From the Co- Presidents

We look forward to sharing the responsibilities of president of U3A Christchurch Central in 2019 and getting to know long-term and new U3A members. We step into the very big shoes of Pauline Huggins. We are delighted that Pauline and several other experienced committee members will continue to serve on the committee and thank all out-going committee members for their work. It is excellent to have a new member on the committee and we invite others to consider contributing to the organisation of this branch. In consultation with the committee, we plan to survey members before mid-year on your preferences for future courses. Please contact us if you have any suggestions on how the branch could better meet your needs.

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Your Committee 2019

Course Two

Research: “Poking and Prying with Purpose”.

This course explores the challenges involved in pursuing answers to intriguing research questions as well as the results of systematic poking and prying.

Course Organiser: Bob Manthei

Bob retired from the University of Canterbury as Professor of Counselling in 2008.

His own research activities included the challenges of poking and prying into the therapeutic process, often raising as many questions as it did answers.
**March 12**: Associate Professor Annette Mills, Accountancy and Information Systems

*Priveé est mort, vive privé! Does privacy matter?*

This talk will look at personal information privacy in the modern digitised economy, the risks, challenges and opportunities in the era of big data/data analytics and artificial intelligence. We will introduce the problem of personal data harvesting/scraping/ownership and its use: How is personal data gathered, privacy issues, legal matters, data protection, ethics of data collection and use – the good and the bad (who and how).

**March 19**: Dr John Boereboom; Director, Centre for Educational Evaluation and Monitoring

*Value-added Assessment and International League Tables*

National examination results and league tables are an invalid way to compare school effectiveness. Alternatively, value-added assessment monitors growth and progress at the student, department and school level. How does New Zealand’s education system rank internationally? The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a worldwide study which measures 15-year-olds’ performance in mathematics, science, and reading.

**March 26**: Professor Julia Rucklidge, Clinical Psychology

*Behind the Scenes: The trials and tribulations of researching the simple idea that nutrition is important to the brain.*

Over the last few decades, scientists have been uncovering an uncomfortable truth: What we eat is affecting our mental health. Prof Rucklidge will discuss her research into providing an alternative course of action and the challenges she has faced along the way.

**April 2**: Professor Dave Kelly, Biological Sciences

*Long term research: Serendipity and Intuition*

Professor Kelly has studied mast seeding (variable flowering from year to year) by snow tussocks at Mt Hutt every year for the last 31 years, despite having intended to pursue this topic for only a few years. During this time the questions have changed, sometimes thanks to hunches he had many years before. Long term study poses special challenges, including, in this case, sharing the mountain with a developing ski field (which has created both problems and opportunities).

**April 9**: Professor John Horwood, Director Christchurch Health and Development Study

*Cohort Studies: challenges and opportunities*

For over 40 years the Christchurch Health and Development Study (CHDS) has been documenting the life course development of a birth cohort of 1265 children born in Christchurch in mid-1977. This presentation will explore some of the challenges to running a long-term cohort study, and look at the parallels between the CHDS and other Australasian cohort studies, including the Dunedin Multidisciplinary Health and Development Study.

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**Morning Tea Helpers for Course 2**

*Majorie Manthei and Marilyn Gayford* have volunteered for the duration of Course 2. Thank You!