

# Series 8, 2023

## Our Changing World

Organised by Linda Gaskin and Reese Hart

**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.

**2 October      The Hidden Weeds in all our Gardens      *Sanjana Hattotuwa***

This lecture will present snapshots of New Zealand's truth decay since the Covid-19 pandemic. By mid-2023 the spread of harmful disinformation has become more violent and harmful to NZ's democratic fabric. Some of the content freely accessible on social media is many times worse than what we now know radicalised the Christchurch mosque killer. Beyond explicit violent extremism there is also a constant instigation of anger and antagonism. Attitudes, perceptions and behaviours are being shaped. In a period defined by anxiety and disinformation there is increasing resonance among ordinary citizens. It matters that we talk about what is going on, so we can meaningfully think about what each of us can do to fight against democratic decay, to which NZ is not immune.

**9 October      How do we make cycle-friendly cities?      *Dr Glen Koorey***

New Zealand is starting to see a shift in providing more opportunities for safer cycling, for a wider range of people. But what exactly is needed to get people cycling more regularly in New Zealand and how do we get there? This presentation will provide a brief overview of what 'good' cycling provision looks like, using practical examples from here and overseas.

**16 October      Artificial Intelligence      *Prof. Anthony Robins***

Professor Robins is a specialist in computer science education. He will examine Artificial Intelligence (AI), outlining the growing impact on many human endeavours in the fields of science, business, the law, medicine and government.

**2023 PROGRAMME DATES:**

**SERIES 1:** Mar 13, 20, 27

**SERIES 2:** Apr 3, 17

**SERIES 3:** May 8, 15, 22

**SERIES 4:** Jun 12, 19, 26

**SERIES 5:** Jul 10, 17

**SERIES 6:** Aug 7, 14, 21

**SERIES 7:** Sep 4, 11, 18

**SERIES 8:** Oct 2, 9, 16

**SERIES 9:** Nov 6, 13, 20

**Meetings**

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: phone: (03) 686 2209

**Vice President:** Solome Mair

**Treasurer:** Ron Paulin

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

**Members:** Bob Cumming, Linda Gaskin, Julian Maze, Jude McKenzie

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Series 9 begins Monday  
6 November 2023**