



Website: www.u3aporthills.org.nz

Bank Account Number: 38-90060413325-00



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter December 2021

Port Hills U3A

Next Meeting: Wednesday 1 December 2021

Venue: St Martin's Presbyterian Church, 43 St Martins Road, St Martins

10:00 Amanda Atlas *Training and Working as an International Opera Singer*

Amanda is a New Zealand dramatic soprano, embarking on her international career in 1999, spending ten years singing leading roles for various opera companies and orchestras in the US and Europe. Amanda is now based in New Zealand and Australia. Upcoming engagements include her debut with the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra

11:00 Monthly Port Hills U3A Meeting

Covid Update

The South Island continues to remain at covid level 2 so our meetings will be complying with St Martins Church's covid requirements and following NZ government guidelines for our December meeting. If you want to attend the meeting, please email Graeme by Monday 29, November on ellgk127@gmail.com

1. Attendance at the December meeting:

We are restricting the number of attendees to 80 people.
This will allow us to observe the 2-metre distancing rule.

2. There will be **no** morning tea.
3. We will start the meeting promptly **at 10am**.
4. There will be **no** Sales Table.
5. There will be **no** collection for Creative Junk.
6. **Please bring a Christmas food gift for the Aotearoa Foodbank**
7. **You must wear a mask**

My Vaccine Pass

The My Vaccine Pass will be needed when New Zealand moves into the **traffic light system** and you may need to show your pass to enter some events and venues. If we are in the traffic light system at the time of our February meeting you will need to show your pass to attend the Port Hills U3A February meeting.

Anyone aged 12 and over who has had two COVID-19 vaccinations administered in New Zealand, or who has been given a medical exemption, can request a My Vaccine Pass.

How to Get Your Covid Vaccination Pass

Prepared by U3A committee member Bob Richardson

- 1) On your device/computer go to the website at <https://www.mycovidrecord.health.nz>
- 2) You will see an option to "Sign Up". Click on this and then click on "Continue".
- 3) The next page will offer you the option of signing up through your Real Me account or your Email Address. Unless you have a Real Me account and are confident in its use then click on the Email option.
- 4) You will be sent to a screen that asks you for your email address and other personal information. Carefully enter your email address and any other information that is asked for. To do this you will also need to have your passport or your driving licence handy as you will be asked to enter information from one of these documents to prove your identity. At some point you will need to choose a long password. (Shorter if it contains some numbers and upper-case characters) Don't forget this password!!! At the end there will be a box for a verification code. You will not be able to proceed further until you have this code which will be sent immediately by email.
- 5) So once you have sent the required information to the site it will send you a verification email with a code; so check your email. (Do this without closing your My Covid Record page - just minimise it or check your email on a different device)
- 6) Enter the code in the verification box on your My Covid Record Page and click on the button. This will take you to your vaccination page. You are registered! (Next time you visit the site you will just need to click the "Log in" option and have your email address and password ready.) Note: The order of some of the above may be a bit different on different devices but it is all substantially the same.
- 7) You now have full access to your vaccination record and you will find your NHI number, vaccination dates etc. etc. You will also see links to various services. Click on the one for requesting a vaccination certificate and Vaccination Pass. Follow the link to Vaccination Pass .Once done it will send the pass as a pdf file to your email. You can down load it, place it on your phone's home page or print it out and keep it in your wallet. It is valid for 6 months.

New Study Groups for 2022

In November the committee took a survey of the membership to decide which study groups/courses our members would like to have in 2022. The following two U3A On-line course had the most votes. We have now purchased these courses and they are available for members to look at over the Christmas and New Year period. To access the courses use the following instructions:

- 1) Go to www.u3aonline.org.au/lounge
- 2) Login: Access code
Password
- 3) Click on **Our courses**
- 4) Click on **Independent study courses**
- 5) Scroll down until you see one of the courses you want to access and click on **View**

You should now have full access to this course.

Design in Your Life Looks critically at some modern design concepts, including age issues. To consider accessibility and appeal for the whole community including older people.

Thoreau, Emerson and the Conduct of Life Philosophers Henry Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson present their ideas to improve the quality of an individual's life.

Members who are interested in joining one or both study groups will meet together at the end of our February meeting to decide on a date, time and venue for their first meeting.

There were also a number of people who expressed interest in the U of C public lectures. These are available free online. Those members wishing to study some of these courses should meet after our February meeting to decide how they wish to organise their group.

Independent Learning Through the University of Canterbury

Independent learning is available through public lectures from the University of Canterbury's *Tauhere Lectures* website:

<https://www.canterbury.ac.nz>.

Scroll down and click on the you tube icon on the bottom left of the screen (third icon from the left – rectangle with the right-facing arrow.) to see a full list of the 150 past lectures available for viewing.

Interest and Study Groups

Throughout the challenges of being at covid level 2 the Port Hills U3A has successfully held our monthly meetings under covid guidelines ensuring the health and safety of our members. We continued to come together and enjoy our interesting speakers and catching up with each other.

Where possible our interest and study groups have also continued to meet, learn and socialise, even if it meant that we sometimes had to do some things a bit differently. We'd love to see what's happening in your group, so if you would like a photo of your group in our newsletter, please let Helene know at h.mautner@xtra.co.nz - and she will let you know in which monthly newsletter your group will be featured. We plan to include two or three photos of our interest and study groups along with a brief description in each monthly newsletter.

Botany Group



On Friday 19 of November the Botany Group met at Maggie Croy's large garden on Shands Road and were treated to a delightful display of a number of colourful flower beds surrounded by absolutely splendid wide lawns.

After the visit to that garden, we then enjoyed afternoon tea at Joy Evans' home and had a chance to see another beautiful garden at her house.

Future Meeting Speakers

February 2nd 2022

Paul Miller

How to Write a Literary Biography

Paul Millar is a Professor of English Literature and Digital Humanities in the School of Humanities and Creative Arts at the University of Canterbury. His research interests include the literature of Aotearoa New Zealand, Life Writing, and Cultural Heritage Digital Archiving.. Following the 2010/2011 Canterbury earthquakes he founded the CEISMIC Canterbury Earthquakes Digital Archive (www.ceismic.org.nz), a cultural heritage database that collects stories, images and media about the earthquakes' impacts for the purposes of commemoration, teaching and research.

March 2nd 2022 Rev Andrew Donaldson *Spirituality in Modern Life*

April 6th 2022 Dale Stevenson *How to Become an Olympic Medallist – Tom Walsh's Coach*

May 4th 2022 Nic Low *Walking the Old Ngai Tahu Trails across the Southern Alps*

Contributions and Donations

Your contributions are much appreciated.

Wool Donations



Wool or other knitting yarns (any size balls or bits) and also volunteer knitters are needed to help crochet blankets or knit jerseys for pre-schoolers. These are given mainly to the Plunket Outreach programme, Salvation Army programme and other charities as needed. Please bring donations to our monthly meetings.

Creative Junk

Creative Junk **will not** be collected at our monthly U3A Meetings until we are down to Level 1 Covid restrictions.

However, please do continue to gather Creative Junk items (if you have the garage space) for future collections. Please add any spare **buttons**, however few, to your contribution, these can be glued onto paper to make patterns and bright pictures.

Food Aotearoa



Please bring a Christmas food gift.

There is a great need for food in our community, as many people are doing without enough to eat. You can donate packaged or canned food including baby food as well as fresh food such as fruits and vegetables to Food Aotearoa.

Helene Mautner
for the Port Hills U3A Committee
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