

## Learning for Life

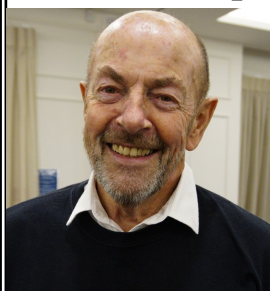
Volume 15, Issue 2, April , 2022

**O**ur next Members' Meeting is the AGM, which will be on Wednesday May 4th from 10 am till 12 noon at the Nelson Suburbs Football Club rooms, Stoke, Nelson (**note the change of venue**). David Melville as our guest speaker. David is an ornithologist with a special interest in the amazing migratory Godwits, which will be his subject. In his talk he will tell us about the satellite tracking project which follows a few Godwits which have been fitted with GPS trackers complete with solar panel. Go to this link <https://www.globalflywaynetwork.org/flyway/east-asian-australasian-flyway/map> to track current positions. (e.g. Today, 15th April, bird 4BBRW is in South Korea, having flown from Miranda, Firth of Thames.).

## Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- President's report
- Notice of AGM
- Applause for Bill Brett
- Group Reports
- Reminder to check the website
- An amazing lady

## President's Report



In the last few newsletters I seemed to be continually apologising for cancelling a planned public meeting so I hope you can understand how happy that the Committee and I feel, this time, about giving good news.

Yes! As I intimated in an earlier notice our AGM is on 4 May though with a temporary venue change. We will be meeting in the Suburbs Football Club rooms in the Saxton sports grounds. It will be good to meet so many of you again and a chance for our newer members to be part of the U3A family.

I will be standing down from the Committee at the AGM so this is my last appearance as President in the U3A newsletters. I thank the present Committee for their dedication, energy and time in the organisation of U3A. I could not have asked for a better team. And to you, our members, I thank you for your support through this most difficult last two years.

Warm regards

*David Turner*

~ Just read that 4,153,237 people got married last year, not to cause any trouble but shouldn't that be an even number?

~ Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

~ I find it ironic that the colours red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

**Notice is hereby given that the U3A Nelson Annual General Meeting will be held in the Nelson Suburbs Football Club rooms, Saxton Field Stoke at 10.00 am May 5, 2021.**

**(The nearest bus stop if coming from Nelson is opposite Bunnings; the nearest if coming from Richmond is just past the roundabout, opposite Saxton Lodge Motels).**

#### **Agenda—**

Minutes of the last AGM – May 5<sup>th</sup> 2021 – on U3A Nelson website

President's Report – David Turner – on U3A Nelson website

Financial Report – Allison Robertson - on U3A Nelson website

Election of Committee for 2022.

The following committee members are available and willing to serve for the coming year.

President – Wendy Cornish	Vice President - To be elected by the committee
Secretary – Bill Brett	Treasurer – Allison Robertson
Anne White – New members welfare	Steve Shaw - Study group co-ordinator
David Wright – Website/IT	Andrew Mason – Website/IT assistant
Nan Turner - Publicity	Paul Lunberg – Assets Manager
Trevor Lewis - Newsletter Editor	Immediate Past President – David Turner

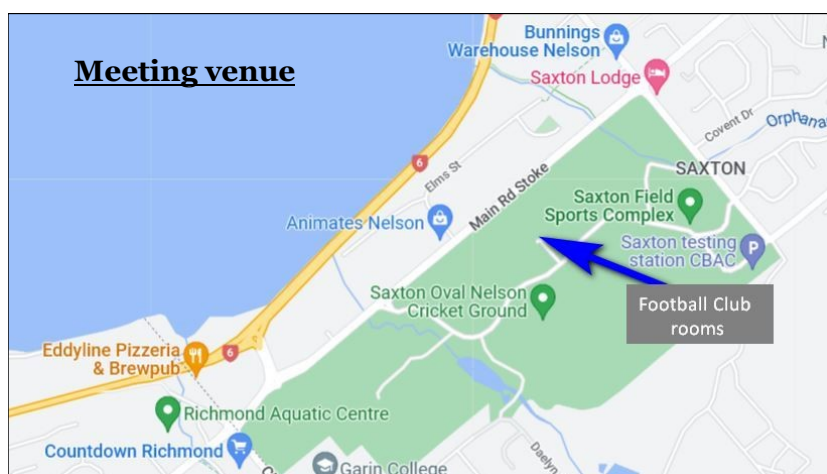
In previous newsletters we have asked for members to consider volunteering for the Committee and are delighted to have Jenny Pullen and Judy Pittman indicate their availability, therefore our committee numbers are now complete.

#### **Remits**

The committee has no remits to put to the meeting. Remits from members must be received by the secretary by April 20, 2022. ([bbrettnz@gmail.com](mailto:bbrettnz@gmail.com))

#### **General Business**

#### **Close**



#### **Applause Please!**

U3A Members, you will be pleased to know that Bill Brett, our most capable secretary and really nice bloke, has featured in the Editor's Letter in the recent NZ Gardener magazine. I quote:

"If you are planning a new garden, or know someone who is, I would heartily recommend Bill Brett's new book, *The Home Orchard: Essential NZ Guide to Fruit Growing*,

(Bill, a Nelson-based horticulturist, is an Associate of Honour of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture and his first book, *Garden Pest and Disease Control: Essential NZ Guide*, is one of the most popular references at the NZG headquarters.)"

Well done and deserved Bill! We are delighted for you.

## Group Reports

### **Conspiracy group**

**I**t was pouring with rain but 4 keen ones of our 'starter group' arrived at Paul Bielecki's for a couple of hours to consider *Conspiracies*. Paul had prepared an overview which showed the difference between Conspiracy and Conspiracy Theory. We decided to consider Conspiracy as an illegal secret activity but Conspiracy Theory as an attempt to explain harmful or tragic events as the result of the actions of a small powerful group. Such explanations reject the accepted narrative surrounding those events; indeed, the official version may be seen as further proof of the conspiracy.

Some discussion resulted in our decision to consider both during our group meetings.

Then Paul gave a synopsis of a book he had recently read about The Lillehammer affair. Do look this up on the net! 3 car loads of Mossad agents had just shot and killed a Moroccan waiter in a case of wrongful identification. They thought the poor fellow was associated with the murder of the Olympic athletes from Israel. The local people took note of the number plates and the agents were apprehended before they reached Oslo! Then an even great conspiracy was discovered – how the Israelis carried 'yellow cake' (Uranium Oxide) using a boat bought in Norway and used to transport this evil cargo to Italy and on to Israel! Obviously this also had us all fascinated. Then one by one we recalled some of the amazing secret activities which have been uncovered and proved internationally shocking.

It was just about midday and we decided a good way to run the group was for each person to present a Conspiracy over about 20 minutes at each meeting. So next time we will discover more about the Rabbit Hole theory and Flying Saucers; as well as one or two others. It promises to be exciting and fascinating – why not join us?

*Paul Lunberg*

---

### **Walking group convenors fall by the wayside**

**T**o misquote Lady Bracknell from Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest",  
"To lose one convenor may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose two looks like carelessness."

The Exploring Nelson Walking Group could be accused of being extremely careless as, at the end of March, the group said a fond farewell to *two* of its former convenors.

Kay Hunter was one of the founders of this weekly walking group, along with Stella Say, and for several years she led them all on a merry stroll around the paths and tracks of Nelson/Tasman.

Jan Thomas followed in Kay's footsteps as convenor for about seven years and herded the group up hill and down dale discovering the delights of the region.

Now both have decided they have served their time and would like a change of pace, so the Nelson Explorers gave them a small presentation at the end of their regular Thursday morning walk and over the obligatory coffee and muffins.

*Judy Pittman*

*Convenor – Exploring Nelson*



*Kay Hunter at left and Jan Thomas smile for the camera.*



## ART & GARDEN COMBINE

The April gathering of the Hands in the Garden group ventured out to Hawks Valley Sculpture Gallery, 190 Williams Road, Upper Moutere. This combined an appreciation of an expansive garden with an admiration for the work of sculptor, Lauren Kitts.

Lauren works mainly in local stone, including Motueka river stone, Takaka and Riwaka Marble, but also materials from abroad such as Chinese granite, Egyptian and Indian marble.

While the sculptures are all Lauren's work, the gardens are the domain of her husband Ray. Along with the backdrop of Tasman Bay and the Moutere hills, they made a perfect setting.

Website: [laurenkitts.co.nz](http://laurenkitts.co.nz)



*Thanks to Judy Pittman for this report and photographs.*

### Website

Members, please remember to check out our website ([u3anelson.org.nz](http://u3anelson.org.nz)) for current information, notices and **most importantly the groups available, their descriptions and possible vacancies!** Steven Shaw, the Groups Coordinator, does a superb job organising our groups and you can help him by checking the website first before contacting him directly.

David Turner

### An amazing lady

Ann Carroll recently celebrated her 106th birthday at The Wood rest home, Nelson. After moving to Nelson in 1975 she joined U3A where she made many friends. You can read more about her in this Stuff article:

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/news/128196972/106-year-olds-get-up-and-go-the-secret-to-a-long-life>

### From the Editor

Thank you to those who submitted articles. 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 June 5th.**

*Trevor Lewis*