



NELSON

“Learning for Life”

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P.O. Box 1690, Nelson, 7040

www.u3anelson.org.nz

U3A NELSON IS 21



A founding member, Faith Williamson and our newest member, Stevie Bryson cut the cake!

Thanks to everyone who participated and helped to make the celebration such a success.

As we heard from John Drummond our visiting speaker, the songs that were produced by Charles Thatcher, folk musician, describe incidents of considerable interest to the people of New Zealand and illustrate a fascinating era in the history of our country. Here's one example, a song that Thatcher sang to the tune of 'Life on the Ocean Wave,' during his visit to Nelson in 1862.

A Night in the Nelson Gaol

A life in the Nelson gaol
Where us kiddies they kindly keep
Where the grub's on a liberal scale
And we've only to eat and sleep.
Who for liberty would pine
Or rush to the Buller shore?
My word the tucker's so fine
I'll never go digging no more.

Chorus — A life in the Nelson gaol, etc.

The hard labour's nothing but fun
We do the Government stroke
Old Ladd stands by with his gun
All the while the old fellow we joke.
One chap takes the shovel in hand
Fills the barrow with stones and clay
While the rest of us laughingly stand
Watching him wheel it away.

(Nelson Examiner, Sept, 1864).

Sincere congratulations to Merle Baird, Judy Campbell, Barry Davis, Val Gardiner, Jean Morris and Brian Say for attaining Life Membership of U3A Nelson. Liz Chinnery outlined the exceptional contributions made by each of these members. Unfortunately Val was ill and unable to attend. However she'll be presented her certificate at our AGM scheduled for 27 February 2013.

Here's Merle, the first recipient



Homer's Story, by Judy Hiener

Presented at U3A Nelson's 21st Birthday Party
28 Nov 2012

Orator – Peter Bell

Homer – Paul Lumberg

Penelope – Jill Dickinson

Ulysses – Carl Horn

Achilles – Tony Charlton

U3A Knitters – Geraldine Barrett, Renee

Wilson, Nancy Milne, Gillian Kendrick

Invisible person – Liz Chinnery-Jack

My name is Homer

Welcome all. To you I will relate
A tale of love and loyalty
Of jealousy and hate.

This is a little story

About Pen- el -o-pe
Who lived in Nelson City
In nineteen ninety-three.

She had an ardent lover

Whose name was Ulysses
But he was poor and mousey
So forced to sail the seas.

He said, "Good-bye" to Penny

With many a longing look
Then sailed away to Richmond
But not his dog he took.

So Penny and his doggie

Together did remain
She joined a Group in Nelson
U3A was its name.

But hush, here comes the villain

Achilles was his name
He had a swollen ankle
Who limped, as he was lame.

For years his lust for Penny

Had set his loins aflame
And in his dreams he muttered
Penelope, her name.

And as he looked upon her

So lonely and so sweet
Removed his bright pink toga
To become an ath-er-lete!

He vowed that he would have her

Regardless what she thought
So from the supermarket
Some flowers he had bought.

But Penny, now Convener

Of Knitting U3A
Had many smiling members
But no room for our dear Kay.

They formed a band around her

Confirming all she said
Were known as The Greek Chorus
Which some of them had read!

And as Achilles sweated

Penelope then said
"I'll knit and keep on knitting
When finished we will wed."

And every night she cheated

Undid what she had done
So never ever finished
The rows she had begun.

Meanwhile our valiant sailor

Who sailed the Tasman seas
Had landed on an island
Where rabbits danced and teased.

Then right inside a burrow

He saw the glint of gold
So gathered all the shiny bits
Far more than he could hold.

But, hiding in the bushes

Achilles - he is nigh
Pretending to be Cyclops
A giant with one eye.

Our Ulysses, he was crafty

He knew a thing or three
"Achilles may be handsome
But not half as smart as me!"

Then Ulysses began his plot

And found a sheep to skin
He wrapped himself within it
And then began the din

So baa baa baa he bleated

Then Cyclops felt the wool
And let our hero get away
Achilles felt a fool!

So Ulysses escaped from there

But knew that he must cross
The passage where great danger lay
And where many ships were lost.

The island known as Haul a shore

Lay just ahead of him
And on that treacherous island
Were Sirens known to sin.

He knew they would entice him

With songs so sweet and fair
He'd have to pass quite silently
Whilst taking greatest care.

Onto a mast he tied himself

So he could not get free
And as he sailed past them
He heard their melody.

He struggled and he struggled

Till both his arms were red
And blood came spurting everywhere
On legs and feet and head.

But Ulysses he was noble

As he wiped away his tears
He wondered if Penelope
Had waited all these years.

WE know that she was faithful

And had fooled that wicked man
Who'd tried to take her over
By trying all he can.

But Time had passed in Nelson

T'was twenty years and one
And Penny's little knitting group
Had so enjoyed the fun.

They'd been her loyal friends for years

Although now old and weak
And Penny very sadly said
To you girls I must speak.

I know that my dear Ulysses

That man so dear to me
Will now be dead so now
Must I Achilles take instead.

Achilles! he was thrilled to bits

He laughed and smiled with song
He'd got his girl Penelope
He'd waited for so long.

"We'll go to Canterbury my dear"

He grabbed her by the arm
"Your Ulysses my dearest one
He sure has come to harm."

But just then, goodness me! What now?

Our hero has turned up
So worn and tired and elderly
His dog left as a pup.

Now leapt to greet his master dear

Who'd gone so long ago
At last returned to Nelson town
To order his old foe.

"Achilles wicked villain

Be off. You must desist
From tempting my love Penny
On this I must insist."

Achilles hung his head in shame

And limped out through the door
He whispered to himself and us,
"I swear it, nevermore."

Our hero's bride, Penelope,

She kissed him on his cheek
Her knitting U3 members
Were far too thrilled to speak!

At Nelson's huge cathedral

The bells began to ring
Announcing a great wedding
List to our chorus sing.

As up the steps they stagger

The bride and bridegroom fair
To plight their troth forever
Forever and a year.

And now all you good members

I ask you to celebrate
To give our happy couple
A smile and then a clap!!!!



The jubilant couple -Ulysses (Tony Charlton) got his gal Penelope (Jill Dickinson)
In case you didn't know, Liz Chinnery is the invisible person.



A nervous Homer (Paul Lunberg) and a bemused Achilles (Carl Horn).
Is it before or after the production?

Our celebrations were a suitably sometimes serious and sometimes frivolous end to another good year for U3A Nelson.

Just one small group related matter to end the year. Please let your convenor know whether you will be continuing in the group so that the convenor can let Sue know of any vacancies. There are a few new groups in the pipeline. More details next year.

I hope you all have a relaxing festive season, spent in ways that you like to spend this time of the year.

Please calendar 10 am Wednesday 27th February for our next general meeting (AGM) and I look forward to seeing you at the Tahuna Conference Centre. The topic will be advertised in the New Year.

On behalf of the Committee, I extend our gratitude to all members who have contributed to U3A Nelson during 2013.

My very best wishes

Kay Hunter