

President's Report AGM February 2022

Welcome everyone to our AGM.

As you will know I took on the role of President at very short notice at last year's AGM. I hadn't been a member of U3a Port Hills for very long. I had visited a few other U3A groups and was attracted to Port Hills because of its breadth of interest and study groups which offered so many opportunities for its members. I felt very strongly that it would be a great shame if it had to be wound up. It has been a steep learning curve for me but I have enjoyed the challenge.

We had hoped 2021 would be a smoother ride than 2020 but we managed to negotiate our way around the alert level changes and constantly changing rules. We had a great line-up of speakers arranged by our speakers sub-committee. Our topics ranged from stories of heroes who climbed Everest, to Covid 19 to how to avoid financial scams. A special thanks goes to Amama Thornley, who at very short notice, gave us a talk about her experiences as a ship's doctor on an Arctic cruise vessel, when our scheduled speaker withdrew sick. Because of the Covid disruptions in 2020 we had a bit of money in our bank account and that allowed us to organise a subsidised lunch at the Shirley Golf Club in July. About 50 people attended and enjoyed the lovely venue and excellent food provided.

Unfortunately Covid reared its ugly head again at the end of the year and we were unable to have our Christmas buffet at the end of our December meeting. We had hoped to have the buffet today but under the current red light rules that's not possible.

Last year was a bit of a baptism of fire for me but I have found it interesting and demanding (in a positive way). I have been extremely fortunate to have had a very able committee to help me find my feet. I would like to thank them for all their hard work on keeping the ship afloat and a special thanks to our immediate past President Wendy who has provided me with invaluable support and advice. Wendy is retiring from the committee this year and we will miss her enthusiasm, knowledge and drive.

In 2022 we face another year of uncertainty but hope we can continue to meet every month. We have a great line-up of speakers so hopefully there will be something for everyone to enjoy. I also hope our study and interest groups can meet to pursue their knowledge and friendships.

Malcolm Robinson

AGM 2nd February 2022