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Coming up this year:

- Roads from Home
- EOY function

Payment methods in order of preference

Please state 'Series 7' 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/>



September - October 2026

Series 7 The New Zealand Border and Beyond

Series Organiser

Vic Wilkinson



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

The New Zealand Border and Beyond

Session 1 : Friday September 18

From Afghanistan with the International Committee Of The Red Cross (ICRC) to a more dangerous world

Presenter: **Kevin Baff**

Synopsis: The talk will include Kevin's background leading to his employment as an Armed and Security Force (FAS) Delegate and Coordinator with the Geneva based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Afghanistan (and elsewhere). The mandate, mission and ICRC's will be covered.

Kevin will discuss the future for Afghanistan.

Bio: Kevin Baff commenced working fulltime with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC/CICR) in 2005. His first ICRC mission was Regional Armed and Security Forces Delegate (FAS Delegate) based in New Delhi covering India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan. Since 2013 he has undertaken a series of short missions in Jordan, Israel, Gaza Strip and Ethiopia. In 2004 he was awarded a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM). In retirement Kevin lives with his wife on a lifestyle block in South Otago

Session 2 : Friday September 25

United States Naval Chaplaincy

Presenter: **Diana van Buren Lantz**

Synopsis: This presentation addresses Chaplaincy in the



context of the United States Navy and Marine Corps – at sea, in garrison/on shore and in combat. Topics include the roles and responsibilities of the Chaplain; the Chaplain as a Naval Staff Officer, the Chaplain as a representative of their faith tradition; the Chaplain as a non-combatant; the Chaplain as spiritual, ethical and moral adviser.

Bio: Diana's career began as a school teacher which saw her in four primary schools across Southland and Canterbury, as well as London and the United States. A life-long Presbyterian, she is an ordained Minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). After serving a parish in rural Ohio, Diana ministered for 20 years as a United States Navy Chaplain. Her Navy experiences include two combat deployments - in Iraq and aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt. She holds a Master of Divinity degree and a Doctor of Ministry. Diana is a member of Windsor Community Church and Southern Presbytery.

Session 3 : Friday October 16

Protecting New Zealand's Border : The role of the New Zealand Customs Service

Presenter: **Vic Wilkinson**

Synopsis: The presentation will cover the origin and role of the New Zealand Customs Service in protecting the border and the threats New Zealand faces. How intelligence collection and analysis contributes to combatting the threats along with interagency collaboration both domestically and internationally. Also some specific operations by Customs/Police will be outlined along with recent developments and trends impacting Customs.

Bio: Vic Wilkinson is a retired public servant who moved to Invercargill over 3 years ago. He has worked in several government agencies but his principal



career was over 3 decades with the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service in a range of roles including being the Deputy Director of the Service for 10 years. More recently he spent just under a decade with the New Zealand Customs Service in a number of security roles. He is married to Ave, a retired nurse. They have 3 adult children each married with families and living in other parts of New Zealand. Both Vic and Ave have a number of connections to Southland with numerous relatives in the region.

Session 4 : Friday October 30

Why Ukraine matters

Presenter : **Marika Jose**

Synopsis: This talk shares a short overview of the long history of Ukraine : a struggle under the occupation of the Soviet Union and the speedy development after gaining its independence. The talk will also cover the Russian war against Ukraine for the last 12 years and personal stories of my family living during the war in Ukraine. A list of interesting facts and inventions of Ukraine will be presented too.

Bio: Marika is Ukrainian and now a New Zealander working as the Information Management Officer at Clutha District Council. Born and raised in Western Ukraine, she studied law and graduated with honours from Kiev State University. She also studied for a year in both Moscow and Cambridge. Marika has worked for the International Centre for Policy Studies for 12 years and an American pharmaceutical company (MERCK) for 2 years in Kiev. She travelled extensively around the world for 6 years visiting 30 countries.

After living in Kiev (population 4.5 mil. people) for over 25 years, the couple decided to downsize and downshift, so moved to a little town in East Otago, Kaitangata, (population of 900 people) where they rebuilt an old miner's cottage to a warm, cosy home according to a passive solar house standard.

