

Port Hills U3A Newsletter March 2019

Greetings Members

I have been back in Christchurch for a week and, like all of you, am horrified by the events of last Friday afternoon. It is really difficult to understand what drives a young man to carry out such an atrocity, and we grieve with the ones that have lost loved ones.

I apologise for the lateness of this newsletter. As many of you know, my last month has been spent travelling around India. I would like to acknowledge the work of the committee, and especially Derham McAven, for standing in for me and keeping things running smoothly.

There are quite a few notices for the newsletter. These are itemised below.

- Naida Murray has continued her work sourcing some excellent speakers for us.
April:- Margaret Sweet talks about the Life of Dame Ngaio Marsh
May:- Sir Tipene Regan talks about Environmental Concerns over Water
June:- Yvonne Palmer delivers an overview of the services provided by Age Concern
- Once again the Office for the Retirement Commissioner is delivering a free public education seminar in Wigram about 'the implications of living in a retirement village as distinct from other retirement accommodation options' The seminar offers impartial information and is not designed as a marketing event. The event is at the Wigram Base Hotel, 14 Henry Wigram Drive at 10am on Thursday 2nd April. You are asked to register your wish to attend by either phoning Paul Niccolini on 021565321 or on-line <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2019/thinking-of-living-in-retirement-village/christchurch-district>
- Fees are now due. The fee still stands at \$30 for the year. Comments made at the AGM about the current levy will be discussed by the committee at their next meeting at the end of the month. Automatic bank transfer is our treasurer's preferred option, as this saves him time. The account number is 389006041332500 Please settle this ASAP
- Interest Groups. These continue on from last year. The Religions of the World Study Group has been replaced by Resources for the Future, plus two new study groups are on offer this year: Introduction to Western Philosophy; and Science Part 1. You will find details of all the interest groups/times/venues/leaders on the attached Groups Timetable at the end of this newsletter. I suggest that you either print yourself a copy or save it on your computer.
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- Seminar. The Canterbury Network Seminar, 'Curious Minds' is on Friday 24th May starting at 9am

This year the seminar is to be held at St. Albans Baptist Church, 64 McFaddens Road, St Albans. Last year's seminar sold out well before the day, so I would urge all of you to book your ticket now. The cost is \$35 per head and includes lunch and morning tea. Details of this year's speakers, plus booking reference, is in the attachment at the bottom of this newsletter. (Click on the reference to access the booking form) Members without computer access will need to ask a friend/relative who owns a computer to make the booking for them. Online booking is the only method for reserving a place.

- Following the resignation of four committee members at the end of last year; Naida Murray; Lorraine Murphy; Margaret Clarkson; Margaret Green it is with pleasure that I welcome the following members to the new committee for this year. They are Amama Thornley; John Yeoman; Rose Catley and Bob Richardson. I thank them for agreeing to serve on the committee and look forward to working with them this year to better the interests of our membership.
- We are experiencing an increase in membership at the moment, so it is important that you continue to sign the Attendance Sheet on arrival each meeting. In this way we can make sure that we do not exceed the safe seating capacity of the hall.
- Food Appeal Following the events of last Friday, you have a chance to make a contribution by donating an item of non-perishable food at the April Meeting. This will be collected in the foyer outside the hall and taken to the community hall that is collating the collection of food for Moslem families. Please check the 'use by' dates on the packages and avoid any food items that are out of date.
- Wool: Knitters and Crocheters Naida has asked if there are any members who would like to join an established group who make items for charity. Wool donations are also needed to keep this group active in producing jerseys for pre-schoolers; children's items eg. hats; peggy squares; and strips for blankets. Ring Naida on 338 5030 or donate wool at the monthly meeting.
- Live Life Programme Many of you will remember Sam Johnson's talk earlier last year. In this presentation he mentioned the success that older people have mentoring young people who have low self esteem and who are socially isolated. Gray Crawford has contacted our group offering to speak to any members interested in mentoring a young person. This would involve an hour or two a week on a continuous basis and would not be a 'one off' venture. If you are interested in looking into this further, please give me a ring on 3375962
- Remember to check our website for current information. We strive to keep this up-to-date for your information and convenience.

Finally, I look forward to an enjoyable and productive year as your president

Wendy Gallagher