

Learning for Life

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P.O. Box 1690, Nelson, 7040

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Our next Members' Meeting will be on Feb 26th from 10 am till 12 noon at the Nelson Golf Club, 38 Bolt Road, Nelson. The speaker is **Bruce Vander Lee, the project director for Project Janszoon.**

As a boy from Iowa in the United States, Bruce didn't see the ocean until he was 17 years old. Now, as director for Project Janszoon, he is working to restore the ecology of Abel Tasman National Park. An experienced conservation manager with a background in restoration and pest control, Bruce was DOC's improvement manager in the Northern South Island region before joining Project Janszoon in 2017.

After completing a Masters of Science, Range and Wildlife management at Texas Tech University and a Bachelor of Science, Wildlife and Fisheries Science at South Dakota State University he worked as a wildlife biologist, and then spent time working with the Nature Conservancy at Flagstaff Arizona.

Along with wife Rosemary, Bruce moved to New Zealand in 2008. He first worked as a research data analyst with the Ministry of Fisheries, before taking on the role of Biodiversity Programme Manager for DOC, first in the Wairarapa and then in Motueka. Bruce says it is a privilege to work in the Abel Tasman, and to know he can make a difference to such a beautiful place.

Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- Notice to Convenors; Message to all U3A members from David Turner
- President's report
- Note re finances
- Report and photos from convenors afternoon tea
- Upcoming committee elections
- List of teaching resources available to convenors
- Nelson/Tasman climate forum
- Civilization group and Jazz group reports

Notice to all Convenors.

New Year Greetings to you. I presume that many of you have begun your first meeting for the year or intend to very soon. If you know of changes in your group membership, people may have left your group etc, would you please let me know.

Also, **please send me your group details such as meeting days, times, venue, minimum and maximum numbers**, as all of this was lost when the data base crashed.

If you are wanting more members for your group please let me know - vacancies can be made public at our next meeting 26 February.

Many thanks

David Turner, Study Group Coordinator U3A

Message to all U3A members from David Turner.

As our website has crashed I cannot access the data base and send out messages, nor can I check groups re vacancies or place people in groups at present. Please be patient. We hope to get a temporary site online soon.

Thank you!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT January 2020



What a super break! Although the weather was not so grand with strong cold winds – I blame one gust for throwing me from my bike to the pavement. The abrasion injuries have almost gone but the left wrist is still very painful. But February beckons with warmth and lots of swims!

Quite a few things to report: The most annoying, from the Committee point of view, is that our computer program was attacked by some virus and the server [called “ThePacificNet”, based in Richmond] has had to ‘take us down’. Sounds like a rugby phrase – but we are unable to update records etc at the moment, which is causing your Committee grief. David and I are working on it.

Some of you may have heard that 3 people missed the Xmas Lunch – they turned up at the Tahuna Centre not having been told of the change of venue. We have apologised profusely and recompensed them – we had informed people via email but a few of our members do not use email and I forgot to inform them. Sorry again ladies.

While on the subject, due to poor attendance committee proposes that we don’t have a Christmas lunch this year. We welcome feedback on this.

We welcome 2 new members and hope we can soon refer them to a working computer list of what is available – spare a thought for David, the SG Coordinator, who is trying to cope with the situation.

Anne and her team are prepared to run a table at the Positive Ageing Expo in April at the Headingly Centre, in Richmond. If you would like to get involved with this do contact her.

One thing we discussed at the Committee Meeting was the shape of the 2020 Committee. You are well served by some really active, organised people who keep this organisation vibrant and worthwhile - - BUT - - we need some more to join us. We are losing 2 of our Committee while the remainder have offered themselves for re-election and so we must get some new people to help. It is not burdensome but there is a high expectation of reliability. If you can help, please put your name forward soon. (It says in our Constitution that *‘The Secretary will receive written nominations for the Committee (including Officers) Voting at all meetings is by voice, show of hands or by secret ballot, if requested.’*) Nominations must be with the Secretary 2 weeks prior to the AGM, although if insufficient have been received by meeting time, then we will seek further nominations from the floor. (See committee list on page 4 of this newsletter showing vacant positions).

Our next Open Meeting is on 26th February at the Golf Club at 10am. This prompts me to tell you that Gordon has organised some absolutely top flight speakers for all the meetings this year. [For your diaries they are: 6th May [AGM], 24th June, 26th August, and 28th October]. This first Meeting of the Year has a speaker from Project Janszoon – which will be just terrific!

So, folks, all is set up and ready for another interesting and sociable year. I have already been to my first group of the year and it was brilliant. Trust you enjoy yours.

All the best - Paul

Finances

Just a note about the Finances. Currently we have \$10,161 on Term Deposit and \$6973 in our cheque account. The latter will grow with subscriptions coming in. You can see they look in a good state, and indeed they are. However looming ahead is the likely cost of upgrading our Computer system. I have mentioned in my report that our computer presence has been shut down because a virus has got into it [no not Corona !] We hope we can restart this once the virus has been expunged, but in the longer term we may have to pay for a similar but more robust website. We are looking at possible Developers, but they are all expensive! So the finances may well be called on sooner or later.

Paul

“It’s nice to be important, but it’s more important to be nice.”

“The grass might be greener in the next paddock, but it will still need mowing.”

Report on Convenors afternoon tea, 16th November

On Saturday 16th November, 28 convenors met for afternoon tea at Summerset in Stoke. Not only was this a good social occasion, but there was useful discussion on group administration and the use of the U3A internet facility for control and communication with members. Paul also offered convenors financial assistance with the cost of resources if required.

Thanks to Wendy for these photos:



Upcoming committee elections

The table on the right shows those committee members who have indicated they will stay on. The Vice President has yet to be decided but will most likely be filled by an existing committee member.

If someone out there feels one of the vacant roles could suit them, please talk to Paul.

President elect -	David Turner
Vice President -	Vacancy
Communications -	Vacancy
Secretary -	Bill Brett
IT Co-ordinator -	David Wright
Treasurer -	Allison Robertson
SG Co-ordinator -	Steve Shaw
Membership Secretary -	Wendy Cornish
New Member Co-ordinator -	Anne White
Assets Manager -	Vacancy
Speaker/Events Co-ordinator -	Gordon Suddaby
Newsletter Editor -	Trevor Lewis
Newsletter support -	Vacancy
Immediate Past President -	Paul Lunberg
Committee -	Vacancy

JUST LOOK AT THESE RESOURCES

There are a number of resources available to any member who'd be prepared to run a group. A kind member has passed all of her historical videos to Ian, our Assets Manager.

There are a number of Opera DVDs should anyone wish to start a new Opera group?

The following is a list of the sets of Videos owned by a kind member who is willing to lend any DVD set out to anyone prepared to run a group. Some of these DVD sets are 16 hours long! Have a look at these titles – many will encourage you to say WOW that would be interesting, and then you are only one step away from enjoying them!

Contact Ian if you are interested: machunter@xtra.co.nz

HISTORY DVDs

1 The Ascent of Man	2 John Adams
3 A history of Britain Simon Schama	4 British Isles Alan Titchmarsh
5 A Picture of Britain David Dimbleby	6 Modern Britain Andrew Marr
7 Captain Cook	8 Great British Commanders
9 How we Built Britain	10 The Dark Ages
11 Charles Darwin David Attenborough	12 How Earth Made Us Prof Iain Stewart
13 Egypt	14 Francesco's Italy
15 Francesco's Mediterranean	16 Francesco's Venice
17 Francesco's Shakespeare in Italy	18 Ganges
19 Ightham Mote	20 The Story of India
21 War Against the Indians	22 The Story of Ireland
23 Thomas Jefferson	24 Monticello
25 The Story of the Jews	26 Kings and Queens
27 Lewis and Clark	28 The Normans
29 Russia of the Tsars	30 Russia, The Complete Series Jonathon Dimbleby
31 History of Scotland	32 Scotland Revealed
33 History of the World	

Start the New Decade with the New Climate Forum

We are inviting the community to the **launch of the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum on Saturday 29th February, at the Annesbrook Church, 1-4 pm**. We sent the invitation to hundreds of people and organisations in the region and would like to thank the 130 individuals and organisations who have already RSVP'd, despite the busyness of the season.

Come to the Launch

At the launch, having heard from our speakers, you will be invited to **join both our Mayors in signing the Charter and becoming founding members of the Forum**.

You will also be asked to **contribute your thoughts on how we should respond to climate change** on an extensive range of topics and then focusing on one topic in a workshop setting. We are delighted to have secured an incredible line-up of workshop facilitators to help you, our community, begin to prioritise this region's response to climate change.

To RSVP or for more information, go to this website: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/nelson-tasman-climate-forum-launch>

Julie Nevin

On behalf of the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum Working Group

A Typical Civilisation Group Meeting

Recently a very small set of the Civilisation Group met at my place as David was away. What a fun catastrophe! Our son had called, we had an early visitor so when James turned up I thought it was a social call, then Anne came and I realised of course it was the Civilised folk of our group arriving. Moments of madness while tea and cake were found, then we settled down to a fascinating introduction to an arithmetic device James had developed many years ago, but which unfortunately never really sold. But it was really captivating. And did we natter?! Lots of shared memories and thoughts about brain development – I am really not sure if this was what Civilisation was all about. But then we moved to Paul (Bielecki) who had some videos for us to watch, but which I had to find on YouTube. This is when the fun, confusion and laughter began. Firstly it took quite a while before James realised the device which sends the signal to the computer was switched off – but we finally got to see Hedy Lamarr who was a very beautiful film actress of Jewish heritage in the 30s. She was of special interest because she was the inventor of Spread Spectrum Technology and other wireless tricks. But the download was spasmodic and we flipped out of it after a while and started to look at other videos of this stunning woman and found we were watching her earlier erotic movie, a part of the controversial “Ecstasy” (1933).

Well by the end of this gentle movie we found that YouTube automatically rolled onto the next delight, which we did not switch off for reasons of educational research, and we watched Brigitte Bardot in her 50's film “Mademoiselle Striptease.”

Actually both were really tame by today's standards but we hooted. And we remembered why we loved them so!

Paul Lunberg

“A signature always reveals a man's character - and sometimes even his name.”

Did you know?

*An economist is an expert who will know tomorrow
why the things he predicted yesterday didn't happen today!*

History of Jazz Group



History of Jazz Study Group (l to r) Ron O'Reilly, Ann Sulman, David Atkinson, Deliah Hill, Lesley Gunn and Margaret Janzen. Absent - Di Goodman, Ann Hindmarsh

Happy New Year from the U3A History of Jazz Group, which celebrated Christmas and another enjoyable year of learning, friendship and good music. New members sparked a fresh look into the whys and wherefores of the very beginning of jazz, and another viewing of the Ken Burns' History of Jazz DVD which tells the story so well. David's knowledge of contemporary musicians playing *real* jazz complemented our coverage of historical people and events, which made our meetings even more enjoyable. We look forward to another year of sharing our interest in early jazz and the many remarkable musicians who brought it to life.

Ron O'Reilly

Questions with no apparent answers:

1. If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
 2. Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
 - 3 Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
 4. Why is the letter W in English called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?
 5. Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and It just takes 75-100 years to fully work.
 6. Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
 7. The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".
 8. 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
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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 to make the newsletter more interesting and colourful.

Trevor Lewis, Editor