

Learning for Life

Volume 15, Issue 1, February, 2022

Our next Members' Meeting scheduled for February 23rd has been cancelled.

No sooner had our President confirmed with Elim Church that we could hold our next meeting, than Covid spread and the country moved to the Red setting. This has meant that we can't comply with the requirements of the venue and attempts to find an alternative have so far been unsuccessful. So frustrating, but beyond our control.

Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- AGM advance notice
- President's report
- Matters of importance
- Consider your Convenor
- Architecture Group is being rejuvenated
- Report from "Birds of the Nelson Region" group which is starting up again

AGM - advance notice. The AGM will be held on May 4th (or as a wag on committee said "May the 4th be with you"!)

**President's Report**

*"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men
Gang aft a-gley,
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
For promis'd joy!"*

This brief excerpt from Robert Burns' poem sums up my feelings exactly when the country was placed under "red light" conditions recently.

As Trevor has indicated, in the first two weeks of January, we had organised our speaker, catering and venue for the Public Meeting on February 23 and the good ship U3A was launching into an interesting new year.

No doubt you realise that matters both world-wide and nationally are beyond our control therefore we still need to try to think hopefully for the future. This the committee did when we had our recent meeting.

We do have the year ahead sketched out with a variety of top-notch speakers tentatively booked. It is a matter of wait and see!

In the meantime we will keep you in touch with U3A developments - Steven Shaw (groups' coordinator) and Trevor Lewis (newsletter editor) do a sterling job of online contact.

In tandem with the Prime Minister: "Keep safe and be kind!"

David Turner

President, U3A Nelson

Matters of Importance - a Reminder:

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

CONSIDER YOUR CONVENOR

I am a relative newcomer to U3A and I think it's fair to say that I have thrown myself into the organisation in the last couple of years. I have become a convenor of two groups and co-convenor of a third. I enjoy almost everything about U3A; the social interaction, the continual learning on subjects that interest me, the informality of the various groups, the friendships I've made, the sense of belonging to and caring for fellow-Nelsonians.

However, there is something that really bugs me and I need to get it off my chest.

What has happened to common courtesy among some of our membership?

I recently emailed all 19 members of one of my regular groups to let them know when and where we would be gathering and the venue for our after-meeting refreshments. As normal, I asked them to RSVP in order for me to make a reservation at a local café and ensure they had an ample supply of cheese scones and muffins – always a favourite.

Of the **19** members who received the email, only **9** replied. With less than 24-hours before our meeting, a reminder email was sent out to the 10 I had not heard from. I received 5 replies. This left me in the dark about the remaining 5. Do I book a table for 9 or 14 people? Does the café make extra scones and muffins? If the “unknown” 5 turn-up will we all have to squeeze closer together around a table reserved for 9?

Those who fail to RSVP to an invitation are;

- Making the convenor's job unnecessarily difficult.
- Creating potential problems for other members.
- Showing a disrespect for the efforts of others.
- Rude.

Please do the right thing. It is a common courtesy to reply to your convenors and group leaders.

Judy Pittman

Groups

Architecture - Components and Design.

The Architecture Group is being rejuvenated with fresh eyes and ideas.

The concept:-

- To investigate building components and how they are used with site visits when allowed and practicable.
- Design process and how that evolves from initial client contact to final working drawings.
- The constraints the building industry face in terms of material supply and labour.
- The constraints the material suppliers find themselves dealing with.

Timing 2nd Wednesday of the month, afternoons.

Preliminary meeting March.

Expressions of interest to Steven Shaw, Study Group coordinator at: study@u3anelson.org.nz

Jeff Sewell

Anne White

Birds of the Nelson Region

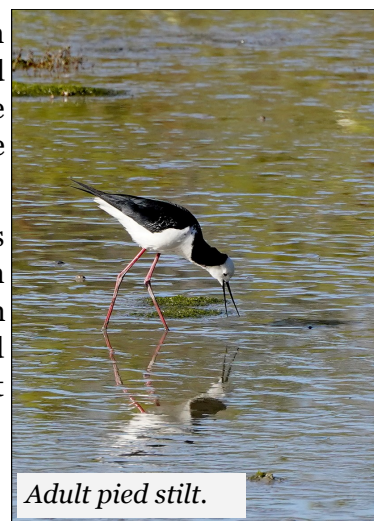
This group is coming out of retirement! New members welcome.

The group was started by Grace Sutherland early last year and I joined soon after. We met fortnightly at various places of interest where birds, both native and introduced, were likely to be seen and in many cases we were richly rewarded. Memorable among the places we visited were the estuary behind Rabbit Island where we were lucky enough to view an elusive banded rail; the Raumanuka and Motueka Sandspit Scenic Reserve to see Royal spoonbill and other seabirds; the pond at the airport entrance where pied stilts, pukeko, and Paradise shelduck live and breed. Later in the year, in spring, I returned to this pond to see and photograph newly hatched pied stilts.

In October the group went into recess, but to a degree continued at least in spirit, as we occasionally kept in touch by email to share stories and photographs. I am keen to see us start again and so have canvassed all of the past members and find that seven of us wish to rejoin and continue. As Grace does not want to be convenor again, I will step up to that role.

We welcome new members so if you have time to spare, enjoy the outdoors and fresh air and have an interest in getting to know the birds of the Nelson region, then this could be the group for you. Oh and I should mention photography as it provides a great opportunity to hone your skills in this field too. Our first outing will be at the pond by the Nelson airport entrance at 9.0am on Monday 14th February.

If interested, contact Steven Shaw, Study Group coordinator at: study@u3anelson.org.nz



Adult pied stilt.

Trevor Lewis, convenor

Photos taken at the airport pond in November.



Stately white-faced heron.



A family of three pied stilt chicks.

Astronomers got tired of watching
the moon go round the earth for 24
hours.

So they decided to call it a day.

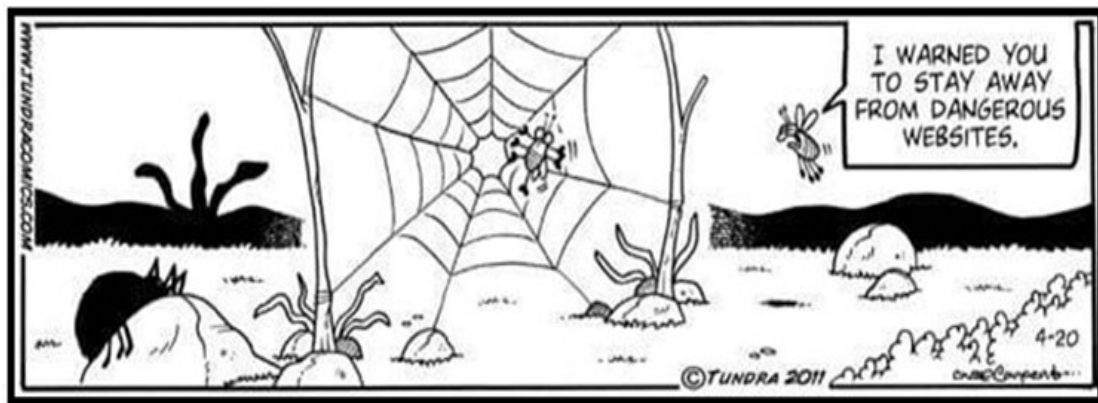
I have a pencil that used to be owned
by William Shakespeare.

But he chewed it a lot. Now I can't tell
if it's 2B or not 2B.

Before my surgery, the
anesthesiologist offered to knock me
out with gas or a boat paddle...

It was an ether/oar situation.

**I relabeled all of the jars in
my wife's spice rack. I'm not
in trouble yet....but the
thyme is cumin.**



I lost my girlfriend's audiobook, and now I'll never hear the end of it.

Why is "dark" spelled with a k and not c? Because you can't see in the dark.

When I told my contractor I didn't want carpeted steps, they gave me a blank stare.

Bono and The Edge walk into a Dublin bar, and the bartender says, "Oh no, not U2 again."

Prison is just one word to you, but for some people it's a whole sentence.

I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.

From the Editor

Reports from study groups are always welcome, especially if your group has vacancies, as this is a good way to showcase what you do. Photographs are also great to make the newsletter more interesting and colourful. **Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is April 10th.**

Trevor Lewis