

**Members attending are welcome to wear masks.**

**U3A lectures are for members only.**

We regret we're unable to welcome visitors to our lectures – to do so would be unfair to those on the waiting list.

**08 June Local Democracy: how did we get here and what's ahead? *Janine Hayward***

Since the 1980s, local government has been in a state of flux. Recently, voter turnout has been declining, rates have been rising and now the very existence of some aspects of local government appears to be under threat. And all of this at a time when, as some advocate, we need local democracy and resilient communities more than ever. This talk considers the long-term trends in the relationship between local and central government and considers the future possibilities for local democracy.

**15 June Why Not Populism? *David Jenkins***

In this talk, we will ask whether populism is an approach to politics that is necessarily beyond the pale and always and everywhere an illegitimate ideology. Rooting populism back in the ancient Romans, the American Populists of the 19th century, and Gandhi's approach to *satyagraha*, we will examine the potential importance of populist celebrations of ordinary people's democratic capacities as well as the (possible) populist justifications for a vociferously anti-elite political movement.

**22 June China's Foreign Policy from Mao to Now. *Nicholas Khoo***

This talk traces the evolution of China's foreign policy under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party from 1949-2026. First, the historical and geographical determinants of Beijing's foreign policy are explored. Next, the three self-declared aims of China's foreign policy under Xi Jinping's leadership are discussed. We then explore the two major interpretations of China's foreign policy. The talk closes with some discussion on New Zealand's foreign policy options in an era of US-China 'strategic competition'.

**2026 PROGRAMME DATES:**

**SERIES 1:** Mar 9, 16, 23

**SERIES 2:** Apr 13, 20

**SERIES 3:** May 11, 18, 25

**SERIES 4:** Jun 8, 15, 22

**SERIES 5:** Jul 6, 13, 20

**SERIES 6:** Aug 3, 10, 17

**SERIES 7:** Sep 7, 14, 21

**SERIES 8:** Oct 5, 12, 19

**SERIES 9:** Nov 9, 16, 23

**Meetings**

are held at The West End Hall,  
35a Maltby Avenue, Timaru.

Lectures may start a few minutes before  
1.30 pm and conclude about 2.30 pm,  
with questions to follow.

Coffee/tea will be provided after the meeting.

**As a courtesy to our speakers  
and other members, please**

be seated by 1.20 pm.

turn your cell phone off.

wait until the end of the lecture before asking questions.

stand when asking a question, and wait for the microphone.

wear your name tag.

no talking during lectures.

**OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE**

**President:** Kevin Foley: telephone: (03) 686 2209

**Vice President:** Linda Gaskin

**Treasurer:** Ron Paulin

**Secretary:** Léonie Litten: email: u3atimaru@gmail.com

**Members:** Bob Cumming, Jenny Ensor, Peter Hall, Sharon Peck.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Series 4 begins Monday  
8 June 2026  
at the West End Hall.**