



NELSON

“Learning for Life”

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Next General meeting will be on 27th August at our venue Tahuna Function Centre 10-12 noon. The Speaker will Grant Sidaway of SeniorNet and the title of his talk will be advised later.

Here is your Committee, elected at the AGM on 30 April 2014:

President	Jill Dickinson	president@u3anelson.org.nz	5444679
Vice-President	Paul Lunberg	membership@u3anelson.org.nz	5487889
Secretary	Peter Sutton	secretary@u3anelson.org.nz	5469140
Treasurer	Noeline Lawson	treasurer@u3anelson.org.nz	5468699
Membership Coordinator	Paul Lunberg	membership@u3anelson.org.nz	5487889
Study Group Coordinator	Kay Hunter	study@u3anelson.org.nz	5477274
Information Services Coordinator & Website Coordinator	Lindsay Hunter	lindsay@cs.w.co.nz	5477274
Communications Coordinator	Jill Ford	jillford@xtra.co.nz	5459266
New Member Coordinator	Barbara Mason	barbara@knowledge.co.nz	5449793
New committee member	Heather Clendon	heathervc@gmail.com	5380209
New committee member	Anne White	jellicoe.anne@gmail.com	5477899

MINUTES OF U3A GENERAL MEETING

Held at 10am on Wednesday 25th June 2014 at the Tahuna Conference Centre

Carl Horn chaired the meeting and welcomed the 44 members who attended despite the torrential rain. He welcomed new members Lynne Barron, Robert Gidlow, Ken Jackson, Pam Jenkins and Barbara Johnson.

Apologies were received from President Jill Dickinson, Immediate Past President Kay Hunter,

Lindsay Hunter, Lyn Eden, Paul Lunberg, Heather Clendon, Mollie and Colin Buckle, Barbara Mason, Carol and Gordon Suddaby, Pam Peacock, Peter Bell and Cindy Flook.

Carl introduced **Jane Hazlett**, an Occupational Therapist and Nelson Manager, who gave a presentation, assisted by **Pam Hewison**, Nelson Coordinator, of the history, philosophy and activities of **The Good Companions**. The Good Companions is a private agency which provides care and companionship to elderly clients enabling them to retain their quality of life, be it at home, in a retirement village, or in a rest home.

The professional companions are carefully vetted upon joining and are carefully matched with their clients. They provide a wide range of services which are recorded and supervised. These include:-

- Live in care – short or long term
- Hospital discharge support
- Outings, shopping and appointments
- Night time support (sleepovers)
- Companionship
- Personal care
- Household management (overseeing tradesmen, administration, etc)

Contact is maintained with the family of the client and with medical advisers.

Payment for the services is required with minimum bookings of two hours. If the client is entitled to Government subsidy for personal care or other services this is used to reduce the fees charged.

Jane answered a number of questions from the floor and was thanked by **Anne White** for her informative talk.

Rosie Page spoke about her U3A group, “Up the Garden Path” and her efforts to encourage members to grow vegetables, herbs and flowers and become more self-sufficient.

Bill Malcolm gave a summary of his lecture on “Genetic Engineering” and encouraged members to enrol for the next presentation.

Morning Tea was served.

Carl introduced **Peter Millward** from the Nelson Provincial Museum who has been working there for almost six years and would speak about the plans to highlight:

Nelson’s Contribution to World War One.

Peter spoke of the museum’s collection of material which provided an in-depth picture of Nelson in the period 1914 -1918; possibly one of the most complete in the country. The region provided 2400 men and women to the overseas war effort and many thousands more supported that effort at home. The casualty rate of those serving overseas was about one in four rather than the one in five nationally.

He spoke of the way in which the fullest possible details of the service of those who served were assembled and checked and how the museum was planning an exhibition of photographs and summaries to mark the centenary of the outbreak

of war in 1914. He described how this would be added to each year until the centenary of the end of the war in 1919 and the return of the surviving men and women to New Zealand.

His talk included significant snippets of information the museum had discovered about the lives of the soldiers, sailors, airmen and nurses serving overseas.

Peter Sutton thanked the speaker for his interesting talk and noted the national interest in recalling the bravery and suffering of conscientious objectors in World War One as well as that of those serving in the armed forces. After the applause for the speaker, Peter Sutton reported that, at long last, the formation of the new “History of Jazz” group had occurred with a meeting at his house on Friday morning 27th June and invited anyone who was interested to attend.

Carl closed the meeting at 12 noon.

STUDY GROUPS

We always need new groups, new interests. If you have an interest you would like to know more about and would like to find out if there are other members who may like to study the subject with you, please give Kay a call on 03 5477274 to discuss the possibility of getting people together. Your call will remain confidential.

There are vacancies in the following groups:

Astronomy
Ballet Group 1
Classical Music Appreciation
Discovering our Local Bird Life
Exploring Nelson Walking Group
Genetic Engineering (new)
Hands in the Garden (new)
History of Jazz (new)
Irish Group
Luncheon Group
Political Science
Problems and Solutions
Scrabble
Visual Arts
Write Your Life 5

If interested in joining a group phone Kay on 03 547 7274 or email her study@u3anelson.org.nz

FROM THE GROUPS:

HISTORY OF INDIA

We meet at Brian Kaye's home on the 4th Thursday of the month. It was the second session of the course - an hour of wonder & colour as our History of India group sat, fixated by the video of medieval invasions & Moslem rule of the sub-continent from the 11th to the 15th century. We were witnessing plundering expeditions by Mahmud from the north of India together with the Afghans and Turks which culminated in Moslem rule for nearly 400 years.

It was a period of history that left its mark & influence on India in its architectural achievements like the Taj Mahal, a blending of Islamic & Hindu motifs, organisation of government (before the Renaissance in Europe) & above all, the respect for all religions.

After morning tea the session was followed by a half-hour discussion & confirmation of dates for coming events.

Margaret Janzen, group member

THE GREAT DISCONTINUITY

For the past 3 years the 11 members of "The Great Discontinuity" Study Group have been examining the environmental, economic, and energy issues facing our industrial civilisation. The name of the Group states the expectation that at some stage in the not too distant future our civilisation will undergo a significant shift, a "great discontinuity", because of decreasing per capita supplies of food, water, minerals, and energy. What the future will look like is opaque, looking forward into the future from our point of view today. But we do know that there are some very serious issues, like global warming, which must be addressed if our civilisation is going to remain intact and function much as we are used to today, albeit with much advanced digital technology.

During the month of June the Group viewed a documentary about nuclear power generation. We discussed at length the information presented. The documentary examined the many factors which must be considered when a country decides on whether to generate electricity using nuclear fission, or not. There seemed to be the beginnings of a consensus in the Group that perhaps fourth generation nuclear reactors based on thorium could

provide a safe transition from coal-fired power generation stations to whatever source of energy might be used in the far future, such as nuclear fusion.

The Group is about to start a study of the book "Collapse" by Jared Diamond in which the author explores the many reasons why past civilisations collapsed. It is the intent of the Group to identify whether some of those reasons exist in our industrial civilisation, and to discuss whether the future will be the same for us as for those ancient civilisations which collapsed.

Carl Horn, Convenor

OPERA AT THE GROUP

The Opera Group, almost at the end of its second year, has a membership of 14 although all cannot attend all operas. The Saturday showings of the filmed operas from the Metropolitan in New York follow a lunch meeting in the Café/Creperie in Millers Acre. Designated members research the composer's life and the history of the opera and notes are distributed a week before the film. On 17th May, nine of us saw a wonderfully staged and presented production of Puccini's *La Bohème* after a meeting at which we decided that we would again spend the period between film seasons (July to October) meeting to view DVDs of operas. Final arrangements for this will be made in the remaining two meetings of this season. We not only enjoy wonderful opera performances at the State Theatre and learn more about the operas, but we enjoy very friendly group interactions over lunch.

Peter Sutton, Convenor

WEA BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Our group of 11 people meets on the first Monday of the month. Our selection of books comes via courier from WEA in Christchurch and the group has approximately four weeks to read the book before meeting for our discussion at a group member's home. Each group member chose a small number of books to read for the year taken from the WEA catalogue. Our selections are compiled into a master list and sent off to WEA headquarters.

It is a matter of Hobson's choice what we get when our books arrive each month as we have no say in the order our titles are sent. Recently we have had a range of fiction and nonfiction. An

example of our recent fiction was *The Paris Wife* by Paula Maclaine. This book was a fictionalised portrayal of Ernest Hemmingway's first wife, Hadley Richardson, and their tempestuous life in Paris during the "Roaring" 1920's. "Trite and light," I and others thought but many in the group enjoyed the book and the period it portrayed! The nonfiction text which had the group in agreement was one from last year; *Goodbye Sarajevo* by Atka Reid and Hana Schofield which is a true, moving and compelling account of courage and hope set during the Bosnian crisis in the 1980's.

It is always interesting to hear the opinions of others and sometimes we agree to disagree. Such is life!

David Turner, Convenor

ARCHITECTS GROUP

We have adopted the theme, "Architects and their Architecture". As an example, we have had a presentation on Santiago Calatrava, a Spanish Structural engineer, who later qualified as an architect also. Many of his works are very striking, and become almost art installations as well as buildings or bridges. The talk was about the man, and how he has influenced architecture by dragging it away from such themes as "brutalism". (Think Nelson Post Office) We had many pictures, and a DVD showing the design of a railway station, and how the requirements were developed into a finished building project

As with many Groups, the subject can vary, as with a talk on Gothic Architecture.

Barry Davis (convenor)



FILM AND THEATRE GROUP

The Film and Theatre Group met on May 9th to view the 1991 film - CLOSE TO EDEN and to welcome two new members, Miranda and Rona to our small group of movie buffs. The film was Mongolian, with English sub-titles. It depicted the cultural changes going on in that far-off country, from an ancient rural horse-oriented simple life to the modern, where trucks and night clubs have taken over. This land, where Genghis Khan and his horsemen once dominated, supplied the rolling grassland scenes, costumes and dances, colour, and simple family life in their transportable yurts - a genuine introduction into a bygone culture. We all enjoyed the fine film, which was followed by a spirited discussion and coffee and cake.

David Janzen Convenor

CLASSICAL MUSIC APPRECIATION

The class meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month. The first class is devoted to different perspectives on classical music and is changed on an annual basis. The second class each month is devoted to the personal choice of classical music by a class member.

This class has been running continuously for over 10 years and during that time we have looked at many perspectives on classical music. Some of these topics have been:

The lives of composers

The instruments of the orchestra

The history of classical music

And many others.

At the present moment we are looking at great symphonies and great concertos, this gives each class member an opportunity to conduct a small amount of research into the topic and to bring the results to the rest of the class.

Music is presented on CD, DVD and VCR which allows members to enjoy both the auditory and visual experience of orchestral music.

If you enjoy classical music come and join us.

Brian Say Convenor

As a courtesy please let the Convenor of your group know if you are unable to attend a session. It helps to know how many are expected that day, and for future planning of the group.

When planning times for your group to meet, work within a 4 week month and schedule 1st & 3rd, and 2nd & 4th weeks rather than 1st, 3rd & 5th weeks which gets out of kilter with others.

The last Wednesday of each second month is kept free for the General Meeting.

Remember U3A Nelson is a “Learning Organisation”, that is the reason it exists and that is why most of us we joined it!

FROM THE COMMITTEE:

A suggestion has been put forward that members consider setting up a bequest to U3A Nelson in their wills. It would be much appreciated by those who continue to enjoy the learning the stimulation and the interaction within the club. Why not consider it?

Donations are welcome at any time.

Financial Report – Bank Balance at 14 May 2014 was \$4829.69 and expenses since the last committee meeting totalled \$659.30 (Room hire \$150, Projector hire \$45, Name badge holders \$12.50, Flowers and card \$39.00. Tea collection income \$412.50.

Noeline Lawson, Treasurer

Stoke is expected to grow and there is some considerable concern of the lack of community space for meetings, gatherings and group activities here. Comfortable, usable and flexible spaces are required for meetings of all kinds and numbers in this area. A group representing your committee met with the Council to put forward suggests for a committee facility that would be of use to U3A Nelson members.

Committee minutes are now available on the website