

Learning for Life

Volume 11, Issue 3, June, 2018

Our next Members' Meeting will be on June, 27th at 10 am till 12 noon at the Nelson Golf Club 38 Bolt Road, Nelson The speakers are Karen Stade and Karen Price and their talk is titled; **History: Finding the Lost and Hidden Stories**

REPORT FROM THE AGM FOR 2017-18 ON 2ND MAY 2018

(Deferred from 25th April, as it was Anzac Day).

The meeting was very well attended, with about 70 members present.

We were seated at tables of 5 to 6 people, which encouraged socialising, and I'm sure each of us met people we had never spoken to before. A great way to mix us all up.



THE QUIZ IN PROGRESS

After the business of the AGM, members took part in a quiz, which caused much interest and amusement, with the need for hushed voices, as there was a tendency to shout the answer in our enthusiasm, but that could allow other teams to take advantage!

From a social point of view, I think the meeting was a great success. Perhaps we

should have more meetings along these lines. Suggestions welcome.

Heather Clendon (editor)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (MAY 16TH 2018)

You've gotta believe it - the last month has been absolutely hectic. Soon the flood of subs will subside and the changes which one little decision at the AGM have caused can be put behind us. Keeping track of the subs has always been a big task – I used to have endless Spread Sheets trying to keep up – firing off emails all the time. It is much easier now, especially from those who now use Internet Banking – I just scan down the payments, pick up the information and put it directly into our Admin program – hit a button and the member gets a receipt email. Wunderbar! There are always hiccups – for many everything goes smoothly, but some have paid the old amount of \$20, they need polite reminders; some cannot remember the Bank Account details - these folk I wish they felt more comfortable with their computers and looked on the net as all this information is there [go to <http://www.u3anelson.org.nz/>]

The other thing which has tested us is the small change of \$20 to \$30 for the sub.

For Lindsay this was easy, but not for

David Wright, who is new to the language, and has had to learn heaps in just a few weeks. Me too, I managed to change a couple of documents, like the Application to Join which now must reflect the new subs, but then I wrecked our system. I was trying to remove some old parts and removed the entire page – so anyone trying to see what Groups were available - would have found the page would not load!! I was miserable for a few days but David Wright and John managed to sort out the problem. We are indeed lucky to have such able and helpful folks – John actually is not a member and does all this support for free!!

While most of us just enjoy our Groups without a care – thanks to David Turner – brilliant job and always with a joke. There are committee members squirreling away elsewhere too : Anne is preparing to welcome a number of new members, Allison is keeping track of our finances, Bill produces Agendas and minutes of professional quality and Rona connects in many ways with the wider community. Golly we are lucky to have so many proficient folk – but wait, there is more..... We could do with an Archivist. We need someone else to join the Committee to keep the history of our U3A up to date. Over the years Kay has done this and you can read the history up to 2017 on our webpage [see <http://www.u3anelson.org.nz/index.php/8-about/183-history1>] So why not join us and help in this way?

Oh No – not more from the President!!

Sorry.....We have just had a Committee meeting and one or two issues need to be circulated. One concerns Visitors or Guests who temporarily join a group. We all agree this is desirable and welcome.

However one or two such guests do stay for quite a few meetings, sometimes because they only visit infrequently such as those who live abroad and come over here for the Summer, sometimes for other reasons. The Committee felt such folk should join our U3A . We did discuss other forms of membership but for the number we are talking about it is not worth the effort, and we believe that \$30 is a fair sum to enjoy the group.

Oh yes - a bit of good news for some - - - the lift is working again at the Golf club!

I have written about EdX, free University courses. Members of the Committee mentioned two other self learning University course – one called MOOC which is an extension of EdX – have a look. Now I find there are a few similar places on the WWW where there are excellent sources offered for free. Here are some : Coursera, Khan Academy, Udemy , Academic Earth, Stanford Online.

You know too, we would like one more person on our Committee. There are one or two jobs which need doing for example organising Speakers for our General Meetings, but just an extra person to share the work load would be great – please consider it and get in contact with us.

Bye for now - Paul

WEB SITE SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

<https://www.edx.org/> This is just such an amazing site – you can take a course for free from the world’s best- but don’t leave our U3A.

MORE GOOD SITES

<https://www.openculture.com/freemovies>
online

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/>

<https://artsandculture.google.com/>

THIS MONTHS MEETING ON JUNE 27th

The speakers this month promise to be very interesting. Karen Stade and Karen Price have authored a book entitled *“Pasta, Prayer & Promise” – the history of Nelson’s Italian Community*. They will also speak on some of the unusual sources which lead to discovering the rich, untold stories of our local history.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

I have been the newsletter editor for three years now and am looking for someone to take my place. While I have enjoyed the task, and found it a challenge, I know there are many U3A members who are far more skilled at electronic publishing than I am. It is time for a new editor to bring fresh ideas and new skills to the job.

Please contact me, Heather Clendon
editor@u3anelson.org.nz

or Paul Lunberg
president@u3anelson.org.nz

UPDATE ON THE GREENMEADOWS CENTRE

My name is Gareth Cashin, I have been appointed as the Manager at the Greenmeadows Recreation and Community Centre. I am really looking forward to getting the centre open and the community engaged with using the facilities.

My co-workers have let me know that you have made an enquiry to hire facilities at the centre. I am just following this up to see if you are still interested in looking to hire space.

I have been told that the centre will open in late June, at this stage we are working with this date. But please be aware if there are delays we will have to work with this.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this
Letter sent to Paul Lunberg (who will keep us up to date)

**IN PRAISE OF ... U3A
(Andrew Brown, Journalist)**

The U3A or University of the Third Age, which now provides courses to as many as 350,000 pensioners, doesn't look anything like the model of a modern university. It costs almost nothing to attend and does nothing for your prospects of future employment. There may be other universities that do as little to enhance the economic value of their students, but they don't boast about it, whereas U3A is designed for people who – unlike humanities graduates – have no need to earn money later in their lives. It neither gives nor recognises any qualifications. Some of the teachers may be weighed down with doctorates but there's no demand for any qualifications. Its students come there for the delight of learning alongside other people driven by the same need. There is no campus; each local group is independent, and the administrators are not paid. If there is research it is not evaluated. No one has to pretend that it adds anything at all to Britain's economic competitiveness. It has no place in league tables and the fees come to less than the participants might spend on coffee. The price of attendance is time and commitment. No wonder it is growing: the U3A is, in some senses, the only real university left in Britain.

Reprinted from "THE GUARDIAN" and sent in by Anna Chalmers (U3A member)

JUST FOR FUN

SIGN IN A SHOE REPAIR STORE IN VANCOUVER THAT READ:

"We will heel you
We will save your sole
We will even dye for you."

AT AN OPTOMETRIST'S OFFICE:

"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

ON A PLUMBER'S TRUCK:

"We repair what your husband fixed."

On another Plumber's truck:

"Don't sleep with a drip.
Call your plumber."

AT A CAR DEALERSHIP:

"The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

OUTSIDE A MUFFLER SHOP:

"No appointment necessary.
We hear you coming."

IN A VETERINARIAN'S WAITING ROOM:

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit... Stay.."

AT THE ELECTRIC COMPANY:

"We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time.
However, if you don't, YOU will be delighted."

IN THE FRONT YARD OF A FUNERAL HOME:

"Drive carefully.
We'll wait."

IN A CHICAGO RADIATOR SHOP:

"Best place in town to take a leak."

SIGN ON THE BACK OF A SEPTIC TANK TRUCK:

"Caution - This truck is full of Political Promises."

FROM THE GROUPS



The **Discovering Nelson Walking Group** (convened by Jan Thomas) took a trip up to the old reservoir, from Easby Park, in Richmond. While on their walk they saw eels in the river and further on, a helicopter spraying weeds. It was obviously a beautiful day, and they were well rewarded with refreshments afterwards, at Zinc.



Photos, Max Robertson



U3A Book Group in the summer

The **U3A Book Group**, is part of the BDG (Book Discussion Group) based in Christchurch. We meet monthly, with convenor Francis Taylor, at various members houses. We have a catalogue of titles to choose from, but sometimes it is a surprise to learn none of us has chosen the one we are sent. There are a wide variety of titles and it is a great pleasure to receive a new one each month. Also a challenge to find one which we have all enjoyed. Often there is some dissension, but it certainly makes for varied reading and lively discussion.

Heather Clendon, member.

FINAL WORD

A big thank you to those who have contributed to the newsletter this month. Please keep sending them in to me, or any other committee member. Our committee has remained much the same (see web site) which will makes for a strong and vibrant association. Hopefully, one of you will respond to the call for another committee member. You would be very welcome and I'm sure you would enjoy working with a friendly bunch.

Heather Clendon, Editor

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