



## Learning for Life

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P.O. Box 1690, Nelson, 7040

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

**Our next Members' Meeting** will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, at 10 am till 12 noon at the Nelson Golf Club in 38 Bolt Road, Nelson. The speaker is yet to be arranged.

### **FROM THE MEETING ON 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016.**

Colin Davis

Sounds of excited chatter and bouts of laughter became frequent at our U3A Public Meeting in October during the main speaker's presentation. This was because Colin Davis, the speaker, ran a highly interactive session devoted to "Improving Memory Skills."

Colin has worked with the Royal Air Force both in the United Kingdom and here in New Zealand. He is frequently used by many top businesses to help participants develop further their thinking skills. Colin is a devotee of Dr. Edward de Bono, the world-renowned authority of analytical thinking skills. He trained with Dr de Bono.

For our U3A presentation Colin used the twelve months of the year and for each month discussed key features to help us develop further our memory and thinking skills. With topics such as having fun, the power of laughter, meeting new people, doing new things, taking on new ventures and thinking outside the square.

We were encouraged to discuss each of these in small groups (meeting new people) with our answers pooled with others in the meeting room. The hour went by so quickly.

All present agreed that we could have listened to and worked with Colin for much longer such was the quality of his presentation. We were indeed fortunate.

**David Turner, Committee Member.**

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I am glad to take this opportunity, as U3A Nelson winds down its activities towards the end of another busy year, to wish all members a happy Christmas and holiday season from both the committee and myself. I hope to see many of you at the Christmas Lunch at the Suburban Club on November 30<sup>th</sup> but I send our good wishes to all who are unable to attend.

**Norfolk Island U3A.**

I have received messages from both the President, Barbara Kelly, of Norfolk Island U3A and the Norfolk Island Travel Centre inviting our members to contact them if they are planning to visit the island. They give details of five "festivals" in 2017 which may be of interest to U3A members. For further information and contact details, please contact me by telephone on 03 5469140 or 0275469140.

**Peter Sutton, President.**

## FROM THE STUDY GROUP COORDINATOR

Thanks to everyone for making 2016 another satisfying U3A Nelson year. Many, many new groups have been introduced to our medley of offerings. Hundreds of people have become engaged in new learning challenges. And those of us who have joined a new group have made new friends.

**Looking to 2017**, please think about how you can personally contribute to keeping our organisation vibrant and flourishing. Are you able to offer to convene a group that is **academic** e.g. the sciences, or maths, arts, social sciences, law; **practical** e.g. cooking or woodworking skills; or **recreational** i.e. hobby based. Contact me on 035477274 or [study@u3anelson.org.nz](mailto:study@u3anelson.org.nz) to discuss any ideas you may have.

**What's available?** These groups have vacancies now and into the new year:

*Ancient Civilisations, Architecture, Astronomy, Australia, Bookcases, Civilisation, Classical Music, Discovering Our Local Birdlife, Exploring Maori Concepts and Language, Irish Group, Luncheon Group, Military History, Opera at the Met, Ramblers, Scrabble, Successful Gardening: Science not Myth, TED Talks, Theatre and Film, The Normans, and Write Your Life.*

For further information, consult our website [www.u3anelson.org.nz](http://www.u3anelson.org.nz)

Seasons greetings and my very best wishes for the new year

**Kay Hunter, study group coordinator**

## CONVENORS MEETING

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, the committee held a

gathering and afternoon tea, to thank the Group Convenors. If it weren't for these people, we would not have the excellent range of topics available.



**The quiz in progress**

Each convenor took it in turn to explain the format their group took and gave an outline of what they had studied in the past few months. Many of us were wishing we could join all the groups, they sounded so interesting, but there are only so many days in the week and hours in the day.

This was followed by us dividing in to groups for a quiz, with Paul Lundberg as Quizmaster. There were some very challenging questions. It was almost a relief to break for afternoon tea and social conversation.



## U3A TED TALKS 2 GROUP

We had our last meeting for the year on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. Except for a wee tippie 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 in to deep discussions over TED Talks. The first we watched was from a woman called Jae Rhim Lee, who talked about “Infinity Burials” using her mushroom burial 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, precise 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month re-starting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Paul Lundberg, Member**

## THE MET OPERA GROUP

There are changes afoot for the group that meet regularly to view the New York Metropolitan Opera Company’s cinema productions. Peter Sutton, who has ably convened the group for some years, has decided to take a break.

We have been meeting for lunch at The Riverside Café, prior to viewing the movie at the State. However the management has decided to move all art films to the Suter, with showings on Wednesdays and Sundays. These changes may not suit everyone, and we are looking for a new convenor.

We have enjoyed many wonderful operas, and have Don Giovanni in December, then a break until March.

It is hoped someone will step forward and offer to convene the group before then.

**Heather Clendon, Editor.**

## HANDS IN THE GARDEN

This group enjoyed a visit to the Thackwood Gardens, at Wakapuaka, recently. Thackwood Gardens cover 3 acres and are the largest private gardens in Nelson. They are open to the public by arrangement.



Despite the weather being a little showery, it cleared and it was a very pleasant day for the visit. The group enjoyed lunch outdoors at the Cable Bay Café afterwards.

**Francis Taylor, Member.**



**Thackwood Gardens**

## **THE HISTORY OF JAZZ**

In this group we listen to jazz recordings with an historical perspective – and learn about the musicians and events which influenced the rise (and fall) of the popularity of jazz, and the style of jazz which developed from those influences.

This year we concentrated mainly on the development of jazz from the early 1900's to the 1940's (early New Orleans jazz to the rise of the Big Bands and the Swing Era), and covered a great range of musicians and bands, including Joe "King" Oliver, Sydney Bechet, The New Orleans Rhythm Kings, Louis Armstrong, Bunk Johnson, Kid Ory, Bix Beiderbecke, Jabbo Smith, Fats Waller, Art Tatum, Fletcher Henderson, Chick Webb, Duke Ellington, Artie Shaw, and Benny Goodman, among others.

We also looked at the development of jazz in a geographical context, discussing musicians and trends from New Orleans, Chicago, New York, the mid-west and west coast of the U.S. The "Trad Jazz" revival in the 1960's and 70's was also covered, and we looked at groups from England and Europe that played, and in many cases still are playing, traditional (i.e. Dixieland) jazz.

Our resources include our own cds, cds and videos from the library, and of course the internet, a fabulous store of music and information for anyone studying jazz. We also

make use of a 10-part DVD series called *The History of Jazz* by Ken Burns, which follows the development of jazz in the U.S. and presents it in a most interesting and enjoyable fashion.

At this point in time we have not decided the format for next year – we may improvise as we go, which is quite appropriate for the subject matter in hand.

**Ron O'Reilly, Member.**

*Lead us not in to temptation. Just tell us where it is; we'll find it.*

**Sam Levenson**

## **FINAL WORD**

We are now winding down to Christmas and looking forward to the U3A Christmas Luncheon. We have over 50 members coming, so it will be a nice social gathering with time to talk to old friends and new. I understand it has been a few years since a similar Christmas function was held by U3A Nelson, so it is something to look forward to.

Many thanks to the members who submitted articles about their groups. It is great to read what is happening elsewhere, and makes our newsletter more enjoyable. Please think about submitting a short piece, telling all of U3A of the interesting activities and discussions that are going on. Photographs would also be great and make the newsletter more interesting and colourful.

**Heather Clendon, Editor.**