

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 October 23rd at 10 am till 12 noon at the Nelson Golf Club, 38 Bolt Road, Nelson. The speaker is our very own member Steve Shaw. The subject of his talk is:

Uzbekistan --- scenery isn't everything!

We travel not for trafficking alone;

By hotter winds our fiery hearts are fanned:

For lust of knowing what should not be known,

We take the Golden Road to Samarkand.

James Elroy Flecker

Take a few steps along the old Silk Road through the modern state of Uzbekistan and visit the ancient cities of Khiva, Bukhara and, of course, Samarkand, once the capital of an empire that stretched from the Mediterranean to western China and from the frozen steppes of Siberia as far south as New Delhi.

Cut loose by the USSR in 1991 after almost 70 years of subjugation, today Uzbekistan is among the poorer nations of the world and ranks in the worst five offenders on the Global Slavery Index.

Two years ago, Steve Shaw and his partner Jane Acheson spent a month travelling in this remote country, and today in an illustrated talk he will share their experiences of a very memorable trip.

A decorative border of colorful balloons (blue, orange, pink, and purple) with black strings, framing the 'COMING UP' section.

COMING UP:

1. The Christmas Function has been booked for November 27th at the Tahuna Convention Centre. Arrive from 11.30am for a 12.30 lunch. The price will be \$35 pp. + cash bar. Pay the \$35 per head online to **U3A Nelson Westpac Bank account no 03 0703 0385648 00 – making sure that Xmas and your name is in the reference'**. Alternatively send payment to: **The Treasurer, U3A Nelson, PO Box 1690, Nelson 7040**. Payment must be received on or before the 18th November as numbers are required for catering.
2. Convenors afternoon tea, Saturday 16 November, 2.0pm start at Summerset, 16 Sargeson Street, Stoke.

NAME BADGES - A reminder to all members to wear your name badge to meetings or functions. Lost your badge, need a new one? Get in touch with Membership Secretary, Wendy Cornish – tonyandwendy@extra.co.nz, and a new one will be waiting for you at the next General Meeting 23 October. **The deadline to order a new one is Wednesday 16th October.**

FROM THE MEETING ON 28th AUGUST:

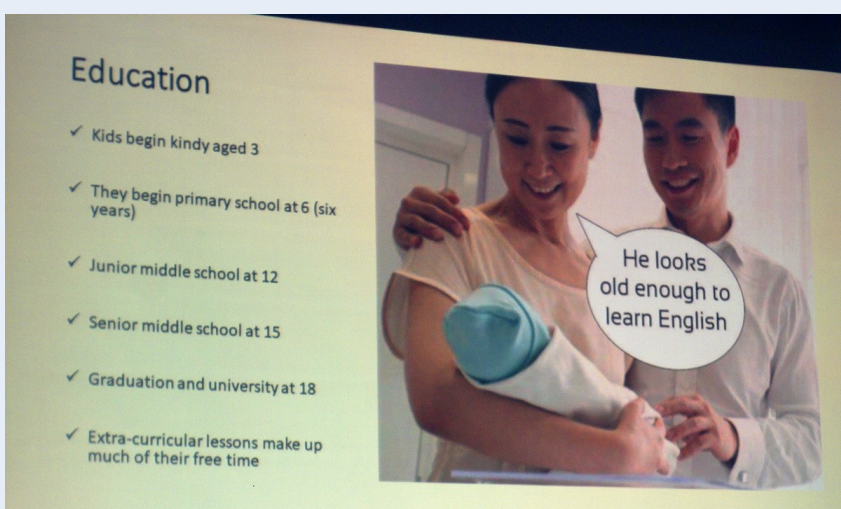


Our speaker at the September U3A meeting was Kerry Ewan, a New Zealander teaching in Guangzhou, China. Kerry gave a fascinating account of his experiences and his perspective on the values and culture of China and of life in Southern China where he has lived and taught since 2000.

He talked about his early experiences in Jingmen a city of about 400,000 and where there were few Westerners, of being stared at as a 'novelty' and of trying to introduce rugby to the children. He then moved to Guangzhou, a city about 2 hours from Hong Kong, with a population of approximately 18 million where his experience was quite different. It was really interesting to hear about the massive changes that have taken place over the past 18 or so years. These include the huge increase in the number of luxury cars compared to the preponderance of bicycles when he first moved there. He also commented on the change from housing being very cheap to now being very expensive, the greater freedom for Chinese citizens to travel and the more than tripling of salaries.

He also commented on the values of the Chinese. Education was seen as the most significant and families made great sacrifices to ensure their children received the best possible education. Next was the importance of family and family ties. The other important values for Chinese were money, food, superstition, and national identity.

Kerry's role as a teacher was to teach English as a second language at the kindergarten/primary level. His description of the Chinese education system was eye-opening and certainly reflected the importance that the Chinese place on education. The children start kindergarten at 3 and move into primary school at 6. Class sizes are about 40. Their school day starts at 8 with breakfast. They then have four forty minute blocks, a two and a half hour lunch break followed by a further 2 or 3 lessons with the day finishing between 3.15 - 4pm. There is about 2 hours homework a night; extra-curricular activities are also very important. Awards are very important and highly prized by the students and their parents.



Kerry's account of life in China was also fascinating and is certainly different from what we in NZ experience. He and his family live on the 35th floor of an apartment building (Villas are very expensive and

owned by very wealthy people). As a Westerner, he can't buy property, but his Chinese wife is able to. The cost of car parking space was eye-watering. He bought his some years ago for \$100,000 and it is now worth 4 or 5 times that amount! He said he found a number of positive things about living in China including; it's stimulating, a lower cost of living, employment, the family environment, and it's not PC! However, there were downsides including; bureaucracy, overcrowding, pollution, censorship, and driving!

Kerry finished his talk by outlining how the Chinese view 'us'. Their views included: we have big noses, we are over weight, we all look the same, we eat hamburgers, we are bad at maths, we are naïve, and we have easy lives with high living standards and endless welfare.

The number of questions and the discussion that Kerry's talk generated reflected the interest that everyone had and the engaging and interesting way in which he presented his experiences was a bonus. Everyone really enjoyed the talk and we thank him very much for taking the time to speak to us.

Gordon Suddaby

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear old U3A keeps on interesting us, entertaining us and bringing us together. It is such a simple idea and works well to our mutual development and pleasure. I saw someone on FaceBook, talking about a friend's book, saying he was really waiting for his retirement so that he could read more – I responded that you never have time to read once you've retired. Well that is not entirely true but there are not oceans of free time once you join U3A!!

The Golf Club looks pretty good now after its face-lift. It was lucky that Ian brought the projector as the one we have sometimes used, which was attached to the overhead beam is no longer there. We do need to work on the sound system. We need to set the sound volume of the speakers to allow all to hear clearly, and we need to get the head mike back into use. I believe our Ian and Gordon are looking into this.

Do remember when at another's home that they will likely clean our crumbs and vacuum the carpet – we can make all this a little easier by clearing away used dishes to the kitchen and washing them if possible. So offer your help there folks.

In one way we look forward to Christmas as it coincides with warmer weather! And it's not too far away. We will have a chance to share together at our Annual Christmas function – details on first page of this newsletter.

If you have wished there was a group dedicated to a subject which you find interesting – then why not consider starting one? There are a few of us who will gladly give our time to help you get it underway – try David first [see our webpage under contacts] and you will meet a person keen to assist.

Keep enjoying your chosen groups - - - Paul

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do.” - Mark Twain

“Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.” - Eleanor Roosevelt

“Think like a proton. Always positive.” - Unknown

“A diamond is merely a lump of coal that did well under pressure.” - Unknown

Message to Convenors

I would appreciate it if anyone requests to join your group that you refer them back to me so I can check that there is room for them and they are not "jumping the queue" ahead of possible applicants on the wait list: this to ensure fairness for all.

David Turner, Study Group Coordinator U3A

GROUP REPORTS

RUSSIA

It's 10am on the first Thursday of the month and there's a feeling of anticipation in the air. A group of people are gathering at Olive Estate Lifestyle Village theatre, ready to enjoy learning more about Russia in the past and present. Two hours later, with a brief pause for morning tea, excited folk leave, fascinated, enlightened and ready for more next month.

Our first gathering, at convenor Carol Suddaby's home was where we brainstormed and came up with lots of different ideas.

So far the group has used our own research, teamed with DVD's and You Tube to learn about Russian church architecture (all those different domes), Faberge Imperial eggs, Russian food (yummy Piroshki pies to try), the Romanov dynasty, and marriage in Russia. It's a vast country with so much to learn about. We anticipate going for a long time to come.

Nan Turner

FIRST BIRTHDAY OF "WRITE YOUR LIFE 6" GROUP

Well we've been going for one year already. Where has the time gone? We celebrated with a pot luck finger food lunch on Thursday, 3rd October - we meet on first Thursday of month from 2-4 pm. Before lunch (which was yummy) we had a quick photo quiz - to see if we could recognise each other as children- fun but not easy! After lunch we continued as usual reading our writings - this time a third person look at ourselves as we were in childhood.

Full muster is eight lovely ladies! We started last year with free writing about our years from 0-10 – what we can remember that is! Then we reached consensus to all write about one particular subject each month – so when reading we can share and compare. Example subjects can be childhood home/s, primary school, activities, etc.

When listening to others' writings it often triggers more memories to add to our own writing.

A couple of us were brought up in the UK so it makes for good comparisons between the Kiwi upbringing and the UK one. We find that there are many similarities but also some comparisons. A couple of the ladies were brought up in the Kiwi countryside so this brought another slant to childhood life.

We laugh, commiserate where applicable, wonder.....etc. With the sharing we get to know one another in a safe and confidential environment.

The group was started as a discipline to write things down - it's history after all – and shows how life has changed over the years – so it's a written record for ourselves, and our families. The next year will unfold and we will gradually get to the teenage years! That'll be interesting reading!! ...and so on to adulthood. Lots to write about!

How about the fellas get together and write about various aspects of childhood – to share with family, particularly grandies – am sure the boys would love to read about what grandad got up to!!

Angela Greig (Convenor)

Did you know that our esteemed member David Turner is a dab hand in the kitchen? At our recent Military History group meeting we were lucky enough to sample this cake that David had made the previous day. It was moist and delicious and the unanimous feeling was that the recipe should be published in the newsletter. Here it is

Four Ingredients Fruit Cake - ideal for Christmas

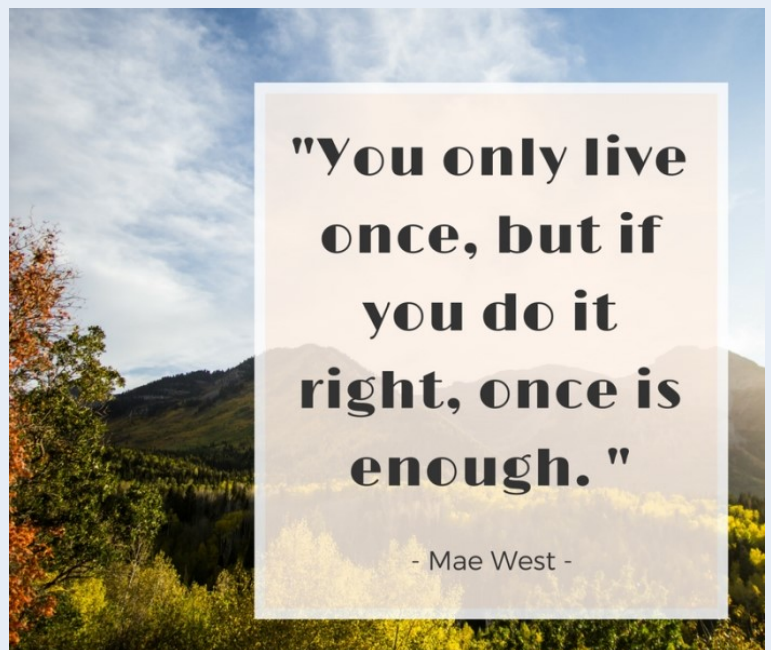
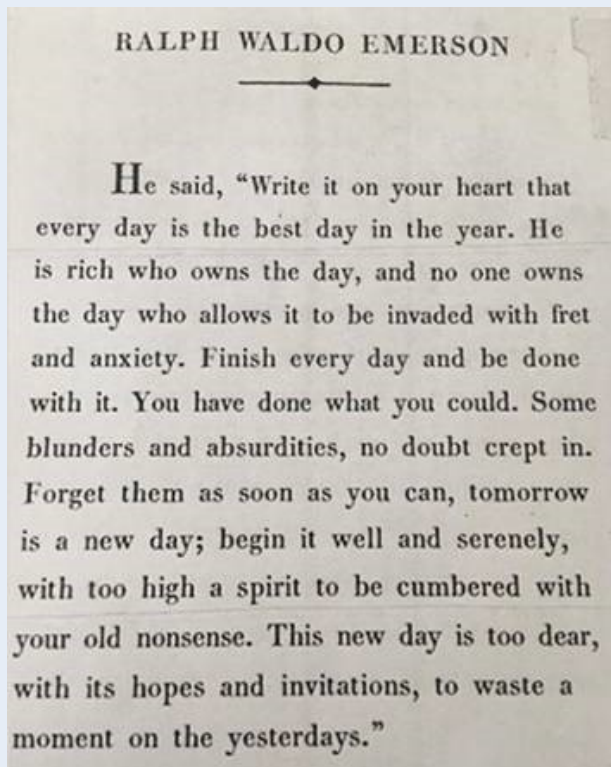
Ingredients

1kg of fruit cake mix
1 pkt of glace cherries - optional
2 cups of chocolate milk or almond milk or ginger ale or orange juice
1/2 to 3/4 cup of Baileys or brandy. (This can be omitted but increase liquid by same amount.)
2+1/2 cups of self-raising flour
Optional 1+1/2 tsp mixed spice

Method

Soak cake mix, glace cherries, spice in liquids 24 hrs or at least overnight.
Add flour and combine fruit mix.
Preheat oven to 160 C (150 fan bake).
Line the base of 20 cm round cake pan with two layers of baking paper and either line sides or spray with cooking spray.
Bake 1 hr 30 min until cooked when tested with a metal skewer.

David Turner



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