



NELSON

“Learning for Life”

Volume 6, Issue 1 Feb/March 2014

P.O. Box 1690, Nelson, 7040

Phone 022 392 0100

www.u3anelson.org.nz

The 2014 AGM will be held on Wednesday 30 April 2014. 10am at The Tahuna Events Centre
There will be a special treat from Judy Heiner and her cast as well as a speaker (to be advised).

GENERAL MEETING - 26 February 2014

Our thanks to Gordon Suddaby, Lindsay Hunter, and Carl Horn for their excellent contributions. We learnt about many ways to increase the effectiveness and academic rigour of our groups.

Gordon’s session: ‘Effective Groups: Contributing to a positive experience for all’ is posted on the website in PDF format and it is suggested that groups download and discuss and perhaps adapt or add to. With Gordon’s permission, we shall further dissect at the Meeting for Convenors on 30 March.

Meantime, here are a few salient points for us, as members and convenors to reflect upon:

U3A groups are opportunities for all to collaborate, share, learn and enjoy and for all members to contribute equally. In groups, we need to develop and agree to ‘Ground Rules’

For example, we’ll try to: -

Listen attentively, be prepared to contribute, but avoid dominating the discussion or talking over people

Be open minded and reflect on the material discussed

Take ownership of our own opinions whilst supporting others’ contributions

Don’t be afraid of silence

Ask questions and encourage answers but not ask and then answer our own questions

Avoid putting people ‘on the spot’

Lindsay’s and Carl’s session: ‘Internet Resources’ included : -

U3A Online: www.u3aonline.org.au

MOOC - Massive Open Online Courses
e.g. Harvard’s Michael Sandel’s lectures on Justice – ‘What is the right thing to do?’ www.mooc.org

TED Talks: - Technology Entertaining Design
e.g. Benjamin Zander – ‘The Transformative Power of Classical Music’ www.ted.com/talks

You Tube: www.youtube.com

e.g. Google BBC Documentary. An amazing array is available, mainly around an hour in duration and all meaty stuff.

SUBSCRIPTION 2014

Due to the need for further data base development, auditory apparatus, and a projector, your Committee recommends that the U3A Nelson subscription is increased to \$20 per person per annum, due on 31 March 2014. The change must be ratified at the AGM, but feel free to pay now.

U3A Nelson, PO Box 1690, Nelson 7040

**Internet banking: - University of the Third Age
03 0703 03856 4800.**

The Committee also requests that those members who require their newsletters and messages by post include 10 stamped, self-addressed envelopes with their subscriptions.

MEETING FOR CONVENORS

U3A Nelson relies on members to convene and host groups. Thus the Committee looks forward to thanking convenors and hosts at a morning tea to be held at the **Richmond Library on Wednesday 26 March, 9.30-11.30.**

We also cordially invite any member who is considering convening or hosting a group. There will be opportunity to ask questions, share experiences and generally talk about what works in your group. For catering purposes, we would appreciate knowing if you can come. Contact president@u3anelson.org.nz 03 5477274

MEETING TIMES

We are all busy people wanting to squash in as many activities as we can. When you are organising a new group that will run fortnightly PLEASE make it either the 1st and 3rd OR the 2nd and 4th day of the week in each month. If there is a 5th day in the month, it changes the timing and means that we as members can't organise other activities during the free days each month. If your group is held fortnightly we are locked into that activity only for those days of the month.

PROSPECTIVE NEW GROUPS

Great Architecture: a seminar offered by retired architect, Maurice Tebbs

Some 20th Century Architects and their Buildings: a series of photo essays on 14 significant 20th century architects and their buildings, including:-

Frank Lloyd Wright - Johnson Wax Building, Racine
Le Corbusier - La Tourette Monastery, near Lyon
Frank Gehry - Guggenheim Museum, Balboa
Antoni Gaudi - Casa Mila apartments, Barcelona
Walter Gropius - The Bauhaus at Weimar and Dessau
Piano and Rogers - Pompidou Centre, Paris

Supported by DVDs on the Architects and printed material on all the featured buildings. There will be a modest fee to cover materials and room hire. Please note that these are seminars rather than group discussions.

Starting date: Monday 24 March
Each week 9.30-12.15 excluding Easter Monday
Location: Barnicoat Room, Richmond Library

Please contact **Maurice Tebbs 039222666** madtebbs@paradise.net.nz directly if you wish to participate and also mail study@u3anelson.org.nz

Discovering our local bird life – a group for amateur bird lovers

Grace Sutherland says: “For U3A members who want to learn how to recognize our birds by their call, flight patterns, colour of plumage; looking at different habitats and discover what can be found there, noting seasonal changes, numbers, behaviour, etc.

We meet fortnightly on Tuesday mornings at different locations, for a 2-3 hour bird-spotting ramble, taking your own morning tea, a notebook and pencil, binoculars if you have them, bird identification book you might have, and wearing appropriate outdoor clothing with sturdy footwear.

Together the group plans where we go for a programme of walks; there is a wide range of suitable localities in the Nelson/Tasman area, depending on the physical fitness of the members in the group.”

Grace Sutherland. 03547-7539
gracemsutherland@gmail.com

Electrical Knitting

Roger Haynes says “I'm struggling to find a title that sums up the aims of the group, perhaps a combination of - Electrical Connections; TV and Sound Systems; Wiring for Beginners; Making Home Entertainment System Work

Gone are the days when you bought a TV or radio, plugged it in, connected the aerial and that was that, and not a remote control in sight. Now most TVs are “smart” and connected to DVD players and/or recorders, set top boxes of various sorts, sound systems with many speakers and have Ethernet, Bluetooth, or Wi-Fi capability and come with a basketful of remote control devices to make it all work.

No doubt there are many here for whom this does not present a problem, and probably we will need

your help in the future. But initially, the purpose of this beginner's group would be to find out about these systems so that we have a working knowledge of what is available, what it does and how it all connects together.

I see the group being very "hands on" so, for example, members can examine and recognise different sorts of connecting cables and know what they are for.

Then we could move on to the various controls and settings so we can use all the functions and get the best out of our equipment.

Regarding a venue, the group could meet in one place or perhaps travel to each member's home to better understand what equipment they have and discuss any particular issues. For this reason I think 6 or 7 would be the maximum size."

Roger Haynes **03 5396402**
roger@tasman.net

Can YOU do better than this?

"How many U3A members does it take to change a light bulb?" - *"I was told but I've forgotten."*

Can you help one of our members?

A Granny is looking for a one or two bedroomed flat / cottage / house to rent. Quiet living, excellent tenant. References available. Easy access preferred. Phone 03 5477274

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Reading with U3A Nelson: As there are three reading/literature groups operating within U3A Nelson, here's explanation of the different focus:

WEA Book Discussion Group

David Turner says, "Book selections are made each year by the group members from the current BDS Catalogue. The book range is vast: both fiction and nonfiction. A maximum of ten titles is issued over the year to the group's convenor. He/she issues each set of books at a pre-arranged meeting of the group. See www.bds.org.nz

Our group meets pm, on the first Monday of the month at each member's home in turn, and we

meet for a couple of hours. The discussions can be guided by the questions contained in the book notes but the format of our meetings is quite informal with each group member giving his/her impression of the current book. This often sparks lively (and friendly) debate. Our present group has nine enthusiastic members.

We do have some vacancies. There is a cost of \$60 pp per year to meet the WEA subscription."

David Turner **Ph 547 3456**
d-nturner@clear.net.nz

U3A Nellie Nightingale Library Reading Group

Averil Kepple explains "We are a topic based group. We all choose the topics and write our blurbs to explain what the topic can cover. These are put together with appropriate illustrations into a 3 page programme. The topics have been as varied as Trees, Teeth, Vikings, and a particular country which can be for the author or the story. Last week our topic was "From My Bookshelf" and the next few include, New Writers, Undercover, Feminism and Australian Writers. One session we all read one of Katherine Mansfield's short stories. There were no double-ups – we all chose something different!

Sometimes the topics have been enhanced with 'props' – eg the topic "France" saw us wearing berets etc and red, white & blue with French music. Recently for "Tea" we enjoyed some tea-tasting of 4 different Chinese teas in 4 little teapots. We drank from tiny cups and enjoyed dainty cucumber sandwiches.

Every 2nd & 4th Monday of the month our group meet in the round room at the Nellie Nightingale library in Tahunanui with our chosen books to suit the given topic for that session. Each session has a chairperson to lead the discussions and book reviews. We also take turns bringing milk and biscuits – which are often a tempting selection of home baking or chocolate biscuits when we break for a cuppa and a natter. Our sessions are relaxed and fun!" There are no vacancies at the moment.

Critical Reading of Contemporary Literature

The convenor of this group, **Richard Talbot**, says that membership of the group is closed right now. Members read books of their choice throughout

the month and on meeting day report to the rest of the group about the book or books they have read. The emphasis is on looking at contemporary literature critically; reading and evaluating the book, looking at the author's style, the dialogue, the development of characters, as well as the plot.

The Great Discontinuity

Carl Horn says, "Last Friday morning The Great Discontinuity started its third year together by viewing the first of 3 DVDs, a documentary entitled "September 11 The New Pearl Harbour," a detailed analysis of many different aspects of the 9/11 attack, (available on the Internet).

Watching this documentary is a departure for our group, since it is not directly related to the '3 Es'. During the past two years we have extensively studied the '3 Es', the Environment, the Economy, and our Energy resources. For example, we have studied oil (peak oil) and water resources, climate change, renewable energy, the history of money and the global financial system, and other topics. The way the world is developing, it seems we will never have a shortage of information to help us learn about the 'reality' of our society and its impact on our environment and other species.

As we watch, one of us will say "pause" to ask a question or make a comment. The DVD is stopped and discussion ensues (sometimes we don't complete a one-hour documentary during one of our two-hour sessions).

The name "The Great Discontinuity" is derived from the strong probability that the century to come will become increasing unlike the century past, that in fact there will be a 'great discontinuity' as we move into a future which will be significantly different from what it seems most of us are expecting. Our future is not likely to be an extension of our recent past.

Carl Horn 03 5391108
carl.horn.nelson@gmail.com

WINTER LUNCH?

There is no reason why the committee needs to organise such an event. **Is there a member or a group who would volunteer to organise an event this year?** Perhaps we could celebrate Winter Solstice with all the Christmas trimmings?

If you or your group would like to organise an event, let a member of the committee know that you will take responsibility. Advertising can be done through the U3A mailing lists. U3A Nelson funds could be allocated for hire costs as for prior functions.

The committee would love to hear from you or your group.

GROUP VACANCIES

There are currently vacancies in these groups:

Ascent of Man 2; Astronomy; Ballet Group 2; Discovering our Local Bird Life; Electrical Knitting; Great Architecture; Great Discontinuity; Great Symphonies and Concertos; Exploring Nelson Walking Group; Interesting People and their Achievements; Irish Group; Luncheon Group; Our Living Language; Political Science; Scrabble; Theatre and Film Group; Visual Arts; WEA Book Discussion Group; Write Your Life Groups 3 and 4.

There is information about all groups on the U3A Nelson website u3anelson.org.nz If you are interested in joining any of these groups, ring our **Study Group Coordinator Sue on 5391108 or email study@u3anelson.org.nz**

If you would like to join groups that are advertised as FULL, please let Sue know so she can put you on the Waiting List.

NOMINATIONS FOR U3A NELSON COMMITTEE

It is almost time for you to elect your committee for the May 2014 – April 2015 period. A nomination form is attached.

Committee responsibilities are well defined in a manual and don't hesitate to ask for a list if the role interests you. A committee of up to 12 members is required. The roles of president, VP and secretary require specific nomination. Other roles are appointed within the committee: -

President; Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer; Membership Coordinator; New Member Coordinator; Study Group Coordinator; Communications Coordinator; Website Coordinator; Information Services Coordinator; Newsletter Editor.



Nelson

Committee Nomination Form

I / we nominate
for (please circle the function)

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Committee Member

.....
Proposer's signature
Date:

.....
Seconders' signature
Date:

Acceptance of nomination
Signed

Date
Please post to U3A Nelson, PO Box 1690, Nelson

Notes

- Only financial members are eligible for election
- You must be a financial member to nominate or second (NB subs are due by 1 May 2014)
- Please use a separate form for each nomination
- Nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary, Pauline Daly, one week before the Annual General Meeting