

Inc.



**NELSON**

## **Learning for Life**

Volume 8, Issue 2, May 2016

P.O. Box 1690, Nelson, 7040

[www.u3anelson.org.nz](http://www.u3anelson.org.nz)

**Our next Members' Meet** will be on Wednesday 22 June at 10am till 12 noon at the Nelson Golf Club in 38 Bolt Road, Stoke.  
We will inform members who the Speaker will be in due course.

### **FROM THE AGM (27/4/2016)**

#### **The new Committee:**

President is Peter Sutton

Vice President is Paul Lunberg

Secretary is Lindsay Hunter

Treasurer is Allison Robertson

Committee members are shown left to right: David Turner, LH, PS, PL, Jessica Gray, Anne White, Gordon Suddaby and Kay Hunter

Also Heather Clendon [not in photo]

The IPP is Jill Dickinson.

**Welcome to all the Committee.**

The combined meeting went well with sufficient nominations to fill positions on the committee and also gives the committee the option of co-opting one more member if it wishes.

Above you will see our official stamp. As an incorporated body we had to have one, Lord knows why, but this is it in all its red glory.

We are still looking for a **Reviewer** for the financial Report. This involves overseeing the report and checking the details. As U3A Nelson doesn't have many transactions it

should be a straight-forward process. Please let President Peter or Treasurer Allison know.



Kay is evaporating!

## WELCOME TO 2 NEW LIFE MEMBERS:

**A Life Membership Certificate was awarded to Harry Naylor:** He started as convenor of the Astronomy Group and has been involved continuously for over 20 years. This is a huge period of involvement and we appreciate his effort for U3A Nelson.

**A Life Membership Certificate was awarded to Caryll Brooker:** She began her involvement as Secretary to President Jean Morris. Then followed years of being convenor of groups such as Ancient Civilisations, Roman History, Famous and Infamous People. We greatly appreciate what she has done for U3A Nelson.

## Our Speaker: Jettie Skerten

Jettie spoke as the head of Red Cross Refugee Services in Nelson. She explained some typical backgrounds of the folk who finally reach Nelson, sometimes 20 years after being forced from their original homes. Jetti started in this career after offering to help 2 refugees in Christchurch some 5 years ago. She found it rewarding and necessary, so moved to Nelson to assist here. We have a number of refugees from Myanmar and Bhutan here and Jetti told us of their needs and some of the ways we could help.

We are donating \$100 towards her work here.



## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Many new members have joined us since the February meeting swelling our numbers to over 220. Great stuff! Welcome to Joy Bradley, Pippa Philp, Ken Horrill, Nadene Moore, Nick Davidson, Heather Williams, Christopher Vine, Janet Reid, Ian McBride, Jocelyn Bell, Lynne Stevens, Glenda Gregory, Hilary Carpenter, Bill Brett, Steven Shaw, Gerald Moonen, Dot Griffiths, Akky Leurink, Fran Gould, Kathleen Matheson, Dianne Ross, Susie Kirk, Amy Hindley, Heather Robson, Jem Piper and Jordan Terhorst.



## REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

### Military History

From the outset of this group, it was clear that the subject matter would not just be about bombs bullets and battles but the effects of conflicts on nations and their societies.

To date we have looked at the 18th century origins of the present difficulties in Afghanistan, Secret Warfare, Churchill and the early Roman Republic.

Topics for our next two meetings will include Women in War and warfare as described in children's literature and we are only two months into the subject!

**Ian MacDougall**, convenor

### The Normans

The course will run from May through to September covering the invasion of Normandy by the Vikings, The men of the North, through to The battle of Hastings in 1066. Various subjects will be covered,

from the way architecture evolved through to developing the laws of the land. The wars and social life of the people are covered as well as St Michaels Mount. and the history of the region.

Altogether it shows the development of the people from barbaric invaders to assimilation and how they coped with the problems facing them both. Hereward the Wake to Queen Matilda, The Bayeux Tapestry and to King Harold. There is such a variety of topics brought up in the series which should open up lots of discussion.

**Ngairé Birch**, convenor

### **Australia**

Anzac Day is approaching and we watched a programme from the Australian point of view. Special mention was made of an Australian submarine which slid through the mine field in the Dardanelles, the first to do so. It gained the Sea of Marmara which caused some alarm to the Turks, but was eventually sunk and the crew taken Prisoners of War. A small Australian unit attacked at night, a much larger German force occupying a small French town. It was freed, and now has a very close relationship with Australia, flies their flag and makes welcome Australian citizens.

**Jill Dickinson**, convenor

### **Astronomy**

The group covers all matters astronomical from the planets of our own galaxy to remote galaxies thousands of light years away. Topics covered include black holes, supernovae, quasars, quarks and other exotica.

Well qualified members of the group are more than willing to pass on their knowledge to those of us less gifted and learned.

**Colin Buckle**, participant

### **Operas of Gilbert and Sullivan**

A small (but very select) group meet chez Cecile Strang's to view a series of Savoy Operas - otherwise known as G&S's

Ever since watching a performance of H.M.S. Pinafore staged by my sister's

boarding school, in a freezing village hall in Chagford (Dartmoor) where the academy had been evacuated during the Blitz, I have been enthralled by the paradox of Gilbert and Sullivan's oeuvre. An unlikely partnership as we all know, but equally puzzling is that these seemingly innocuous fables, set to engagingly singable music, are really subversive - every bit as much as Beaumarchais Marriage of Figaro a century before.

Under the sugar coating of the enchanting melody and witty words, a whole agenda of messages sending up inherited privilege, bogus posturing, snobbery and even (dread the thought) patriotism is hidden - and all this at the zenith of Victoria's reign.

The plots, often involving mistaken identity, baby swapping and the other equally implausible scenarios point up the radically absurd nature of British Society in its heyday of painting the world a delicate shade of Imperial pink.

I cannot help wondering how long there will be an audience for these works; but in the meantime we few, we happy few, enjoy the brilliant libretti and musical genius, as well as Cecile's hospitality.

**Christopher Vine**, participant

### **Political Science**

Bertram Russell wrote "I am very clever. You are probably not as clever as me, but don't be alarmed, I will speak very slowly. Philosophy is extremely interesting, and in this little book I will explain why. What can we possibly know? How do we know it? What is reality, and how can we tell it apart from mere appearance? What is matter? How do we know the sun will rise tomorrow?"

Many philosophical problems can be explained by the application of simple common sense. (But only if you are as clever as me.)" *Philosophical Classics: The Thinking Person's Guide to Great Philosophical Books.* (James M. Russell, 2007).

**A contribution from Paul B, 3.5.16**

## NEW GROUPS OFFERED

### ISMS – Social and Political

**Paul Bieleski** spoke of starting his ISMs group again after a break of a few years. There are SO many of them, ism is a noun itself, as is altruism, automatism, absenteeism, ageism, asceticism, and many more. The times for this will have to be arranged to suit the group. From A to Z, alcoholism to Zionism, we can investigate and discuss it ! A wide-ranging field of topics.

### Applying Thinking skills

**Colin Davis** will be **Applying Thinking Skills** in his new study group. With Edward de Bono's training to call on, there will be very interesting discussions. At the meeting, Colin got us all thinking with some group activities - it seems many of us allow emotions and failing memories to get in the way of logical thinking!!

### The Ramblers

Convened by **Margaret Robertson**, this group plans to take on ½ day (or longer) walks around Nelson and further afield, dependent upon the fitness levels of the members. The walks will focus on learning more about our environment. The first walk, planned by well-known conservationist Will Rickerby, will be advertised soon. The group will probably meet on a Wednesday or Thursday morning, monthly.

### Ancient Civilisations

The current group, convened for many years by Caryl Brooker is to close. But Lyn Eden, who owns the DVDs of the highly recommended BBC series, has offered to lend to a willing host. There are 6 people on the waiting list, if you are interested in joining them in a new group, contact [study@u3anelson.org.nz](mailto:study@u3anelson.org.nz)

*Remember we are always on the lookout for new interesting suggestions for study!*

## VACANCIES IN OTHER GROUPS

### Architecture

Group members present their take on an architectural style or an architect. Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays in Tahunanui.

**Convenor, Judith Hunter**

### Bookcases

People who love books enjoy sharing that love with like minded souls. Members of the BOOKCASE group meet in each others' homes, explore a selection of books from the resident bookcase, and in doing so, get to know their host/hostess through their library and their interests. We have spaces for 2 more members - come and join us on the first Thursday at 10 am.

**Convenor, Sally Mason**

### Discovering Our Local Birdlife

Get out in the fresh air each alternate Tuesday to seek bird encounters that are new, interesting, exciting and sometimes elusive.

**Convenor, Lyn Eden**

### Exploring Nelson Walking group

Help to maintain your fitness levels and get to know our environment better. Members take a turn at organising the route. The group meets each Thursday morning.

**Convenors, Stella Say and Jan Thomas**

### Exploring Maori Language and Culture

A relaxed focus on the basics of Te reo and the history and culture of the New Zealand Maori. Meets 2.30 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays in Enner Glynn.

**Convenor, Anne Mitchell**

### The Irish group

A discussion group that exams the events, writing and music pertaining to Ireland. The group meets at 2pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays.

**Convenor, Noeline Lawson**

### The Luncheon group

Meet up with U3A Nelson members on alternate Sundays to enjoy good food and good company in a different cafe or restaurant.

**Convenor, Gerard Huetting**

### **Military History**

A study of the military in history. Meets 10 am, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, in Tahunanui

**Convenor, Ian MacDougall**

### **Opera at the Met**

Enjoy lunch together then attend and discuss the magnificent operas direct from the Metropolitan Opera of New York. Meets on Saturday afternoons during the opera season.

**Convenor, Peter Sutton**

### **Operas of Gilbert and Sullivan**

View and discuss the twelve comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan, accompanied by the London Symphony Orchestra. Meets each Tuesday in Richmond.

**Convenor, Cecile Strang**

### **Scrabble**

Enjoy a relaxed game with friendly folk. The group meets in Atawhai, at 10am on alternative Fridays.

**Convenor, Tony Charlton**

### **The Romans**

View the DVD and discuss. The group meets in Stoke at 10 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

**Convenor, Ngaire Birch**

### **Write Your Life**

We have 5 of these very popular groups with very few spaces left. So if you wish to get your life recorded, get in now, or offer to start another writing group. Times and venues vary.

**If you wish to get more information on any of these groups, consult our website**

**[www.u3anelson.org.nz](http://www.u3anelson.org.nz) or contact Kay at [study@u3anelson.org.nz](mailto:study@u3anelson.org.nz) or ring**

**03 5477274**

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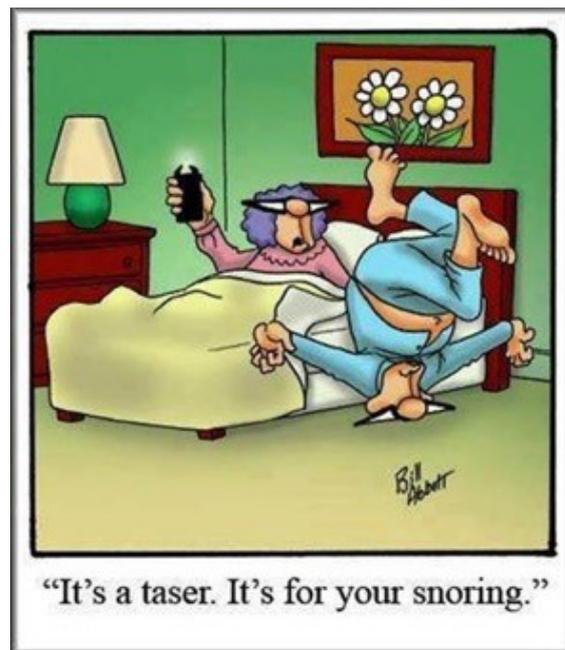
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### **Application to the Rata Foundation**

An application has been made to the Rata Foundation for a grant to help pay for improvements, extensions and refinements to our U3A Nelson information systems.

As the organisation grows in membership, the complexities of managing the registration and activities of so many members engaging in multiple groups is administratively time consuming, difficult, and prone to error.

If the application is successful, John Blaauwbroek of Chromyk Graphics will be engaged to improve and combine our data base and website. Thus, life will be easier for the administrators and the organisation will be able to continue to grow within a more robust technology system.



**Anne's idea:** that all group members be asked to wear their name badges when there is a new group member, or when groups themselves are new.

Sounds a lot of sense, especially with our memories trying to remember names.....