

## Learning for Life

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

**Our next Members' Meeting** will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 at 10 am till 12 noon at the Nelson Golf Club in 38 Bolt Road, Nelson. There will be no Speaker at the May Meeting, as it will be the Annual General Meeting and in addition there will be a lively, and entertaining Quiz

**PLEASE NOTE :- CHANGE OF DATE. THE NEXT BI-MONTHLY MEETING, WILL BE HELD A WEEK LATER THAN NORMAL, AS THE FOURTH WEDNESDAY IN APRIL, IS ANZAC DAY.**

### FROM THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018

**Dr Lance Jennings Feb 28 2018**

“100 years on from the Spanish Influenza Pandemic: what have we learned?”

On the last day of February, a packed hall of U3A members were treated to a fascinating talk from Dr Lance Jennings on the Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918 and the lessons we have learned from it.

With the support of a wide range of statistics Dr Jennings impressed upon his audience the scale of the outbreak and particularly its effect on New Zealand as the biggest natural disaster of our history. Although it has become known as the Spanish flu, just where the particular virus originated from and how it reached New Zealand remains uncertain, but there is no doubt about the toll it took, especially on our Maori population.

Dr Jennings then spent some time describing the flu virus -- or should it be viruses --- and the problems associated with finding an effective vaccine and treatment. This is made all the more difficult by the ability of various strains to

adapt and, more disturbingly, to cross from one species to another, as witnessed by the more recent Bird flu and SARS epidemics.

On the brighter side, however, the New Zealand government has established a strategy for any future outbreaks of a severe nature, including a stockpile of a variety of drugs, vaccines and the like and plans for the isolation and treatment of victims.

Finally, Dr Jennings exhorted all present to take advantage of the free vaccination programme offered to older citizens to avoid the worst effects of any flu outbreak in the coming winter

**Steven Shaw, Committee Member**



## **FROM THE PRESIDENT.**

You know we have a superb Committee. Some of you may not realise just what a lot needs organising for a group like ours. The task of managing more than 45 different groups, coping with an ever changing membership of about 300, making new members feel welcome, publicity and keeping track of lots of gear are just some of what goes on.

We are approaching the AGM and all is well. The Committee is keen to have ratified a recommendation to raise subscriptions from \$20 to \$30 per year, and to eliminate the \$5 charge for the bi-monthly member meetings. The amount of work in trying to collect the small sums for the refreshments is excessive and tiresome. So expect to pay \$30 this year.

Also at the AGM we will welcome a new Committee although only one of our present group is leaving, probably to be a Convenor. However this should not stop any member from having their name put forward to be on the new committee, indeed there is a good argument that such a keen one as we have now would be a pleasure to join. So please consider being nominated. The roles are :  
President; Vice President; Study Group Coordinator; Treasurer; Secretary; New Member Coordinator; Communications; IT Coordinator; Assets Manager; Speaker Organiser; Committee Member [4 or 5].

Incidentally we are informed that the lift at the Golf club is now fully functional again.

Isn't it exciting to see all the new groups which are being offered? Titles like 'Maori Legend', 'Financial Investment', 'Political Science', 'Into the Wide Blues Yonder' and others make one wonder how many hours there are in a day! U3A Nelson certainly swings.

Just a note about membership badges. I must confess to often forgetting mine but it is a polite consideration for people our age, I for one have a miserable memory for names. If you see someone with a red sticker on their membership badge it means they are new to U3A, so do welcome them. If you feel you are now an 'old hand' then please remove your sticker.

The new Admin website keeps all of the new groups linked to the old and trusted U3A Nelson website – so all is current. We believe a new member of committee will be able to manage the old site, and John B., our developer, has almost finished the Mailer. Some people like to use their own lists of email addresses of people in their groups, but use of the Mailer will make it easy for people who need to communicate with members of their groups without knowing their email addresses. As time progresses I hope more and more of us will use this new system regularly.

**Cheers, Paul Lunberg**



**Members mingling over morning tea**

### **NEXT MEMBERS MEETING**

The next Members Meeting, will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018. This is the Annual General Meeting and Election of the next committee. If you wish to nominate a Member of U3A Nelson, please notify the President by the 20<sup>th</sup> of April Alternatively, if you would like to be a part of the Committee, notify a committee member, who will arrange for you to be nominated.

### **FORMER PRESIDENT WINS PRIZE**

Peter Sutton, Immediate Past President of U3A Nelson, won First Prize in the Unpublished Poets Section of the 2017, Robert Burns International Poetry Competition, sponsored by the Dunedin Public Library and the Dunedin Burns Club. He learned of the competition in November, one day before the closing date. He wrote a sonnet based on Burns "Address to the Devil" that evening and emailed it to Dunedin the following morning.

He then virtually forgot about it, until he received an email in mid-December, informing him he had won and inviting to the Awards Ceremony in Dunedin, on Burns birthday, 25<sup>th</sup> January. The prize was a medal, a Certificate, \$500 and an invitation to the Burns Dinner, that night.

He, and the winners of the other two sections, were asked to read their poems at both the Ceremony and the Dinner. He thoroughly enjoyed both occasions, and on his return was asked by Page and Blackmore, to give a public reading of the winning poem, along with a few others, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February. These included one which will be of particular interest to U3A members.

Here it is:-

*Six years ago, my wife of sixty years  
Died, and devastated by this sad loss,  
I felt depressed, unhappy and alone  
And faced a future full of lonely fears.  
Within two months, I had this bright idea:  
I had been learning all my adult life;  
And there were passions I had left behind  
Which I could still enjoy was very clear  
So I joined U3A and quickly found,  
Within its groups that I could learn and share,  
Research ,present, discuss, even convene  
Opera, Jazz, History, Shakespeare's magic sound.  
And so my learning life lives on for me  
With challenges, new roles and company.*

We, the Committee, and I'm sure all other members, would like to congratulate Peter on this great honour. Who knew such talents lurked beneath his quiet, and unassuming demeanour.

Perhaps other members have been recipients of recent awards, or honours, they would be willing to share with us. Peter had no option but to share his award, as he left a committee meeting early, to go directly to the airport, and Dunedin.

**Editor**



**Of interest to the Book Group, perhaps**

### NEW GROUPS

2018 has got off to a terrific start with four new groups underway:

- Political Studies - convenor Christine Hands,
- Cycling With Friends - convenor Will Rickerby,
- Collectors - convenor Gerald Moonen and
- Into the Wide Blues Yonder – convenor Ian McDougall

Many thanks go to these folk for their enthusiasm in starting these groups.

Waiting in the wings are: another of the highly-popular Write Your Life studies, and I believe, another Travel group with the focus being travellers (not tourists) looking at the people, traditions and customs of different countries. A new U3A member is keen to offer to convene a Finance and Investment study group.

Watch this space!

**David Turner - Study Group Coordinator**

### DIVERSIONS

- \* Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
- \* What if my dog only brings back my ball because he thinks I like throwing it?
- \* If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
- \* Which letter is silent in the word "Scen-t," the S or the C?
- \* Why is the letter W, in English, called - double U? Shouldn't it be called double V? and why isn't "m" called "double n"?
- \* Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.
- \* Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty
- The word "SWIMS" upside-down is still "SWIMS".
- Intentionally losing a game of rock, paper, scissors is just as hard as trying to win.
- 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
- Your future self is watching you right now through memories.
- The doctors that told Stephen Hawking he had two years to live in 1953 are probably dead.

## **A USEFUL LINK FOR TRAVEL IN AUSTRALIA**

<[mediaforwellbeing@gmail.com](mailto:mediaforwellbeing@gmail.com)>

The Senior E-Newsletters

<[jquarterman@fairfaxmedia.com.au](mailto:jquarterman@fairfaxmedia.com.au)>

This looks a useful link, sent in by Rona Abbot, our Vice President. It relates to travel in Australia, so is perhaps especially relevant.

## **NELSON TASMAN POSITIVE AGEING EXPO 2018**

U3A took part in the Expo, by manning a stall for the day. There was a lot of interest in our activities, with many people stopping by to discuss what we did, asking questions and gathering information. Some already knew of our organisation, and left better informed, while others were interested in becoming new members.



**THE EXPO ORGANISER, PETER SUTTON (OUR PAST PRESIDENT) AND THE MINISTER FOR SENIORS, TRACEY MARTIN.**

There were 75 stalls set up at the exhibition from organisations of interest to the Older Person, from Historical Societies to SeniorNet to Mobile Meals and Toenail Cutting! Something for everyone. There were also demonstrations of Rock and Roll Dancing, Ukelele Playing and Aerobics Exercises. All going to show age is no barrier.



**The busy committee manning the stall**

## **FINAL WORD**

Many thanks to those of you, who contributed to the Newsletter this month. It would be nice to see some brief reports from individual groups, not just from the convenors, but from any member. Just let us all know what your group is up to, or studying. We'd love to hear from you. Photos would be great, too. Hopefully, we will have some new blood on the committee, as well as the old faithfuls. All the best for the 2018/19 year.

**Heather Clendon, Editor**