

Learning for Life

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P.O. Box 1690, Nelson, 7040

www.u3anelson.org.nz

Our next Members' Meeting will be on Wednesday 27th February at 10 am till 12 noon at the Nelson Golf Club in 38 Bolt Road, Nelson.

The speaker is Dr Mike Johnston, well known local geologist. Mike has worked as a geologist for well over 50 years and in the last New Years Honours list he became an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services in geological science and history. His subject is:

Some aspects of the “Nelson Mineral Belt”

(or the Dun Mountain Ophiolite)

Dr Mike Johnston

An ophiolite is a sequence of rocks that are rarely exposed on the earth's surface, being a slice of ocean sea floor and the underlying mantle incorporated into continental rocks, in the case of Dun Mountain, Gondwana. The rocks are heavy, being rich in iron and magnesium along with relatively minor amounts of nickel, chromium and copper. An olivine-rich rock on Dun Mountain was named dunite and an unusual calcium garnet rodingite takes its name from a river draining the mountain. Associated with the ophiolite is a tectonic mixture (melange) of various rocks, including blocks of altered siltstone (pakohe) that were exploited by Maori for making into implements. Mike's talk discusses aspects of the Dun Mountain Ophiolite and its importance in understanding the geological framework of New Zealand and its influence on the history of Nelson.

Our final event for 2018 was the Christmas Lunch. Thank you Heather for this report. Photos by Trevor Lewis.

THE U3A CHRISTMAS LUNCH

For those of you who didn't attend the luncheon on November 28th, you missed a good event. Members were slow to respond to confirm their attendance, and we wondered whether we would have enough people to go ahead, but when we had 30 we were sure we could.

At the last minute, we had a flurry of attendees and we ended up with the 50 we had hoped for. We did have a little confusion regarding the starting time, so my apologies for that. A big group of Postal Service people were occupying the Bar/Mingling area, but when they moved through to have their meal, there was plenty of room for us. We had a good time chatting and generally socialising and a lot of fun, with our raffle/spot prize event. On arrival, each person was given a ticket with a number, which, when called, entitled them to come up and choose a novelty item. The home baking was most popular, but gardening gloves and Christmas baubles were not far behind.

Our buffet meal followed and was excellent, with a plentiful selection of vegetable and meat dishes. Dessert was delicious, not that we really needed it, and was a choice of cold festive food and Christmas Pudding. We were all done by 3pm, and out into the sunshine of a beautiful, sunny Nelson day.

Heather Clendon, Committee Member

Photos from the Christmas Lunch:

Heather looks happy. Is it in anticipation of the food, or the fact she has managed to hand over the job of Newsletter Editor?



David Turner draws another raffle number.



Tucking in to dessert. By now we were all feeling replete!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, FEBRUARY 2019

May this be a terrific year, not just for you, but for U3A and all the groups. By now all of us will probably have rekindled our interests in our groups. For myself, Aspects of History is already exciting with the Story of Ireland well underway, and the first TED talks had us all discussing Secret US prisons (yes! It was an expose of Guantanamo-like prisons hidden within State prisons in the US). We will be starting Opera and Civilisation shortly too – both of which I really enjoy.

Please check our website www.u3anelson.org.nz where you will see that there are vacancies in some of the popular groups as people move on and follow other interests – get in touch with David (the Study Group Coordinator) if you are interested in joining. If you are leaving a group please, inform the Convenor and David too, so that we can keep our records up to date.

Members Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of alternate months so our first for 2019 is on the 27th February. The AGM will be two months later, however instead of being in April, this year it is a week later on the 1st of May to allow extra time for auditing the accounts. (See more about the AGM on the next page).

Another Activity on the horizon is the Positive Aging Exposition. This is planned for 29 March at the Headingly Centre and we wish to have a table there – we would love some support from non-committee members to tell the public what we are about! Contact Rona or Gordon for more details.

If you want to contact anyone on the Committee do think first of looking at the website <http://www.u3anelson.org.nz/>. David is keeping this well up to date and it is easy to follow. One thing about the site – if you think it is lacking in any particular way do let us know so that we can keep it pertinent [like that word!].

I have just paid my subs! Do get it done now – it makes life easier for the Membership secretary Wendy as things get hectic for her as April looms. \$30 to Westpac Bank a/c : Name is U3A Nelson and the Account number is : 03 0703 0385648 00. And please, please make sure you put your name in the reference area – likewise if you pay through your bank, over the counter, INSIST that the teller puts your name in the reference area.

The Golf Club has a new caterer, Monique, so it will be interesting how we are refreshed – I hope she is as good as the last lady!

All Group Convenors are reminded that the Database system Mailer is exactly right for them. Any letter sent through this mailer goes to the current members of your group. You can read how to utilise this in <http://www.u3anelson.org.nz/index.php/administration> under Convenor Guidelines. It says : Go to <http://www.u3anelson.org.nz/mailer> You need to enter your email address, then the code which you should copy and paste it into the box. For security, to get the code, email either the President or the IT Coordinator, David Wright [d.j.wright3200@gmail.com].

Looking forward to seeing you all at our Open Meetings – keep in touch, enjoy your groups. Have a great year....!

Paul Lunberg

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To reiterate what Paul has just said, subscriptions are due by 31st March. You must be a current paid up member to attend groups. The annual subscription is \$30 per person. **If paying by Internet banking (the preferred method), pay to U3A Nelson, account number 03 0703 0385648 00 and be sure to include your initial and family name.** This last detail is important as there have been a number of instances where the treasurer has great difficulty working out who the payment is for. If you pay over the counter at the bank, make sure that the teller puts in your name details as reference.

ADVANCE NOTICE—AGM

The 2019 AGM will be held on Wednesday 1st May, a departure from our usual meeting day. We have an excellent speaker and will see a Nelson oriented professional movie he has made about a little known local hero. You will not want to miss this talk! There will also be another short address which will broach an important topic for our age group [I have to be careful saying that as it gets Rona calling 'Ageism' !]. AND, of course, the AGM will be looking for new blood for our already fantastic Committee. You would enjoy the Committee and the feeling of doing some useful work towards this learning community of ours, so do put your name forward, write/phone me or Bill or anyone on the Committee if you are interested.

Paul Lunberg, President

STUDY GROUP NEWS

Welcome back to a new year of interest and enjoyment with the study groups you have chosen to join.

This year will see new groups starting up - there are two in the pipeline and more about those will be shared at the public meeting later this month.

I would be very happy to hear from you if you are thinking about starting a new group or resurrecting an old one.

Convenors, the Committee values your work: thank you so much. Would you please check the people who are in your group and let me know if any folk have left?

If you wish I can send you a group list according to our data base - sometimes we have found that the list you have and what is on the data base varies.

David Turner, Study Group Coordinator

ARCHITECTURE GROUP

For our December Architecture Group meeting we undertook a field trip to Pohara. A fellow member of U3A has a beach house in Pohara, designed by his son, a civil engineer in Nelson, who has a particular interest in the use of wood for building structures.

Max, whose house it is, accompanied six of the Architecture Group, over the Takaka Hill, to the Pohara house, which is just one block from the beach. When we arrived, while we had morning tea, he explained the various types of types of wood composition used in the piles, framing, interior and exterior.

The builders were present, working on finishing an extension to the original house built three years before. The original house had been constructed in Nelson and transported over the hill in three parts, as almost finished structures, on a truck. That in itself was an interesting aspect of the build. As the extension was almost, but not quite lined, we were able to see some of the “bones” of it.



The Architecture Group on the deck of the house.



Section 3 of the house being lowered on to the piles.

Interesting wood products were used in the house construction. A product known as L.V.L. or Laminated Veneer Lumber, which is not unlike multilayer plywood in appearance, but is structurally extremely strong and able to be used as joists, studs and roofing beams, also for the flooring. Strand Board is another product used in the house for walls and floors, which is a composite wood panelling, and features in the walls and ceilings. These materials are ecologically sound (as lower quality timber is used in their construction) than the usual solid timber beams and Aqualine Gib board has been used in the bathrooms due to its ability to resist moisture.

An added advantage of these new materials, is their earthquake resistance. The house sits on foundations of timber poles, which have been rammed in to the ground, no concrete required, which makes for much more stability than a concrete pad. Max's son, Gavin has been involved in the planning and construction of a recent N.M.I.T. building and also the library and council buildings in Kaikoura, which withstood the earthquakes well.

The original house was constructed here in Nelson and transported in three parts, by large truck, to its position in Pohara. It has full insulation, a new spray of polyurethane foam, which is quick and easy to apply when used during the assembly of the structural walls. A new way of building in this modern age, which has been tried and tested, using old materials in a different way.

Heather Clendon

“Life is not a matter of holding good cards, but of playing a poor hand well.” - Robert Louis Stevenson

MILITARY HISTORY

Many of our groups are actively up and running. Military History, one such group, met on Waitangi Day. Three separate topics were discussed and viewed.

Firstly was Commander Rochefort. He was the leader of the code breakers that were pivotal to the massive US victory in the Battle of Midway. However he was never properly recognised for his incredible efforts.

Secondly we discussed the fate of Alan Turing of Enigma fame. He was abandoned by Churchill when his sexuality became an issue.

The third person was the New Zealander, Keith Park. After his crucial role in winning the Battle of Britain (RAF ace Johnnie Johnson said he was the only man who could have lost the War in an afternoon) he was fired alongside his boss, Dowding.

Carl also had researched and prepared footage of the work of Commander Rochefort and his team of code breakers whose work in WW2 led the US naval forces to victory in the Battle of Midway which turned the shape of the war in the Pacific. This YouTube documentary was paused at several places to allow discussion.

Finally we watched a compelling BBC programme: "WW2 Escapes" narrated by Monty Hall who actively retraced the steps of the thousands of people who escaped from occupied France over the Pyrenees to Spain and eventual freedom.

The group was delighted to have Jerry Bartell join us. Jerry and his wife Lynley are in Brightwater on holiday from the USA and have joined U3A. Jerry was able to make pertinent comment about present-day America and the videos we watched.

David Turner and Carl Perkin

TED TALKS

Ted2 Talks got underway on 17 January and it was straight into the fray! Brian Say is such a good host for the group and his large screen intelligent TV makes it pretty easy to find the talks we want. We kicked off with a totally strange subject: Miguel Nicolelis (Brazilian scientist and Physician) showed us how a monkey could control a robot just using its brain! You can imagine the conversation following this amazing description of how our brains can be directly used to control things – Wow!

The next topic was frightening. We will all have our own ideas about The Guantanamo Bay detention camp, but we were shown that a number of prisons in the States have secret prisons within them where political prisoners are kept – some real innocents who end up spending ages in limbo. It really makes you concerned about some aspects of American Civil Rights -heavy debate followed that I can assure you.

The last item was about the life threatening job of being a reporter these days. Anas Aremeyaw, a Ghanaian investigative journalist, spoke on: "How I named, shamed and jailed" This man is so scared of the results of speaking out that he had to give his talk in heavy disguise.

We have more fascinating Talks coming up and no doubt lots of heated debates!

Paul Lunberg

NELSON INSTITUTE TALKS

U3A does not usually advertise other groups but this one was discussed at a U3A Meeting last year and some showed a real interest, so here is the information about a group being organised by members of the Nelson Institute.

FILLOSOFE?

The Philosophy Discussion Group will meet at 9.45 on the second Monday of the month starting on March 11th for 6 sessions - more if interest demands. It is part of the Nelson Institute and they will need to pay a \$2 koha to cover the hire of the room and are encouraged to join the Institute.

Contact for the Group is : thenelsoninstitute@gmail.com

The first meeting will sort out how people want to discuss and the format. We will have some coffee & tea available!

Stephen Eager

Two more:

Might there be U3A members interested in either Paul Bielecki's talk on Feb 24th, OR our March speaker, Sunday 3rd March 2019, Dr Diana Burton of Victoria University Classics Dept?

Paul Bielecki, who is an active member of U3A, is talking to the Institute on the subject of The Periodic Table; you may not be aware but this year is the International Year of The Periodic Table.

Dr Burton has chosen as her topic Hades: the ruler, the farmer, the god of death. She will discuss some contradictory aspects of the god across a range of sources, and in doing so will look for the common core that binds the different aspects of Hades into one coherent god.

Barbara Rhodes

Timetable for Nelson Institute talks:

24 February 2019	Paul Bielecki - The Periodic Table.
3 March 2019	Diana Burton of Vic Classics Dept 'Hades: the ruler, the farmer, the god of death'.
17 March 2019	Shared : Rose Kerr, oriental ceramicist expert.
7 April 2019	Nigel Costley - 'Phrenology'.
5 May 2019	Rock & Mineral club address.

Meetings are always at the Elma Turner Library at 2pm on a Sunday finishing at about 3pm.

Thanks to Paul for finding these gems:

- Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!
- How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist
- They told me I had type A blood, but it was a Typo.

BOLDER - Making the most of our longer lives by Carl Honore (2018) - **BOOK REVIEW**

This is an entertainingly informative addition to the current examination of our ageing attitudes and expectations. The author felt motivated to fact-find when, approaching age 50, he realised that he was the oldest of his sports group. As he puts it, “(the) icy, crushing moment when you suddenly feel old” bringing a range of self-doubts.

Happily for us, Honore’s research also provides armchair travel via his quest for the anecdotes along with modern age statistics. For example, Japan ended its celebratory gift to new centenarians in 2015 because they’d become too numerous.

Sure, no one is denying health issues but Honore’s meeting with researchers found that older brains are quicker to discern patterns and details for finding solutions to problems and that vocabulary is one of several assets that only mature after our mid-century mark. Regarding work, productivity reliant on social skills improves with age and our brains only continue to create, learn and innovate. In recent years even the rule makers for Britain’s prestigious Turner Prize relinquished the under 50 age limit.

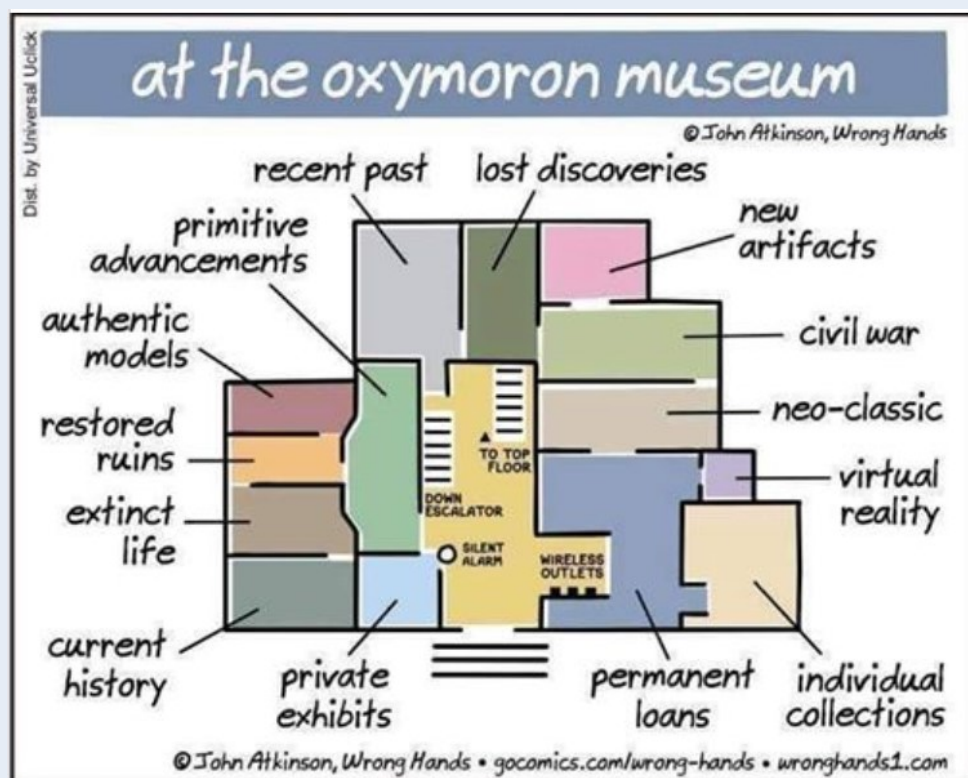
This is a time when community planning, technology, design and enlightenment can as the author puts it, “detoxify” age as well as provide honesty and acceptance about the challenges.

Honore says he felt much better after finishing the book. No doubt readers will, too.

———*Rona Abbott, Vice-President*

Summerset has asked us to bring to your attention their retirement village options, especially their new “Richmond Ranges” village now under construction in Hill Street North. Contact for information:

Tim Monck-Mason, Sales Manager, Summerset Richmond Ranges, Mobile 021 910 846,
Email Tim.Monck-Mason@summerset.co.nz



Many thanks to the Hands in the Garden group for this last minute report:

HANDS IN THE GARDEN

This group of keen gardeners meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month, and enjoy visiting a plethora of local gardens and reserves, discovered by members. We travel far and wide, recently visiting an amazing hill garden in Marahau. Every garden group visit is followed by a coffee/lunch. Sometimes we think we should be called the Gourmet Garden Group!!!

BUT, there is one time every year, that we do indeed have our 'Hands in the Garden', when in October, we help a multitude of other community groups, plant out the hanging baskets for the city. A very pleasurable task, but this time, it coincided with many of our members away visiting families in far flung places. So we were a small, but very energetic, committed group doing October 2018 plantings.

Jana Bott, Convenor (Words by Wendy Cornish).



Heather Clendon showed her dedication by turning up at the recent committee meeting when that day was also her 59th Wedding Anniversary! Congratulations Heather and roll on your 60th next year.

While on the subject of special events in your life, if any of you have something special you would like mentioned in the newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Editor.

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