

## Canterbury Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand Te Apārangi October 2022 Newsletter

Dear Member,

We hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Much has happened over the past month. The most notable was the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Over her reign of 70 years some of our members, past and present, may have met her. Others may have also met the new King. We would like to pass on our condolences and we wish our new King well in his reign.

### Carbon dioxide monitor

The CO<sub>2</sub> monitor we purchased last month is getting well used and we have collected data from several meetings, field trips, and airplane flights. You can see some of the results so far on the Branch's [FaceBook](#) page or [Twitter](#). If you want to use it yourself, please contact us and we will arrange for you to pick it up. A guide to recommended CO<sub>2</sub> measurements can be found at <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/in-depth/470690/whose-breath-are-you-breathing>. All we ask in return is that you post your findings on Facebook or Twitter and tag us in.

### International Antarctic Centre

Did you know that the International Antarctic Centre is 30 years old? We have an opportunity to visit on Saturday 29 October at 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm. One of their educators will give us a talk and tour of the displays. The cost is \$20.00 and this is limited to 20 people. If you are interested, please send an email to [r.fagg@xtra.co.nz](mailto:r.fagg@xtra.co.nz) by Saturday 15 October.

### Subscriptions

Many thanks for those who have already paid their subscription for this year. As we continue rebuilding the Branch, your support is much appreciated. If you have not received an invoice, and would still like to support us, our bank details are below. Please put your name as a reference so that we can identify you. At the AGM, subscriptions were set at \$45 for Ordinary and \$35 for retired members.

Bank Account: 02 0820 0601223 00

Bank account name: CanterburyRSNZbranch

Please also send your details to our Hon Secretary at [secretary@canterbury.rsnzbranch.org.nz](mailto:secretary@canterbury.rsnzbranch.org.nz)

### Talk recordings

Finally, don't forget that our Science & Society talks are broadcast on [Plains FM](#) on 96.9FM soon after the talks are held. The podcasts are available on the programme page on [their website](#).

## Science & Society talk series 2022

We continue with our Science & Society talks on the Monday evenings at Tūranga Central Library beginning at 6.30pm. For those who can't come to Tūranga Central Library, the talks are livestreamed on Zoom and recorded by Plains FM for later broadcast on their station (see above), but we really would like to see you in person so that we can engage with you to find out what you would like to see and hear about in the future. There are only two more Christchurch talks left this year, so why not come along...?

### 31 October - Verginia and Nga Roimata

Assoc. Prof. Alison Griffiths, University of Canterbury

*Alison will talk about the Roman legend of Verginia in parallel with the (oral) historical account of Nga Roimata, the daughter of the Ngai Tahu chief Tamaiharanui, and she will show how the Māori concepts of mana, utu, and mana whenua help identify and differentiate the complex underlying issues around moral actions, social status, and political power in the Roman story of Verginia.*

To join by Zoom, click on the link below

<https://canterbury.zoom.us/j/99352534712?pwd=RmcxcFpPS2Y3UGhBV1FQbTIEUUIIDUT09>

Meeting ID: 993 5253 4712

Passcode: 555

### 28 November - World War I and the ancient world

Dr Gary Morrison, Head of Classics, University of Canterbury

*Gary will present a lecture on his WWI project, where he will introduce how New Zealanders reflections on and ultimately memory of WWI (and in particular Gallipoli) is influenced by the ancient world. Heroic imagery from antiquity helps frame the narrative of WWI. He will show that the allusions to antiquity are present in the personal diaries of combatants and the newspaper articles at home.*

### Timaru talks

This month we begin a series of three talks at the Timaru District Council Chambers (access from Barnard Street) ...

### Thursday 13 October - Ernest Rutherford, Some Facts You Probably Didn't Know

Dr John Campbell University of Canterbury (retired)

*Ernest Rutherford is well known as the internationally most famous of all New Zealanders. We think we know him well. In this talk I will give a hotch-potch of facts about Ernest which should be a surprise to almost all. Wide-ranging, it will also include subsequent honours since death, his interaction with the Canterbury Philosophical Institute, the forerunner of the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and a South Canterbury connection.*

(Note: We also hope to be able to bring this talk to Christchurch next year.)

### Friday 4 November - Spiders of Aotearoa (talk and field trip)

Dr Cor Vink, Lincoln University

After the talk, the public are invited to a field trip to the Otupia Wetlands hosted by the South Canterbury Museum, to search for spiders at night.

## Wednesday 9 November - Citizen science and ocean conservation

Rob Lewis

*The opportunities and contribution citizens can be involved with in science and their contribution to ocean conservation*

Unfortunately, an event planned for 17 November that the Branch was to have co-hosted in Timaru with the Neurological Foundation has had to be postponed until next year. More details to come in future newsletters.

### Other events ...

#### GSNZ Hochstetter Lecture - The shear zones that hold back the ice sheets

David Prior, University of Otago

**Date:** Wednesday 5 October

**Time:** 5:30 pm

**Location:** ER140 (Ernest Rutherford Building, UC Ilam Campus)

*Most significant polar ice loss is through fast ice streams and outlet glaciers. The fast-flowing ice deforms by shear where it drags against rock, sediments and relatively static ice at the basal and lateral margins of the flow. These shear zones are a significant control on the rate of flow. Fast ice flow feeds large floating ice shelves and fossil shear zones dissect ice shelves and may influence their break-up. For these reasons predicting future sea level rise related to polar ice loss requires a better quantitative understanding of the shear zones at the margins of fast ice flow.*

*This talk will outline new work on three lateral shear margins; of the Priestley Glacier that feeds into the Nansen Ice Shelf, Antarctica, of the Whillans Ice stream that feeds the Ross Ice Shelf, Antarctica and of the Haupapa/Tasman Glacier in New Zealand.*

### From The Royal Society Te Apārangi ...

#### Help shape Te Kete Āhuarangi me Te Taiao – the Environment and Climate Research Strategy

The Ministry for the Environment are inviting members of the Society to take part in a survey. In particular, they are wanting to hear from people who produce or use environmental and climate research in:

- iwi, hapū or Māori-led organisations
- universities and research organisations
- non-government organisations
- private enterprise or industry organisations
- local or central government agencies

If you would like to take part, please go to the survey link [Kōrero mai](#)

You can share your views until **7th of October 2022**.

Please share this invitation with whānau, colleagues and others in your networks who may be interested. If you have any questions, please contact the team at [ecrs@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ecrs@mfe.govt.nz).

### **Other news**

Branch Council members Krishna & Rob had the pleasure of judging the Branch's awards at the **Canterbury/Westland Science & Technology Fair** on 24 September at Canterbury University. The Branch awarded prizes of \$200 each to students in each of three age categories for 'excellence in experimental design, approach, and interpretation'. The very worthy award winners were as follows...

Years 7 & 8 – **Dahna Paek** from Cobham Intermediate School for their ingenious technology project 'An Un-Upturning Umbrella'

Years 9 & 10 – **Breana McLintock & Lucy Mullen** from Middleton Grange School for excellent use of experimentation in their science project 'Sound Surfaces'

Years 11-13 – **Alexandra Nicolaou** from St. Margaret's College for all round excellence in their science project 'The effects of CO<sub>2</sub> on bacterial growth'

### **Keep in touch**

You can stay updated by our Facebook page Canterbury RSNZ Branch or twitter @CanterburyRSNZ. If have any suggestions for speakers, field trips ideas etc please contact us and I am always willing to discuss anything regarding the branch with you.  
Keep safe and well over the coming weeks.

Regards,

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