



NELSON

Learning for Life

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P.O. Box 1690, Nelson, 7040

www.u3anelson.org.nz

Our next Members' Meet will be on 22nd April 2015 at 10-12 noon at the Nelson Golf Club in 38 Bolt Road, Stoke. The Speaker will be Julie Catchpole from The Suter Art Gallery.

The **AGM** will precede the Members' Meet, starting at 10am.

NOTES FROM THE GENERAL MEETING

Apologies: Anne White, Diane Thomsen, Kay Hunter, Wendy Cornish, Tony Grimson, Lyn Eden, Heather Clendon, Grace Sutherland, Tony Charlton, Gloria & Fred Wyatt, Judith Hunter, Liz Chinnery & Chris Bowyer.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Anne Child, David Wright, Hilary Langer, Sally Mason, Don Kelly, Ronette Pickering, Jock MacKenzie, Rona Abbott, Brian Keppel, Helen McKenzie, Maggi John, Warren Harris, Katherine Orłowski, Dorian Moor, Tony Grimson & Wendy Cornish

FLIERS, FLORA AND FUNGI

- REBECCA BOWATER

Recovering from a serious illness Rebecca decided she wasn't fit enough to head to high places for her beloved alpinists. Instead she decided to observe, learn about and photograph local coastal birds. We are very lucky in the Nelson area to have extraordinary migratory birds which at this time of year head to Alaska to breed. Rebecca haunted the Boulder Bank and with the patience a top photographer has to have she recorded Godwits, Knots and Turnstones all of which migrate to Alaska

to breed having fattened up for the long flight ahead of them. Her photos of the Godwits were superb, showing the larger female and the reddish-brown plumage the male has at this time of year ready for his courtship in Siberia. Another place to visit is the Motueka Spit where there are up to 3,000 Godwits let alone the much smaller Knots and Turnstones. Also by the sewage ponds are Pied Stilts nesting. Absolutely amazing was a chick just hatching. Another lovely photograph was of a Banded Dotterel which tends to nest in riverbeds. Much rarer is the NZ Dotterel which Rebecca had to go north to record. Another thrill were the Gannets on Farewell Spit.

Rebecca's interest in native plants, particularly alpinists, was fostered from an early age by her father who was a former director of Parks and Reserves. We enjoyed Spaniards which have magnificent flower heads but vicious spiky leaves. Another treat were scree plants not seen by many. Penwipers with their strong scent to attract pollinating insects and a buttercup with leaves that are hardly noticeable but the large glowing yellow flower is a lovely sight. The so-called Mt Cook Lily, (really a buttercup and the largest in the world) is well worth a trip to Arthur's Pass in

November/December. Celmisias, the daisy family can be long stemmed or ground hugging. Gentians are mostly white but there is an interesting one in the Cobb Valley with pink stripes. And I have to mention Dracophyllum seen on the way to the Mt Arthur Hut which look as if they might have escaped from a Dr Suess book. The third part of the talk concentrated on fungi. With a macro lens we saw sights we didn't know existed. It is impossible to do justice in words to these photographs. Suffice to say that it is well worth looking at often tiny fungi with a magnifying glass, but we were given a special glimpse into this world.

Thank you Rebecca for sharing your magnificent photos with us. To learn more about birds, visit the Te Papa website, nzbirdsonline.org.nz This has photos, descriptions and calls. It is excellent.

Sally Warren

STUDY GROUPS WITH VACANCIES

[Astronomy](#)

[Australia](#)

[Children's Literature](#)

[Classical Music Appreciation](#)

[Discovering Our Local Birdlife – deferred until August](#)

[Electrical Knitting](#)

[Exploring Nelson Walking Group 2](#)

[Exploring Te Reo and Tikanga Maori](#)

[Hands in the Garden](#)

[Preserving Family History](#)

[Scrabble](#)

[Shakespeare in Italy](#)

[Strong Women](#)

[TED Talks 2](#)

[Theatre and Film Group](#)

[Walking Through History with Tony Robinson](#)

[Write Your Life 2](#)

[Write Your Life 5](#)

Email: study@u3anelson.org.nz to express your interest in joining any of these groups

INTRODUCTION TO NEW GROUPS

ECONOMICS (Paul Bieleski) Meeting time to be arranged. Paul gave a general introduction saying that although he had a personal approach in dealing with different theories and ideas and their related “propaganda”, the content would be decided by the group members.

ELECTRICAL KNITTING (Roger Haynes) 2nd and 4th Tuesdays mornings

Roger said that during his lifetime the input of speech and music into our houses had been originally through the “wireless,” gramophone records, and more recently television. He said we now depend on “components” forming an integrated “system.” For example he had 9 different “boxes” with 30 connections. The purpose of the group is to understand how the technology works and to assist members having problems.

COSMOS: A Spacetime Odyssey (Carl Horn) 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons

Carl said the original had been a US Television series. This had been updated and revised and would form the basic content of the group's studies covering from the beginnings of the Universe and into the future.

AUSTRALIA (Jill Dickinson) Meeting time to be arranged

Jill said that our nearest neighbour with a population of about 23.6 million was largely unknown to us. Its cities ranged from huge metropolises like Sydney and Melbourne to a tiny “city” she visited with a population of two who have now moved on! She illustrated the great variety of landscapes and vegetation with many photographs she had taken.

She said the group would look at its history, botany, transport, education systems and

tourism as well as natural resources, politics and geology.

To illustrate the problem of “knowing” Australia, she put up an outline map and asked some members to stick named slips of paper in the correct locations of cities and topographical features.

STRONG WOMEN (Barbara Mason)

Meeting time to be arranged

We hear a lot about the men in the world who have made or are making a difference to the lives of people but we hear virtually nothing about the strong women who battle to change things for the better.

This group will be looking at Strong Women who have made a difference both in the past and now. One such woman, Emily Murphy, was a Canadian equal rights activist concerned about widespread poverty and the welfare of women and children. In 1916 she protested to the Provincial Attorney General, when she was not allowed to be present at the trial of some women accused of prostitution, arguing that if women couldn't be tried with both men and women present, they should be tried by a female judge.

She was allowed to become a female magistrate, the first in the British Empire, however during her first case the defendant's lawyer protested that the guilty verdict was invalid because Murphy was a woman and therefore under the British North America Act 1867 she was not a legal person.

Murphy then began a long campaign to have women classified as persons and the archaic 1867 law overturned. In March 1928 the Canadian Supreme Court ruled that women did not constitute a person so Murphy appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in Britain and on 18 October 1929, they ruled that women were considered a person under the BNA Act.

"The world loves a peaceful man, but it gives way to a strenuous kicker" - Emily Murphy.

We plan to investigate the strenuous kickers both past and present.

SHARING RESOURCES

Brian Say spoke of the resources some members have that are suitable for new Study Groups. These may have been used before but many of us won't have seen them. Please ask Brian, in particular, and he is very willing to show you the resources he has to share. If anyone else has DVDs, CDs etc to share, let him or Kay know.

DISCOVERING OUR LOCAL BIRDLIFE

(Grace Sutherland) Starting in August.

A half day, fortnightly ramble exploring different outdoor localities to discover what birds are present on that particular occasion. Designed for amateurs who want to develop their ability to recognize birds by their call, flight, habitat and seasonal behaviour, but we're happy to include any more proficient "birders" who can share their skills and knowledge, if you would like to join us. Start times will vary according to season, tides and distance to travel. As you know birds tend to be more active first thing in the morning so there might be the occasional early start.

An indoor meeting with DVD (birds, of course) if the weather is inclement.

Last year's participants are welcome to continue, seeking out bird encounters that are always new, interesting, even exciting, but sometimes elusive.

If interested in joining this group please make contact with: Grace Sutherland or Brian Brasell Ph. 547-753

Starting in August.

Website Development

A Great Big Thank you to the U3A Nelson Website Development group who designed the website. With a particular thank you to Lindsay Hunter for producing it. It is a "work in progress" so watch the space for further improvements. The study group list will now be updated regularly.

www.u3anelson.org.nz



Our Membership age is 50+ as you know, so here are some of the Perks!

[An excerpt from the presentation of Dr Suzanne Busch who spoke to us in February 2014]

U3A Nelson welcomes U3A members from other groups around the world [for a 3 month period before a subscription is sought].

No one expects you to run into a burning building
In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.

You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.

People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.

You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.

Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.

You sing along with elevator music.

You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.

Your eyes won't get much worse.

Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.

You have a party and the neighbours don't even realise it.

Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.

STOKE COMMUNITY AND SPORTS FACILITY

On Wednesday 11/3/2015 the Committee met with some members of NCC and discussed formally our requirements for a proposed Community Building in Stoke. We were well received and put forward our case strongly. We await developments.

U3A Asia Pacific International Conference Brisbane 28-29 May 2015

Read all about it here > >

<http://www.u3aqlconference.org/>

Information about the AGM in April will be sent to members early in April. It will include the changes to the Constitution to be ratified by members. We really need new Committee Members, please let us know if you are interested.

MINUTES of U3A Nelson Committee Meeting held at 4pm on Monday 23rd February 2015 are available on the U3A Nelson website