U3A THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE TIMARU

Series 9, 2026

Potpourri

Organised by Linda Gaskin

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.

9 November — **Europe and New Zealand in times of Uncertainty.** — ***Serena Kelly***

My previous presentation to U3A Timaru explored the history of New Zealand's relationship with Europe and the current state of those ties. For this presentation I will give an update on some of the challenges facing European foreign policy at the moment, such as the on-going war in Ukraine, how to deal with Trump 2.0, and the war in the Middle East. I will then finish with an overview of some of the developments in relations between Europe and Oceania and what they may mean for New Zealand.

16 November — **Sovereign citizens and pseudolaw adherents in New Zealand.** — ***Stephen Young***

Why do some New Zealanders believe that magic words, home-made 'tribunals', and misread legal texts can free them from council rates, criminal law, and other obligations? This talk explores the sovereign citizen and pseudolaw movement in Aotearoa, from its appeal to its harms. Drawing on 'Outlawed: Responding to the Global Rise of Sovereign Citizens and Legal Conspiracies', Stephen's new book, it considers what courts, communities, and governments can do in response.

23 November — **Transatlantic Marriages.** — ***Maureen Montgomery***

Julian Fellowes' drama, Downton Abbey features the Earl of Grantham marrying an American heiress that enabled him to rescue the family fortune and maintain ownership of Downton Abbey. Fellowes' "prequel", The Gilded Age, deals with the trials and tribulations of old New York society, as it became inundated with families whose vast fortunes had been made in industry, mining, retail and finance - this is the background from which Cora, Lady Grantham, came as the daughter of a dry goods millionaire. Maureen Montgomery did her PhD on transatlantic marriages and the British peerage 1870-1914 and went on to write about the society from which many titled American women came, describing the fraught years of social competition between the older elite and the *nouveaux riches.*

The End of Year Christmas Afternoon Tea will be provided after this lecture.

2026 PROGRAMME DATES:

SERIES 1: Mar 9, 16, 23	**SERIES 4:** Jun 8, 15, 22	**SERIES 7:** Sep 7, 14, 21
SERIES 2: Apr 13, 20	**SERIES 5:** Jul 6, 13, 20	**SERIES 8:** Oct 5, 12, 19
SERIES 3: May 11, 18, 25	**SERIES 6:** Aug 3,10,17	**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 at about 2.30 pm, with questions to follow.

Wait until the end of the lecture before asking questions and stand and wait for the microphone when asking a question.

As a courtesy to our speakers and other members, please

- be seated by 1.20 pm and do wear your name tag.
- don't talk during lectures.
- note cell phone use during presentations:

Members are reminded that while phones can be used to take notes during presentations, they should not take photos of the presenter or the slides presented, as the distribution of this material requires the consent of presenters. All phones should be set to silent. Thank you.

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

President:	**Kevin Foley**:	telephone: (03) 686 2209
Vice President:	**Linda Gaskin**	
Treasurer:	**Jenny Ensor**	
Secretary:	**Léonie Litten**:	email: u3atimaru@gmail.com
Members:	**Bob Cumming, Peter Hall, Sharon Peck.**	

PLEASE NOTE:

Series 9 begins Monday, 9 November 2026, at the West End Hall.