

Learning for Life

Volume 11 , Issue 4, August, 2018.

P.O. Box 1690, Nelson, 7040

www.u3anelson.org.nz

Our next Members' Meeting will be on August 29th at 10 am until 12 noon, at the Nelson Golf Club in 38 Bolt Road, Nelson. The speaker is recently retired Dunedin Family Court Judge Oke Blaikie.

FROM THE MEMBERS MEETING ON 27th JUNE 2018

It was a privilege to have Karen Price and Karen Stade from the Nelson Historical Society to talk to us at our recent U3A General meeting June 27th

I have a relatively recent claim to being a Nelson resident (nearly 20 years) and have ancestral ties to Nelson. Although I was aware of the presence of the Italian Community in Nelson, and their influence on the community, I had not realised there were two distinctive groups of settlers who made their homes here.



Karen Staude and Karen Price discussing their book with U3A members

Initially the Italians who came from Northern Italy and had a mining background, arrived in Hokitika in the 1860,s and were drawn to the goldfields of Lyell and the Wakamarina, but turned to farming when mining was no longer viable.

The second group, who came in the early 1900's from Southern Italy with their history on soil cultivation, settled in the Wood area and established market gardens and were well known as tomato growers.

Both groups of settlers have contributed much to Nelson's fabric and enriched the community. Most of the research into these early settlers has become more available with the digitalisation of early newspapers and can be accessed through "Papers Past"

Hopefully it will give us all an incentive to delve further into our local history.

Anne White, Committee Member

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I write this with sadness in my heart. I have just heard of the death of Jill Ford who passed away in the Nelson Hospice after a battle with cancer. She was on the U3A Committee and such a friendly reliable person. I guess one of the events we are all becoming more accustomed to is the loss of friends – this is the pitfall of old age.

I was away for almost 5 weeks enjoying the flora and fauna of Southern Africa. I had a wonderful time and found that U3A is quite active in South Africa with a few of my old friends enjoying the club.

I found on my return that all was ticking along just fine. I had to chase up one or two folk. Sometimes people just forget to pay subs but others just decide they no longer wish to be members. Still I have to chase them all and I do believe we are now all 'sorted'. We have 220 paid up members. There are 27 Groups with Vacancies, and 20 which are full – lots of activity eh?

One hiccup has come to light for example, when we send out newsletters, we have been sending to an address

members@u3anelson.org.nz

but this list is not being maintained so some people who left U3A have still been receiving communications. In future all such communications will go through our Admin program so will have the NO REPLY heading.

Enjoy the improving weather folks – maybe join the Flat-earthists of the club and go for some nice long strolls with friendly walkers.

Paul Lunberg, President

IMPORTANT - CHANGE OF DATE

Our next members meeting will be held on the 29th of August, which is actually the 5th, not the usual 4th Wednesday. We apologise to members who can't come on this date, but we were unable to arrange our speaker on the 22nd.

REPORTS FROM GROUP CONVENORS AT THE MEETING

Several Convenors spoke about their groups at the meeting. They included:-

Sally Mason and Beverley Mockett. with their new group "Beyond Sightseeing", felt there was room for another Travel Group which went into more depth about certain loved, remarkable or unusual places in the world. This Group is currently full but put your name on the waiting list, or start another group.

Ian MacDougall spoke about his Military History Group, which currently has vacancies. He said that it's not all about battles and weapons, but all manner of associated topics, and can be of interest to both women and men participants.

Alec Waugh talked of his new group, Finance and Investment, surely a subject of interest to many. I am not aware of a finance group within Nelson U3A before, and it should be popular.

Philippa Molloy has started a new Write your Life group, which has filled quickly, but I believe there is to be another one.

SOME HOUSEKEEPING

NAME BADGES

Name badges are provided for all new members. The committee requests you all look after your own name badge. It is easy to keep in your car, handbag or pocket, but not so easy for the committee member to bring a large box of badges to the 2 monthly meetings. New members need to be greeted by Anne, our committee member responsible. There are usually a number of newbies at each meeting, Nelson being a popular place for retirees and U3A a desirable organisation to join. It is nice to spend time welcoming these people rather than hunting for the badges of more familiar, old hands.

U3A NELSON FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year is from April 1st until March 31st of the following year. Any new member wishing to join from November can request to come as a visitor until March the following year, when subs are due and the new financial year begins. There is little activity between November and February as U3A, like all good New Zealand organisations, goes on holiday.

GROUPS

If you are enrolled as a member of a regular group and are unable to attend regularly, can you please let the Group Convenor know, so your place may be used by someone on the waiting list.



Members enjoying morning tea at the General Meeting

REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

NIGHTINGALE BOOK GROUP

We're a group of "Cheerful Ladies" – to quote the author Alexander McCall Smith – who meet twice monthly in the Nellie Nightingale Library Meeting Room to share books we have selected to suit a set topic. Each member chooses a topic, writes the blurb for the programme sheet and chairs the session on the day. We also take turns bringing afternoon tea that is loosely associated with the theme. Recently we had beautiful cupcakes for "Beauty".

Our last topic "A Book From a Film" brought back memories of old favourite early films. "Gone with the Wind", "Dr Zhivago", "Black Beauty", "Pollyanna" and Witi Ihimaera's "White Lies" from his novella "The Medicine Woman", are just a selection from our choices.

A variety of other themes this year have included: "Philosophers", "Boats", "Poetry" and "Books for Teens". Coming up we have, "A Novella", "History" and "Inspirational Women" and the final topic

for the year will be “An Illustrator”. Our next topic is “Self Help” . That should promote plenty of discussion and enjoyment.

Averil Keppel, member/convenor

BDG BOOK GROUP

Another book group of eight women and one man, which has been operating for some time, has room for 2 more members.

We pay an annual fee of \$70 to the Christchurch Book Discussion Group, which sends us a book every month, along with discussion notes.

We are offered a catalogue to choose titles from, but we don’t always get our choice. It is pleasant a surprise each month.

We don’t keep the book, but have had a great variety of reading material over time, some we would not necessarily have chosen, but enjoyed nevertheless.

Heather Clendon, member.

REPORT FROM ABC (ANYTHING BUT CLASSICAL)

Our group meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. We decide at each meeting what the topic is to be for the next meeting. One member presents for the first half of the meeting, we have afternoon tea, and then all members bring a musical contribution to the group in the second half, where there is lots of discussion. We have learned so much since the formation of the group, about all different genres of music, musicians, instruments etc. and because all members

are presenting to the group, the challenge is to research something different to bring to the group, so that the presenter and all members are learning as we enjoy our music. Recently we have studied the History of Pop Videos, learned about Hoagy Carmichael, have had to find singers who are pianists who are composers, and coming up we will hear about Musical Genes/Musical Dads and Daughters, and each member will research and find a piece of music from Musical Families.

Several of our members have travelled overseas recently, and always find interesting pieces of music to bring back. Roger, on a trip to Canada last month, found some new/old vinyls



Wendy Cornish, Member

HOW TO FIND A GROUP TO JOIN

There is a comprehensive list of groups with vacancies on the U3A website –

www.u3anelson.org.nz

For those of you without email, there is a list of groups with vacancies on the display board at the members 2monthlymeetings.

BOOK REVIEW

Received From Peter Sutton

"The 100-Year Life"

by Professors Lynda Gratton & Andrew Scott, London Business School.

Published 2016, Bloomsbury, London.

This book, written by a psychologist and an economist, examines the implications of the longevity of the world's ageing population on the lifestyle, finances, employment and relationships of people who can now expect to live to an age of one hundred years or more.

They point out that this age is the average life expectancy of a child born in a developed country in 2016 and that the former expectation of a three stage life (education, employment, and retirement at 65) was no longer relevant or possible. To explain why, they examine the life choices and needs of three fictional characters born respectively in 1945, 1971 and 1998 with life expectancies of 70, 85 and 100 years.

They suggest that while the first of these was able to retire at 62 and live for another 8 years, the other two faced great financial pressure, or impossibility, to save enough to give them half their salary if they retired at or near the present "normal" age. They discuss possible choices of continued employment, re-education or training, changes in technology and job skills, and the need to renegotiate changes in family responsibilities and financial saving. They see their life styles as characterized by many changes of employment and as having a number of stages rather than three.

Although many U3A members may be past the age when these personal decisions should have been made, I recommend this well-researched book for its realistic discussion of the challenges faced internationally and its creative suggestions for long, satisfying and varied lives.

PHOTO OF CERTIFICATE

RECEIVED BY U3A



U3A – A 2018 AGE CONCERN/AGE CONNECT CHAMPION

The Age Concern Connect Project recognised U3A at the Inaugural Senior Champions event recently held at the Trafalgar Pavillion. The citation reads :

“On behalf of Age Connect, we thank you for promoting positive aging, encouraging community connections and thereby supporting the older members of our Nelson Tasman community.

Thanks go to past president Peter Sutton, who for years has represented U3A at the Nelson Tasman Positive Ageing Forum, and to others whose activities and community involvement contributed to this acknowledgement.

FINAL WORD

Many thanks to all those members who sent in articles for me to use in this issue. It is much appreciated and makes for a more interesting newsletter. It also makes it more colourful and attractive.

Today we mourn Jill Ford who passed away last week. She was an active committee member and friend, always cheerful and a happy participant in many groups. We will miss her greatly and sent her family our sincere sympathy.

We have also just lost another valued member of U3A, Barry Davis. Barry was on the committee and convened several groups, notably Architecture. He was also a Life Member of U3A Nelson. We wish to convey our sympathy to Lois. Kia kaha.

Everyone stay safe and well and we hope to see you at the next Members Meeting on August 29nd.

Heather Clendon, editor

A NEW POSITIVE AGEING STRATEGY INVITES YOUR INPUT

You are encouraged to voice your concerns and suggestions for a new Ministry for Seniors Positive Ageing Document. This will replace the current document, drafted in 2001. The new strategy deals with major issues such as housing, transportation and health and wellbeing. It looks to the next 20 years when seniors needs and lifestyle potential will occupy even greater importance for all. Go to superseniors.msd.govt.nz/ageingpopulation by 24th August to have your say.

Rona Abbott, Vice President.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The U3A Christmas Lunch will be held at The Waimea Club, on 28th of November at 11:30 am for lunch at 12:00 pm.

Cost will be \$30 per person with a cash bar. Those of us who have eaten at the Waimea Club recently, can recommend their menu and we will have their special Christmas fare.