

FREE AUTUMN 2022 SEMINAR SERIES



Impressions on Nature

Crossroads Church
220 Church Street, Palmerston North
Wednesdays 2.15 – 4.00pm



This seminar series is organised by U3A Manawatu. It is funded by Eastern & Central Community Trust and is open to the public. It will also be live streamed and permanently available on YouTube. Follow the link on: <https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz/seminars/>

Diverse views of nature, impacts on the environment, the policy scene, what can we expect? This series explores some of these significant issues.

May 11th: He Tatai Whenua; Case studies of mātuaranga Māori in relation to our land

Prof Jonathan Procter, Professor in Natural Hazards and Associate Dean Maori, College of Sciences, Massey University

Mātauranga Māori, or Māori expert knowledge in relation to Papatuanuku (our earthly environment) and in relation to kaitiakitanga (stewardship of the environment), offers a potentially powerful pathway leading to revitalisation and reconnection for all New Zealanders to our whenua at a time when global ecological concerns are increasingly relevant. This cultural knowledge can be integrated into existing environment management structures to secure environmental benefit and sustainability.

May 18th: Human-wildlife conflict and the biodiversity crisis: why we must care

Prof Murray Potter, Professor in Zoology, Massey University

Exponential growth in the human population during the 20th century coupled with massive growth in consumerism have combined to create a global biodiversity crisis and an existential threat to our continued existence. This is the single biggest threat facing humanity and life on our planet. This talk examines how we got to this point and whether it remains possible to prevent calamity.

May 25th: The Forgotten Poetry of the Colonial Environment

Assoc. Prof. Philip Steer, School of Humanities, Media, and Creative Communication, Massey University

Even as colonisation devastated the environment, settlers wrote poetry about nature. This presentation will demonstrate how *Papers Past* is transforming our understanding of New Zealand literature through a tour of some of the striking locations and subjects highlighted by this writing. It will explore the idea that poetry was an important form of settler environmental knowledge, alongside science and economics.

June 1st: Changing meanings of “the environment” in New Zealand

Dr Jeff McNeill, Senior Lecturer in Resource & Environmental Planning, Massey University

How we see the environment is codified in our laws. I review how the environment has been recognised in New Zealand’s legislation over the last century to reflect our understanding and valuing of it over the last century. In particular the RMA is considered and the implications of its replacement explored together with the drivers for these changes.

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

Crossroads Church is situated opposite the Railway Land close to the Church Street-Cook Street corner. There are car parks with entrances from Church Street and Cook Street.