

## Learning for Life

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P.O. Box 1690, Nelson, 7040

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

**Our next Members' Meeting** will be on September 23rd from 10 am till 12 noon at the Nelson Golf Club, 38 Bolt Road, Nelson. The speakers are Tom and Vicky Jackson and the title of their talk is 'Living on a yacht for 35 years and Cruising the World's Oceans'.

Tom and Vicky define the word "sailors", both learning to sail as children and continuing since then, and living afloat continuously from 1978 until 2013. Their second yacht, the 39' sloop 'Sunstone', despite being a 'house-boat', also proved competitive for them, racing offshore and winning the 1985 Channel Race overall and her class in four of the eight Fastnet Races, along with other successes since.

In 1997 Tom and Vicky took early retirement from their senior teaching positions. Two weeks later they sailed away from the UK to begin world cruising. They have crossed the Atlantic twice and the Pacific Ocean six times, five of those between New Zealand and Alaska. Their six-year circumnavigation was eastward, taking in the five great southern capes, but also reaching 61°N and 57°S.

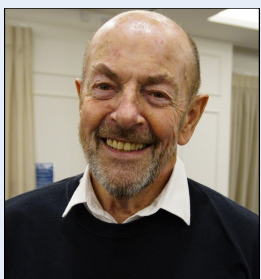
When not cruising, they now live in Nelson.

## Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- President's report
- Honour award for Bill Brett
- Proposed new group
- Some puns to lighten your day
- Report from Military History group
- Recipe

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## From the President



Greetings U3A members

In 1966 Robert. F. Kennedy included in a speech he gave, "May you live in interesting times!" This certainly is true here in New Zealand with our forthcoming elections and referendums, coping with Covid 19 and Level 2 lockdown, unseasonably warm Winter and early Spring weather. The latter though does make our province a beautiful place to live in.

Interesting developments too regarding our soon-to-be new website. David Wright and Paul Lunberg are working with Steven Smith from *Slightly Different* who has over 20 years experience in web development and network. Preliminary results are most exciting. Watch this space!

Warm regards,

*David Turner*

## Bill Brett honoured with Horticulture award!

Bill Brett has a long, wide ranging and distinguished career in horticulture. This was recently recognized, with the Associate of Honour award of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture.

Following graduation from Massey, he worked in field research, then moved into technical advisory roles, initially in agrichemicals, then later for Yates. Retail beckoned and following a brief period with Botanix garden centres, he was approached by Mitre 10 NZ to set up the garden division which he managed for 5 years. In 1995 Bill set up his consultancy and training business and soon had many nursery and garden centre clients in NZ, Australia, Ireland and UK.

Simultaneously with the above Bill was also the technical partner in a large kiwifruit orchard. He served on the board of the Nursery & Garden Industry Association for 12 years, 2 as president.

In retirement in Nelson, Bill has authored a book on Garden Pest & Disease Control and has 2 more books close to publication. Bill is self-sufficient in vegetables from a small backyard. Until recently, before down-sizing, he was also self-sufficient in fruit.

Sixty years a gardener and working in the gardening industry, Bill has a lot of knowledge he loves to share.

*Well done Bill. A justly deserved award.*

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## Proposed new group:

### Antique, Vintage & Retro

Do you collect items from a bygone era? Interested in antiques and old collectables? Enjoy fossicking in Op Shops, auctions, on-line or in antique shops?

Judy Pittman would like to start a U3A group for anyone who has an interest in antique, vintage or retro miscellanea. She envisages the group, of up to 10, will meet once a month in various venues, but predominantly in member's homes where we will admire and learn about the various items we own or collect. This could range from furniture to postage stamps, kitchenalia to militaria, arsenic bottles to old lace! Members will be welcome (and encouraged) to give a short illustrated talk about their particular collections or items of interest and how they caught the collecting bug.

We can bring along our latest acquisition or purchase, admire each other's collections, boast about lucky finds in Op Shops and generally share experiences around our hobby. We may also arrange visits to private collections, tours of museums and historic houses and invite guest speakers.

Judy would like to see the group evolve and she welcomes ideas from members. She admits she is not the most knowledgeable person on antiques, but enjoys admiring items from the past and learning from others.

**Contact:** Judy Pittman, email: [randjpittman@gmail.com](mailto:randjpittman@gmail.com)

**When:** One morning or afternoon per month - to be arranged.

**Duration:** approx. 2hours

**Where:** Initially at Judy's home in Atawhai but hopefully, once established, meetings will rotate around member's homes. This alleviates the need to pack and transport precious items. For example, the member who is giving the talk will have the items to hand if the meeting is held at their home.

*Thanks to Paul for coming across these puns:*

*An invisible man married an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.*

*I didn't think the chiropractor would improve my posture. But I stand corrected.*

*I took my new girlfriend out on our first date to the ice rink, and entry was half price. She called me a cheap skate.*

## Report from the Military History group

The Military History group continues to discuss interesting topics in this field. Subjects vary from ancient historical conflicts to the more recent; military hardware; famous military leaders; the role of women in warfare; etc. The sudden lockdown in March due to Covid-19 failed to deter us, as we continued, but instead of face-to-face meetings, the presenter would email YouTube links to members. We would then individually watch these at home, then all join using Zoom at an appointed time for an online discussion. This worked very well, though we all missed the socialising over a cuppa that normally takes place. At Level 2 we have resumed face-to-face meetings.

Recent subjects have included Battle of Kings, Bannockburn; Hugh Dowding - The saviour of the Battle of Britain; Battle for Manchuria; F4U Corsair - WW2 Pacific warrior; Napoleon and the Peninsular wars; The battle of the River Plate.

We meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 9.45am at various venues, usually a member's home. There are currently two vacancies in the group so if anyone is interested, phone me on 544 3337 or email t.lewis1940@gmail.com.

*Trevor Lewis, Convenor*

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## Recipe:

A favourite at committee meeting morning teas, are these savoury bites that Wendy makes.

### Scrumpy Scroodles

1/4 cup (55 grams) chopped bacon  
1 cup (125 grams) grated cheese, preferably Tasty  
1 pkt Onion soup mix  
1/2 cup (65 grams) flour  
1/2 tsp baking powder  
1 x 250 gram pottle sour cream – Traditional not Lite

Mix all ingredients together and put spoonfuls in mini muffin trays

Bake 20 mins or until golden brown at 180 degs C

Note: the quantity can be doubled. Recipe makes approx 24. They freeze well.

Enjoy

*Wendy Cornish*

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*Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. It's a case of in one ear and out the udder.*

*I used to date a girl with one leg who worked at a brewery. She was in charge of the hops.*

*Seen recently on a birthday card (mine - Ed.):*

*"You're not getting older, you're increasing in value"!*

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## FINAL WORD

Articles about the various groups are always welcome, as 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*