th, 2021. It is payable either 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.

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.

Special Interest Groups

The present groups, Mah Jong, Current Affairs, Everyday Te Reo and Local & NZ History will be up and running again by February.

Jim Copland is still keen to hear from you with ideas for **new topics**. There will be a box to post ideas in at the February 2021 meeting.

Phone 318-1712 or email adjimcopland@gmail.com

Behrouz Boochani speaking- February 23rd, 2021 in Rangiora

North Canterbury U3A based in Rangiora has invited Behrouz Boochani who was held at Manus Island and is now in NZ as a research scholar at University of Canterbury, to speak on 23rd February 2021. He will speak on “The Journey: From Refugee to Senior Research Fellow, Canterbury University.”

You will have heard how Behrouz Boochani painstakingly tapped out his memoir, “No Friend But the Mountains” whilst he was in custody on Manus Island. Boochani came to New Zealand in December 2019 and was granted refugee status in July 2020. This controversial journalist, human rights defender, writer and film producer will share his experiences with U3A North Canterbury next month. Attendance is by ticket ONLY. Information from North Canterbury U3A states:

Members can book their own tickets as well as tickets for friends, though we welcome a koha.

Go to: <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/FTL>

(Click on this hyperlink) This event’s detail will now appear.

Click “Book Now”

Enter the number of seats you require for yourself and spouse/partner/friends.

Enter the other details required and click “Purchase”.

Enter the name and email address so your tickets can be sent. They will be emailed to the address you provide. Print the tickets and bring them with you on February 23rd.

Advance notice of Canterbury Network Curious Minds Seminar- May 14th, 2021

This day seminar was due to be held in 2020 but has been transferred to next year. There will be five speakers with the keynote speaker being Peta Mathias. Details will be published as they come to hand.

Freida Looser -Term One Series from Canterbury University

Attached is the Term 1 brochure for 2021. As a new initiative, Frieda plans to use the lecture theatre technology to offer all the sessions both face-to-face on campus and, at the same time, remotely via Zoom. When you enrol, for attendance roll and printing handouts you will need to let her know if you wish to attend on campus or will be connecting via Zoom.

We look forward to seeing those of you able to attend the meetings in 2021. We hope for a more settled year.

Janet MacDougall, Newsletter and Website Co-ordinator