



www.u3anelson.org.nz

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## Learning for Life

Volume 18, Issue 1, February, 2025

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



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

The speaker is Gwen Daly and the title of her talk is 'Never too old'.

Gwen has been an actor, director and producer with theatre and film industry experience. She co-founded production company Jo Public, Nga Tangata, to produce and direct new scripts for stage and screen. She is also a trained therapeutic counsellor.

## Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- President's report
- Speakers and members' meeting dates for 2025
- Subscriptions for 2025
- Author, Colleen Brown coming to Nelson for book launch
- Obituary, Heather Clendon
- Positive Ageing Expo, April 5th
- Reader needed for Coastal View Village
- "Anno Domini 2000" - Did you know this?
- "My first real job" - Jocelyn Lewis

## President's report

Welcome to the first U3A Newsletter of 2025 and I hope you have a very happy start to your U3A year, with lots of learning in your Study Groups, socialising and meeting new people.

Remember, answers to many of your U3A questions can be found on our website - [u3anelson.org.nz](http://u3anelson.org.nz). Hilary Carpenter has taken over as Study Group Co-ordinator from Steven Shaw, so please be patient while she "learns the ropes" when emailing [study@u3anelson.org.nz](mailto:study@u3anelson.org.nz).

Looking forward to meeting you at our first Members' Meeting on Wednesday 26 February. As previously advised to members, before we get underway with the Members' Meeting, we will hold a short Special General Meeting where four resolutions will be put to the meeting. If these are passed, we will then undertake the process of re-registering U3A Nelson Inc as an Incorporated Society under the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022, including the lodging of our new Constitution. The final draft of our new Constitution is on the U3A website under Administration, as are the resolutions to be put to Members on 26th. Please read these two documents prior to the meeting.

As we have 13 new members joining us at our first Members' Meeting, could you all PLEASE remember to wear your name badges. It makes it all the more welcoming at morning tea time, when they can mix and mingle and know people's names. Thanks.

Wendy

## Speakers for 2025 - tentative list

Date	Speaker	Topic
Wednesday 7th May (AGM)	Sally Gepp KC	Environmental law
Wednesday 25th June	Dr Donna Swift	Life as an anthropologist and her love
Wednesday 27th August	Kirsten Mason	'Inside a symphony orchestra'
Wednesday 22nd October	Andrew Mason	Banker topic – it will revolve around my international experiences.

If anyone wants to look at another U3A website, Paul advises that this is the Auckland site which really is the gateway for U3A into NZ :

<https://www.u3a.nz/home.htm> - through this site members can link to all other U3A sites in the country

## Members' Meetings – 2025

Wednesday 26th February

Wednesday 7th May (AGM)

Wednesday 25th June

Wednesday 27th August

Wednesday 22nd October

## Subscriptions

Members' subscriptions of \$30 per person are due by 31 March 2025.

But you are welcome to pay anytime from now, and that would help me, as Membership Secretary, to process each renewal and receipt in a timely manner.

Thanks for your consideration to this request.

Thanks also to the members who have already paid, and I have receipted your payments to 31 March 2026.

And another reminder of the change of bank account from Westpac to NBS

**Please pay to U3A Nelson Inc. NBS Richmond 03 1354 0657098 00**

Wendy

Author, Colleen Brown, is coming to Nelson to launch her next children's book – 'The Biggest Kiwi in the World' in March. She is at the Nelson library on the **23<sup>rd</sup> March in the afternoon** doing the book launch supported by the Nelson Historical Society and the Library itself.

Colleen also writes for the Listener – her latest article was the cover story on School lunches.

[www.colleenbrownbooks.com](http://www.colleenbrownbooks.com)

She arrives in Nelson on 18 March, and is available from 19th - 23rd as a speaker.

If any Convenor of a Writing Group is interested in contacting Colleen to speak to your group, or several groups combine, that is over to each individual Convenor.

Unfortunately our AGM is 7 May, so it doesn't fit with our schedule, or hers, for her to speak at our Members' meeting.

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](mailto:lunberg@orcon.net.nz)

## Obituary

It was with sadness that we learned of the passing of Heather Clendon on 9 January 2025. Heather was a very active member of U3A, serving also on the Committee and being Newsletter Editor for some years.

A memorial gathering to celebrate Heather's life will be held on 22 February at 1pm. For further details or to RSVP, please send messages to [heatherc.rsvp@gmail.com](mailto:heatherc.rsvp@gmail.com)

Wendy

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## Positive Ageing Expo, Headingley Centre, Saturday 5 April 10am to 2pm free entry to the public - over 70 stall holders

This event is a great way to wave our U3A banner and let people know what we do at U3A Nelson. And to talk about ongoing Lifelong Learning for Third Agers and interact with members of our community who may be finding retirement isolating.

I am looking for **8 U3A members to do an hour each** to greet people and talk about Study Groups etc. All information will be available on our U3A stand.

Advertising the Positive Ageing Expo - "Discover the endless possibilities of staying active, connected, and thriving as you age at this year's Positive Ageing Expo! Don't miss this free opportunity to explore services, try new activities, and connect with your community! "

The roster would be **two people for an hour each slot** -

from 10 - 11 am, 11am - midday, midday to 1pm, 1pm to pack up at 2pm.

**Please email [tonyandwendy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tonyandwendy@xtra.co.nz) if you can help for an hour. Thanks**

## Reader needed!

Reader needed for Coastal View care facility on the third Thursday of every month, one hour, starting at 1pm. (Coffee and cake arrive at 2pm). Read anything you like, from local news to a short story of your choice or perhaps something you wrote yourself. You will soon get a feel for what your listeners like. Leave a bit of time for a chat and / or perhaps an exchange of experiences.

And if you want to just have a single go, you can pick one of these once-only days: February 13, April 17, July 3, all starting at 11am.

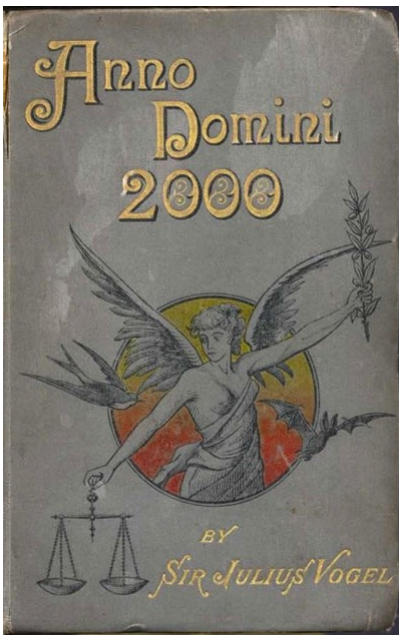
Please phone Hanne Bjorklund on 543 2602 (warning no answerphone) or email her at [bjorklund.nz@gmail.com](mailto:bjorklund.nz@gmail.com). We would love to have you on the team.

## Quips & quotes from The Listener

"You gotta say this for the white race—its self-confidence knows no bounds. Who else could go to a small island in the South Pacific where there's no poverty, no crime, no unemployment, no war and no worry—and call it 'a primitive society'?" - *US civil rights activist Dick Gregory*

"My favourite headline is one I saw in Ireland—'Cork man drowns'." *Rich Hall on QI*

## Did you know this?



Published in 1889 – four years before New Zealand women won the right to vote – former [Premier Julius Vogel](#)'s futuristic novel *Anno Domini 2000; or, woman's destiny* predicted that by the end of the millenium women would hold the highest posts in government and that poverty would have vanished.

A new edition of the book was published by the University of Hawaii Press in 2000. At that time the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Attorney-General, Chief Justice, Governor-General designate and CEO of New Zealand's largest company were all women.

In his introduction to the 2000 edition, academic Roger Robinson listed some of Vogel's other predictions:

- Australian politicians move to secede from United Britain to establish a wholly independent republic
  - There is reverse migration to a prosperous Ireland
  - Europe becomes fully federated
  - British royalty is strengthened by marriage between the 'Emperor' and a commoner woman of great charisma
- The news media and their inveterate interest in celebrity gossip exert considerable political influence
  - A social welfare system provides living comforts even for the poor, including subsidised accommodation in 'splendid edifices of many storeys, with constant self-activating elevators.'
  - In all homes, heavy manual work has been replaced by 'remarkable contrivances for affording power and saving labour.'
  - Electricity is the prime source of domestic light and heat and most houses in hot climates have air conditioning
  - Hydroelectricity is a major power source and large dams are constructed on the outflow from Lake Wakatipu
  - Tourism, fishing and horticulture are important sources of foreign exchange for New Zealand and we become a world-class wine producer
  - By changing soil chemistry, central North Island land is brought into productive use
  - Industrial technology is making significant impact on the environment
  - New Zealand is a leader in Antarctic research
  - Air travel is universal, in lightweight aluminium 'air-cruisers' powered by 'quickly revolving fans'. (This was 14 years before the Wright Brothers' flight).

There is instant communication technology in the form of 'hand telegraph' or 'noiseless telegraph', which politicians have fitted to their desks and journalists use to transmit copy directly to their newspapers.

Robinson concluded that, although not always on the mark, 'Overall, Vogel emerges as a utopian prophet of rare percipience'.

(Acknowledgement: <https://nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/anno-domini-2000/>)

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## Quotable Quote:

"Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit.  
Wisdom is knowing not to put it in the fruit salad."

- **Brian O'Driscoll**



## 'Getting To Know You - Jocelyn Lewis - "My First Real Job"

1951 - the end of my final year at college was fast approaching and I still had no idea what I was going to do next. The careers mistress had almost given up on me, when she was contacted by the Wildlife Division of the Department of Internal Affairs. She said they were looking for a "technical assistant", never having had one before.

Wildlife actually employed two of us, and when we started in January 1952, no one seemed to know what to do with us, as the two biologists we would be working for were both overseas completing their doctorates. So we set about writing our own job descriptions! Internal Affairs was only one of several government departments housed there. We had a great introduction to the workings of the Public Service. If we were asked to get a file for reference purposes, we went to Internal Affairs Records office, they searched out the file, we signed for it and had to return it asap. If we needed a pencil or one of the new-fangled biros we went to the Stationery cupboard, were supposed to produce the used article for the replacement one!



The pressing problem that the Wildlife Division had been charged with solving was the control of both possums and deer and as trapping and shooting was having no impact, the Research Section came into being, charged with finding an acceptable means of control. Surprisingly this gave me a career. A research station for possum work in the Orongorongo Valley near Wellington was being built. This is where we were to spend a good deal of time assisting with field work. Sometimes we had to walk in via the Five Mile track through the bush, at other times we rode up the river bed on an old ex-army truck that Wildlife owned. For the next six years my work continued in this fashion until marriage and starting a family intervened.



Fast forward to 1970 when we moved to Nelson. Sometime later I saw an advertisement for a part-time technician with the Ecology Division of DSIR which I applied for. Because of my previous experience with Wildlife Division I was successful and so began an even more interesting 23 years of work, including field work in the bush and on some offshore islands, until my retirement.

*Jocelyn Lewis.*

*(the top photo is me with dog at the Orongorongo hut; the bottom photo about 70 years later).*

*(The above is a brief summary of a story entitled "Joining the workforce" that I wrote in 2008 when I was a member of the 'Write your Life' group.)*

## More quips & quotes from The Listener

"Telling lies is a bit like tiling bathrooms—if you don't know how do it properly, it's best not to try." - *Tom Holt, novelist*

"Go out and face the world secure in the knowledge that everybody else thinks they're better looking than they really are as well." - *Sir Terry Wogan quoted in The Daily Telegraph*

"To achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan and not quite enough time." *Leonard Bernstein*

### Parting thought.

**Life is like a hot bath. It feels good while you're in it but the longer you stay the wrinklier you get.**

## From the Editor

Thank you to those who submitted articles. **Deadline for the April newsletter is Monday 14th April.**

*Trevor Lewis*