

**Learning for Life**

Volume 15, Issue 3, June 2022

**Our next Members' Meeting** will be on Wednesday 22nd June from 10 am till 12 noon at the Nelson Suburbs Football Club rooms, Saxton Field, Stoke, Nelson (**note—same venue as the AGM**).

David Melville is our guest speaker and he will tell us all about one of the most amazing migratory birds on the planet – the godwit. The English name "godwit" was first recorded in about 1416 and is believed to imitate the bird's call, as it has been studied for many years. David is an Ornithologist with a particular interest in godwits, and he will share his fascination with us. So much can be learned these days with modern technology, as David will explain.

**From the last meeting:**

What a brilliant talk for our AGM! Sandy Stevens, a local lass from Stoke, has been all over the world helping the poor in some of the toughest places imaginable. She told us of her rise from working in Fiji as a twenty year old, to working in Rome at the offices of the FAO, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and in the field in Africa and Asia. We heard of her arriving in Liberia just days after thirteen government ministers were publicly executed by firing squad. (On 12 April 1980 President William Tolbert was overthrown and murdered in a violent coup at a beach). Just a few days later she was on a motor bike negotiating the terrible roads to assist villagers.

We were privileged to have Sandy talk to us and were uplifted by her public speaking and humour.

*Paul Lunberg*

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**Topics covered in this Newsletter:**

- Speaker for this meeting. Report on the speaker at the AGM
- Reminder to wear name badges and also to check our website for information
- President's report
- Photo of 2022 committee
- Setting up a new group
- Some suggested resources for study groups
- Reports from the Chess group and the Galleries group

**Name badges**

Please remember to wear your name badge when attending our general meetings.

**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.

## President's report



Greetings U3A members

What a joy to be able to be together again for our May AGM and General Meeting, at the Saxton Football Club rooms. Unfortunately due to a bad accident and traffic delays, many of you could not get to the meeting, but great to hear such a buzz of happy chatting with over 80 members present, to hear Sandy Stevens speak to us. What an outstanding woman.

Your Committee met last week, and we welcomed two new members, Judy Pittman and Jenny Pullen, adding to our enthusiastic and committed group.

Thank you to all who provided feedback on the Saxton Football club rooms, and we have decided to give this venue another try for our 22 June meeting. We have taken into account your comments, and will make some changes to the seating plan.

Look forward to seeing you all again soon

*Wendy Cornish*

LOST PROPERTY – left at the Saxton Football club rooms after the AGM – woman's dark plum Twin Rivers merino cardigan/jacket. Safely in my care, let me know if it's yours.

## Your 2022 committee



## **Setting up a new group**

**B**elow are a few things to consider when setting up a new study group. This is not at all a mandatory list. Like Roger Pittman's article you saw earlier, it's meant to take the worry out of becoming a convenor.

### **Topic**

Be sure to choose a topic for which you have strong enthusiasm, not just a passing, lukewarm interest. The first couple of meetings might well depend on your energy and input.

Have a clear picture of what the group is about, any parameters that matter, possible constraints and the like, whilst at the same time allowing for the natural evolution of the group as it progresses.

Write a short description for the website so that potential members know what they're signing up for and of course to advertise the group.

Give some thought even to the name of the group to reflect the content/activity/angle and to attract participants.

### **Venue**

Many groups meet at the venue of the convenor, but by no means all. There's no reason why there can't be some kind of rotation if that's what members want. And of course, the nature of the group might well require a different venue every time e.g. gardening, walking, nature studies.

### **Times**

Convenors usually set day(s) and times when they first offer a new group -- we're all busy after all. But some convenors renegotiate times and days at the first meeting to suit participants. Some days, of course, are more popular than others and so likely to cause clashes for possible members. I can give some guidance about that but there's not a lot I can do.

### **Numbers**

You need to establish a maximum for your venue, how many your sitting room, say, can comfortably accommodate. If there are several venues, you would have to go with the constraints of the smallest, not the largest. It may also be helpful to have in mind a minimum below which the group might not really be viable.

### **Technology**

Many groups make use of technology of one kind or another, TV with Youtube and such websites, DVDs and others. If your group is going to depend even to some extent on tech, is yours reliable --- waiting can be a killer.

### **Programme**

Planning the content of sessions sounds daunting, but is really not so difficult as it appears. In the first session, groups usually discuss and settle on a programme at least for several meetings and usually different members take responsibility for preparing and running a session. Some topics e.g. language learning, don't fit quite so easily into that kind of democratic approach, but in general, the more interactive sessions are, the more enjoyable they will be.

### **Convenors' responsibilities**

The U3A Nelson website, <https://www.u3anelson.org.nz/>, has a page outlining the responsibilities Convenors have when running groups, so there is no point in repeating those here.

### **First steps**

Email me with your proposal and I will spread the word among members. You can also take advantage of General meetings where you can give a short plug to members present --- past experience, however, suggests that there will be fewer than 100 people there so you will not reach even half of our active members that way. I then enter the group on the system, advertise it among the membership and keep you posted about numbers.

Finally, I'm always here at the other end of the keyboard in case you get stuck or need any advice or help.

*Steven Shaw, Study Group Co-Ordinator      Email: [study@u3anelson.org.nz](mailto:study@u3anelson.org.nz)*

**Come on folks let us study something new... Here is a resource :**

**Kings and Generals** is a YouTube Channel with superb videos covering a wide range of historical topics.

And then there are these alternatives to YouTube, do investigate. If you find some excellent videos do let me know.

Top 7 Smart Alternatives to TED Talks

- PopTech.
- IdeaCity.
- The Veritas Forum.
- PechaKucha.
- The Gel Conference.
- Ignite.
- The Moth.

Just put the title into Google, and woofff there it is!

*Paul Lunberg*

## **Bereavement**

We record the death of Val Gardiner, long time member and U3A life member. She will be missed by those who knew her.

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## **Group Reports**

### **Galleries Group**

The Galleries group is a new group and at this point we have had three meetings. It's a small group, but with room for 2 or 3 more members. We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 10 am at the home of one of the group.

The group is for people interested in world galleries, whether art, or museums in general. The focus of the group is: to share knowledge and information about various galleries of the world including NZ. We would hope that some/most/all of the participants in the group will be able to share their experiences of having visited particular galleries as well as complementing their experience with the rich resources available online and from their own photographs. However, those who have not visited galleries, but who are interested in this group are also welcome to join.

The three sessions we have held so far have been fascinating. The first session looked at Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpiece, The Lady with Ermine, and the Princess Czartoryski museum in Krakow, Poland where the painting is hung. The second session involved a visit to the Suter Gallery and a guided tour by the director, Julie Catchpole and her talk about the Kelleher Art prize winners exhibition. The third session was about the Kroller-Muller Museum in the Netherlands, an amazing gallery, which most of us knew little about. We also looked at a video about a famous Hans Holbein painting, The Ambassadors, which is in the British National Gallery.

If this sounds interesting to you, please feel free to join by contacting Steve Shaw or going through the U3A website. If you would like more information feel free to contact Gordon or Carol Suddaby on 03 5423599.

## CHESS GROUP, 2022

Finding a caption for the accompanying photo wasn't easy: "Chess group in Action"?  
"Chess Group In-action"? "Chess Group Up and Running"?

What about **"Shhh! Brains at work"**

Some of our 8 members were new beginners, the others, "I played a long time ago and have almost forgotten". Graeme is our most experienced player, and advisor on rules.

It's an ideal U3A "Shared learning" group. No-one sits out, and we all learn by doing. We are all teachers and learners, and fortnightly games are improving our memory skills, helping learn strategic forward thinking, learning to be bold & assertive at the same time as defending our key pieces, ("Watch your back! ), learning how to win - "That's Mate!" - and also accept defeat.

Each session warms up our "chess" brains with a short group activity trying to solve the latest Listener Chess problem, – even beginners gradually learn the notations.

Then, if we have an even number of players we settle in to games which might last the rest of the morning, with a break mid-morning for a cuppa. There is no "ladder" to denote hierarchy of ability; we all get to play each other over the months.

If we have an uneven number of players we play a "round robin" with timed games of 15-20 minutes with one person taking a break, then we all move on to another board. The fun part is picking up and continuing a game that other people have started.

Yes, we are serious at learning chess to help wake up those ageing neural pathways. But we also enjoy our mornings with each other's company, have a laugh and maybe time for "solving the world's problems" over Convenor Diane's tea and coffee.

*Grace Sutherland, (the group photographer, whose seat is vacant in the photo)*



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### Famous quotes:

If you're going through hell, keep going. - *Winston Churchill*

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value. - *Albert Einstein*

Nothing is impossible, the word itself says, 'I'm possible!' - *Audrey Hepburn*

### Spot the Difference?

[maybank2u.com](http://maybank2u.com) is not the same as  
[maybank2u.com](http://maybank2u.com)

[citibank.com](http://citibank.com) is not the same as  
[citibank.com](http://citibank.com)  
(the first one is correct, the second one  
is from hackers)

The "a" in the later url is a cyrillic  
alphabet.

An average internet user can easily fall  
for this. Be careful for every mail  
requiring you to click on a link.

Please Stay Alert

**I see people around my  
age mountain climbing, I  
feel good getting my leg  
through my underwear  
with out losing my  
balance**

For you Logophiles, Lexophiles and Wordsmiths out  
there..

"Lexiphile" is a word used to describe those that have a  
love for words, like: you can tune a piano, but you can't  
tuna fish, or:

To write with a broken pencil is . . . pointless.

When fish are in schools, they sometimes . . . take debate.

A thief who stole a calendar . . . got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles , . . . U.C.L.A.

The batteries were given out . . . free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. . . . They fought tooth  
and nail.

A will is a . . . dead giveaway.

With her marriage, she got a new name . . . and a dress.

**As you get older, you've  
got to stay positive.  
For example, the other day  
I fell down the stairs.  
Instead of getting upset,  
I just thought,  
"Wow, that's the fastest  
I've moved in years!"**

### 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 August newsletter  
is Monday 8th.**

*Trevor Lewis*