

Learning for Life

Volume 12, Issue 2, April, 2019

P.O. Box 1690, Nelson, 7040

www.u3anelson.org.nz

Our next Members' Meeting and AGM will be on Wednesday, May 1st at 10 am till 12 noon at the Nelson Golf Club, 38 Bolt Road, Nelson.

For our speaker, we are in for a treat at the AGM. Keith Hawke will show and talk of his film about Appo Hocton, the first Chinese immigrant to New Zealand. Keith has almost a lifetime in the filming business and is also the author of 'Plough Chains & Bees Arses,' (for the literati amongst us).

Cameraman turned producer Keith Hawke was born in the Otago town of Milton, and grew up in St Andrews then Christchurch. As a young man he was handed a 16mm Bolex camera and told that if he could come up with a news story that was acceptable to CHTV3, Orly would train him up as a cameraman. Hawke chased fire trucks until he found a suitable fire, then got out his camera and followed the formula he had noted from watching TV news bulletins. The footage was broadcast; the job was his.

Since then he has spent time as a war correspondent and cameraman in Vietnam, then four years in Melbourne working on documentaries and commercials. He returned to New Zealand in 1971, and began freelance work as a cameraman for Pacific Films. Then in 1974 Hawke was chosen to be chief cameraman on what would turn out to be one of the landmark television productions of that decade - documentary series Tangata Whenua, the first New Zealand television series to examine Māori life and customs.



We have a copy of his movie "Appo" about the Chinese man who became a major character in early Nelson.

This you will all enjoy

Paul Lunberg

Picture of Keith Hawke thanks to Nelson Weekly

SUBSCRIPTIONS—Final Reminder

U3A yearly subs were due on 31 March 2019, for the coming year to 31 March 2020, and currently there are still 105 subs outstanding.

It would be appreciated if these subs, could be paid to:

U3A Nelson Westpac Bank account no 03 0703 0385648 00 – making sure that your name is in the reference

or by cheque to U3A Membership Co-ordinator, P O Box 1690, Nelson

If for any reason you do not intend to remain a member of U3A for the coming year, could you also email Wendy Cornish, Membership Secretary, at tonyandwendy@xtra.co.nz, and advise that you wish to put your 2019-2020 membership on hold.

There has been some discussion about why U3A has 1 April – 31 March subscription year. This was decided some years ago, that this would be our financial year.

Wendy Cornish

FROM THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

Dr Mike Johnston's talk was about the Permian rocks around Nelson, which includes the Nelson Mineral Belt. These rocks are found beneath Nelson, Stoke, Richmond and much of the Richmond Ranges. This topic was appropriate as our Nelson Museum has been running an exhibition called "Life before Dinosaurs - Permian Monsters".

Mike described our Permian rocks, and more importantly perhaps, what clues they held about the environments in which these rocks were laid down.

The Lower Permian rocks came from deep within the mantle and often mixed with rocks from the subducting plate. The Middle Permian rocks (the Maitai Group) have marine fossils and volcanic dust suggesting they were formed downwind of volcanic islands. The Upper Permian rocks contain basalt rocks, calcareous siltstones and sandstones and marine fossils, suggesting spreading ocean floor sediments carried along by plate movement. These latter rocks are tilted almost upright and can be seen at low tide along Rocks Road in Nelson.

It was an enjoyable and illuminating talk with quality diagrams mixed with some general local geology and social history.

Alan Mathews

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

So we have arrived at the end of our financial year. Soon we have the election of a Committee for 2019/2020, and the annual financial report. It makes you think and perhaps some of us may change from the group we have been in for ages and join something else. For me a dive into Opera has been a real learning curve and I have so enjoyed it – and of course the company you meet in your group are also sources of knowledge. Good old U3A methinks.

I am offering to stand again as President, but it will be for the last time, we will need to find someone else for next year. Meanwhile the Committee are all remaining, except for Rona, who has big personal development plans for next year. She has done so much for us in the area of Communications. Our U3A is in a strong and healthy position, however we do need to have fresh blood moving through the Committee-veins. Do consider being a part of this dynamic organisation.

Eric Scowcroft, a member of the ABC music group died suddenly on Saturday 23 March, following a heart attack. We miss such folk but, all of us being elderly, I wonder how we should remember them? Can anyone suggest what we should do – perhaps just mention them in the newsletter so that their friends are informed?

Recently we were made aware of the need for U3A Nelson to be covered by Indemnity Insurance. The Golf Club requires regular users to have this cover just in case one of our members accidentally causes major damage. After shopping around we now are covered by VERO. Their agent, Phil Thompson of Rothbury [the Brokers], has been helpful. The insurance further covers us in other circumstances such as if we were in a group at a café for example.

Incidentally while we were uncertain if we would be staying with the Golf club I investigated a number of other possible venues for our Meetings – but none of them come near the Golf Club which offers good parking, a bright and pleasant hall, AV facilities and refreshments at a most reasonable price.

In the background our friend John B who has developed our Admin Program has made further changes so that we can select people to join a group from the waiting list. I should let you all know that John does this all out of the goodness of his heart, the task we set him has been modified at our request a few times and he generously keeps it in trim. It is not this program which causes some people not to receive pdf's [particularly Newsletters like this] but something ill in the state of the cyber-Rome!

On this topic, please, everyone, use our website <http://www.u3anelson.org.nz/>. If you want to get a copy of the latest Newsletter they are on this site. You want to know how much the sub is or bank account number – look on the site. Available groups, committee members and their roles – it is all on the site. For some it seems easier just to write to someone on the Committee and ask, but it is an unfair request.

The Positive Ageing Expo - Friday 22 March, at the Headingly Centre went well and our thanks go out particularly to Rona and Wendy for their excellent organisation.

I popped in to see how things are going at **Greenmeadows** – met the Irish Foreman. Then I contacted the manager, Gareth Cashin. He told me “The NCC have not given me a clear date to open the building. For this reason I have not been speaking to people and groups that are keen to hire the facility as we don’t want to disappoint them if the centre is not ready at the required date. As your group has been involved with the centre from the outset you will be among the groups that we speak to first about hiring the facility. I realise this is frustrating for you as you have been involved with the centre for a long time.”

Which was kind but not much use – I have a horrible fear that the centre may turn out to be too expensive for us - - but we will see.

So all is well – our club continues to grow and produce fascinating groups with super people.

See you at the AGM?

Paul Lunberg

CATERING – At the last general meeting several members arrived late. Consequently the caterer didn’t provide enough food for the increased number. This was discussed at our committee meeting, hence this request that you please arrive on time, or if you expect to be late let someone know so you can be included for catering purposes.

The photo is of the new caterer, Monique.



STUDY GROUP NEWS

Thank you again convenors for the sterling job you are doing in providing leadership for U3A members. A request: please remind your group that subscriptions are due for the 2019/2020 year. It would be a pity if, through not remembering to pay, group members lost their places in groups and those on the waiting list took them.

David Turner, Study Group Coordinator U3A

GROUP REPORTS

HISTORY of JAZZ

The U3A History of Jazz Study Group celebrated its end of year programme with a musical, and visual, tour of New Orleans and environs, starting at Lake Pontchartrain just north of the city, and ending at Louis Armstrong Park, following a route made up of streets and areas immortalised in well-known, and not so well-known, jazz tunes - Milenburg Joys, Burgundy Street Blues, St. Phillip St. Breakdown, Bourbon Street, Canal Street Blues, Perdido Street Blues, Basin Street, and many more. This was a fitting end to a year in which we discovered and discussed Punch Miller, the Coon-Sanders Nighthawks Radio Orchestra, Graeme Bell, Frank Trumbauer and Frank Teschmaker, Doc Cooke, early jazz in Nelson, Barney Bigard, Jelly Roll Morton’s Red Hot Peppers, and contemporary jazz bands from around the world playing real, traditional jazz, and many other topics. A most enjoyable year with a lovely group of people. Our meetings are continuing on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. Peter and Ron’s radio programme **Seminal Jazz** can be heard on Fresh FM on Sunday at noon, repeated at 5:00 p.m. the following Sunday, or you can Google **Seminal Jazz** anytime and choose the episode you wish to hear.

Ron O’Reilly



HAPPY NEW YEAR from the U3A History of Jazz Study Group - standing l to r, Ron O'Reilly, David Atkinson, Rona Abbott, Diane Goodman, Margaret Jeffries, Fred Wyatt; seated Peter Sutton, Delia Hill, Ann Sulman.

HANDS in the GARDEN - February

After lunch at Alchemy Cafe, an almost 100% attendance of members for our first 2019 meeting, drove to Occasional Monarchy in Hope (on the main highway), to be greeted by Jill and Ian Knight who raise monarch butterflies in 4 blue tunnel houses. Orders come in from all over New Zealand and the cooled down, sleeping butterflies are couriered to weddings and funerals for release at the appropriate time.

Due to paper wasps, the monarch butterflies are in serious decline, so it was all eyes alert whilst in the tunnel houses to make sure no wasps had followed us in. The swan plants were a little worse for wear due to the drought, and having been eaten down to sticks by hungry caterpillars, but most were in chrysalis stage, ready to hatch.

Jill and Ian are well known in Tasman district for their work with the Salvation Army, but their butterfly business brings joy to many, and the releasing of butterflies is 100% eco friendly.



Jill in her Monarch butterfly outfit



Jana Bott, Convenor
(words by Wendy Cornish)



*A male and a female happily
joined together on the blue shirt
of one of our garden members*

HANDS in the GARDEN - March

A keen group of 12 met at Faulkner Bush, Wakefield where Richard Hilton, Horticultural Officer for Tasman District Council gave us a talk and a walk through this lovely reserve of native bush, explaining the plantings and history of Faulkner Bush. This is a wonderful reserve that so many of us have driven past on our way to or from parts further afield, never stopping to experience the lovely bush walk.

Richard is so knowledgeable about anything to do with horticulture, had we not had lunch booked at Villa Wakefield, we could still be there talking to him and asking copious questions. His responsibility for things horticultural, cover a very wide area in our district from Richmond, Waimea Plains, the Lakes and Murchison.

And today at our March meeting, we welcomed two new members, Margaret Mills and Sandi Spink. It was also good to have Bridget's husband Jim visiting with us today too, increasing our numbers of men in the group!!

Jana Bott (Convenor)

words by Wendy Cornish



POSITIVE AGING EXPO REPORT

Friday 22 March at Headingley Centre was a buzz of people, colourful stands, happy chatter and lots of interaction. In amongst it all was our U3A stand, with 10 volunteers made up of U3A committee and U3A volunteers who enjoyed interacting with members of the public who visited our stand to find out all about what we do, the study groups and how to join. There are lots of positive leads to follow up for new members and one even paid her sub and joined there and then. Thank you to all those who helped on the day.

Wendy Cornish



AgeConnect Nelson Tasman Launches Website

Community representatives welcomed the official AgeConnect Nelson Tasman website launch hosted by Age Concern Nelson Tasman on March 22. The page, www.ageconnect.org.nz, comes two years after AgeConcern Nelson Tasman, then led by former manager, Sue Tilby, initiated workshops to discuss issues of loneliness and isolation amongst seniors.

Many U3A members attended that 2017 public gathering with some being part of a newly formed team for this incipient AgeConnect project. I myself was pleased to be one of the original AgeConnect coalition members and committee leaders in those early days.

Community funding, a new Coordinator role and much hard work by ACNT staff and volunteers have brought the original goal into fruition with special events, Tea and Talk mornings, IT tutoring, Senior Champion recognition and links with other senior-focussed outreach programmes.

The website provides a comprehensive listing of events and activities, news about volunteers and Champions as well as an opportunity for all of us to list our own organisation meetings and join the project. It is easy to use and can only continue to meet the ACNT mission “to help build friendships and connections for seniors in our community.” Well done, Coordinator Breffni O’Rourke, Manager Caroline Budge et al !

— Rona Abbott, Vice-President



ACNT Manager Caroline Budge discusses the new website.

U3A DVD and VHS Resource List

BBC	The Ascent of Man	Complete BBC Series	
BBC	Ancient Voices	Time Life	Four DVD Collectors Edition
	Ancient Civilisations	27 Volume Box Set	
	A to Z Of the Ancient World	Folder	
History Channel	Royal Navy 4 Volume Set + Memorabilia Collection		
Assorted	Military Documentary VHS and DVD programmes ex Lindsay Hunter.		

Contact Ian MacDougall if you are interested in borrowing any of the above: machunter@xtra.co.nz

Time for some light-hearted gems:

- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
 - Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
 - I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
 - I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
 - This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
 - When chemists die, they barium.
 - I'm reading a book about antigravity. I just can't put it down.
 - I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
 - Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.
 - I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
 - Did you hear about the cross eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
 - When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
 - Broken pencils are pointless.
 - What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
 - I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
 - I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
 - Velcro: what a rip off!
 - Don't worry about old age; it doesn't last.
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FINAL WORD

Thanks to those members who submitted articles about their groups. It is great to read what is happening elsewhere, and makes our newsletter more enjoyable. Please think about submitting a short piece, telling all of U3A of the interesting activities and discussions that are going on. Photographs would also be great and would make the newsletter more interesting and colourful.

Trevor Lewis, Editor