



# NELSON

## “Learning for Life”

Volume 6, Issue 4, Oct/Nov 2013

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### Meetings for 2014

February 26<sup>th</sup>, April 30<sup>th</sup> (AGM), June 25<sup>th</sup>, August 27<sup>th</sup> and October 29<sup>th</sup>

### 30 October General Meeting

As **Bridget Thompson from the Hearing Association of Nelson** pointed out, many U3A members are likely to have some degree of hearing loss as 50% of those over 70 have some impairment. Those with a loss need to tell those who are speaking to them, and while addressing someone with hearing loss we can all help by trying to remember to a) face the person, b) enunciate clearly, c) keep close, d) keep to the subject, and e) use body language. She pointed out that hearing aids are just that, aids. They don't bring back hearing but can help. She urged us to get our hearing tested as anything that enhances our hearing enhances our quality of life.

**The Honourable Maryan Street, a Labour List Member** spoke of her End of Life Choice bill. In May 2012, she introduced the private member's bill to the ballot box. She emphasised the need for social discourse on the subject as such a debate may be deferred for years given that selection of private member's bills from the ballot box is a random process. Maryan spoke well about an issue that is of great interest to most of us, hence the big turnout of around 80 members and the many searching questions she received. She left copies of the bill and should anyone wish to receive a pdf computer copy, then do request one from President Kay. [president@u3anelson.org.nz](mailto:president@u3anelson.org.nz)

**Paul Lunberg**

**A warm welcome to these new members:** Margaret Belton, Mary Talbot, Dennis Ready, Clive Rowe, Amalia Fish, Dorothy and Graeme Cochrane



An absorbed group of U3A Nelson members listen to Maryan Street explain her End of Life Choice Bill.

### Obituary

Recently one of the U3A Astronomy members passed away. He was **Albert Jones OBE.DSC (Hon)**. Many of you will have read in the Mail of his many achievements and world-wide recognition. What I would like to do is to give my recollections of him as a member of our astronomy group. When I joined the group in 2006 I knew very little of the subject and did not know the other members of the group. There was an older member there who was very knowledgeable and was very good at explaining things to me. It was only later that I found out his standing nationally and internationally. The thing that I will always remember of Albert was his humility, patience and love of his subject. The word 'gentleman' was invented to describe Albert. Any query of mine or other members was treated as though it was of utmost importance and no question was treated as of little consequence. If putting forward an aspect of astronomy any of us had investigated he would listen as intently as if we were the greatest experts on the subject. I will never forget his humility and his generous sharing of his extensive knowledge. He was the patron saint of the astronomy group. I am so grateful that I knew him.

**Alan J Roberts**

## From the Groups

### A to Z of Art History (2013)

This year we've studied artists, sculptors, installations, pictures and street art through the media of books, DVDs, demonstrations, YouTube and visits. A recent session introduced the subject 'F for Food in Art.' Scrutinizing Edouard Manet's 1863 'Luncheon in the Studio,' our eyes went to the lad leaning on the table and staring straight ahead, his exasperated parents in the background. What is going on? We spy a lemon on the table with the rind spiralling, indicating that things have gone sour in the family and it is falling apart. Maybe he has been misbehaving or just announced he is leaving home to follow his own dreams. Vermeer, 1653, a Dutch artist, in his painting, 'The Kitchen Maid' bathes the kitchen in quiet radiance as she pours milk from a jug. Less obvious in the dark foreground is a loaf of bread. One can imagine the warmth and smell of bread taken from the oven. More recently in 1964 Marcel Broodthaers created a sculpture from polyester, resin and iron. 'Casserole and Closed Mussels' are everyday objects in his homeland, 'la moule' (the mussel) in Belgium. Hamburgers are not so new. The Florintine artist Ruffino in 1653 pictured one. Perhaps the 20<sup>th</sup> century Pop Art fast food era copied him it from the large public sculpture 'The Giant Hamburger' by Claus Oldenberg made from fabric and plastic and soft foam. 'Food in Art' makes bold statements. Andy Warhol painted by hand each image in his famous 'Soup Can' and later mass produced images. He names his gallery 'The Factory' after his observations on society becoming a reality in mass production. Our study of 'F for Food' began with the carved bones in 30,000 BC, wall etchings from 14,000 BC when bulls and reindeer were an important source of food. Later the Greeks painted dolphin murals while the Roman floor mosaics depict food scraps and fish bones and fruit. Now we understand that 'Food 'n Art is not just sitting in a cafe at an art museum or gallery indulging in a coffee and a muffin. Instead the Art History 2013 group prove – "Live, learn, and pass it on."

**Patricia Catto**

### Exploring Music (and how it moves us)

We are roaming the music of the centuries, from Gregorian Chant to Street Rap. Genre has nothing to do with enjoyment. As Howard Goodall explains, the magical blend of rhythm, melody, harmony and base is the key to listener appreciation. One day recently, Youtube showed us a Physics Masters student using the tune and intricacies of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody to explain the complicated science of String Theory. If you are a scientist who likes music or a musician interested in science, you may enjoy it too! Go to Youtube and key in [A Capella Science](#) –

Bohemian Gravity! We followed with the original, Freddy Mercury et al's 'Bohemian Rhapsody.' From the scientific to the sublime, we watched 10,000 Japanese choristers, 4 stunning soloists and a world-class orchestra perform Beethoven's *Ode an die Freude* (Ode to Joy). Creativity, talent, beauty, humanity and enthusiasm shared with the world on You Tube suggest a possibility that technology has the potential to unite our world. Then to our own past with Simon and Garfunkel's Concert in Central Park. Still as fresh as the day it was recorded back in 1981. Wonderful music, beguiling young men, a responsive crowd, and an amazing production: who can't be moved by music?

**Kay Hunter**

### Ballet Appreciation Group 2

Take a sunny Wednesday afternoon once a month and you may well find a group of around ten people assembling, drawing curtains, pulling the shutters and blocking out the Nelson sunshine so that they can watch a video. This group varies greatly in age; and there are two married couples who regularly attend, so it's not just girls who love make-up and men in tights. What would these people have in common? They love to watch ballet. They also appreciate the music that accompanies the dancers. Only a couple of these fans have actually been ballet dancers themselves, though some are ballet grandmas, or those who made sure their children received ballet training. Two lovely ladies open their homes to host this group, showing DVDs on a large flat screen TV. We have an intermission, serving a cup of tea or coffee to keep us focused through the afternoon's performance followed by discussion on the stories and dances we have seen. The range of ballet DVDs available is amazing and we wish to thank Merle Baird for her contribution of DVDs as we find every offering a sweet delight.

**Anne Marie Kidson**

### Political Science

This group has been studying a series of historical figures beginning with the Greeks and later some English speaking philosophers who have contributed to our sense and experience of liberal democracy. Last session, we discussed John Locke, having read of his work, and some commentaries. Locke was active in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century in England. That includes the period where James II was deposed by an ever stronger Parliament, and William of Orange was invited across from the Netherlands to accept the Crown of England (Britain). Only later did it become the United Kingdom of Great Britain. William accepting the crown of England in 1688 strengthened the role of Parliament, and reduced the absolute rule of the sovereign. While Parliament was to yet widen suffrage beyond a few wealthy landowners, and the nobility, it was a major

step towards what became the first of the major democracies, almost a 100 years later in the United States. We of course inherited much of this influence in this country.

**Lindsay Hunter**

## **To the Future**

### **Opera at the Met**

Peter Sutton spoke at the general meeting, and told of the popularity of the opera group during 2013. He will run another group in 2014 and asks anyone who is interested to contact him.

**Peter Sutton** [psutton@xtra.co.nz](mailto:psutton@xtra.co.nz) Ph 5469140

### **Bird Watching**

There is no group in Nelson which regularly goes out for a bird spotting ramble, which I would like to do. The group would be aimed at U3A members who are amateurs and who want to learn how to recognize birds by their call, flight, colours; look at different habitats and what can be seen there, noting seasonal changes, numbers, behaviour. I haven't spoken to anyone so have no idea of the interest, but I propose a fortnightly gathering outdoors at different locations; a 2-3 hr stroll with sit / stand and watch, taking our own morning tea, wearing outdoor clothing, strong footwear. The group would plan where we would go for each walk, but there is a wide range of localities in the Nelson /Tasman area without us having to travel very far. I would be prepared to co-ordinate it initially.

**Grace Sutherland**

### **There are vacancies in the following groups**

Ascent of Man 2, Astronomy, Ballet 2, Children's Literature, Classical Music, Creative Writing, Exploring Nelson Walking Group, Flat Earth Walking Group, Geology (put your name down for a new group in 2014), History of Jazz 2, Irish Group, Luncheon Group, Opera at the Met, Political Science, Preserving Family History on DVD, Problems and Solutions, Revolutionary Thinkers and their Revolutions, Scrabble, Theatre and Film Group, Visual Arts, WEA Book Discussion Group, Website Study Group and Write Your Life Groups 2,3,4

*If interested in joining a group phone Sue on 03 5391108 or email her [study@u3anelson.org.nz](mailto:study@u3anelson.org.nz)*

### **From the Committee**

Whilst groups continue through into next year, many members use the new year as a time to plan a change of focus. It is also the time when we get the most new members. So please convenors, inform Sue of any changes to participation lists as soon as you can so she knows exactly where there are vacancies.

As several Committee members have indicated they'll resign next year, do think about whether you are interested in serving our community for a term. Your Committee meets a couple of weeks prior to each General Meeting and each member has a well-defined role. As well as president, VP, secretary, treasurer, there are membership, new members, communication, study group, website, and information services coordinator positions. The AGM is scheduled for April 2014.

### **Records**

We are gradually getting our data base up to speed. Please let a member of the Committee know the details of your participation in U3A Nelson. When did you join? Have you been a committee member? Have you convened a study group? We need to hear from you.

### **Developing the plan for U3A Nelson**

Thanks again to those who attended the Planning Meeting back in June. It provides the Committee with plenty of food for thought and we continue to discuss the issues at our meetings.

### **General Meetings and Name tags**

The Committee ask that you try to get to the general meetings in time to be seated by 10 am. Also, the collection of name tags can create a pile- up at the payments desk. Please take your name tag home and remember to wear it each meeting.

### **Three Countries Three Universities Tour of England, Wales Scotland – 3 August 2014**

The University of the Third Age, Melbourne City offer a wonderful opportunity for U3A members to join a small and personal 24 day group bus tour with a maximum of 15 passengers per coach. Return from Australia, all inclusive. If you are interested, Kay has a number of brochures.

Or contact [tours@sagetravel.com.au](mailto:tours@sagetravel.com.au)

### **Seasonal greetings**

This is the final U3A Nelson newsletter for 2013. My sincere thanks to all members who have contributed to the newsletter this year. As editor, I have strived to make it a publication that represents the members, a means to learning more about what's happening in our organisation, and an inspiration for us all to get involved in more of the activities provided within.

I trust you will all have a lovely Christmas and a safe and relaxing New Year. See you in 2014.

**Kay Hunter, president 2013.**