



Learning for Life

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P.O. Box 1690, Nelson, 7040

FROM THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 28TH JUNE 2017

The speaker at the June meeting was Terry Byrne JP. Terry is the President of the Nelson JP's and the Central Region Representative on the Royal Federation of the New Zealand Justices Association inc.

Terry was an interesting and engaging speaker, talking about the personal pathway that brought him to his role as a Justice of the Peace. He also talked about the evolution of the JP system stemming from the reign of Edward 3rd in the 14th century and the history of JP's in NZ, from the appointment of NZ's first JP in 1814. This makes the JP organisation the longest standing community organisation in NZ.

In talking about the role and challenges of JP's, he noted that the JP is the Judicial Officer that New Zealanders encounter most. He cited the fact that the Service Desk in the Richmond Mall is the busiest in NZ, with 3500 'customers' per year. He talked about the principle duties of JPs;

Ministerial duties and Judicial duties, and the obligations of JP's in undertaking these roles. These roles include witnessing and certifying documents, affidavits and declarations as well as acting as celebrants.

He also spoke about how people become JPs, the importance of community service, and the potential of the applicants to offer service. There has been a shift over recent years, from the JP role being given as a reward for political services, to one where the persons contribution to the community, is the most important criteria.

In talking about the obligations and expectations of JPs, Terry stressed the importance of training and accreditation, the JP's Code of Ethics and the fact that it is an honorary position as a contribution to the community, with no recompense.

It was a fascination and enjoyable presentation, and one which gave the audience an insight in to a role which many of us know little about.
Gordon Suddaby,

FROM THE PRESIDENT

That heading sounds a little Trumpish! You know, though, how these Editors apply pressure for their journals!

Actually there are one or two issues which we should make general knowledge. Our web site, and e-mail security.

The Committee all gathered at David's house in Richmond to hear how the building of the web-site is going. There was a hiccup or two as about 6 technologically minded committee members tried to sort out the enigma of connecting the computer to the television - but we got there. For those who are not aware of our present system I offer this overview.

We have 3 computer systems which are the common one which Google takes you to, with all the information about what groups there are, when we meet, past newsletters and the like. This one is called u3anelson.org.nz . Then there is another system mainly used by the membership secretary and the SG Coordinator - this stores all the members' details and all the Study Groups. Committee members can check who is in a group or how to contact a member. We call this our Database, or Administration system. Lastly is a complicated almost free mailer which allows us to send messages to different groups by just putting in one composite email address - so I can send a list of new members to those who will welcome them. This system is complicated and trying to maintain all 3 is arduous and error prone - so we are awaiting the 'new' system which knits all of these

requirements together and adds significant new facilities. The front end will be like the present u3anelson site but those with the right password will be able to go deeper and edit members' details and maintain the groups - they will also be able to get specialised reports. And the mailer will allow everyone to mail within their groups securely and easily. John Blaauwbroek is our web-designer and he is getting close to the changeover. John is an old friend of mine and I know he has spent a huge amount of time developing this site and he is justifiably proud of the system as he has designed it. Of course we must also thank Lindsay and Kay who have walked with him through the development.

Phew!!

And the second item was Security. At the meeting John gave us all quite a strong message of computer security. There is a reason for this. I as president and membership secretary appear twice with an email and a name on our website u3anelson, meanwhile our Treasurer has the same data showing. Obviously people may wish to contact us to join or pay, but we have been hacked quite a lot and both of us receive quite clever Spam letters. As we start using the new system we need to be aware of PASSWORDS. John told us how clever computer systems are getting at breaking coded passwords. The website he is writing will be most secure but is dependent on all users to have a strong password - so here are some rules you perhaps could

apply to all your passwords for use on computers:

A **strong password** consists of at least six characters (and the more characters, the stronger the password) that are a combination of letters, numbers and symbols (@, #, \$, %, etc.) if allowed. Passwords are typically case-sensitive, so a **strong password** contains letters in both uppercase and lowercase.

For example, maybe you can find it easy to remember a sentence like "The first house I ever lived in was 613 Fake Street. Rent was \$400 per month." You can then turn that into a password by using the first digits of each word, so your password would become **Tfhleliw613FS.Rw\$4pm**.

This is a strong password at 21 digits.

I really ought to revisit my, many, passwords for the bank etc but there are now some 50 different sites and I do not know if I can be bothered!! John assures me I should!

Do remember folks we all may have skills or knowledge to share - so consider starting a group!

Cheers,

Paul (U3A Nelson, President)

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

Write Your Life Group 1

Ian McDougall spoke about how much he is enjoying the group he is involved with. He said for someone like him who had never really put pen to paper before, he felt completely at ease in

the group. They meet twice a month and he is enjoying very much looking back on his life in Dunedin, and the social history of the city in his youth. He strongly encouraged anyone to join and do the same. There are currently 2 vacancies in the group.

The Travel Group

Gordon Suddeby spoke of his involvement in the U3A travel group. Those belonging, have a great interest in travelling both within New Zealand and the world. The group shares photographs and experiences from their journeys, which is both interesting and enlightening. The main problem is that any number of members may be away travelling, and the group is often small in number. However they look forward to learning of their adventures.

The Opera Group

The group bands together to book, and go to see The New York Metropolitan Opera productions in high definition video. These are shown by the State Movie Theatre at the Suter. The season runs from November to August in Nelson, following on from its live performance in New York, by about three months. We go to the Sunday showing, which is at 1pm, and will try to meet afterwards, for a coffee and discussion on our view of the opera. We have seen obscure, and rarely performed operas, as in Mozart's Idomeneo, to La Traviata, Verdi's very popular opera. The group will go in to semi- recess after Tchaikovsky's

Eugene Onegin (23rd July) followed by Der Rosenkavalier by R. Strauss (13th Aug) and would welcome new members.

Australia Group

This month's topic of "My Favourite Place" has produced a colourful selection of experiences. Magnetic Island 8 km off the coast of Townsville, Queensland has many beautiful swimming beaches, walks, restaurants, sporting facilities. 70% of the island is National Park with koalas, kookaburras, curlews. A relaxing place to visit, which is very popular with New Zealanders.

Another member Jill led us on a walking tour of Sydney past the Sydney Fish Market (which maybe the largest of this type outside Japan) to the Darling Harbour Precinct with all its shopping, restaurants and Convention Centre. She loves the historic Queen Victoria Building which has now been restored and also has shops, restaurants, etc

A visit to Canberra was special to one member with a family visit to a nearby swimming hole.

Murray Bridge is near the mouth of the Murray River, which historically had been a significant barrier to trade and travel. The historic town used to transport wood, wool and wheat but now has paddle steamer cruises up and down the river. The Murray River is the longest river in the Southern Hemisphere and begins in the Snowy Mountains and continues for 2,508 km before it reaches its outlet to the sea, 70 km SE of Adelaide.

The Bungles Bungles in northern West Australia were 'discovered' in 1982 by

a TV crew preparing a feature film on the Kimberleys. Three years later in 1987, it was gazetted as Purnululu National Park, then in 2003 it was made a World Heritage Park. Access can be from Kunnunurra 300 km to the north or by plane, helicopter or 4WD. Its layered sandstone cones are stunning and iconic and now well known.

Jill Dickenson, Convenor.

EXPERT HELP WITH PHOTOSHOP

A U3A Member, Gerald Moonen, has kindly offered to help members with Photoshop. He would prefer to do this on a one to one basis, rather than take a group, so if you would like help with this, please phone Gerald on 5467386

Sometimes he would need to be there in person but at other times, instruction by phone would be sufficient

FOR THOSE WITHOUT EMAIL

Within our membership, there are still around 7 people who do not have email. The following information is for them. Below is a list of Groups with Vacancies, which is available on the website u3anelson.org.nz, but access is more difficult for those who are unfamiliar with the processes.

The new Group Coordinator is David Turner, whose phone number is:-4473456 If you are interested in joining a group please phone him.

GROUPS WITH VACANCIES

- Ancient Civilisations 2
- Architecture
- Astronomy
- Australia

- Bookcases
- Discovering our Local Birdlife
- Forum
- Hands in the Garden
- Luncheon Group
- Naming our Native NZ Plants
- Opera at the Met
- Ramblers
- Social Brunchers
- Successful Gardening
- Travel

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Some landline numbers, which those without email may find useful.

- President and Membership Coordinator : Paul Lundberg - 5487889
- New Member Co-ordinator: Anne White: 5477899
- Communications Co-ordinator Heather Clendon: 5380209
- Study Group Co-ordinator - David Turner: 4473456

REMEMBER THE WEBSITE

Those with email, don't forget to look at the website on a regular basis. There are copies of the Newsletters and committee minutes available on it, plus all sorts of interesting information. Perhaps you could share, on an informal basis, with those who don't have a computer.

FINAL WORD

Advance Notice: At our October meeting the speaker will be Dr Paul G Taylor,

paediatrician and world renowned expert in child autism disorders. You may remember Paul gave a very lively and informative talk last year and it is by special request he is returning. He has much more to tell us than he was able to impart in 30 minutes.

HELP

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 would make the newsletter more interesting and colourful.

Heather Clendon, Editor

ALTERNATIVE DEFINITIONS

Some of these fit so well they should be in a dictionary!

BEAUTY PARLOR

A place where women curl up and dye.

CHICKENS

The only animal you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE

A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST

Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST

Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF

Cold Storage.

INFLATION

Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO

An insect that makes you like flies better.

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

A doctrine fostered by a delusional, illogical minority.

RAISIN

A grape with a sunburn.

SECRET

A story you tell to one person at a time.

SKELETON

A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE

The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW

One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

YAWN

An honest opinion openly expressed.

WRINKLES

Something other people have....similar to my character lines.

Paul Lunberg, President