

International Issues and Experiences Part 1

St Margaret's Church Hall, Ross St, Frankton, 10am-noon, \$5 admission

28 August: Brexit, Trump and the Rise (and Fall) of Post-Truth Populism

Speaker: Professor Robert Patman, University of Otago

Brexit and the election of Donald Trump appear to threaten the liberal international order as both focus on state sovereignty. But there has been a significant counter-response in the USA and in recent European elections. We may see increased international efforts against civil conflicts, global warming and economic inequality.



Robert is Professor of International Relations at the Department of Politics at Otago University. He has spoken to us several times, providing insights into major geo-political issues.

4 September: Czech Out the Heart of Europe



Speaker: Vladka Kennett, Glenorchy, Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic (recently renamed Czechia) – the romantic Bohemia of fairy-tale castles, vast forests, myths and legends; a country of contrasts with a long intense history, interesting traditions, and friendly people with a great sense of humour. Hear about it from a passionate patriot who calls both countries her home.

Vladka is Czech-born and has lived in New Zealand since 2001. She runs a small boutique travel agency, True Travel, specialising in Czech visitors coming here and Kiwis visiting there, for whom her team prepares tailored projects and guides parties throughout both countries. She is also a photographer and the Honorary Consul.

11 September: Contemporary challenges in the European Union

Speaker: Dr Jim Headley, University of Otago

This talk examines some of the multi-faceted 'crises' facing the EU - Brexit, refugees, Greece, authoritarian trends in Poland and Hungary, Ukraine and relations with Russia - in order to assess the current state of the European integration project. Is it in terminal decline, or will these problems spur deeper integration and further enlargement?

James is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics, specialising in Russian foreign policy, the European Union, and nationalism and ethnic conflict. He spoke to us last year.



18 September: Europe, Middle East and Africa – some similarities and differences

Speakers: Dick and Diana Hubbard, Queenstown U3A members

In 2017 the Hubbards went for a little motorcycle ride. They took seven months to ride from London to Cape Town through 42 countries – to Scandinavia, and then south through the Middle East and Africa - meeting numerous people along the way. People in their homes, people who wanted to talk, people in market places, people in the desert, people in the mountains....

Dick and Diana began their motorcycle adventures 6 years ago. 166,000km and 60 countries later they have gleaned extraordinary insights into the way people live, from Alaska to Patagonia, in the Indian Himalaya, around Australia and the USA, on Niue and around New Zealand.



Diana and Safora in Esfana, Iran