

## Learning for Life

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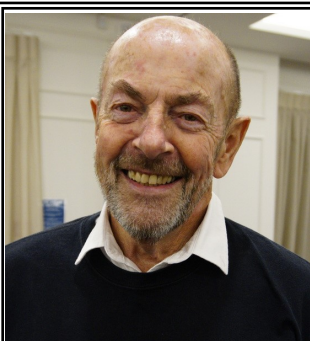
Merry Christmas!

**Our next Members' Meeting** will be on February 23rd from 10 am till 12 noon at Elim Church, 625 Main Road, Stoke, Nelson.

Hopefully David Melville, will be available on that date to tell us about the amazing migratory birds, the godwits. This is still to be confirmed.

## Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- President's report
- Newsletter Editor required
- Matters of importance
- Convenors' afternoon tea
- Welcome morning tea for new members
- Positive Ageing Forum report



### President's report

Greetings U3A Members

It has often been said that there are three certainties in life - death, taxation and change! The latter has definitely had an effect on present life for all. The uncertainties of a Covid-dominated world and political upheavals world-wide (including our own country) confirm my beliefs in the importance of family and friends with the hope that 2022 will be a better year for us.

I look forward to the company of members in my U3A groups and relish their intelligence and positive outlook. Likewise the hard-working members of the U3A Committee whose commitment and intelligence I value highly!

I thank them and all of you for adding richness to my life. I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and trust we meet again in February.

Warm regards.

David Turner

## Newsletter Editor required

As my third year as editor ends I have decided to call it a day. Is there anyone out there with previous experience at producing newsletters and who would like to contribute to the running of U3A Nelson? If so the committee needs you to take on this important role.

The position isn't too onerous with generally six committee meetings per year and six newsletters, so lots of time off in between.

Contact David Turner, Ph 03 544 3057 or myself 03 544 3337 if interested.

## Matters of Importance.

Good afternoon U3A Members

At our Committee Meeting (16/11/21) two important motions were tabled and passed, meeting complete Committee approval:

1. As members have not had the chance to attend most of our planned public meetings this year due to Covid 19 restrictions, it was decided that membership fees of **present paid-up members** will be waived for the 2022 - 2023 financial year.
2. Also passed and approved: **that all members attending future public and group meetings must be vaccinated to ensure the safety of all.**

David Turner

President U3A Nelson

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## Convenors' Afternoon Tea

HappyZ Cafe in Bateup Road, Richmond was buzzing with vocal activity on the afternoon of Saturday 27 November. The reason was the annual Convenors' Afternoon Tea.

After a brief welcome from David Turner (President U3A), Steven Shaw (Study Group Coordinator) thanked the people present for their commitment and energy in hosting, organising and fostering the U3A spirit. It is true that without our convenors U3A Nelson could not run successfully. There was discussion regarding some issues with group organisation and Steve also outlined possible new groups for 2022.

Some of our members may not realise the amount of planning many of our Convenors have to do so that their meeting runs smoothly. And it is often not just planning the subject material for the class but moving furniture, washing dishes and generally making it pleasant for the visitors. They deserve all the thanks we can give them.

The gathering then enjoyed afternoon tea - good food and perfect coffee! Special thanks to Wendy Cornish and Anne White for organising the afternoon and also to Tony Gimson for assisting in serving the afternoon tea.

Unfortunately we have found that a few convenors did not get the invitation due to a glitch in the database. I apologise on behalf of the Committee and assure you that this issue is being attended to.

David Turner

**Thanks Convenors - you were great**





## Welcome morning tea for new members

On Friday 3 December a Welcome Morning tea was held at HappyZ Café for the 17 new members who have joined since our last General Meeting, with 14 being able to attend. Mingling with Committee members, these new members were able to chat and learn more about U3A, in the light of us having to cancel three General Meetings.

Some are new to the area, and joined U3A to meet new people, and that hasn't happened for them, but it certainly happened on Friday. The buzz of happy chatter and exchanging of phone numbers was fantastic, and made the Committee feel that the morning was a great success. And so good to be able to put faces to names.

After President David welcoming everyone, Steve Shaw spoke about getting in to groups, and answered any questions from the new members, and Wendy spoke about the arrangements for those who had been so prompt and paid their fees for the year, but have had nothing from U3A in return.

Apologies to the rest of the new members who attended, but we only remembered to take a photograph at the end, when most of you had gone!

*Wendy Cornish*



Time for some humour:

Why did the golfer bring an extra pair of pants? In case he got a hole in one!

What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up their own incision? Suture self.

I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes. It's all about raisin awareness.

Scientists got together to study the effects of alcohol on a person's walk, and the result was staggering.

Why is it unwise to share your secrets with a clock? Well, time will tell.

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.

Money talks ... but all mine ever says is good-bye.

Did you know that a raven has 17 rigid feathers called pinions, while a crow only has 16? The difference between a raven and a crow is just a matter of a pinion.

## **Nelson Tasman Positive Ageing Forum**

Wendy and Paul attended the above forum meeting on 22nd November. A couple of items may be of interest to some members:

1. Tasman District Council is asking for feedback on their draft Walking and Cycling Strategy. Submissions close on 7 March 2022.

To place your feedback visit - [Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy | Tasman District Council](#)

2. The DHB has purchased some Adaptive Equipment designed to help those with mobility challenges. Though not funded, this equipment can be purchased from mobility shops. Please contact Kate Miller from the DHB if you have any questions - [Kate.Miller@nmdhb.govt.nz](mailto:Kate.Miller@nmdhb.govt.nz)
3. For those without a computer, the sheet shown below was handed out detailing how to get their vaccination passport.

## **How do I get my vaccination status certificate**

## **Submit a Privacy Act request**

You can request confirmation of your personal information and your COVID-19 vaccination record as held in the [COVID Immunisation Register \(CIR\)](#) by making a request under the Privacy Act.

Privacy Request  
National Contact Centre  
Ministry of Health  
PO Box 3015  
Whanganui  
4501

Please include your:

- full name
- date of birth
- address
- phone number
- NHI number (if known)
- date of departure for overseas travel (if you're travelling).

Or 0800 222 478- have your NHI number ready

Online option

### **Or COVID-19 vaccination status certificates**

<https://covid19.govt.nz>

### **How do I find my NHI number?**

- A prescription or prescription receipt
- A prescription medicine bottle label
- Hospital letter
- Xray or test result

## TED2 - what we do!

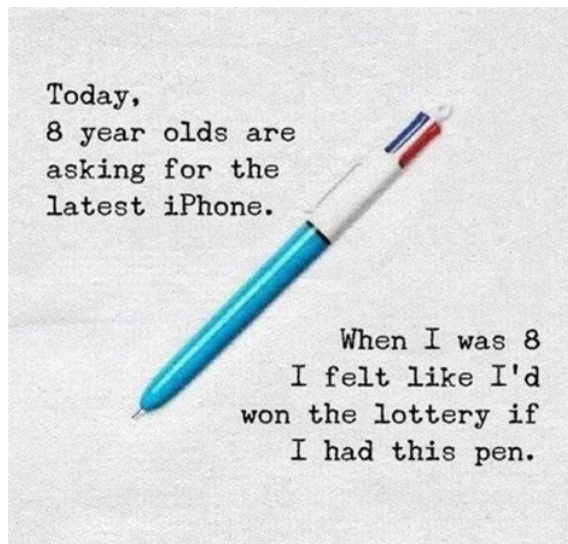
Ten of us meet twice a month for some variable brain work, sometimes quite intense! Typically we watch a twenty minute video on some topic of interest then spend an equal time discussing the issues presented. We repeat this a couple of times before nibbles.

So that is it in a nutshell but let's look at some we watched this year. A very revealing talk by Lilia Tarawa about her time in "Gloriavale" was shocking, and provoked a lot of discussion. Likewise "Why immigration prisons aren't the answer" was pertinent with the problem of desperate immigrants causing worldwide concern right now.

Some TED talks are quite instructional such as David Christian who spoke on "The history of our world in 18 minutes. ". Entropy took on a new meaning for all of us. Another one like this was called "How governments create money" by Jon Smith; this kind of knowledge is valuable in these weird financial times! Members of our group often hear of excellent talks and we investigate them. One such was "The Seed Cathedral" given by Thomas Heatherwick. You need to watch this – it is superb. And recently we heard from the late Steve Jobs who spoke passionately on "How to Live before you Die" – what a guy!

You can enjoy any of these by searching for the titles I've given – I am sure you will find them spell binding.

Cheers, Paul Lunberg



Once Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Bengali poet and scholar, jokingly asked Michael Madhusudhan Dutt, an Anglophile poet of great repute; "As you are a Master in English, can you make a sentence without using a single 'E'?"

Dutt, the genius, wrote this:

"I doubt I can. It's a major part of many many words. Omitting it is as hard as making muffins without flour. It's as hard as spitting without saliva, napping without a pillow, driving a train without tracks, sailing to Russia without a boat, washing your hands without soap. And, anyway, what would I gain? An award? A cash bonus? Bragging rights? Why should I strain my brain? It's not worth it."

## From the Editor

Thank you to those who submitted articles. As we draw nearer to the end of another year, I hope you have found the newsletters both informative and enjoyable.

Best wishes for Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

*Trevor Lewis*

