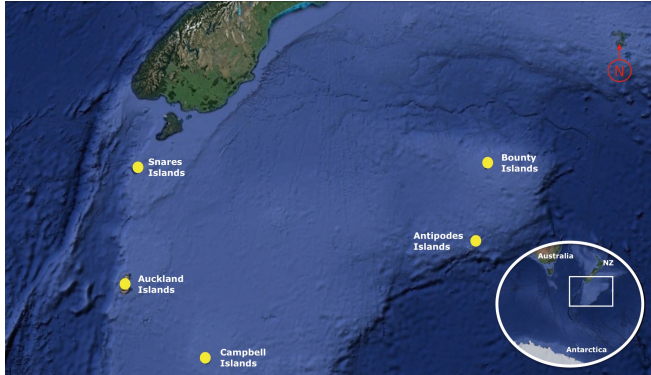


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Coming up this year:

- 1. Roads to Home
- 2. Christmas Meeting - Nov 21

Registration Form - Series 6 2025

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- 1. Direct Credit to U3A Invercargill
Acc: 03 1746 0080910 000
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We prefer to contact you by email. If you have an email address, and we are not aware of it, please let us know.

Spare paper copies of the brochure are always available if you are unable to print one for yourself.

Series Organiser

Pam Butler



August 2025

Series 6

The Subantarctic Islands



Venue:	Windsor Community Church 19 Windsor St
Time:	10.00am
Cost:	\$30 per person

Session 1 : Friday 29 August

Arks of the Southern Ocean - the New Zealand Subantarctic Islands



Presenter: **Greg Lind**

Bio: A retired (2019) veteran with 32 years with the Department of Conservation, Greg Lind managed these largely unknown island groups (Snares, Bounties, Antipodes, Auckland and Campbell) for six years (1998 to 2004), a period which saw rats cleared from Campbell Island (5000ha), Whenua Hou/Codfish Island as well as several of the titi islands.

Synopsis: This was a period where the expertise of DOC staff for island rat eradications became recognised on a global scale. Greg will explain how this was possible and where it has led. Strongly featured in Greg's lecture are the individuals who made it happen and the operational environment that was in place at the time. These islands are of worldwide importance as the sole breeding colonies of some of the greatest seabird species. With the main colonies of NZ sea lion, yellow-eyed penguin and endemic species, the islands are truly ARKS in the Southern Ocean.

Session 2 : Friday 5 September

Auckland Islands - 1874 Transit of Venus

Presenter: **Steve Butler**



Bio: Steve Butler combines an interest in astronomy with his role with the Department of Conservation to tell this story of adventure and scientific discovery. Steve is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand and Chair of the Board for the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve.

Synopsis: New Zealand's Auckland Islands have played a role in determining the size of our solar system. Overcoming many challenges, a team of German astronomers sailed from Germany to set up an observation post at Terror Cove in the Auckland Island group. Transits of Venus occur in pairs 8 years apart in a cycle of over 100 years. If it is cloudy that day you miss out!

Session 3 : Friday 12 September

Recent Archaeological Research in the Subantarctic Islands

Presenter: **Peter Petchey**



Bio: Peter Petchey is a Dunedin-based archaeologist who specialises in industrial archaeology and the historical archaeology of southern New Zealand. He has worked in New Zealand, the Pacific and South-East Asia, and has published widely on subjects including the Otago goldrushes, prehistoric iron working in Thailand and historic cemeteries. He has carried out numerous archaeological surveys for the Department of Conservation in Fiordland and the Southern Islands, including the Auckland Islands and Antipodes Islands.

Synopsis: This lecture will focus on the archaeological work on Auckland Island, where the crew of the Grafton were shipwrecked in 1864, and the Antipodes Islands where there was a sealing rush in 1805-06 followed by several shipwrecks in 1893 and 1908. In particular I will consider the archaeological evidence of the time spent ashore by the sealers and castaways: the hut, forge and boat run built by the Grafton castaways during their 20 month stay on Auckland Island, and the sealers' huts, castaway depot and fingerposts on Antipodes Island. The subantarctic islands all share a harsh, cold and wet environment, and life ashore for these individuals was challenging in the extreme. Shipwreck was a constant nightmare risk for sailors in the sail era, and the subantarctic islands claimed many lives. Even those who made it ashore onto the rugged shores were not guaranteed of survival, and a combination of leadership, resourcefulness and luck were all required to return home.

Session 4 : Friday 19 September

Restoring the Subantarctic islands

Presenter : **Pete McClland**



Bio: Pete worked for the New Zealand Wildlife Service and then the Department of Conservation for 30 years

during which time he was the Programme Manager for the outlying islands which included the titi islands and New Zealand's five subantarctic island groups. As part of his job he got involved in eradicating invasive species from islands starting with several titi islands then Codfish/ Whenua Hou and then 11,200ha Campbell Island, at the time by far the largest and most isolated rodent eradication ever attempted. It was the success of this project which has led to Pete making a career of eradicating introduced animals from islands around the world.

Session 5 : Friday 10 October

Flora of the Subantarctic Islands

Presenter: **Brian Rance**



Bio: During Brian's botanical career with the Department of Conservation and then privately, Brian has been to all of New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands. He has made over 10 expeditions from 1987 accompanying David Bellamy on his trip to the Snares to write his book Moas Ark, many vegetation monitoring trips to Campbell and Auckland Islands, the Million Dollar Mouse trip to Antipodes and Bounty Islands, and more recent trips on the sailing boat Strannick with its extensive botanical survey of Auckland Islands in 2023 to an Operation Endurance trip on the Navy boat the Canterbury with Ngai Tahu in 2025.

Synopsis: Brian will reinforce why these islands are so special to New Zealand and why ongoing investment in pest control is essential to protect a major part of New Zealand's world renowned biodiversity. The Subantarctic flora is unlike that of anywhere in the world. Its colourful megaherbs are stunning, the flora unusual and rare. The history of the islands includes stories of human hardship in trying to work and farm in these remote areas. Alongside these tales is the flora and wildlife's resilience in recovering from such human enterprises.

