

Our next Members' Meeting will be on Wednesday 24th February from 10 am till 12 noon at Elim Church, 625 Main Road, Stoke, Nelson—**note new venue**. The speaker is Ray Salisbury.

Ray Salisbury has a special affinity for the Mt Arthur Tableland because of his family history. He is a direct descendant of the first pioneer of Motueka Valley, John Park Salisbury, whose brother was the first Pākehā to explore behind Mt Arthur and discover gold on the Tableland in 1863. John pioneered the grazing of sheep on the Tableland and on the Cobb River flats. Ray is a keen tramper and photographer and as such, is very familiar with all of the area.

While the geographical footprint of this iconic piece of real estate is relatively small, it punches above its weight in several ways - featuring New Zealand's deepest cave system; the highest earth dam (Cobb hydro scheme); the largest continuous predator trapping network; the most quirky selection of rock bivouacs, and a huge selection of native plants, as well as two endangered bird species, the Blue Duck and the Rock Wren.

Ray's recently published book *Tableland*, is beautifully illustrated and gives a detailed picture of the history and features of this unique area.



This promises to be a most interesting talk.

Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- President's report
- Subscriptions due
- Group Co-Ordinator's Report
- Driving Miss Daisy
- Report from U3A History of Jazz Study Group
- Forum on Electoral Reform

President's Report - February

February! A new year! A new beginning: with the latter especially true of U3A. I think I can speak for all New Zealanders when I say that we certainly face challenges in our future, yet we can be so thankful we are here in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Many groups have started their meetings and Steven Shaw, our Study Group Coordinator, reports that there are a number of new groups being formed. This augurs well for 2021.

In my final report in our last newsletter, I informed you that this year our public meetings for 2021 will be in new premises: the hall at Elim Church on Stoke Main Road. This venue will be familiar to many of you who attend 'Fresh Focus'. It is roomy with good seating and has high-quality sound and visual facilities and what's more, it's on a bus route.

There is parking on site for those with disabilities, as well as a limited number of parks for members, otherwise please park on Main Road, Stoke remembering that there is a pedestrian crossing outside the Stoke School entrance.

Best wishes for a successful year.

David Turner

Subscriptions

These are due by 31st March. Thank you to those who have already paid. 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.** Cheques are no longer acceptable by our Westpac Bank so we will not accept any payments by cheque. Our Post Office Box has been closed.

If you don't use Internet banking, take your money to your bank and ask the teller to pay into the U3A account as shown above. Be sure to ask the teller to put your name in the Particulars part of the account so that the Membership secretary can immediately see who paid the money in. Get a receipt too!

Last year quite a number of members paid twice. If you aren't sure if you have already paid, please contact Wendy Cornish at tonyandwendy@xtra.co.nz, or ring 544 2794 and she will tell you.

Group Co-Ordinator's Report

Welcome to another year of U3A and all the amazing activities our members are involved in. The vast majority of groups are carry-overs from last year, a very encouraging aspect of U3A, in that people have obviously developed an abiding interest in so many fields of study, and many of them have already started their regular meetings.

Vacancies still exist in the following:-

Architecture, Australia, Beginners French, Bookcases, Creative Writing, Great Britain, History of Jazz, Luncheon, Military History, Prisoners of Geography, TED Talks 1, Up the Garden Path, Write Your Life. People interested in joining any of these groups should of course contact me (see below!).

And as reported in my last circular, we have several new groups looking for participants: Beginners Chess, Birds of the Nelson Region, Serious Discussions, all starting imminently. Then probably in March, Geology, Technology. Finally, a group mooted for May, Talking about Art. Again, contact me for further details.

And if anyone has another passion they would like to share with others, why not look for them in U3A and start your own group --- just let me know?

Happy studying!

PS. I shall be out of Nelson on a road trip south for the next two weeks, so I might not be able to react promptly to your questions or needs, if I don't have access to the internet. If it's urgent, please get in touch with the president, David Turner at davnan23@gmail.com

Steven Shaw

Driving Miss Daisy

Rob and Tracey McConnachie are the franchisees of this car-hire service which can provide more than just 'taxi rides'. For further information refer to www.drivingmissdaisy.co.nz or the pamphlets which will be available at our next meeting.

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the members of the U3A History of Jazz Study Group.

Despite the interference from Covid, 2020 was a successful and enjoyable year for the History of Jazz Study Group. We started (and finished) the 10-part DVD History of Jazz series by Ken Burns, and thanks to the work of David Atkinson, we were introduced to many contemporary musicians and groups who play jazz, many in the classical (New Orleans) style, including the Antic Hot Band, Steve Wadell's Creole Bells, Eva Cassidy, Cecile McLorin Salvant, 3 groups from Japan - Tamura Makiko Session, New Orleans Stompers and New Orleans Jazz Hounds, The Sassy Singers from France, George White, Jack Hylton, Gunhild Carling and his Band, and the Study Group's favourite: Tuba Skinny. You can Google any of these groups to see and hear what we have been enjoying over the past year. Bring on 2021!

Left to right (seated) Ron O'Reilly, Delia Hill, Lesley Gunn; (standing) Ann Hindmarsh, Di Goodman, Ann Sulman, Margaret Jeffries, David Atkinson.



Forum on Electoral Reform

The Nelson Institute is organising a Forum on Electoral Reform to be held at 2pm on Sunday March 7th at the Elma Turner Library. It will be conducted by Dr Nick Smith and Paul Lunberg and will last about an hour. It will be non-partisan but will discuss areas of our democracy that may need improvement, based on recommendations in the Royal Commission Report of 1986. Members interested in politics and our democratic system who attend should consider these issues beforehand (Royal Commission suggestions in brackets after each item):

- Term of Parliament (*consider increasing to 4 years*)
- Size of House: (*120*)
- Maori Seats: (*none*)
- Voting Age/ Prisoners/Mentally ill - Who can vote? (*much as it is now*)
- Cut off: (*4% threshold*)
- Boundary determination: (*much as it is now*)
- Political Financing: (*many controls*)!!
- Referenda: (*they should always be binding*)

"It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice."

I got myself a seniors' GPS. Not only does it tell me how to get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

If My Body Was a Car!



If my body was a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull...

But that's not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close.

My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins.

It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed.

My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

But here's the worst of it.

Almost every time I sneeze, cough or sputter,

Either My Radiator Leaks

or

My Exhaust Backfires !

From the Editor

Thank you to those who submitted articles. Reports from study groups are always welcome too. If your group has vacancies, this is a great way to showcase what you do. Photographs would also be great to make the newsletter more interesting and colourful.

Trevor Lewis, Editor