

NEWSLETTER - 29TH JANUARY 2021

Greetings Members

Happy New Year everyone and let us hope for a better one than last year with the anxiety and cancellations associated with Covid 19.

Next Wednesday 3rd February is our AGM at our usual venue, St Martins Church. We will start promptly at 10am with the business session, including the election of officers, and the approval of the financial report. At 10-30am we will welcome our speaker, Ben Harris, a microbiologist who will be talking about 'The Changing Gut Biome'

There are a few other points for your attention, itemised below, before we start the year.

- Interest Groups. I am presuming that the interest groups will roll over with the same day, time and venue as last year. Please notify me of any changes to the leaders of the groups or phone numbers. We need to keep the online grid current for 2021.
- Study Groups. Following a membership poll last year, we are offering the four most popular titles for the study groups this year. Please note that in 2021 all groups will be held monthly. The committee, after discussion, decided the twice a month trial option in 2020 made for a pressured course, and not to repeat it this year. The groups are:-
 - 1) Writing Life Stories: This writing group is a continuation of the group started by John Yeoman. New members are most welcome. The first meeting will be at South Library on Monday, 1st February 2pm - 4pm. If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact John Yeoman on 0276881966
 - 2) New Zealand History 1918-2021:- This course is similar to last year in that course members carry out on-line research on the monthly topic. It will be held at 1 Sunvale Terrace on the third Thursday of the month, beginning 18th February at 2pm- 4pm. Enrolment for this course will be after the AGM
 - 3) Botany An online course looking at plants for enjoyment. This will be held the second Friday of the month starting 12th February from 2pm to 4pm venue to be decided after the AGM
 - 4) Kings and Queens of England, an online course, examines the English lineage of royalty from the Saxon and Danish Kings through to Queen Elizabeth 2nd. The group will meet on the fourth Monday of each month from 2pm to 4pm starting 22nd of February. The venue for this meeting will be decided after the AGM.

The last two online courses can be viewed online at www.u3aonline.au, log on is u3aporthills and password is hoonhay8025 Members are encouraged to view the course content before making a decision to commit for the year.

- This year the 'Sign In' sheets will be near the entrance door to the church. Members attending are all required to sign this sheet. This is a requirement from Fire and Emergency NZ. Please be compliant with this requirement. Name labels will now be available at the entrance to the lounge.
- A reminder that 2021 subs are payable in March and not at the AGM. This is because the fee for 2021 needs to be approved at the AGM meeting first before we can action it.
- As I write this newsletter, we still do not have a president for 2021. We will be taking nominations at the AGM for this role. The role of president can be easily shared by two people. I would also like to clear up a few misconceptions about the role of president. Essentially the president is the glue that holds the framework together. The president allocates responsibilities to committee members. The president **does not** organise the speaker for the month, **does not** receive mail or requests to join the organisation, **nor** is it a requirement that the president puts out a newsletter. **These responsibilities can be allocated to committee members.** I have **chosen** to write the newsletter over the time that I have been president. Prior to this, a committee member was allocated this responsibility.

Looking forward with optimism to the 2021 U3A year

Wendy Gallagher (President)