



NEWSLETTER- November 2020

Website: www.u3aporthills.org.nz

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Greetings members

As we move towards the end of 2020, this could be my final newsletter, not only for the year, but also for the future. I relinquish the presidency of Port Hills U3A at the end of 2020 after three years tenure. I am looking forward to a year with less U3A commitment and more opportunity to join groups. Next year a new president will be elected at the AGM on Wednesday, 3 February.

There are several items for this issue of the newsletter.

- Study Course for 2021. This was discussed at last week’s committee meeting and the following courses were proposed as being viable options for the coming year.

From U3A online

‘Botany - the study of plants for enjoyment’

‘Kings and Queens of England’

‘Left Right or Centre – a very brief introduction to Political Ideologies’

‘The Romans’.

From use of internet resources

‘NZ History 1920 – 2020’

‘Changes in the Polar Regions’, (could include material from ‘Antarctica’ U3A on line course).

Plus

‘Writing Life Stories’ will continue and additional members could join.

I propose to send a clipboard around at Wednesday’s meeting next week for members to express their interest in the above selection. At this stage this is not a commitment to a course, but an indication on which the committee will decide at its next meeting the three courses that we will offer in 2021. As we did last year, we will purchase any online courses before the end of the year so that members can make an informed decision as to which course to choose at the start of next year. If you can’t attend Wednesday’s meeting, please e-mail me your preferences by November 25th.

- It is with sadness that I inform you of the death of Lorraine Murphy in Napier on 10th September. Many of you will remember that Lorraine was the last president of Port Hills U3A. A card has been sent from the committee to Barrie expressing our condolences.
- Next month’s organised visit is to Tai Tapu Sculpture Garden. Information and attendance sheet will be available on Wednesday and information is on our website.

- Forthcoming Speakers:-

Speakers

Month	name	topic
November	Dr Philp Hulme	The invasion of NZ by non-native plants
December	Anne Marie Mora	Progress on the building of Ch. cathedral
February	Mr Ben Harris	The Gut Microbiome
March	Vicky Eastwood	Australian and New Zealand Flying Doctor Service

- There is a change of format at DECEMBER'S U3A MEETING. We propose to start the meeting at 9-30am with the business session. There will be no tea or coffee served before the meeting and members are asked to be seated by 9-30am. After the speaker, we propose to end this year with tea, coffee, Christmas cake and mince pies. A gluten free cake will be available baked by Paula Boot and we thank her for this gesture. Once again the committee is sorry that we have not organised an Xmas Function, but Covid 19 uncertainties were behind the decision to cancel it this year.
- At the moment we have twelve committee members including President and Secretary. At last Friday's Committee meeting I proposed that we aim at a minimum of eight committee members for 2021. We will ask members to step up and volunteer for tasks at the monthly meetings. This proposal has been endorsed by the committee.

We are proposing that TWO people volunteer to carry the responsibility for each of the following tasks :-

Sorting the name tags either before or after the meeting.

Organising the Sales Table

Putting out extra chairs prior to, and after each meeting.

Organising the Meeting Checklist Boards

By asking for two volunteers for each task it will ensure that we have at least one attending each monthly meeting. We suggest that the volunteer time is half a year ie. six months or sessions. A member of the new committee will collate the volunteers. This provides the opportunity for more members to honour their commitment to involve themselves in the smooth running of our organisation and get to know more members of our U3A

- It is appropriate here to remind members of some of the wording of the current enrolment form:- 'Please be aware that our annual sub is low. The premise of U3A is on-going learning for members by members. Accordingly, we encourage members after joining to actively contribute eg. As a committee member; As an Interest Group Leader; As a Study Group Convenor or Offering transport to or from monthly meetings to members without licences to drive or disabilities.'

We still have no expressions of interest for either the President's position or Secretary's position for next year. Vivienne and I thought it appropriate that we give you a short description for each of these important roles.

President. My role is to oversee the smooth running of the organisation by: publishing committee meeting agendas each month; chairing committee meetings; running monthly meetings for members; attending Canterbury Network meetings four times a year and representing Port Hills U3A alongside other U3A presidents; newsletter publication (although this role could be delegated to a committee member).

Secretary. At U3A Port Hills the secretary's role is to:
handle enquiries about joining our U3A (enquires come from phone calls or email)
receive correspondence (email) and table this plus any replies at monthly committee meetings
take minutes of committee meetings and AGM (and any special general meetings – there haven't been any during my time in the role)

These roles are all in the context of very supportive committee members.

The secretary has:

no financial responsibilities

no minutes monthly U3A meetings

no public speaking requirements

no expectation you will do it forever – it's an annual appointment

I strongly encourage you to take up one of these roles. The job can be shared, or a commitment can be made for half a year. Unless we fill these roles, it will be my sad duty to close us down. After 13 years of life it will be a very sad day if we come to this.

- On a brighter note, there is a free talk at Turanga on November 5th at 6-30pm. The topic is 'Celestial Fireworks, From Comets to Celestial Stars' by Karen Pollard (University of Canterbury Mount John Observatory) More details are on our website.

Finally, the weather is warm and sunny and is tempting me outside as I finish this newsletter. It has been my pleasure, as well as my obligation, to serve as your president for the last three years. I wish the incoming president all the best for 2021, whoever this may be.

Warm wishes

Wendy