



Website: www.u3aporthills.org.nz

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter November 2021

Port Hills U3A

Hello Members,

Covid Update

The South Island continues to remain at covid level 2 so we will be following government guidelines for our November meeting. If you want to attend the meeting please email Graeme on ellgk127@gmail.com

1. Attendance at the November 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. **You must wear a mask !**

Next Meeting: Wednesday 3 November 2021

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

10:00 Speaker: Peter McCarthy
In the wake of Mortimer and Tim McCarthy–Irish Seafaring Brothers

Peter's Antarctic connections stem from the heroic era when his Grandfather Mortimer McCarthy served with Captain Robert Falcon Scott's British Antarctic Expedition 1910-1913 on-board the Terra Nova. He is Programme Planner for Antarctica New Zealand in the Christchurch, and for six summer seasons 2011-2016 he was the Programme Support Supervisor at Scott Base.

11:00 Monthly Port Hills U3A Meeting

[Our October Meeting](#)

Seventy-two members attended our October meeting under ‘level 2 lockdown’ rules; the numbers were limited, we wore masks and we followed social distancing rules when seated.

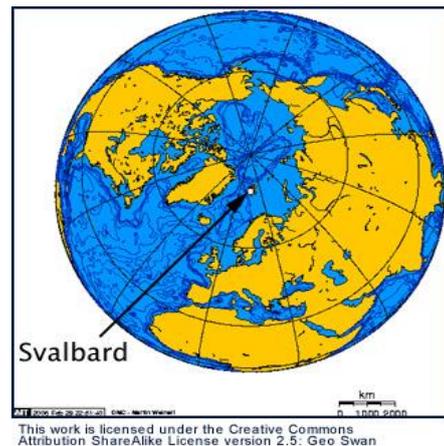
The night before the meeting our planned speaker informed the committee that he was unable to attend due to health reasons. Our committee went quickly into action and committee member Dr Amama Thornley stepped forward and volunteered to give a presentation about her travels to the northern arctic island group entitled ‘*The Arctic Svalbard and Spitsbergen*’. Amama has served as a medical doctor on different passenger ships enjoying travels to many parts of the world.

Amama’s presentation was missed by some of our members due to covid level 2 rules, so we thought we would pass on a glimpse of her talk through her photos.

The Arctic - Svalbard and Spitsbergen



Amama Thornley



Amama’s photos show the fascinating geology, history, plants and animals that are found on Svalbard and Spitsbergen. We’ve included a small sample of those photos here.

The Arctic - Svalbard and Spitsbergen

Svalbard is an archipelago of islands in the Arctic Ocean north of mainland Europe about midway between the northern coast of Norway and the North Pole. It is a Norwegian dependency. Norway appoints a separate Governor and even Norwegians have to go through passport control to enter Svalbard.

Spitsbergen is the largest of the Svalbard archipelago islands.



60% of Svalbard has glaciated mountain peaks and ridges



Near Horizontal layers of Permian Carbonates, 299-250 million years old



Flora: Moss campion



Flora: Svalbard Poppies



Arctic reindeer. They are the only true terrestrial animals and both males and females have horns



Polar bears and glaucous gulls enjoying a fin whale carcass



**Walrus dentition
Great Photo Amama!**



Harp Seals



Barnacle geese and family



Brunich's Guillemots



Puffin



Main street of Ny-Alesund

Announcements - Notices - Reminders

Study Groups

Because we are still at covid level 2, we have to do some things a bit differently. We are interested in your input/choices about which study group options you would prefer. Wendy Gallagher has prepared a short summary of the proposed courses (see below).

A tick list will be circulated at our meeting on Wednesday with these proposed study groups. If you are interested in any of the options you can tick the list at the meeting. We will then use this as a guide to select study groups for 2022 and purchase the appropriate study material. Groups will assemble in February and courses start in March.

If you are not going to the November meeting, please email Malcolm Robinson at malcolm.robinson55@yahoo.com with your preferred option choice so he can tally all the votes and a final decision can be made at the November 26th committee meeting.

Study Groups - Proposed New Australian Online Learning Courses for 2022

Information prepared by Wendy Gallagher

The outlines for the courses listed below can be found on the Australian online link: u3aonline.au
The Logon ID and the Password are restricted to Port Hills U3A members.

List of proposed online courses:

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.

Shakespeare: Rediscovering the Bard

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.

Tauhere Lectures from the University Canterbury <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz> public lectures.
Scroll down and click on You Tube to see a full list of the 150 past lectures available for viewing

In addition, we also have the continuation of the Botany Course and the Writing Life Stories.

What I have tried to do is to vary the options. I view the study material as being extremely important to our organisation; U3A is established from the premise of ongoing learning and study courses give members further chance to participate in this.

Wendy Gallagher

Additional Proposed Study Options

Te Reo Maori and Maori culture

One of our members has suggested we have a study option to learn Te Reo Maori. The committee thought this might be rather a challenge to organise within our U3A structure. We thought a self-directed study group around an introduction to Te Reo Maori and Maori culture

New Interest Group: Garden Group

Pamela Mathias is starting a Garden group - one that *visits* gardens. In the first garden outing we will be joining a guided tour in the Botanical Gardens, but in subsequent Garden Outings we will be visiting private gardens. Will those interested please meet Pamela at the back of the lecture hall after the speaker has finished to decide which week and which day of the week suits the group.

Looking forward to meeting you all,

Pamela Mathias

Future Meeting Speakers

December 1st

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

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. His literary biography of novelist and cultural commentator Bill Pearson was a finalist in the New Zealand Book Awards, and he is currently writing the biography of influential poet, philanthropist and editor, Charles Brasch. Millar has been involved in Digital Humanities projects and research since 1996. In 2001 he co-founded Victoria University of Wellington's New Zealand Electronic Text Collection, and at UC he led the establishment of New Zealand's first Digital Humanities teaching programme. 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.

Contributions and Donations

Thanks for your contributions.

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.

Thank you to everyone who has brought items along, your contributions are always welcome at the Creative Junk warehouse. Jo Lord.

Food Aotearoa



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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