



Whatever Next?

Autumn Seminar Series

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



**This free seminar series is funded by Eastern & Central Community Trust
and is open to the public**

Fortune telling is all very well but expert information on what changes lie ahead for us and the rest of the world is much better! In this series, four experts present their views on some of the important challenges we have to meet.

May 3rd: Politics in a post-truth age

Professor Paul Spoonley, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Massey University

Politics is entering a challenging era in countries like our own as some of the old certainties – left vs. right, the dominance of mass politic parties – have disappeared or are being challenged. And new issues have emerged (increasing superannuation eligibility to 67). What do your new politics and politicians look like? What are the challenges?

May 10th: Climate change now and in the future

Professor Robert McLachlan, Institute of Fundamental Sciences, Massey University

Although global warming was discovered in the 19th century, and has been tirelessly explored since then, only now are its effects beginning to be felt as local climates are affected. The issue presents a unique combination of human, scientific, technological, and moral questions as we stand, as many believe, at a critical point in the story of human development.

May 17th: The future of food and food manufacture

Richard Archer, Logan Campbell Professor of Food Technology, Massey University

We all have to eat – we always have and always will. Nearly all we eat today has passed through a factory. Is this good? What might happen next? Some drivers persist over time and some change. Throughout history the new technologies of the day have been applied to food. What can we read of our own future for food?

May 24th: The age of automation

Dr. Sy Taffel, Lecturer in Media Studies, Massey University

From writing poetry to driving cars, a diverse range of activities that involve complex decision-making are now beginning to be undertaken by ‘intelligent’ machines with little or no direct human oversight. How might these technological changes alter social, political and economic systems? What kinds of future societies do these developments gesture towards? How might these changes challenge our understanding of intelligence, human creativity and what it means to be human?

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.