



Small is Beautiful?

Spring Seminar Series

All Saints Community Centre
338 Church Street, Palmerston North
Wednesdays 2.15 – 4.00pm



This free seminar series organised by U3A Manawatu is funded by Eastern & Central Community Trust, and is open to the public

In 1973 Schumacher coined the maxim 'Small is Beautiful' of one of his teachers, and started the movement to champion the small. This series explores the proposition from four different angles.

Oct 18th: Back to the future: small is beautiful and the future is small

Dr. Jeff Sluka, Associate Professor, Social Anthropology, Massey University

Today we live in extremely unequal, environmentally unsustainable, industrial, capitalist, mass-consumption based societies which have produced the most severe environmental crisis in human history, so severe that the 'prognosis' for the future is 'terminal civilisation'. The future is likely to be small, and more like the tribal lifestyles of the world's indigenous peoples than the large-scale societies we live in today.

Oct 25th: Anglo-Indians in New Zealand

Dr. Robyn Andrews, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology, Massey University

Anglo-Indians are an Indian minority community, many of whom migrated from India after Independence in 1947 to English speaking Commonwealth countries. A number came to New Zealand but very little is recorded about their presence here. Robyn will present on a project which aims to construct an historic and contemporary picture of this group of migrants to New Zealand.

Nov 1st: Microscopy: enjoying the little things in life

Niki Minards, Microscopy Technician, Manawatu Microscopy & Imaging Centre, Massey U.

From the development of the antibiotics we take, to understanding the process of fertilisation, all rely on being able to see things smaller than our naked eyes allow. Microscopes, in their many forms, have granted us access to the normally invisible world that surrounds us. Beyond scientific insight, these instruments reveal a surprising complexity, elegance and beauty in everyday objects.

Nov 8th: How short can a story be?

Dr. Thom Conroy, Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing, Massey University

Very short narratives known as flash fictions, micro-fictions, or 'short-shorts', are becoming increasingly popular. No more than 1,000 words and as short as 30, these bite-sized bits of prose pack character, plot, setting, and theme into the word count of a sonnet. We'll take a tour of flash fiction, stopping along the way to consider how size impacts story.

Admission Free: Gold coin for tea/coffee and biscuits.

All Saints Community Centre is at the rear of All Saints Church, next to Square Edge, just off The Square. There is parking alongside the driveway, and in the row immediately behind the building.