

Canterbury Workers Educational Association.

Newsletter Term 4 2017

Another year nearly over and another round of Christmas music in the shops. As my preferred shopping space is a book shop I feel lucky, as they are often more quiet and reflective places. It is a different kind of marketing though as when you feel comfortable you relax and possibly come away with more than you had planned. I also really enjoy libraries and sometimes even borrow e-books as I can do this from home or anywhere curled up on my couch or lying outside. I could also enrol for CWEA courses from the same places.

The term 1 2018 Programme is currently at the printer and will be posted to members with this newsletter next week. It has a lot in it for you to indulge in and I hope you do get involved in the learning adventure for 2018. Maybe you do not get the Programme in hard copy but have it [available online](http://cwea.org.nz) via our website at cwea.org.nz. You can then enrol directly while you are thinking about it and before you lose the enthusiasm.

We have tried to continue with some favourite programs but have added some new areas, including belly dancing.

We are including a [Social Issues Soapbox Series](#). A soapbox has traditionally been defined as *“an improvised platform used by a self-appointed, spontaneous, or informal orator; broadly: something that provides an outlet for delivering opinions”* and we would like this series to reflect the flavour of that. It is timetabled for Wednesday’s across a variety of time slots to allow a wider range of people to come. Some sessions will be mid- afternoon, some late afternoon and some evening. We are not completely spontaneous so have booked some speakers including Environmentalist and citizen Sam Mahon, Political Scientist Dr Sylvia Nissen, Glenda Martin on 2018 Volunteering, Grant Pheloung on Unravelling US Politics, Dr Susanna Finlay and Dr Libby Caygill will be discussing aspects of Synthetic and Molecular Biology. Dr Caygill describes herself *as a scientist with a passion for public outreach and communication, increasing public understanding of science, and inspiring a love of science in others.*

More speakers have agreed to be involved and I will add their details to the website and to other material closer to the dates. This does not replace our Popup series which are one off sessions on any day of the week. For example, we currently have a group in the building following up on the bus trip they took last week around various re vegetation spaces in Christchurch. This was not in the original Programme but we had left space to fit other things in and when an idea popped up we acted on it.

In term 1 we have also included a range of history focussed sessions at different times – again to try and be accessible to as many people as possible. So if you have not been able to come to some classes previously because of their timing maybe this will be your term! We are trying to

be much more open and flexible so some series are shorter and even more have been added to the evening slots.

We have added some details to the Programme of groups we are supporting such as [Forest and Bird](#), [350.org](#), [Network Waitangi](#) etc and we are collaborating with the [Deaf Society to provide Beginner Sign Language classes at the Deaf Society in Fitzgerald Avenue](#).

Parking is also improving with the [Art Gallery parking building](#) being open from 7 am – midnight.

Things are happening for the better.

I hope you are able to make the most of what we are offering and please let us know if you have ideas of things we could include or ways we could make things easier to involve people and support more positive Adult Learning and Discussion.

I will still be here for term 1 of 2018 but I am hoping that a new person will be in this seat for term 2.

Thank you to the team who support this organisation including Christine in the front office, Kazuko who smiles as she tidies and cleans, Daniela who has been working on projects this term and to our volunteers especially Andy, Dave, Ivan, Ginny, Caroline and Marilyn.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy summer and hoping we see you in the New Year.

Wendy Butcher

Interim Coordinator.

November 2017.