



## Members' Update August 2019

### Greetings

The next meeting of Hutt U3A is on Monday 12th August at the Dowse. We are settling into our new surroundings and pleased with the quality of the sound system and big screen which enables us to enjoy the speakers' slides.

Having the registration desk in the outer corridor makes for a more spacious greeting area – and more comfortable space inside to enjoy a cuppa and a chat before the meeting. This is our chance to meet old friends and make new friends.

### August Speaker

**Marc Wilson Professor of Psychology at Victoria University of Wellington**

Have you ever wondered why some people believe some very strange things? Our next speaker will address this.

On the 50th anniversary of the moon landings, Marc says, around 1 in 10 New Zealanders think this historic event was a hoax.

More than 90% of climate scientists believe humans are contributing to climate change, but only about two-thirds of us agree.

Do the gaps between lay and expert consensus reflect poorer education or lower intelligence?

In this talk, Marc will suggest that how we think about science (and other issues) is deeply rooted in the way we see the world.

He will explain that our views on social, political, economic, and scientific issues are intertwined, so that appeals relating to specific issues have to work against the 'inertia' of whole systems of beliefs.



### Last month's Speaker

**Geoscientist Joshu Mountjoy**

Joshu took us beyond New Zealand's coastline – to our vast and fascinating underwater landscape.

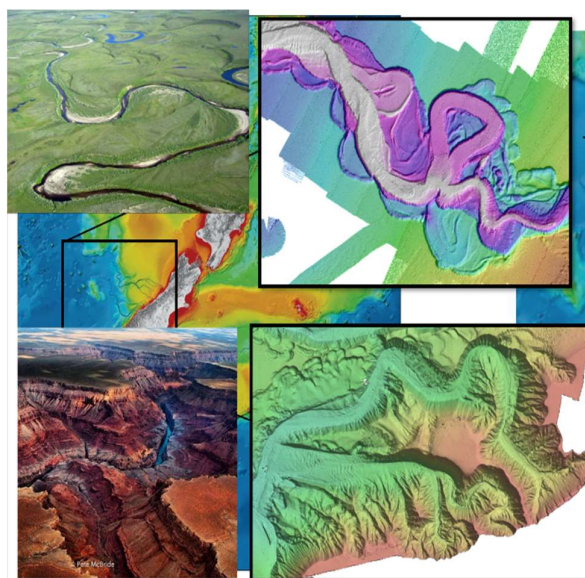
Joshu is NIWA's marine geoscientist who studies seafloor processes including earthquakes, canyons and landslides.



Thousand metre deep submarine canyons, subduction fault zones and mountain scale landslides work together to shape this hidden landscape.

NIWA's mapping efforts over the last 15 years have revealed much of this seafloor giving insight into the processes and the time scales over which they occur.

Events like the 2016 Kaikoura Earthquake demonstrate just how dynamic our country is.



New Zealand's offshore margin – Sedimentary Systems - Haast/Hokitika.

## Group Notes

Antiques & Collectibles members go to great lengths to take part – shown by this contribution from Brenda Baker to the July meeting on the topic of a garden or a gardener:

*I am  
fascinated  
here by  
gardens in  
very small  
spaces often  
contrasting  
with stone  
walls – like  
this window box garden in St Ives.*



Monet, the gardener, featured at the meeting as well as Gertrude Jekyll, also a gardener and painter living at the same time. The gardener/painter combination is summed up in this verse by American Artist Elizabeth Murray (1940-2007):

*“Gardening is the art  
That uses flowers  
And plants as paint  
And the soil and sky  
As canvas.”*

The **Book Group's** August topic is an historical novel set prior to 1600.

In July **CATIG** members considered the topic of recreational cannabis and the forthcoming referendum on legalising medicinal cannabis and its production.

**Theatre Group** members enjoyed the Circa play *Burn Her* by Sam Brooks, on 4<sup>th</sup> August. The political thriller received excellent reviews.

**Walking and Local History** group went to Collett house in Riddlers Cres, Petone, where the owner shared some of its history with us. Then to Udy St north where old villas are restored to former glory.



Photo: Delphine Turney

## Groups Contacts

**Antiques and Collectibles** – 4<sup>th</sup> Tue 2pm. Convenor – Catherine Chapman 970 4932.

**Books** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu 1pm. War Memorial Library. Convenor - Pam Lee 565 1716.

**Current Affairs and Topics of Interest Group (CATIG)** 4<sup>th</sup> Mon 1 pm. Russell Keown House, Queens Drive. Convenor – Ken Baird 564 2579.

**Film** – 1<sup>st</sup> Mon morning. Convenor – Pam Lee 565 1716.

**Scrabble** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed at 1.30pm. Convenor – Pam Lee 565 1716. Plays in members' homes.

**Theatre Group** – Convenor – Christine Williams 568 2342.

**Walking and Local History** – last day of the month. Convenor Brenda Baker 569 5308.

## July Word of the Day nidifugous

- *adjective*: Well-developed and able to leave the nest soon after hatching.
- From Latin nidi- (nest) + -fugous (fleeing).
- Ultimately from the Indo-European root sed- (to sit), which is also the source of nest, chair, saddle, sediment, soot and cathedral.
- Earliest documented use: 1902.
- The opposite of nidifugous is [nidicolous](#).
- Means remaining with parents for a long time after birth.
- Etymologically speaking, these words apply to birds, but there's no reason you can't use them elsewhere. For example.g. if your adult child suggests living in your spare room, you could simply say, "Don't be nidicolous!"

## Monthly Meetings - Please sign in

We need to know who is at our meetings in case of emergency. Pick up your badge when you arrive. Non-members who come to hear a specific speaker are welcome, but must register and it would be appreciated if they made a donation.

**See you at the Dowse for a cuppa 1pm on  
12<sup>th</sup> August.**

<https://huttu3a.weebly.com/>

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