

PORT HILLS U3A NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020

Greetings Members

It is a pleasure to type this newsletter now we are back on Level 1 of Covid Restrictions and a warm spring day as well. October is always a joyous month with its promise of summer days to follow. There are several items of interest to share with members:-

- Assuming that we remain at Covid Level 1, the October Monthly meeting on Wednesday 7th October will now take place at St Martins Church with no limitations on numbers. The speakers are Ben Moreman and Wenchen Dong, PhD. Students from Canterbury University, talking on 'Innovations in timber leading to taller buildings'. At the committee meeting we discussed the resumption of monthly meetings should we return to Level 2 under Covid19. It was decided that we will not cancel meetings should this happen, but would restrict entry to those members who register online prior to the meeting. Social distancing would apply to individuals, but friends would be able to seat themselves together. There would be no tea or coffee to avoid possible virus transmission and members attending would be required to wear masks. Hand sanitiser would be available at the door. Let's all hope that this won't happen but, in these uncertain times, it is best to be prepared. The maximum numbers who could attend a meeting under level 2 would be in compliance with St. Martins Church Guidelines.
- Due to the difficulty of predicting the future under the current Covid Epidemic, the committee has decided not to book or organise a Christmas Function this year. Instead, we will celebrate Christmas at our last meeting of the year in December with Christmas Cake and Christmas mince pies.
- The committee are in the process of discussing the probable annual fee for 2021. The fee is ratified at the AGM in February. Next year's fee will be reduced taking into account the reduction of 2020 expenses due to Covid19. The recommended fee will be announced at the end of the year for existing members only. New members who join in February will pay a \$30 fee.
- Naida Murray has asked that members be reminded of the ongoing need for knitting yarn. Please donate yarn at the monthly meeting so that our knitters can continue to knit garments for the under-privileged in our city.
- New volunteers are needed at Christchurch Hospital to guide patients/visitors to the new hospital building. If you are able to fulfil this role for half a day, please contact Louise at 0220997836 or e-mail louise.hoban-watson@cdhb.health.nz
- We have an additional name label box to store members name badges. Could I request that members take extra care putting their name badge in the correct

alphabetical order. Please do not take these labels home as they frequently are misplaced and require extra work in replacing lost badges.

- This is the time of the year when we start to look at, and organise, study courses that we will offer next year. At the start of the year the committee decided that we would canvas our membership for their ideas as to what they see would be a viable option for a small group. This year we have had four successful study groups which have sustained their membership. We also trialled the idea of meeting twice a month for half a year. The groups that ran these two programmes found it worthwhile so we will continue this idea with some of the study groups next year. The NZ History group has run without any pre-published study material and has found the internet to be an excellent resource. There are many courses available online so it is worthwhile members checking out what is available to make a recommendation to the committee.

Should you have any ideas or recommendations please contact me, Wendy Gallagher, to take these ideas to the next committee meeting at the end of October.

- At the AGM in February both Vivienne Boyd and I indicated our intentions of stepping down from our respective roles at the end of the U3A year in February 2021. We have both served fulfilling roles as secretary and president for three consecutive years and we both feel it is time now to hand over to future members. Both Vivienne and I are keen to see a seamless transition and are available to assist in making this happen.

At the moment we have no candidates for either the role of president or secretary on next year's committee. Without someone willing to step up we will be unable to carry on as a U3A branch. It is possible to share either role for a term of one year only. Please, I would ask you to consider whether you are the person prepared to give this service to our charity organisation. If you think this might be you, please contact me on 0220905982 to discuss the responsibilities of each role.

- The visit to the Kilmarnock Disability Workshop scheduled for this month has now been postponed until Wednesday, 28th October at 10-30am. There is a charge of \$10 per person for this visit. I will put out a checklist at the October Monthly meeting or ring me on the above number to confirm your place. There is an upper limit of 15 people.

I hope you have a worry free and enjoyable Spring. Please remember to keep those food donations coming in at our monthly meetings. They are gratefully received by Foodbank Aotearoa.

Wendy Gallagher President Port Hills U3A

