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Learning for Life

Volume 17, Issue 6, December, 2024

NEW BANK ACCOUNT!! Note our new account number above. We have changed from Westpac to Nelson Building Society. Please delete Westpac from your saved payee.



Our next Members' Meeting will be on Wednesday February 26th 2025 from 10 am till 12 noon at Elim Church, 625 Main Road, Stoke, Nelson. Full details in the February newsletter.

Speaker report from the October meeting

At our last Members' meeting Neil Bruce-Miller spoke to the meeting about his life in England and his later work in Zambia , Rhodesia and the Congo in the 1970s and 1980s.

He is an expert in climate change with this taking him to Northern Rhodesia and Zambia.

He built roads, bridges, facilities, etc making huge changes for the people there.

He and Sue now live in Motueka on a farm.

A most inspiring and informative speaker.

Thanks, Bruce

Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- Speaker report from October
- President's report
- Revised Constitution
- Report from DIG group
- Convenors afternoon tea
- Speaker introducers and thankers wanted
- New convenor for 'Hands in the Garden' required
- Report from 'Antique, Vintage and Retro'
- Volunteers wanted
- Funnies, etc

Dear U3A members

Tony and I wish you all a very happy time with family and friends, and a healthy and joyous start to the New Year, 2025.

But it's also a reflective time since our last Christmas - we have lost very dear U3A friends, and many have lost family members, so for those where it is your first Christmas without your special people, know that others are thinking of you.

Your committee will meet in January and then we will have our first Members' Meeting in February, but there will be another newsletter before then.

All the very best over the next few busy weeks.

Wendy



Revised Constitution

We will have to submit our revised Constitution to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies for approval before it can be formally adopted by U3A Nelson (which we hope to be able to do at next year's AGM). We will also have to provide evidence to the Registrar that the document has been approved for submission by the membership at large. To this end there will be a (short) Special General Meeting immediately before our next Members' Meeting in February to consider a motion to approve the revised Constitution.

Andrew

DIG group ends another successful year

Our November meeting was the last for 2024 and ended the year on a high note. We had some 60 member photos to view, the subjects being “My two favourite/best photos for the year” and “Birds and flora”. A wonderful collection, and a comment was made that over the year there has been a noticeable improvement in the quality of photos shown by members. Then we adjourned for a group photo taken by Barry Doig, followed by a delicious afternoon tea prepared by Mary North and her helpers. Wendy arrived in time for a cuppa and to congratulate DIG on another successful year since SeniorNet closed and the group became part of U3A.

Over the year an average of about 25 attending meetings. We had three invited guest speakers as well as 16 short presentations by a number of our members. Hans Everts stepped back from the convenor role and Sandi Beatie takes over from January 2025. All up, the year has been very enjoyable and inspirational, and has helped us improve our photography skills.



Convenors Afternoon Tea

On Saturday 30 November your Committee held a Convenors Thank You Afternoon Tea. 33 Study Group Convenors and 3 guests, were able to join us for sandwiches and cake, and the 18 Convenors who couldn't be with us, were thanked in absentia.

Our Study Groups wouldn't be as successful as they are without Convenors organising their Study Group meetings, keeping in touch with members and opening their homes for meetings. And we are very grateful for all they do for U3A.

Thanks to the Catering sub-Committee of Hilary Carpenter, Helen Gowland and Anne White, who also organises our great venue at Summerset in the Sun.

Wendy

HELP - Paul needs members prepared to introduce and thank speakers. If you are confident standing up and speaking to an audience, Paul would be delighted to hear from you. Email:

lunberg@orcon.net.nz

‘Hands in the Garden’ Convenor Required

I have been convening this lovely group since March 2019. To begin with, I was a joint convenor with Wendy Cornish but as she became more and more busy in her role as President of U3A Nelson it made sense for her to relinquish the co-convening and I was happy to take on more responsibility.

To be honest, there’s not a lot of work involved.

The Hands in the Garden group consists of 24 U3A members who, on the second Wednesday of each month, enjoy visiting some of the most beautiful gardens in the Nelson/Tasman region and we are very lucky to have so many private gardens to choose from. Of course, after wandering around beautiful gardens for an hour or so it’s only to be expected that we find somewhere nice for lunch. And that’s not hard as there are more cafés to choose from than you can shake a stick at.

I keep a log book of potential gardens for us to visit. I’ve probably got enough gardens to keep us going for a couple of years. During the winter months we meet in the warm and comfortable cinema at Olive Estate in Richmond. We have guest speakers, interesting short films and a fun gardening-related quiz.

It has been very rewarding and fulfilling to convene Hands in the Garden, but I need to take a back seat and make some time for a busy year ahead with lots of travelling and a house move on the cards.

If you are interested in becoming a convenor or maybe sharing with a friend, I can offer lots of assistance and garden suggestions to make the transition as easy as possible.

Contact: Judy Pittman - randjpittman@gmail.com or 03 545 2181



The group during a recent visit to a garden in Hill Street

Antique, Vintage & Retro

The visit to the Southern Star Masonic Lodge was excellent, beginning with a general chat about the history of Freemasonry, what it does, and the set up of the local lodges. This was followed by information more specifically about the Lodge that hosted the visit, the "Southern Star Lodge". A very old New Zealand Lodge operating under the English constitution. It was established in 1853.

Four senior members of the lodge talked about various aspects of their lodge and how it worked. They also talked about the charitable activities and the grants that have been made to various projects over the years. In particular they spoke about Kirkpatrick House Trust. They have supported the operation almost from its inception. This has involved hundreds of girls ensuring assistance for them and they becoming boarders of Nelson College for Girls. (see <https://kirkpatrickscholarship.org.nz/>)

We were given a Booklet on the "Southern Star Lodge 735, Affiliated to United Grand Lodge of England".

This was followed by a trip upstairs to visit the lodge room. A grand place decorated with some unusual artefacts and furniture which represented symbols of their meetings, the origins of which go back hundreds if not thousands of years. These were explained to us and I think that many, if not most of us felt enlightened and uplifted by the experience.

One of our group expressed her thoughts which I think went for everybody.

"Thank you very much for the tour of the Masonic Lodge today. It was really very interesting indeed and I think it dispelled some misconceptions.

What a lovely group of men we met, and their knowledge was amazing."

Iain Clark, acting Convenor

Volunteers wanted

Do you enjoy volunteering? Feel comfortable interacting with people? Stuart Yank is the Volunteer Coordinator for all International Cricket at Saxton Oval and they need volunteers for upcoming matches starting 2nd January. The best part is you will get to see some cricket FREE.

If interested, email Stuart at stuart.yank@gmail.com for more information and to be added to the list.

Judy recently came across the following parody of the Julie Andrews "Sound of Music" song, "My favourite Things". This version was written for the American Association for Retired Persons and performed at the Radio City Music Hall in New York in 2004.

(PS— Maalox is an antacid).

"Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts and hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favourite things.

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak, when the knees go bad. I simply remember my favourite things, and then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets, and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heat pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pains, confused brains, and no fear of sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames, when we remember our favourite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break, when the eyes grow dim. Then I remember the great life I've had...and then I don't feel soooooo bad."

Cricket as explained to a Foreigner...

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man that's in the side that's in goes out, and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out. When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out. Sometimes you get men still in and not out.

When a man goes out to go in, the men who are out try to get him out, and when he is out he goes in and the next man in goes out and goes in. There are two men called umpires who stay out all the time and they decide when the men who are in are out. When both sides have been in and all the men have been out, and both sides have been out twice after all the men have been in, including those who are not out, that is the end of the game.

Simple!

WHAT DO YOU CALL AN ALLIGATOR IN A VEST?



AN INVESTIGATOR.

If GH can stand for P as in Hiccough,
If OUGH stands for O as in Dough,
If PHTH stands for T as in Phthisis,
If EIGH stands for A as in Neighbor,
If TTE stands for T as in Gazette,
If EAU stands for O as in Plateau,

The right way to spell POTATO should be:
GHOUGHPTHTEIGHTTEAU

ODD SIGNS FROM ENGLAND

Sign in a Laundromat:

Automatic washing machines: please remove all your clothes when the light goes out

Sign in a London department store:

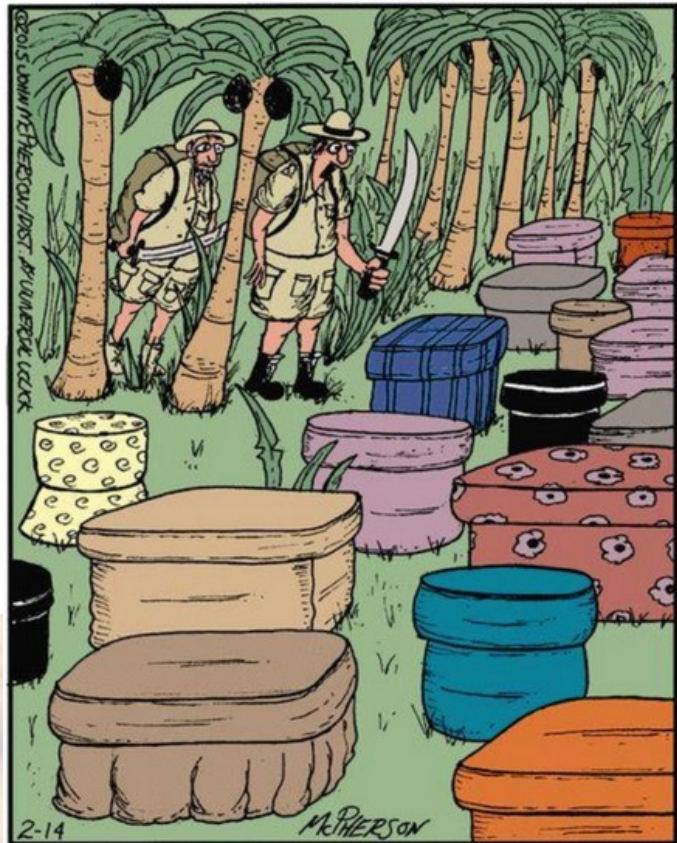
Bargain basement upstairs

In an office:

After tea break staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board

Outside a secondhand shop:

We exchange anything - bicycles, washing machines etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?



"Great Scott, Ingrey, it's the Ottoman Empire!"



DOWNTON TABBY

From the Editor

Thank you to those who submitted articles. Reports from study groups are always welcome, especially if your group has vacancies, as this is a good way to showcase what you do. Photographs are also great to make the newsletter more interesting and colourful. **Deadline for articles for the February 2025 newsletter is Monday 10th February.**

Trevor Lewis