

FREE SEMINAR SERIES

Impact!



Crossroads Church
220 Church Street, Palmerston North
Wednesdays 2.15 – 4.00pm



This seminar series, organised by U3A Manawatu, is funded by Eastern & Central Community Trust, and is open to the public.

This series examines developments past, present and future which impact significantly on the world and on society.

Oct 17th: The 4th industrial revolution and the future of work, life and everything
Richard Shaw, Professor of Politics, Massey University

The 4th Industrial Revolution, which is driven by AI and machine learning, is already changing the nature of the work we do and the places in which we do it. But the tech revolution will also have profound implications for our society which we have yet to begin addressing. In this presentation we will begin that conversation.

Oct 24th: “Tomahto” or “tomaydo”? Accounting for language change and variation
Dr. Peter Petrucci, Senior Lecturer in Linguistics, Massey University

Language change and variation are natural characteristics of human language. In this presentation we explore the prolonged impact one or more factors may have on the shape of language: time, space, contact, ideology and identity. Examples from English and other languages support the discussion. We close with an analysis of the pronunciation of *tomato* to see that oftentimes the five factors may interconnect.

Oct 31st: Final impact
Steven Trewick, Professor in Evolutionary Ecology, Massey University

We are just beginning to come to terms with the impact our species is having on the fundamental biological processes of our planet. Humanity has changed the opportunities for other life on Earth at every level. Throughout, biological evolution has been at the heart of continued existence of biodiversity, just as it has during the last 3.5 billion years. We will examine examples of what Charles Darwin call the “grandeur in this view of life”.

Nov 7th: Gandhi, India and the world: the life-story of a gentle colossus
Srikanta Chatterjee, Emeritus Professor of Economics, Massey University

Gandhi’s first-hand experience of racial hatred and prejudice helped to turn him into a fighter for the oppressed and the dispossessed everywhere. His weapon for this fight was non-violent non-cooperation with what he called ‘insolent might’. This talk will explore how Gandhi’s life-long struggle for human dignity has inspired others and helped to change the course of history.

Admission Free: Gold coin for tea/coffee and biscuits.

Crossroads Church is situated opposite the Railway Land close to the Church Street-Cook Street corner. There is ample parking alongside the church, and in Church Street.