

PORT HILLS U3A SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Greetings members

It seems a long time since I penned the last newsletter and much has happened in the interim. On a personal level I made an impromptu trip back to the UK and returned with the worst flu I have ever experienced, contracted following a brief stay in Hong Kong. Hence, I haven't attended the last two monthly meetings and am indebted to Vivienne Boyd for stepping up in my absence.

There are a few items this month to report back on, the major one being the move to St. Martins Presbyterian Church for our monthly meetings.

- As from Wednesday, 2 October, our monthly meetings will be held at St. Martins Presbyterian Church 43 St. Martins Road, starting at 9-30am with a cup of tea/coffee. The move, after 13 years at Hoon Hay, has been a result of the following:-

At the start of July, Graeme Ell received an e-mail from the Hoon Hay Parish Council indicating an immediate rent increase. The new rent was 3.6 times our current levy, which translated to an extra \$3148 per year. In effect, this would mean subs would need to be raised to \$50 instead of our current \$30 per year. This is unacceptable. I spoke to the Hoon Hay treasurer and asked if the church no longer wanted U3A using the hall and was assured the church council made their decision purely on current market rates. However, a letter received last Wednesday, and quoted from by Graeme at the meeting, indicates that we are no longer welcome tenants at the church. I will post this letter on the noticeboard at our next meeting for those of you who are interested. Suffice to say, this is the end of our amicable relationship with Hoon Hay Church.

So much for the history which prompted our move. Your committee worked hard in the short time available to find a new venue. We are all very happy with the facilities that St. Martins Church offers and think members will be impressed with the enforced change. We also appraised a second church in the Port Hills Area. The rent for the new venue is slightly more than we previously paid to Hoon Hay, but is affordable, and will not necessitate an increase in annual fees. To celebrate our new venue, and 13 years of Port Hills U3A., there will be an anniversary cake at the next meeting. Onsite parking is limited at St Martins, and the committee asks that only members with disability stickers use the spaces in front of the church. There is on-road parking and members are asked to use this.

- Sales table. Due to the move to our new venue, there will be no sales table at the October meeting.
- Riccarton House Visit. An organised visit to the house has been arranged for 2pm Wednesday 18th September. The cost is \$10 a head for a guided tour of this historic, recently restored old home. This tour is open to all members, and we require a group of 10 to secure this reduced price. Members will have a choice of car share from Princess Margaret Hospital, public or private transport. Please let me know whether you wish to be included in this trip by Friday 13 September. Also, could you indicate whether you wish to car share from Princess Margaret Hospital. My e-mail is gwaswendy@gmail.com, or telephone 3375962.
- Xmas Luncheon. The committee has booked a private room with a drinks licence at the Cashmere Club for our Christmas celebration which follows the last meeting on 4th December. Details of menu and costs are still to come.
- POSITIVE AGING EXPO Monday 30th September at Papanui High School. 9am onwards. This is an annual event and to be recommended for the amount of information available to senior citizens on services available in our city. U3A Canterbury has a stall there to promote our organisation. The Orbiter Bus Route includes a stop outside the school for those of you who prefer public transport. The time clocks are advanced an hour on 29th September, so don't get caught by the time change as I once was.

- Many thanks for all food donations received in the past three months for City Harvest. Be assured that all food donations are gratefully received by this organisation and we will continue to support this charity on a monthly basis.

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Upcoming Speakers: October: Glen Vallender Geologist

November: Professor Alex Tan China and the Pacific

December: Neil Pickard –to be confirmed

I look forward to seeing you all next month at our new venue

Warmest regards

Wendy