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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Newsletter December 2022

Port Hills U3A



*Our final meeting of the year is taking place
on Wednesday 7 December 2022. Start time 10am*

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

Our special speaker is Joe Bennett

Mr Bennett is a columnist for the Christchurch's newspaper The Press and for New Zealand Gardener as well as being an author.

He was born in England and immigrated to New Zealand when he was 29. Before his writing career, he worked as an English teacher at Christ's College in Christchurch. During this time he wrote the words to the musical "Tramps" which was presented as a co-production between Christ's College and St Margaret's College in 1994.

**Our Christmas function will take place immediately following
Joe Bennett's presentation**

Thanks to all of those members who have registered to attend the December meeting. We have reached our maximum number of attendees so we are no longer taking reservations for the meeting.

Reminders:

Arriving at the St Martin's Presbyterian Church

Doors open at 9:30 and we will be starting promptly at **10am**, plan to arrive early.

Please be aware that if you arrive late the door will be closed but not locked.

There will be no morning tea. Instead, tea, coffee, Christmas cake and mince pies will be served at our Christmas function.

We are expecting more people than usual at the meeting, and we all know that parking in the area can be difficult. So, to make parking easier for everyone we would like to make the following suggestions:

1. We strongly recommend **carpooling** where you can.
2. Important: Be careful when you park so you do not obstruct our neighbours' driveways.
3. Leave plenty of time to walk from your car to the church. You may have to park at a greater distance.

Masks

Mask wearing is entirely voluntary.
If you are feeling unwell, please do not attend. Thank you.



This is our final meeting of 2022.
Our next meeting is on Wednesday 1st of February 2023 when we will also hold our AGM.

At the AGM the committee for 2023 will be confirmed.

U3A members are always welcome and encouraged to join the committee.

If you would like to learn more about the committee, please feel free to contact our President Malcolm Robinson Malcolm.robinson55@yahoo.com or any of the committee members.



Study Groups / Courses for 2023

At the last meeting we circulated a couple of boards asking people to register their interest in three study groups/courses for 2023. These didn't get all round the room. I will circulate them again at our next meeting but in the meantime can you please let me know by email if you would be interested in any of them. Please tell me your name and the course(s) you are interested in. I want to ensure that as many people as possible see the choices. Information about them is printed at the end of this newsletter. My email is: joy.paulevans@gmail.com . **If you did put your name on the sheets you don't have to tell me again.**

Many thanks
Joy

Port Hills U3A Special Interest Groups

The Botany Group



On Wednesday, 16 November the Botany Group visited Broadfield Gardens for a picnic lunch then we were given a guided tour around the garden by the owner, David Hobbs. It was a beautiful day and we all enjoyed our visit.

Cathy Goulter



It would be great to share photos of your group's activities in our newsletter. Please send photos and a brief description of your activities to: Helene at h.mautner@xtra.co.nz

We'd love to see hear your stories and see your photos

Contributions and Donations

Thanks to our members for their continued support of Food Aotearoa and our collection of knitting wool. These are two very important and worthwhile community projects.

Food Aotearoa

You are welcome to donate cans and/or packaged food, including baby food, as well as fresh food such as fruits and vegetables. As it is Christmas it would be great if we could be really generous and do a bumper donation to the food bank with some special food items.

Knitting Wool

The wool is used by volunteer knitters to crochet blankets or knit jerseys for pre-schoolers. Finished items are mainly given to the Plunket Outreach programme, Salvation Army programme and other charities as needed.



Please contact Naida Murray on 338 5030 if you have any questions, or check at our monthly meeting.



Your contributions can be placed in the boxes in the entrance foyer.

Helene Mautner
for the Port Hills U3A Committee
h.mautner@xtra.co.nz

U3A Port Hills Study Courses 2023

3 Courses

Course 1: Climate Change

Unit 1- Climate in the Spotlight

This unit is an introduction to Climate Change. It looks at some of the controversy it has caused and introduces the science and observations which led to the realization that our world is warming and that this is probably caused at least in part by human greenhouse gas emissions. It briefly examines the reaction to this recognition and what is being done on the global stage to mitigate the problem.

Unit 2 -The Weather and Climate

This unit looks at meteorology and the distinction between weather and climate. It examines the main drivers of the Earth's weather systems and the way they are influenced by the heat from the Sun. It examines how weather changes throughout the year and depends on location on the Earth's sphere. It also looks at the extreme weather events which affect human activities and examines their cost to society.

Unit 3 - The Goldilocks Planet

Here we examine how fortunate the Earth is in terms of its environment and how this is related to climate. We look at the balance between the incident solar radiation and outgoing infrared energy and relate how the complex of interrelated networks of the Earth's climate system may be viewed in terms of system dynamics.

Unit 4 - Earth's Climate History

What was the ancient climate like and how does it compare with current times? What caused changes in past climates and how do we determine their characteristics? Let us find out.

Unit 5 - Earth's Energy Budget and the Greenhouse Effect

This unit examines the flow of energy to and from the Earth on a global scale. How is the shortwave (visible) energy coming from the Sun balanced by the outflow of infrared energy emanating from the Earth? How is this energy balance affected by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere? How sensitive is the Earth's climate to these energy changes; what global temperature increase or decrease would result from a particular shift in the energy balance?

Unit 6 - Earth's Geochemical Cycles

There are a number of cycles taking place between the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and geosphere which are critical to Earth's ability to sustain life. The natural carbon cycle exchanges carbon between these four spheres which all contain reservoirs of carbon. The water cycle describes the continuous movement of water above, below and on the Earth's surface. The nitrogen cycle is the process whereby nitrogen is converted between its various chemical forms in the atmosphere and on the surface. The carbonate-silicate cycle exchanges silicates to carbon during weathering and back to silicates during the subduction process and subsequently ejects it in volcanic eruptions.

Unit 7 - Climate Models and Future Scenarios

In the same way that it is not possible to investigate the internal mechanisms of stars or nuclear explosions in a test room, a planet's climate cannot be directly simulated in a laboratory. Crucial tools to investigate these phenomena are computer models. These are built using mathematical equations of physics and Earth processes and applying an initial set of conditions to obtain a result of these processes expressed in a computer model. The model may then be refined in an iterative process by comparing the model output to observed values in the real world. Climate modelling allows scientists to answer "what-if" questions and investigate possible future scenarios.

Unit 8 - Climate Change Impacts and Adaption

What are the many impacts of a rise in average temperature of several degrees? Will there be a chain reaction with rising sea levels, ocean acidification, more severe weather systems and changing rain patterns affecting agriculture and biodiversity?

Adaptation seeks to manage the impacts of global warming and reduce the vulnerability of biological and infrastructure impacts such as a policy to build structures on higher ground to circumvent the rise in sea levels.

Unit 9 - Climate Change - Mitigation of Causes

Mitigation deals with the causes rather than the consequences of climate change. What can be done to minimise the amount of global warming by reducing the emission of greenhouse gasses and enhancing the ability of the Earth to absorb carbon dioxide.

Unit 10 - Climate Change - The Future

In this final unit, we look at the state of the climate. What is being done in Australia and around the world to combat climate change? What do climate models predict for future years? What can be done if climate change gets “ugly”? Is “climate change” a reality or just a massive hoax?

Course 2: Design in Your Life

Unit 1 - Design For All

Universality and Accessibility- To look critically at some modern design concepts, including age issues.- To consider accessibility and appeal for the whole community, including older people.

Unit 2 - Design In Your Home

Functionality and Visual Appeal- To look at some examples of Universal Design.- To look at the functionality of the items in your home with a critical eye. Is the object well designed for its purpose? Is it safe to use?

Unit 3 - Where You Live

Environmentally friendly and user-friendly design. - To consider the built environment and architectural design. - To look at ecological and user-friendly design.

Unit 4 - Your Supermarket

Psychologically manipulative and innovative design- To look at the psychology underlying design.- To consider some innovative designs.

Unit 5 - Packaging

The aesthetic principle and sales appeal- To consider an area of design where user forums have made a difference.- To look at decoration and sales appeal: the aesthetic principle.

Unit 6 - Graphic Design

Design conveying information and directions- To consider graphic design conveying information, visual appeal and new ideas.- To assess the impact of print, drawings and diagrams on our lives.

Unit 7 - New Technology

Design in new technology- To look at aspects of design in new technology, especially in products designed with older people in mind.- To look critically at some of the new designs now on the market.

Unit 8 - Your Own Project

The culmination of your study is the creation of your own design. You choose the project you will undertake and prepare your design taking into account all you have learned during your study of this course.

Course 3: The Conduct of Life – Thoreau Emerson and the Conduct of Life

Unit 1 Introduction

Unit 2	Make the most of your life
Unit 3	Behave as naturally and authentically as possible
Unit 4	Be honest with yourself
Unit 5	Work towards your ideals
Unit 6	Seek insights and wisdom
Unit 7	Distrust institutions, systems and traditions which inhibit imaginative innovation and adaptation
Unit 8	Record your best thoughts
Unit 9	Conclusion