

## Canterbury Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand Te Apārangī September 2022 Newsletter

Dear Member,

We hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Many thanks for the positive feedback we received about last month's newsletter.

### Carbon dioxide monitor available for use by members

Last month the Council decided to purchase a CO<sub>2</sub> monitor. Here are some more details from Council member, Will Godsoe:

Carbon dioxide monitors provide a way to measure the ventilation within a room, i.e. how much air is moving through a room as opposed to how many people are breathing into the space. Good ventilation is a way to reduce the chance of transmitting airborne diseases such as Covid. The Canterbury Branch of the Royal Society has bought a CO<sub>2</sub> monitor with the intention of improving our understanding of air circulation in Canterbury.

We are making this available to members to monitor air, but in exchange, we'd like to see some of this information shared with others in the region. For example, we would appreciate mentions of thanks in social media such as our Facebook page (Canterbury RSNZ Branch <https://www.facebook.com/groups/150094318499198/>) or twitter handle @CanterburyRSNZ. We'd also be curious to see what CO<sub>2</sub> measurements you have obtained. 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>. We still need to sort out a few minor details, but if you would like to use this to monitor in your own house, workplace, or at meetings you are attending, please let us know and we can arrange for you to borrow it.

### Science Fair

We are again sponsoring prizes at the NIWA Canterbury-Westland Schools Science and Technology Fair. If you would like to help with the judging in Christchurch on Saturday 24 September, please contact Rob Cruickshank at [bugblokenz@outlook.com](mailto:bugblokenz@outlook.com) or 021 083 44601.

### Council subcommittees

We now have two Council subcommittees, one lead by Fiona McGregor (who was co-opted onto Council at our June meeting), which is working on updating our webpage and social media, and another to organise speakers for next year in Christchurch. If you would like to help with either of these then please let us know.

## Subscriptions

Many thanks to those of you who have already paid your 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 in the Reference field 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)

## Science & Society talk series 2022

We continue with our Science & Society talks at 6.30 pm on the fourth Monday of each month in the TSB Space on Level 1 of Tūranga Central Library. For those who can't come to Tūranga, the talks are livestreamed on Zoom and recorded by Plains FM for later broadcast on their station, 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.

Our next talk is on **26 September...**

### **Fear to Fascination: International Spider Adventures**

Dr Fiona Cross, University of Canterbury

*Fiona used to treat spiders with fear and loathing, but once I took the time to learn more about them it opened up a world full of discovery and adventure. In particular, I work with jumping spiders (family Salticidae), which have unique, complex eyes and a capacity for spatial vision exceeding that for any other animals of similar size. Despite having brains that would comfortably fit on pinheads, some salticid species have been observed to make use of selective attention, working memory and problem solving in their everyday lives, these being cognitive topics traditionally ascribed to animals with much bigger brains. Studying these spiders help us gain important insights into animal cognition by challenging long-held biases of what an animal with a tiny brain is capable of doing.*

To join by Zoom, click on the link below

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

Meeting ID: 993 5253 4712

Passcode: 555

Other talks are...

### **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.*

## 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.*

### **Podcasts**

Finally, don't forget that our Science & Society talks are broadcast on Plains FM on 96.9 FM <https://plainsfm.org.nz/Live.html> soon after the talks are held, and the podcasts are available on the programme page on their website: <https://plainsfm.org.nz/Prog/ScienceAndSociety2022>

### **Talks in Timaru**

Now that we have access to the Council chambers, Timaru begins its programme this month with Sasha Morriss, Geo-educator at Waitaki Whitestone Geopark on **8 September**.

Rob Lewis from University of Otago Marine Studies will be speaking on **4 November** on 'Citizen Science and the Ocean' to coincide with the giant squid exhibition from Te Papa that will be at South Canterbury Museum during this time.

Cor Vink from Lincoln University will be visiting us in November to talk about spiders. Cor and the South Canterbury Museum will be holding a 'night at the wetlands', where the public will be able to look for spiders.

On **17 November** the Branch is co-hosting Associate Professor Stephanie Hughes from the University of Otago with the Neurological Foundation in Timaru. Stephanie has a focus on neuronal development and maintenance and one of her post-doctoral research fellows will add to the presentation with an explanation of what they work on in the lab. This may also be available online once details are finalised.

### **Keep in touch**

You can stay up to date by looking at our Canterbury RSNZ Branch Facebook page, or finding us on Twitter at @CanterburyRSNZ. If you have any suggestions for speakers, fields, etc., please contact us. 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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