University of the Third Age, Timaru

Series 4, 2019

ASPECTS OF RELIGION

Organised by Kevin Foley and Mary Clarke.

U3A lectures are for members only. *We regret we're unable to welcome visitors to our lectures. It would be unfair to those who have been on the waiting list for a year or more.*

15 July — **Islam and the roots of understanding** — ***Assoc Prof William E. Shepard***

Islam means submission to God and is also a vast and diverse religious and cultural tradition having at its core a method (or methods) of discerning and obeying the will of God. The lecture will focus on this core explaining key concepts such as Shari'a and relating it to various social concerns such as gender and politics (including war and peace and terrorism).

22 July — **A Taste of Hinduism** — ***Will Sweetman BA MPhil PhD***

An ancient and highly diverse religious tradition, Hinduism is hard to define and is sometimes said to be better thought of as a family of religions than a single religion. Nevertheless, there are characteristically Hindu ways of practising religion. This talk will introduce some of those ways, by examining the different sources which have come together to make up contemporary Hinduism.

29 July — **God's Own Country or Secular New Zealand?** — ***Assoc Prof John Stenhouse PhD***

Premier Richard 'King Dick' Seddon liked calling New Zealand 'God's Own Country'. Why? Influential nationalist historians such as William Pember Reeves and Keith Sinclair, by contrast, tended to depict it as a modern secular nation rapidly leaving religion behind. Why? Attempting to answer both questions, this lecture argues that religion shaped New Zealand's past more significantly than Reeves and Sinclair were prepared to acknowledge.

5 August — **The life of the Buddha** — ***Dr Elizabeth Guthrie***

Dr Guthrie will talk about the life of the Buddha using contemporary Cambodian Buddhist mural paintings to illustrate her talk. She will show changes in representations of the life of the Buddha due to colonisation by the French.

Series 5: **Physics is Everywhere** — August 26, September 2, 9, 16
Series 6: **International Perspectives and Experiences** — October 7, 14, 21, November 4

Visit the U3A Timaru website at **www.u3atimaru.org** to check the upcoming programme, download a copy of the newsletter, check the U3A calendar or download a copy of talk notes (if the presenter has made them available). There's also information and an application form for people who want to join U3A.

MEETINGS

West End Hall, 35a Maltby Avenue, Timaru.
Lectures commence at 1.30 pm and conclude about 2.30 pm with questions to follow.
Coffee/tea will be provided after the meeting.

PLEASE …

Wear your name tag
Be seated by 1.20 pm
Turn your cell phone off
No talking during lectures
Wait until the end of the lecture before asking questions
Stand when asking a question and wait for the microphone

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

President: **Owen Berrill**: Phone: (03) 686 1688
Vice President: **Kevin Foley**: Phone: (03) 686 2209
Waiting List: **Kath Calvert**: kathcalvert1@gmail.com; (03) 688 8696
Committee: **Jill Clarke, Solome Mair, Joan Harris, Reese Hart**
Treasurer: **Paul Gill**: paulcynthia1@gmail.com; Phone (027) 220 4405
Secretary: **John Barton**: u3atimaru@gmail.com; Phone (03) 686 2848

Postal address

U3A Timaru
PO Box 4024
Highfield
Timaru 7942