



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 28th February 2018 at 10 am till 12 noon at the Nelson Golf Club in 38 Bolt Road, Nelson. The speaker is Dr Lance Jennings, Clinical Virologist and Associate Professor, Pathology Department, University of Otago.

2017 U3A CHRISTMAS PARTY

There was no general meeting for U3A Nelson in December, but about 40 members attended a Christmas Luncheon at the Nelson Suburban Club. After general socialising we had a fun Spot Prize Draw, with some novel items, mostly with a Christmas theme, were called. A bit of fun before we all enjoyed a plated salad meal and some very delicious desserts. A nice way to end the year.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Silly Season is just about over – you can tell by the number of advertisements for school gear and the call by all societies for Committee meetings! We have just had one and all looks good. Groups are crawling out of hibernation and emails are reminding members it all starts in a few days time. Great!

The first thing to say is we would love more groups. Many groups are so good and so popular that they are full which

means that our new members just can't join in. What would be grand is if some of you broke off from the group you enjoy, and set up a new similar one. It may copy the one you have been in but perhaps at a different time or run slightly differently. Better still you may just decide to start a group with a totally new aspect of learning. For example we haven't got a Ukulele group! So, please, do consider setting up a new group.

Our old website (<http://u3anelson.org.nz/>) now links in with our new one (the DataBase or DB) so the lists of Active Groups etc are bang up to date all the time. Also we try to keep it up-to-date with such things as the latest newsletters. Under EVENTS you can see when all the Meetings are, under ADMIN you can see past newsletters. If you decide to set up a new Group you may like to read the updated "Guidelines for the Convening of a Study Group" which are also on this ADMIN page. Do sit in front of that old computer and have a look around the site again!

Just looking at this last paragraph reminds me of another issue raised at our meeting

earlier today. We need some more computer savvy types on the Committee. If you have experience in computing we would love to have you on the next Committee so please consider it and let someone on the present Committee help getting you nominated and seconded. Again the forms are on the ADMIN page.

Under consideration is to include the tea & biscuits money into the annual subscription. What we have been discussing is changing the annual sub to \$30 and doing away with the long queue at each general meeting, while people search for petty cash to pay for the mid-morning cuppa. This would make arrival less stressful, it would be easier for the Committee to manage and would encourage people to come along to the general meetings. I think it is a good idea but we will ask everyone at the next General meeting [Feb 28th] to express their views, before possibly putting it to the AGM.

Some people have already paid for the coming year's subscription. I guess if we decide to change the amount at the AGM we may have to do some jiggery pokery!

There you have it,

Paul Lunberg, President

FROM THE STUDY GROUP COORDINATOR

Welcome to the new U3A Year. Our organisation relies on members convening interest groups and many thanks indeed go to those folk who do spearhead a group.

One major problem though - we do not have enough groups especially those with vacancies or new groups emerging for 2018.

Please consider forming either a new group or convening another, of one currently running.

If any of you do have suggestions please contact me at my home (544 3057) or via our website.

**David Turner, Study Group Coordinator
U3A**

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

Celtic Britain

There are two vacancies in the Celtic Britain Group, convened by Ngaire Birch. Ngaire runs her group from April through to September at her home in Stoke on the second Tuesday of the month.

If this intrigues you then please phone Ngaire on 547 8457 any time after 4 p.m. for further detail.

Ancient Civilisations Group



The Ancient Civilisations Group from 2017, looking highly civilised and not at all ancient.

This is an interesting group of diverse people, sharing a common interest in Ancient Civilisation. We meet once a month and take a turn at presenting a

topic. The person presenting chooses the subject, using a DVD or downloading from the internet. We leave time for discussion after the break. 2017 saw us explore the amazing secrets of Herculaneum, Ancient Medicine, which gave us some insight into Galen of Pergamon, who laid the foundation of Greek medicine. Also Land of the Pyramids, Puzzling Pyramids of Mexico to name but a few.

What an endless supply!

This year we have decided to draw up a time line and work through systematically. We are looking forward to an interesting 2018.

Convenor, Ann Childs

TED2 TALKS GROUP 2

We had our last meeting for the year today. Except for a wee tipple instead of the usual coffee, we again enjoyed some excellent talks. And, of course, we all feel most comfortable in the home of Brian Say and his huge TV set - thanks Brian.

How did it go today? Well there were only 4 of us but even two can fall into deep discussions over TED talks. The first we watched was a woman called Jae Rhim Lee who talked about "Infinity Burials" using her mushroom burial suit. The corpse is wrapped in this suit which is impregnated with spores of fungi which help break down the body in a shallow grave so that it soon becomes worm food! You can imagine the discussion - it was interesting to discover there are shallow grave burial places in Nelson and Motueka.

Next up was "Bring on the Learning Revolution!". Ken Robinson has a passion for this subject and is a brilliant speaker - but in the end two of us agreed with him while the other



two felt the present Education system was basically fine.

We ended with two short but incredibly pithy talks by the Japanese-American professor Dr Michio Kaku. He is brilliant, concise and stretches one's thinking to the limit. We wondered with him "Is God a Mathematician?" We all loved him and must listen to more of his talk next year.

Do join us - we have space for more - 1st and 3rd Thursday each month re-starting on 2nd February.

Paul Lunberg, Convenor

NEW GROUP – POLITICAL SCIENCE

Christine Hands, has indicated she would be happy to convene a group for those interested in Political Science.

She proposes to hold the group at her home in The Wood, the second Tuesday of each month from 2 -4 pm. with a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 7 (including Christine).

Topics - any international or national (non-partisan) subject historical or current.

group members would be expected to take turns at presenting a topic for discussion.

If you are interested please let me know so the first six names can be passed on to Christine.

David Turner SGC davnan23@gmail.com
Phone 5443057

STOKE COMMUNITY AND SPORTS FACILITY

In 2015, Council approved a new facility in Stoke after extensive consultation with the public. This consultation occurred over a two year period with feedback clearly indicating the public's wish for a new facility. U3A made a major submission.

Deputy Mayor Paul Matheson says this project is a significant one.

"After extensive public consultation, we then worked with key user groups in the design phase of this centre, and this has resulted in a wide variety of rooms and an important flexibility in how the Centre can be used by different groups."

The centre will comprise nine various sized meeting rooms of differing aspects.

More detail on the centre layout

Large Community Room – 90

- Small Community room – 20
- Ground floor Breakout room 1 – 56
- Ground floor Breakout room 2 – 26
- Ground floor Function room – 114
- Main hall when subdivided – 98 people in each room (total 196) or 150 people seated at tables.
- Upper floor Breakout room with patio – 57
- Upper floor Function room with patio – 102

There is parking on site, sufficient for 48 cars with plenty of on street parking available close by. The facility will be carefully landscaped and will have a BBQ area accessible from several rooms.

We, U3A, are in contact with the NCC and will keep members informed as we believe this may be an ideal venue for some of our groups.

VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED

MESSAGE FROM AGE CONNECT NELSON/TASMAN

We've been really lucky in securing 2 community vans to trial a community transport scheme to take older people out and about in Nelson – go for ice creams, visit gardens, have a go at bowls, etc. etc. but we're needing some more volunteer drivers and hosts.

If you're a keen driver who'd be happy to help out – either for a half day or a full day – in February, we'd love to hear from you. All you need is a clean driver's licence and some time to spare.

Or, if you're not keen on driving, but would like to help out, we need some hosts to help people get on and off buses and accompany them on the event/activity.

We've put together a great month of days out, and the dates we need some help are:

- Thursday 8th Feb
- Wednesday 14th Feb
- Friday 16th Feb
- Wednesday 15th Feb
- Friday 23rd Feb
- Wednesday 28th Feb

If you are able to help, please contact:-
Caroline Budge at 03 544 7624

IMPORTANT REMINDER OF OUR NEXT SPEAKER

Dr Lance Jennings
Clinical Virologist, Canterbury Health
Laboratories (retired) Clinical Associate
Professor in the Pathology Department,
University of Otago, Fellow of the Royal
College of Pathologists, London.
Member of U3A , Nelson.

FINAL WORD

Please note in the Presidents article at the beginning of the Newsletter, the information about the new Website. Also, the possible change to the way we collect our morning tea money at the Members Meetings. We have a very interesting speaker at the next meeting on 28th of February so the committee hopes to see many of you there. Last time there were about 60 members, so maybe we could manage nearer 100, as our membership is about 250.

Thanks to those who wrote about their groups and sent photos, as they make a good splash of colour in our Newsletter.

Heather Clendon, Editor

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