

Committee 2026-7

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Coming up this year:

- Security
- Roads from Home

Payment methods in order of preference

Please state ‘Series 6’ when paying

1. Direct Credit to U3A Invercargill
Acc: 03 1746 0080910 000
2. EFTPOS
Debit card payment available on the day
3. Cash (\$30 per person) in a named envelope

Contact

We prefer to contact you by email. If you have an email address, and we are not aware of it, please let us know.

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

Website

For further information on U3A (including previous brochures) see our website:
<https://www.u3ainvercargill.nz/>



August - September 2026

Series 6
Technology in the Primary Sector

Series Organiser

Fin Collie



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

Technology in the Primary Sector

Session 1 : Friday August 14

Zero Tillage and other Advances

Presenter: **Bill Ritchie**



Synopsis: In this session we will explore some technological developments, especially those that originated in New Zealand and how these have impacted and adapted on the global stage.

Bio: Bill Ritchie was part of the team at Massey University that researched and developed the inverted-T no-tillage techno and later Novag. The technology is now in more than 20 countries globally. He has accumulated more than 40 years of knowledge and experience with no-tillage logy that was initially commercialised under the brand of Cross Slotsystems in a wide range of environments. In his current role as Product Specialist with Carrfields Limited, he continues to promote reduced tillage systems for their environmental, cost- and labour-saving benefits, together with enhanced resilience to changing climate challenges.

Session 2 : Friday August 21

Technology in Animal Health

Presenter: **Mark Bryan**



Synopsis: This talk will focus on the technology that we now use both for farming and for vetting, and how this has changed and improved animal health and welfare, and possibly human health and welfare.

Bio: Mark has been a vet for over 35 years, starting in the UK before moving to Aotearoa in 1995. He's been based in Southland since 1997 and worked as a mixed vet and a production animal vet, before moving more into management as the practice grew. In 2023 Vet South merged with another large veterinary business to form Comhla Vet, which employs just over 1000 staff including 250 vets across New Zealand and Australia. Earlier this year he

stepped sideways from his role with Comhla Vets to study Psychology, focusing on veterinary wellbeing. He is an experienced governor and currently sits on two voluntary national boards.

Session 3 : Friday August 28

Technology in Modern Farming: From Satellite to Soil

Presenter: **Pieter-Willem Hendriks**



Synopsis: Agriculture is undergoing yet another technological revolution. This presentation explores the evolution of agricultural technology in the arable sector, from mechanisation and GPS-guided machinery to drones, autonomous equipment, smart sensors, and AI-powered farm management.

Bio: Pieter-Willem has a strong agricultural background as a son and grandson of farmers and a farmer himself. He was born in 1980 in the Netherlands on a mixed farm with crops, cattle and pigs. In 1992 his parents sold the farm and moved to France to farm there on a bigger scale. He went to the University in Tours to study for a Bachelor's in Biology and did his Master's degree in Agricultural Engineering in Dijon. Pieter-Willem studied in Canada and Australia, before returning to the family farm in France. In 2018 he applied for a PhD project in Australia and upon graduating, joined Lincoln University as a Lecturer in October 2022.

Outside his work (which is also a bit of a hobby), he loves to spend time with his family and travel. He likes running or a good rugby (union) game and enjoys reading historical novels.

Session 4 : Friday September 4

The Southern Climate Story and How to Prepare for Climate Change

Presenter : **Jim Salinger**



Synopsis: Temperatures in Invercargill have increased by

1.4 degC since records began in 1911. This has been accompanied by fewer frosts and more summer days (above 25 degC). This will mean a change in land activities in Southland. At the same time sea levels along the coasts will rise. We must consider what to grow, what to eat, how to build, how to insure, and how to prepare our children and even where to consider relocating if necessary. Tips will be provided for managing anxiety.

Bio: Jim Salinger is a New Zealand climate change researcher and teacher who has held numerous posts at universities in New Zealand, Australia, and other parts of the world. He was a senior climate scientist for a Crown Research Institute, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), and President of the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). He has received several awards and other honours for his work with climate change and is involved in researching and monitoring past and current climate trends.

Session 5 : Friday September 11

How we Trade

Presenter: **Jeff Grant**



Synopsis: The presentation will set out the tariff dynamics and Trade Architecture where New Zealand operates from a base of minimal border protections, exceptionally low import tariffs, and no domestic subsidies. It will explore how farmers and exporters exposed to international market forces and often restrictive export international markets operate and adapt. Jeff will also look at how land based industries have adapted to changes over the last 30 years. His presentation will look into changing trends of consumers and the increasing demand for exporters to adapt to stay ahead in the international consumer trends.

Bio: Present Positions: Jeff is farming in partnership with Julia. They have sheep, beef and deer properties at Balfour in Southland, a tourism business in Wanaka and are part owners of Northern Southland Vets where Julia is the CE of the company. Jeff holds directorships in four family run businesses.

Jeff was elected as an MP in 1987 and served two terms which included the role of Senior Whip. Since 1994 Jeff has been predominately involved in various governance roles across a range of organisations and companies utilising his expertise to encourage strong systems and reporting practices.