

## Learning for Life

Volume 12, Issue 3, June 2019

P.O. Box 1690, Nelson, 7040

[www.u3anelson.org.nz](http://www.u3anelson.org.nz)

**Our next Members' Meeting** will be on Wednesday 26th June at 10 am till 12 noon at the Nelson Golf Club, 38 Bolt Road, Nelson. The speaker is our own Bill Brett.

Bill spent his early years working for an agri-chemical company, initially in research and later in field advisory work with farmers, market gardeners and orchardists. He later moved into management in the nursery and garden industry first with Yates and then Mitre 10. For the last 15 years of his working career, he set up his own consultancy business in the nursery and garden industry with clients in New Zealand, Australia, Ireland and UK. Bill has retained a close interest in pest and disease control, regularly making submissions to the Environmental Protection Authority. In retirement he published the book 'Garden Pest & Disease Control – Essential NZ Guide'.

Bill will be speaking on '**Pesticides in our food**', a subject of concern to many.

## FROM THE MEETING ON 1st MAY

Those of you who were fortunate enough to be at the U3A AGM in May will remember this meeting! Not for the election of officers but for the most fascinating lecture from the guest speaker Keith Hawke.

Keith, a born raconteur, grew up in Milton in Otago and moved to Christchurch where he became a TV news cameraman. In the late 1960s he spent time as a war correspondent and cameraman in Vietnam then worked on documentaries in Melbourne before returning to New Zealand in 1971 to work for Pacific Films. In 1974 he was chosen to be the lead cameraman for the ground-breaking television series, *Tangata Whenua*. The 1970s also saw him adding directing to his resume: early episodes of *Country Calendar* were his.

In the 1980s Hawke reinvented himself moving to Hong Kong producing and directing television programmes before relocating to Singapore in 1989 to create a weekly television programme *Asian Business Report* and helped establish a network of production teams across Asia. He continues to work on corporate projects, both here and in Asia. He founded the Nelson short film contest. He has also written two books on his life in film one of which he sells online: *Plough Chains and Bees Arses*, an account of 25 years as a film maker abroad.

Keith showed us one of his films, perfect for Nelsonians - the story of Appo Hocton, born circa 1823. Appo jumped ship arriving in Nelson on 25 October 1842. He was the first recorded Chinese emigrant to New Zealand and eventually became a New Zealand citizen.

He began as a servant to a local doctor and through his strong work ethic became a landlord, carter and farmer. He purchased land in Washington Valley where he built eight cottages. Of those, four still stand today. In 1876 he moved his family to Dovedale and began farming. He was highly regarded as a Nelson pioneer and remained active in to old age dying in 1920. Today he has 1600 living descendants throughout the country.

There is a portrait of Appo in the Nelson Provincial Museum.

My thanks to Karen Stade: her online biography of Appo gave me many important elements of his life.

David Turner  
Vice-President U3A



## Constitution change for setting of subscription fee.

The Annual General Meeting passed a change to Clause 6 of the constitution regarding setting of the subscription fee, which now reads- **‘The committee will set the annual subscription fee by the last committee meeting of the calendar year for the U3A financial year ahead – April to March’.**

Previously, the wording was unclear who set the fee and how. The committee debated this and decided to be more specific by giving the committee responsibility for setting the subscription fee, as they are accountable for the financial control of U3A. In addition, by waiting for the AGM to approve the subscription fee, we are already at least a month into the new year and groups are functioning. Members want to know the fee before committing to a group. To avoid this, we would either need to delay implementation of any change for a year after approval at an AGM or hold a special general meeting some 3-4 months before financial years end.

Bill Brett

Secretary

---

## Additional points following the AGM

Some members raised the issue of consultation opportunity. Rest assured, the committee is always mindful of members views. Prior to any proposed change, opinions would be canvassed at general meetings and in the newsletter. Concern was expressed by a few members that the nomination and election of the existing committee was a ‘closed shop’ with no opportunity for nomination from the floor being given. Whilst the wording of the constitution is a little loose, it stipulates that nominations for committee members must be in writing with a proposer / seconder, and submitted to the Secretary 2 weeks prior to the AGM. President Paul Lunberg had asked for members interested in serving on the committee to contact the president or secretary at several previous general meetings. This had also been mentioned in the newsletter. Because there were no nominations received, and the existing committee prepared to serve another year, they were elected as a block to save time.

Notwithstanding the above the committee are keen to hear from any member who would like to serve as they can always be co-opted to assist. Meanwhile, the committee plan to review the constitution to see if a wording change is required on election of the committee. Members are also invited to make submissions on this part of the constitution.

Another matter raised following the AGM, was a query as to why a not for profit organization such as U3A should hold \$16,000 cash in the bank. The Treasurer advises –

Subscriptions for the year ahead flowed into the U3A account just prior to balance date of 31 March. This balance will drop as the year progresses as we pay ongoing expenses with very little income over the next seven or eight months. At the first committee meeting following the AGM it was agreed that \$10,000 be placed on term deposit.

The U3A Nelson web site was paid for with a grant from the Rata Foundation. Web sites commonly have a life of 4-8 years, and the cost of an upgrade may well be in the order of \$10,000. Hence it is prudent to maintain a healthy bank balance.

Bill Brett

---

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." -*Nelson Mandela*

"If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success." -*James Cameron*

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." -*Walt Disney*

There was a good attendance of 83 members at our AGM where most of the previous committee members were re-elected. In his annual report, Paul was full of praise for all those who have helped over the past year to make U3A so successful.

As usual the morning tea break was popular—Monique, our new caterer does such a good job and her scones were delicious!

*The scones were disappearing fast.*



*This cheerful group is amused by the headless figure sprawled on the chair and taking no part in proceedings!*

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What an enjoyable AGM! Most of us have been in clubs where the AGM is a feared time, after all, who wants to be nabbed for some job for a year – or more!! But we were lucky with a strong Committee who wanted, in the main, to remain in that capacity. But for me the high spot was Keith Hawke who fascinated us with his brief stories of being a film producer in the East and then delighted us with his video about Appo. If any of you missed this super story be ye informed that we have it as a DVD for you to view – Just contact our Assets Manager, Ian MacDougall, see the website to find his contact detail.

Talking of the website I encourage everyone to use this facility to answer questions. If you cannot remember the subs amount, if you want an Application for a new member, if you are wondering what other groups there are - - just look at the website <http://www.u3anelson.org.nz/> it is kept up to date by David Wright and we all hope it becomes the 'go-to' place for members to get information – even boring old things like Minutes or the Constitution are there.

Incidentally the Constitution was changed by a vote at the AGM so do have a look at it. You will see that the Committee now decides what is a fitting subscription for us all to pay for the coming U3A year.

After the AGM one or two comments were made which need addressing. Some felt that instead of



margarine on the cheese scones, butter should be used. And someone wondered why we need the subscription at \$30 when the financial statement showed we were in a very positive situation. We have a few Meetings to go and each uses money and we never know what other matter may require expense in the coming months – last year we suddenly had to pay for Indemnity Insurance and who knows this year it may be that we need to pay to get our Mailer working better?

The Mailer – perhaps I should have mentioned this first – all of us should be linked into this so that you can communicate with others in your groups. I hope to produce a picture step by step way of logging into the Mailer – once done it is easy. We are also thinking of trying to have a hands-on learning session at Senior Net – we will see how this progresses.

We have been fortunate with the golf club giving us some space in a safe location for storing some of our assets like DVDs, projector and the like. We will soon have the list of Assets owned by U3A up on our website. We are also considering keeping historical records on our website, we will load that problem onto our poor IT Coordinator once he returns from his overseas trip – what a welcome!

We are working to get those who are apparently active members, but have not paid their subs, to please do so. Sometimes people leave and we do not know but we are slowly ‘getting there’.

Great to see a couple of new groups starting. We would urge people to consider breaking away from popular groups and starting ‘splinter’ groups. For example Write Your Life has in the past splintered into 5 different groups. Also we welcome new ideas and new groups so do consider it.

Paul Lunberg, President

Some of us may like to develop an area of learning and find our U3A cannot assist. Be ye informed that there are a great number of websites out there which may help you in your endeavours. Here are some FREE sites which can really help one develop a skill:

<https://oyc.yale.edu/> <https://www.edx.org/>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/> <https://www.masterclass.com/>

<https://www.skillshare.com/> <https://www.quora.com/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/learning/> more technical <https://alison.com/>

<https://www.codecademy.com/> Coding <https://www.duolingo.com/> Language learning

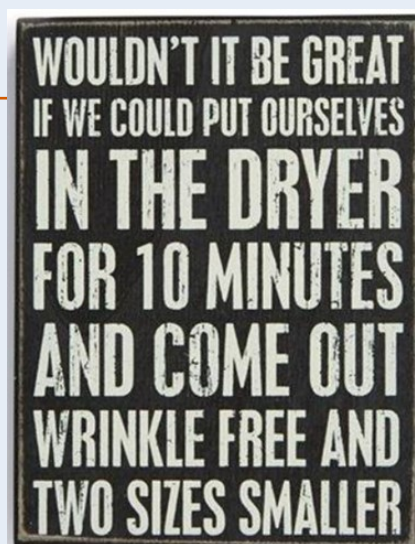
<https://www.babbel.com/> Language learning <https://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm> whole Uni courses

<https://iversity.org/>

Good luck . . . Paul

#### Limerick Dilemma

*A limerick packs laughs anatomical  
Into space that is quite economical  
But the good ones I've seen  
So seldom are clean  
And the clean ones so seldom are comical.*



# WANTED

## Definitely not dead and very much alive - U3A members to convene groups!

At present there are only 15 groups with vacancies and we definitely need more study groups. Many new members have expressed disappointment at not being able to join a group or having to be put on a wait list.

New groups do not have to cover new topics but can be another version of a presently active group: for example there are three Write Your Life groups operating.

I have a number of ideas for new groups if anyone cares to enquire.

Please contact me - [study@u3anelson.org.nz](mailto:study@u3anelson.org.nz)

or my home phone 544 3057

David Turner

---

### GROUP REPORTS

#### CIVILISATION

Every second Wednesday morning of the month up to ten enthusiastic U3A members meet in Richmond to study and discuss various aspects of civilisation.

Initially we covered the classic civilisations of Rome, Greece and Egypt then branched out on to the lesser-known civilisations of Mesopotamia, Crete, the Indus Valley, Aztec, Maya and Inca. In turn we have broadened our studies to recently cover Australian Aborigines and the Terracotta Warriors of the Qin Dynasty.

Dominant personalities from the past make for fascinating research too such as - Ramses the Second of Egypt, Genghis Khan and more recently, Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Next month will see an introduction to the Mesa-dwelling Native Americans.

We have found there is still so much to fascinate our group! Most of our studies have been found on YouTube.

David Turner - Group Convenor

#### WIDE BLUES YONDER

This group meets on the second Monday of each month and has been on its journey into the WBY for over a year now. Along the way we have discovered how this style of music has been influenced by, and in its turn influenced, genres such as Jazz, Gospel, Soul and even Country, fusing the rhythms of Africa, the Caribbean and melodies from the Folk tunes of Europe and Britain. As it moved from its recognised birthplace in the American south to the industrial northern cities of Chicago and Detroit this genre once known only as "race music" became electrified and, once it hit the airwaves and record stores during the Fifties and Sixties, electrifying. Suddenly the world got the Blues and so, thanks to Wikipedia and Youtube, has a very enthusiastic U3A group in Nelson.

The journey continues-----

Ian MacDougall—Group Convenor



## HANDS IN THE GARDEN—MAY

Garden group members had the privilege to visit J.S.Ewers tomato production glasshouses in Appleby for our monthly meeting in May.

We were shown around by David Price, Head Gardener in charge of all the glasshouse planting and production. Absolutely passionate about his work, David walked us through 6 glasshouses and gave us a very full explanation of the whole operation. Second largest tomato grower in NZ and largest producers of indoor and outdoor crops in NZ. A wonderful story is on the JS Ewers website, but aged 15, John Ewers joined his parents growing in the productive soils of the area, without the luxury of irrigation, manually watering by hand. 1972 saw the Ewers family purchase the Blackbyre Road property. 1983 introduction of indoor growing in plastic houses, adding the ability to warm the soils and begin producing wonderful flavoursome tomatoes, a product the company is now highly regarded for, selling to most supermarket chains. Use of technology further added to the expansion of this operation, including in 2001 hanging gutter technology taking production and product quality to new levels. Further expansion has continued with the involvement of MG Marketing, and the amount of jobs increased, seeing between 140 - 200 people employed, depending on the time of year. A very successful local company who also have a Church building on site, and help workers learn English.

Wendy Cornish



## Puns for Educated Minds

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab centre said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
17. A backward poet writes inverse.
18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.
21. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'
22. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'
23. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
24. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'
25. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.
26. There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

*(A big thank you to Paul for this amusing selection).*

## 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*