



Learning for Life

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P.O. Box 1690, Nelson, 7040

www.u3anelson.org.nz

Our next Members' Meeting will be on Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 10 am till 12 noon at the Nelson Golf Club in 38 Bolt Road, Nelson. The speaker is Emeritus Professor Bevan Grant, formally Professor of Sport and Leisure Studies at the University of Waikato. His topic is "Living Forever or Die Trying":- the preservation of good health and quality of life.

FROM THE MEETING ON 22nd FEBRUARY

Sarah-Jane is Deputy Chair of Rātā Foundation, and was previously a partner at a Nelson Solicitors. Passionate about the Nelson community and the lifestyle choices offered by the region, she is an ideal person to be on the Rata Foundation. She said that many people give their time voluntarily in different areas of our community, and there are so many unsung heroes. Hearing what others give is sometimes humbling, and always inspiring.

Sarah-Jane explained the beliefs and guiding principles and goals which are the foundation for their work on behalf of our four funding regions — Canterbury, Nelson, Marlborough and the Chatham Islands.

Last year for example Rata found \$400 million to help 1213 organisations in need.

That is:

809	CANTERBURY
261	NELSON/TASMAN
138	MARLBOROUGH/KAIKOURA
5	CHATHAM ISLANDS

We were one of those 261 in Nelson area, given generous help to assist with our costly Data base system, which is currently being developed.

Sarah-Jane spoke clearly with good overhead illustrations and charts, and we all learned a lot.

Let us hope we can maintain the high standard of Speakers who come to address our gatherings!!

Paul Lunberg, Vice President

REPORTS FROM GROUPS AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Naming our Native Plants

Grace Sutherland, Convenor of the Naming our Native NZ Plants Group, reported on how she became involved in U3A. After many years of tramping and observing NZ native plants, she set about studying and learning more about them. She then decided to share her newly acquired knowledge with U3A, and proposed a new group. The group will spend time at The Brook Sanctuary, using it as the classroom. This really embodies the idea and spirit of U3A, on which our Nelson branch is created.

OF INTEREST AND A GOOD CAUSE

TED Talks 2

Paul Lunberg, Convenor of TED talks 2, told us how this group functions. Generally, at each meeting, two or three members, volunteer to select one or two of the many topics available on line. These are viewed, and discussed by the group, which leads to lively discussion, straying from the topic and much being learned in the process. T.E.D. is an acronym for Technology, Entertainment and Design, begun in 1987, each short segment presented by an expert in their field.

Ancient Civilisations 1

David Turner, convenor of the Ancient Civilisations Group 1, has recently revived this group. They looked at the TV series presented by Kenneth Clark, some 20 years ago, and decided it appeared very dated, to current viewers. It also concentrated on European History, and felt a broader approach would be more interesting. Currently they are viewing, and discussing Minoan Civilisation and the next suggested area is the Indus Valley.

Musicals

A light hearted and entertaining group, is convened by Nan Turner, where lovers of Musicals meet to enjoy toe-tapping , nostalgic and thoroughly enjoyable video performances. I believe dancing is not a prerequisite, but the inspiring and memorable tunes probably make it hard to resist.

Heather Clendon, Editor

Olympics Nelson are hosting a special The Nelson Lions Club and Special presentation from Barry Maister at Old St John's Church, Tuesday 9 May @ 7:30 pm.

Barry, a Current Member of the International Olympic Committee, was Secretary general of the NZ Olympic Committee 2001-2011 and was Olympic Gold Medallist in Hockey at the Montreal Olympics .

His presentation is entitled "The Olympic dream a myth or reality?....An insider's look behind the rings."

Tickets are available from the Theatre Royal Nelson, \$12 plus service fees. Door sales \$15.

All proceeds donated to Special Olympics (Nelson)



FROM THE STUDY GROUP COORDINATOR

- Ancient Civilisations 2
- Architecture
- Astronomy
- Australia
- Bookcases
- Classical Music Appreciation
- Discovering Our Local Birdlife
- Exploring Te Reo and Tikanga Maori
- Hands in the Garden
- Luncheon Group
- Military History
- Naming Our Native NZ Plants
- Opera at the Met
- Ramblers
- Scrabble
- Social Brunchers
- Successful Gardening: Science not Myth
- Ted Talks 1
- Travel
- WEA Book Discussion Group
- Write Your Life 2

To find out more about any of these groups, consult our website
<http://www.u3anelson.org.nz> **To enrol in any of the groups, email**
study@u3anelson.org.nz

**Kay Hunter, U3A Nelson Study Group
Coordinator**

U3A NELSON IN RETROSPECT

We U3A “groupees,” tend to think that the groups we attend are the very best groups in U3A. And so they are, to us, as we all know very little or nothing about what goes on behind the closed doors of other groups.

I am no exception. Take ‘The ABC of Art History’ group that I was fortunate enough to join in 2010. This wonderful group of women have been meeting since at least 1991 and over that time have focused on a huge range of art topics. Members have come and gone, but I hang on in there. Why wouldn’t I? The group has taught me practically everything that I know about the visual arts. Along I go each second Monday morning to listen and learn from one member who has sweated for days over their chosen topic so that they can present us with something new and fresh.

Then there’s the ‘Ascent of Man,’ group that Lindsay and I started in 2010. We began by studying the work of Jacob Bronowski. But we left him behind long ago and have gone on in our investigation as to how man has evolved over the centuries. Jocelyn took over as convenor, then Anna and Malcolm. When one of our original members, Nancy Malcolm, passed away last month, we were devastated. We had become such a cohesive group of friends that carrying on was hard to do. But we do. We know that Nancy would wish us to.

And I belong to other groups too. All vibrant and cohesive, functioning identities in themselves, where lots happen. All the

groups are great, and I hope there's lots more in the future as there's no end of topics out there to delve into.

So it was an unexpected delight when Paul gave me a card file from the U3A Nelson archives. The file lists the groups that members attended from 1996 through to 2008. Unfortunately, there are no details about what the groups studied, but the names of the groups are delectable. Imagine, *'Music at Mapua,' 'Ships and Shipping,' 'Notable Nelsonians,'* and so the list goes on. Here's more:

'Scottish Enlightenment,' 'Reincarnation,' 'Famous Mistresses,' (I couldn't quite read the writing here and thought it was *'Fabulous Mistresses'*), *'Kings and Queens of England,' 'Brass Band and Concert Band,' 'The Old Testament,' 'Crosswords and Conundrum's,' 'Sea of Faith,' 'Development of Basic Scientific Ideas,' 'Medieval Man,' 'Power of Myth,' 'Happy Semantics,' 'Wagner,' 'Medieval Man (and another, 'Medieval Woman'), 'Holland,' 'Celtic Art,' 'French Art,' 'Western Philosophers,' 'Oscar Wilde,' 'Pipe Organs,' 'Making the Most of our 3rd Age,' 'Confidence in Bridge,' 'Russia,' 'Yorkshire,' 'History of Middle Eastern Art,' 'Antiques.' 'The Bauhaus Movement,' 'The Growth of Political Ideas,' 'Anything for a Laugh,' 'The Story of English,' 'Food for Thought,' 'Travels by Video,' 'Bloomsbury,' 'Dolls,' 'Renaissance Man,' 'English Kings and Queens,' 'Men of the Classical Age,' 'Images of Women,' 'Poetry,' 'Resilient Aging,' 'Our International Community,' 'The Galleries,' 'Cryptic Crosswords'*

. . along with all the conventional subjects we are studying today.

Which brings me to the reason for this. In my questionable wisdom, I decided to update the 'History of U3A Nelson,' the history which was researched by Liz Chinnery and Jean Morris for the 21st Celebrations in November, 2012. Liz and Jean's history outlined the beginning of U3A Nelson in 1991, until 2012.

History is important. So what Liz and Jean did, coupled with my updates are now up on the U3A Nelson website, see

http://www.u3anelson.org.nz/images/sampled/data/documents/AboutUs/Historyof_U3A_Nelson.pdf

All I have done, with help from the A to Z group, is to complete the basic outline of events and groups since 2012. While factual, it is pretty dull! What is needed are anecdotes. Interesting stories to bring all those facts alive.

Can you help? What is missing? What's incorrect? Can you add a story or two about what has gone on in U3A Nelson to flesh out those basic facts. If you can, contact me on kay@cs.w.co.nz and I will get your story included on line. Please give minimal details e.g. the year, the name of the group or activity, the convenor's name, and your brief(ish) story.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kay Hunter, retiring Study Group Coordinator

HUMOUR FROM THE WASHINGTON POST

Once again, The Washington Post has published the winning submissions to its yearly neologism contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words...and the winners are:

1. Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.
2. Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
3. Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent.
6. Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
7. Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.
8. Gargoyle (n.), gross olive-flavored mouthwash.
9. Flatulence (n.) emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
10. Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.
11. Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
12. Pokemon (n), a Rastafarian proctologist.
13. Circumvent (n.), an opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men..
14. Frisbeetarianism (n.), (back by popular demand): The belief that when you die, your Soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.



U3A AGM

The Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers for U3A Nelson, will take place at the start of our next Members Meeting. This should only take between 10 and 15 minutes.

FINAL WORD

Many thanks to Kay Hunter, our retiring Study Group Coordinator for the past several years. Kay has given sterling service to ensure our groups operate in an orderly fashion, with the correct number of people in each for maximum enjoyment.

She has kept us up to date, via the Newsletter and the Web Site, with which groups have vacancies and told us of new groups.

Many thanks too, Kay, for the historical overview of past U3A activities, published in this Newsletter. Both interesting and entertaining, and important for our archives. It is always great to refer back and learn.

Just a reminder to please think about submitting a short piece, telling all of U3A of the interesting activities and discussions that are going on in your group. Photographs would also be great and do make the newsletter more interesting and colourful.

Heather Clendon, Editor