

NELSON

“Learning for Life”

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Please keep this list handy for future reference

A warm welcome to the members who have joined us this year: Jane Acheson, Jeni Bell, Mary Bolland, Mollie and Colin Buckle, Colin Clough, Colin Davis, Elizabeth Duncan, Lorana Fallone, Marie Firth, Rosie Grace-Webb, Diana Johnson, Janet McInnes, Anne Mitchell, Pat Morrissey, Ann Nighy, Claire Reid, Allison and Max Robertson, Tony and Erena Rowe, Robert Staight, Ann Sulman, Frances and Paul Taylor, Maurice Tebbs, Lynne Barron and Ken Jackson. We hope you'll join some groups and reap the rewards and enjoyment of learning.

NEWS FROM THE AGM

A very special thanks to Judy Hiener for her hilarious ‘Let’s Ham Ham Let.’ Written by Judy and produced for the AGM. The players from her Creative Writing and Write Your Life 4 groups

acted bravely and spiritedly but were soon to meet a violent demise and strew the stage. Here’s Gillian Kendrick as Laertes and David Turner as King Claudius preparing to fight.



Our speaker, Nigel Costley, gave an informative and entertaining account of the contributions to beekeeping made by the Rev. **Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth** (1810 – 1895). An [apiarist](#), clergyman and teacher, he is considered the "Father of American Beekeeping." His discovery that a 9mm gap around the frames in a hive ensured the bees did not fill the whole space with comb. Hives could be managed and inspected for the first time.

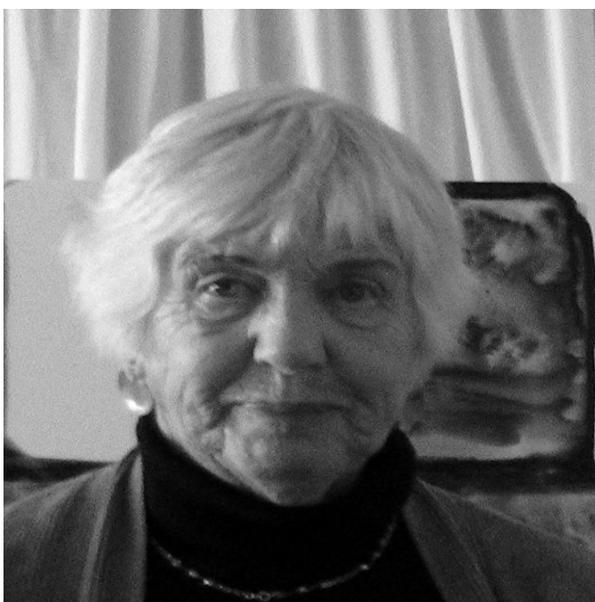
Nigel told us what we can do in our backyards to attract bees and keep them healthy. See www.treesforbeesnz.org The insecticide to avoid is one containing neonicotinoids (often used as seed coating). It’s banned in the EU and Canada due to its implication in Colony Collapse Disorder and is currently under scrutiny from our

Environmental Protection Authority. Langstroth's book, 'The Hive and the Honey Bee' is worth a read and for local info, consult Andrew Matheson's 'Practical Beekeeping in NZ.' The good news is that scientists are working on developing Varroa Mite resistant bees. Nigel is encouraged to join us, which he says he may well do – one day!

NEW LIFE MEMBERS



Paul Bielecki has been a prolific convenor of groups since 1991. Paul initiated and convened; The Scottish Enlightenment, Men and Women of Science, Explorers of the World, Revolutionaries and their Revolutions, Interesting People and their Achievements, Problems and their Solutions, and the most intriguing – Isms, and More Isms, and - Even More Isms. He acknowledges Jocelyn's help in running these groups.



Elly Maas has been a member for over 20 years, organising programmes, serving on the Committee, and for the last 8 years graciously opening her home each fortnight to the A to Z of Art History group.

Thank you Elly and Paul, you have benefited and enriched the lives of so many members over so many years.

COMMITTEE REMIT

The remit "That the membership fee is increased from \$15 to \$20 per annum, effective from April 2014" was accepted unanimously. The minutes of the meeting are attached.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE AGM

Each month, U3A Nelson members get together 66 times to engage in a study or activity of their choice. Walking, sharing lunch and studying topics as erudite and darn-right challenging as the origins of politics, the development of mankind, the crises facing the world. Or the trickiest of the lot, the sorting out of the plugs on the back of the tv and the remote controls that operate them! Currently we have 45 groups involving around 200 members who beaver away researching, learning, challenging the brain to present something that motivates our fellow members. The medical research is increasingly clear; intellectual challenge is as important as physical activity in increasing the chance of living into our latter years in good health and enjoying a quality of life. U3A Nelson, be proud of the part we play.

This year the Committee has invested considerable effort in improving our ability to cater for a growing membership. Phase one of the data base is complete and it has dramatically decreased the effort involved in dealing with membership and study group complexities. There's no longer the need to shuffle so many bits of paper. The Committee recommends financing further development to link the website and data base so as to improve members' choices, allow self management and lessen the work load for the Committee. Internet security is paramount. Another development has been the increase of group email lists. These lists make

communication between group members so easy and importantly, decrease exposure to spam.

The need to improve auditory facilities for those who have hearing difficulties at our general meetings is still on the agenda and the Committee continues to investigate the best options.

The newsletter is our way of communicating what goes on in groups, what's new in groups and which group has vacancies. Thank you to those who have contributed over the year. As our only means of keeping everyone informed, the Committee will be asking all groups to contribute during the coming year.

The involvement of members in how we want to operate is important and both the planning session in June and the meeting for convenors in March were well attended. Members took the opportunity to express views, ideas and concerns about our organisation. The Committee has and will employ the ideas as appropriate.

At our general meetings we've enjoyed informative talks from Mike Ward on how lifelong learning fits into the Council's planning, Dr Murray McClintock on climate change, Dr Suzanne Busch on The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Aging, Maryanne Street on her End of Life Choice Bill, and in April of this year, member's contributions on how to get the best out of our groups.

The ongoing issue is how to expand our popular groups. To do that, we need more convenors. Our long-serving members have convened in the past, so it's always timely for more recently registered members to take a turn. It's part of belonging to our organisation. If you feel you would like to, but don't know what to do, there is plenty of support available. Please, just ask.

On behalf of all members a huge thanks to the tutors, the convenors and the hosts of groups over the past year. You are the cog in the wheel that keeps members stimulated and informed, keeps the programmes moving, and provides a welcoming venue. We can't operate without you.

And lastly my warmest thanks to the 2013-14 Committee. We've covered lots of ground together; talking, listening, and acting. We've made some difficult decisions, but all we trust, in the best interests and fairness for U3A Nelson. The most difficult has been cutting back on financing for individuals and groups. With a growing membership and a wider range of activities, we see that groups must share any costs within the group. So with regret, we have cut funding for hire of rooms. Hereafter groups fund their own rental costs. We also ask that those members who require posting of newsletters and notices to provide stamped and addressed envelopes to cover the extra costs. Thus, we are able to keep the annual subscription costs for everyone to a low level. Pauline, Noeline, Sue, Paul, Jill, Jill, Barbara, Lindsay and Carl, my sincere thanks for a job well done. You came up trumps!

My very best wishes to the new President and Committee for the ongoing year.

Kay Hunter, immediate past president

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES with U3A Nelson

PROPOSED GROUPS AND OFFERED COURSES

Genetic Engineering (GE)

GE is much in the news these days, but that news is a confusing mix of breathless praise and angry censure—dazzling new medical cures and productive new strains of crops and livestock served up back-to-back with dire warnings of looming disasters. GE's critics claim that by splicing the genes of bacteria and viruses into our agricultural crops and livestock, we'll open a Pandora's box of superweeds and Frankenfoods that will sicken or kill us. That sort of cross-kingdom genetic mixing never happens in the wild, they say—it's unnatural—and by doing it we're risking our very survival as a species. Although they're no doubt sincere, they're mistaken—what they call "that unnatural genetic mixing" has been going on for untold millions of years, and if it had not, we wouldn't be here, nor would most of the world's other creatures.

Bill Malcolm's illustrated U3A talk looks at the science behind the controversy over GE—what genes are and how they work, how sinister foreign genes sneak inside us but how some have become vital to our well-being, how genes can go wrong and how we might fix them, why you can escape pesticides by growing your own food, how GE therapy works (or doesn't), why GE's fiercest critics have targeted Monsanto, and how the company is fighting back, and what might happen in the future. The talk is two hours plus a break in the middle for refreshments, at a date and time mutually agreed on.

Bill Malcolm, 5451660 for information or email study@u3anelson.org.nz

Origins and Development of Early Jazz - late 1800's to the 1930's

Have you ever thought that there was a time in relatively recent history that Jazz did not exist? What were the musical and social factors that led to the development of Jazz in the very early days? We'll listen to music played by the early pioneers of Jazz and discuss how and why Jazz developed the way it did. Meeting times and places to be arranged by those who attend.

Ron O'Reilly, 5485975 or Peter Sutton, 5469140
Or email study@u3anelson.org.nz

These groups have vacancies:

Ascent of Man2, Astronomy, Ballet1, Childrens' Literature, Classical Music Appreciation, Discovering our Local Bird Life, Electrical Knitting (on hold but a group to run later in the year) Origins and Development of Early Jazz - Late 1800s to 1930s, Interesting People and their Achievements, Irish Group, Luncheon Group, Opera at the Met, Political Science, Problems and Solutions, Scrabble, Travel, Theatre and Film, Visual Arts.

03 5477274 or study@u3anelson.org.nz

Make Your Own Tea Cup or coffee Mug

Learning how to throw pots on a potter's wheel takes months of dedicated practice. That's why many folk who enrol in pottery classes get discouraged and drop out long before they've mastered even the basics. Fortunately for anybody who wants to make pots, wheel-throwing isn't the only show in town. A technique

called slip-casting demands little skill, and mastering it takes only hours rather than months. Even better, pots made with it are higher quality than wheel-thrown pots.

In this hands-on U3A course, you'll see a demonstration of slip-casting step-by-step. You'll also practice those steps by yourself, so you'll end up thoroughly familiar with the entire process. And, you'll walk away with a coffee mug or tea cup.

The course will meet two hours a week for six weeks. Be warned that it's a do-it-yourself crafts course. To enjoy it, you should be keen on pottery, good at working with your hands, not be fussed about getting goeey clay on you, and committed to attending the full six weeks.

Bill Malcolm, 5451660 for information or email study@u3anelson.org.nz

New Gardening Group

Up the Garden Path is full to the brim. If you are interested in joining a gardening group contact 5477274 or study@u3anelson.org.nz as we are ready to get a new group established and Rosie Page offers to help the process.

Ready to try something new? Consult our website www.u3anelson.org.nz

It was suggested at the recent meeting of convenors that an interactive facility could be included on the website where members could suggest groups and others could join. We do not have that facility yet. However, if you are keen to get a group or a course underway ring 03 5477274 or email study@u3anelson.org.nz and your idea can be advertised.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

BALLET GROUP 2 wish to acknowledge the death of RUBY COLEMAN this month. She was an enthusiastic member of the group and they will miss her bright company in the group.

Jill Ford, convenor

CRITICAL READING OF CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE - there are some main points

differentiating this group from a typical book group:

- 1). No affiliation with e.g. WEA
- 2). Meetings consist essentially of reports by members of their individual reading (or re reading) over the previous month, usually focussing on 1-2 books they have particularly enjoyed and then briefly noting the others.
- 3). As members are expected to be avid readers this often stimulates discussion as others will often be familiar with the book (or at least the author).
- 4). New releases are an important component.
- 5). In depth critical discussion. To quote Terry Eagleton: "Like clog dancing, the art of analysing works of literature is almost dead on its feet." Our aim is to encourage slow reading "with attention to literary form and technique building on a pattern of e.g. narrative, plot, development of characters, language and to make individual value judgements. Authoritative reviews are also important.
- 6). This necessitates a smaller group. We didn't think this would be so rapidly subscribed and it was initially too large, leading to inadequate time, but are hopefully down to 7 members, which is really maximum.
- 7). Without so much pressure on time, there is opportunity to introduce more philosophical questions which the reading may raise e.g. "do journalists make good novelists and if not, why?"
- 8). Tendency to concentrate on fiction but certainly not exclusively so. My last group even had an annual Poetry session and, (not that I'd advocate it), acted a scene from a Shakespeare play in the garden!
- 9). Both genders ideally. (As the only man I'm keen on this but we have trouble with numbers. Perhaps one day we may have to consider Binary Fission (like amoebae!)

Richard Talbot, convenor

Up the Garden Path

Our group expectation of viewing Autumn colours in pre arranged locations seemed doomed to

failure for the second year in a row; rain, rain and more rain had fallen in the night. Nevertheless, eight stalwarts turned up at Crusoe's cafe for the possibility that "the show would go on" and certainly coffee and ? Garden conversation might have to suffice.

As time went by the morning lightened and after agreeing to make our donations to Riding for the Disabled whose group uses the land adjoining the property we are visiting, we set out in three cars. The property belongs to Rick and Sarah Griffin and is in Champion Road, Richmond.

By the time we arrived, the sun was squeezing its rays amongst the clouds and encouraged us to meander beside the lake and lawns and appreciate the colours shapes and reflections of the trees and landscape.

An unexpected offer from Robyn Gordon (one of our group) to view her garden in Stoke, afforded abundant praise for a town garden expertly designed and planted to make maximum use of space for edibles, various espalier trees and fence climbers and artistic positioning of shrubs and plants. Thank you Robyn.

Pauline Schweder

Our Living Language

Thursday before Good Friday and here I was driving out Waimea Road heading for Ngawhatu Road for our monthly U3A meeting. "I must be mad at my age driving today," I muttered to myself as I watched tree branches falling on the road, the windscreen wipers losing the battle against the horizontal rain.

My English Language was developing rapidly as I cursed the blasted weather. In Ngawhatu Road the gale swept down the valley uprooting Chris's olive trees. Everyone was arriving at once, desperately trying to stay upright as we were swept down Liz's driveway. Yet, despite this incredible storm everyone had arrived. "We're all mad!" we said or "Mad keen!" said someone else.

We are a group of people who have over the years become friends, sharing research and knowledge with the others. We have enjoyed Liz's

generous hospitality while we have watched DVDs, studied Anglo Saxon English, Aussie and American slang. We have talked of King Arthur, The Black Death, Chaucer and Shakespeare, quoting poetry and learning about Hip Hop. We have cracked jokes in fun at others expense and best of all laughed a lot. Mad we all were to drive out that day but “mad keen” sums up this U3A group of English language enthusiasts, a group to which I feel privileged to belong.

Dorothy Starling

The Children’s Literature Group

Nan and David Turner, convenors of The Children’s Literature group have arranged this talk and all U3A Nelson members are welcome: -

Trevor Agnew will be speaking to a combined meeting of The Friends of the Elma Turner Library and the U3A Children’s Literature Group. 1.30pm, on the 16th May.

This one-hour power-point presentation, “Sharing the Joy,” showing some key books and people from the NZ children’s-literature world, past and present. Authors such as Elsie Locke, Margaret Mahy, Joy Cowley, Maurice Gee, picture books, novels etc will be discussed.

Trevor has retired from teaching and is a full-time writer and reviewer for The Christchurch Press and “Magpies” magazine (Australia). He has received awards from the NZ Reading Association, Te Tai Tamariki (a children’s literature foundation) and most recently the Betty Gilderdale Award for services to children’s literature. He was a judge in the 2010 NZ Post Book Awards.

Nelson Institute Coffee & Books Talk

May 16th 2014. Elma Turner Library 1:30pm.

(\$2 pp entry).

All U3A members welcome.

FROM THE POSITIVE AGING FORUM

A productive Aging Workforce – are we ready?

Thursday 4 September 2014, Nelson

Time and venue to be announced

Tag this date for a stimulating one day symposium with high calibre local and national speakers. Learn about the make-up of our region’s workforce, the impact of the aging population, and how to enable this ‘silver tsunami of workers for high productivity without ill effect on health and wellbeing.

“Organisational adaption will be a key element in achieving the human resource needs for a world with fewer younger workers and greater numbers of older workers.” – World economic Forum 2012.

This is a local event organised by Health Action Trust, Optimise Limited and the Nelson economic Development Agency. The event has support and sponsorship from the Nelson Regional Economic Development Agency, the AUT Work Research Institute, and Business NZ. There will be a small charge. Registrations open in June.

Next General Meeting of U3A Nelson

Wednesday 25 June

10-12, Tahuna Events Centre

Peter Milward, Director of the Nelson

Museum will talk about the Museum exhibit on World War I and plans for Isele Park.

See you there!

Minutes of the U3A Nelson AGM – 30 April 2014

Attendance: A roll was taken and there were 75 members in attendance, including Kay Hunter (chair), Lindsay Hunter (minutes), Noeline Lawson, Barbara Mason, Carl Horn, Sue Thompson-Horn, Jill Dickinson, Jill Ford, Paul Lunberg (Committee, 2013/2014).

Apologies: Pauline Daly, Liz Chinnery, Chris Bowyer, Anne White, Margaret Jones, Anna and Malcolm Chalmers, Pat Wilkinson, Jeannie Woodhouse, Lois and Barry Davis, Janette and Gerard Hueting, Annette Dacombe, Chris Crozier, Faye Eades, Pat Morrissey, Jenefer Haig, Judith Hunter, Heather Clendon.

Minutes of the AGM held on 27 February, 2013: taken as read. Amended to include Paul Lunberg elected as vice-president. Moved Lindsay Hunter / Seconded David Janzen / carried.

President's Report: A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Moved Jill Braithwaite / Seconded Brian Say / Accepted.

Financial Report: The financial statement was taken as read. Noeline Lawson explained the report and there were no queries. Moved Noeline Lawson / Seconded Peter Sutton / Accepted.

Auditor: E'beth McKendry was once again appointed as honorary auditor for the ensuing year. Moved Noeline Lawson / Seconded Lindsay Hunter / accepted.

Committee Remit: That the membership fee is increased from \$15 to \$20 per annum, effective from April 2014. Seconded Nancy Malcolm. Motion carried unanimously

Presentation of Life Memberships: Val Gardiner, current recipient of a Life Membership presented Life Memberships to Elly Maas and Paul Bieleski.

Presentations to retiring members of the Committee: Kay Hunter presented Sue Thompson-Horn and Carl Horn with parting gifts and thanked them for their sterling work over the two years.

Election of new Committee for the forthcoming year:

President – Jill Dickinson

Vice-president – Paul Lunberg

Secretary – Peter Sutton

Treasurer – Noeline Lawson

Committee – Jill Ford, Lindsay Hunter, Heather Clendon, Anne White. Kay Hunter stays on as Immediate Past President.

Jill Dickinson and Paul Lunberg thanked Kay Hunter for her work as president.

The meeting closed at 12.09 pm.