

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.

3 March Some Reflections on Stupidity - Bonhoeffer *Chris Holmes*

Have you ever considered the characteristics of stupidity? Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the famous German theologian, pastor, and martyr, offers a remarkably insightful account. In his work titled "An Account at the Turn of the Year 1942-1943," he argues "that the internal liberation of human beings to live the responsible life before God is the only genuine way to overcome stupidity". In this presentation, I discuss Bonhoeffer's account of stupidity, and how stupidity (then and now) might be overcome.

10 March Conspiracy Theories: why we want to believe them. *Deane Galbraith*

Belief in conspiracy theories seems to be more prevalent than ever. Or maybe it just seems that way? Why do some people believe in conspiracy theories and not others? Are all conspiracy theories wrong? This talk combines recent findings from studies of conspiracy theory belief, with the speaker's study of a New Zealand theory: that has covered up the arrival of fair-skinned people 1,000 years before Māori arrived here.

17 March New Zealand's changing foreign policy? China, ANZUS and independence. *Nick R Smith*

The question of New Zealand's foreign policy direction has elicited significant public debate – the questions of New Zealand's relationship with China, and whether it should participate in AUKUS, and to what extent it can maintain an independent outlook. New Zealand finds itself in a difficult situation; a situation made more complex by the re-election of Donald Trump in the United States. This talk will discuss New Zealand's foreign policy evolution over the past decade and ponder what will happen if the geopolitical situation worsens.

2025 PROGRAMME DATES:

SERIES 1: Mar 3, 10, 17

SERIES 2: Apr 7, 14

SERIES 3: May 5, 12, 19

SERIES 4: Jun 9, 16, 23

SERIES 5: Jul 7, 14, 21

SERIES 6: Aug 4, 11, 18

SERIES 7: Sep 1, 8, 15

SERIES 8: Oct 6, 13, 20

SERIES 9: Nov 3, 10, 17

Meetings

The three lectures in March will be held at the Caroline Bay Hall.

From 7 April, all meetings will be back at the West End Hall.

The AGM will follow the first meeting at the West End Hall on 7 April.

Coffee/tea will be provided after the meeting.

As a courtesy to our speakers and other members, please

be seated by 1.20 pm. wear your name tag.
turn your cell phone off. no talking during lectures.
wait until the end of the lecture before asking questions.
stand when asking a question, and wait for the microphone.

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

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, Solome Mair, Julian Maze, Jude McKenzie

PLEASE NOTE:

**Series 1 begins Monday
3 March 2025
at the Caroline Bay Hall.**