

Learning for Life

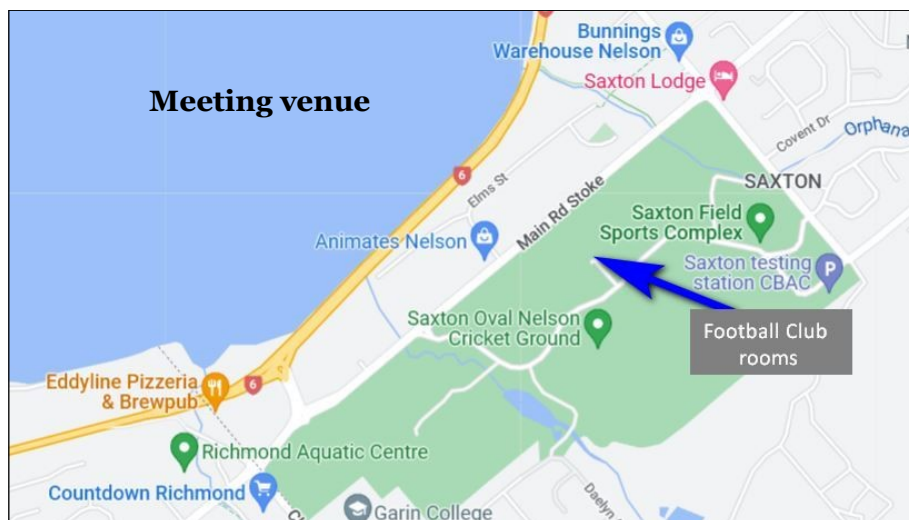
Volume 15, Issue 4, August, 2022

Our next Members' Meeting will be on Wednesday 24th August from 10 am till 12 noon at **Nelson Suburbs Football Club, Saxton Field, Stoke**. The speaker is Lucinda Blackley-Jimson, Chief Executive of Nelson Provincial Museum. Her talk is titled *"The future of New Zealand's oldest museum"*.

About the speaker:

Lucinda brings 25 years museum experience to her position as Chief Executive. Past career highlights include senior visitor experience roles at Te Papa, Auckland Museum, MOTAT and Auckland Zoo. She is a current Board Member of Museums Aotearoa.

She is passionate about creating meaningful experiences for museum visitors of all ages and backgrounds.



Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- Meeting notice and speaker bio
- President's report
- Notice of the next "Successful Gardening" group, convened by Bill Brett
- Reports from "Opera", "Hands in the Garden" and "Birds of the Nelson Region"
- And some funnies to fill the gaps!

President's Report

Greetings fellow U3A members. Well after feeling that Spring was in the air, with lovely sunshine days, at the time of writing this, we are back to a cool, grey, drizzly day. One thing for sure, with all the moisture, as soon as we do get warm days, our gardens will leap into life.

Looking forward to a busy General meeting on Wednesday 24 August, with Henry Wilson, from the Creative Writing group convened by Les Cook, reading us a piece of his writing, and another Getting to Know You slot, from Bill Brett – many of us have been fortunate to be part of Bill's Gardening Talks in the past, and we are so fortunate to have Bill as our hard-working U3A Secretary, but Bill will tell us a little more about his life. And looking forward to hearing our main speaker, Lucinda Blackley-Jimson, Chief Executive of Nelson Provincial Museum. See you at the Football Club rooms, Saxton Field.



Wendy Cornish

Successful Gardening

Convenor – Bill Brett

Bill Brett has a long, wide-ranging and distinguished career in horticulture. This was recently recognised with the Associate of Honour award of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture.

Successful Gardening Course Programme

How plants grow, key success factors, propagation, seeds, and seed raising
The soil, nutrients required/fertilisers, compost, watering and getting more from less water.
Pests and diseases, prevention, and control – science proven – no myths
Growing in containers
Vegetable growing with a focus on harvesting 12 months of the year.
The Home Orchard
Garden design and planning
Garden tools, garden maintenance, the garden industry, open forum.

The course is presented in Power Point and group discussion as required. A copy of each session is emailed to group members prior to each session.

Day, venue, frequency – fortnightly or monthly will be discussed with the group either before or at the first meeting.

Bill plans to start this course in late August. To enrol, phone Bill on 5390037 or email bbrettnz@gmail.com

Opera

Mentioning the word "Opera" in conversation often gets a negative response with words such as 'elitist', 'screeching', 'painful to listen to' etc, yet, to the enthusiastic group of up to ten people who meet every second and fourth Friday of the month in Richmond, opera can mean sublime music, drama and performance.

The group came together three years ago. We view, appreciate and critique performances on DVD from the great opera houses of the world. Many of the romantic and tragic operas from the 19th century - the likes of *Carmen*, *La Traviata* and *La Boheme*, have formed the basis of our viewing. Recently we have changed tack and have gone back to the beginning of present-day opera starting with the 1600s. Monteverdi's *Coronation of Poppaea* was fascinating, not only for the performance and musical composition but also the historical aspect (Poppaea was Nero's wife).

From the 1700s Lully was the Italian composer who gained prominence at the court of Louis XIV, becoming the favourite of the king. Many of his operas had the themes of everyday life (aristocratic) and he frequently worked in partnership with Moliere.

We enjoy each other's company and learning about opera.

David Turner, Group Convenor

"**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:

A boiled egg is . . . hard to beat.

When you've seen one shopping center . . . you've seen a mall.

Police were called to a day care where a three-year-old was . . . resisting a rest.

A bicycle can't stand alone; . . . it is two tired.

When a clock is hungry . . . it goes back four seconds.

Hands in the Garden

AN APPLE FROM THE TEACHER

In my schooldays you were considered to be a sycophant if you took an apple to school for the teacher. At a recent meeting of the **Hands in the Garden** group, the roles were reversed and the teacher bought a big box of apples for his students.

The teacher, in this case, was Redwood Valley orchardist, Bill Lynch and, like a magician, he produced different apples from his box of tricks and got the class to identify the varieties. There were Sturmer, Braeburn, Cox's Orange Pippin, Golden Delicious and Roxy. The latter is a new variety that Bill has spent 20 years developing.

The genetics of Roxy go back to the now-extinct Heritage Gala, of which Bill had a few trees when he purchased his farm in the 1970s. "Heritage Gala was not a looker", says Bill, "but the flavour was immense". So he set-out to create an apple that had looks, flavour, shelf-life and was one that would appeal to growers and consumers alike.

It took Bill 20 years because he used the old-fashioned method of letting the birds and the bees do the propagating. No genetic modification on Bill's orchard. Just hours of sitting on an up-turned bucket with his pruning knife.



Redwood Valley orchardist, Bill Lynch, speaking to the Hands in the Garden group at Waimea Plains Village, Richmond.



Now Roxy is an international star. There is big demand for Roxy from across Asia, Europe and the USA.

Where can you buy Roxy? Not from New Zealand supermarkets, unfortunately. But if you are travelling on the Moutere Inland Highway, turn into Redwood Valley Lane and buy from the farm gate at Redwood Orchards.

*Judy Pittman, Convenor
Hands in the Garden*

"Birds of the Nelson Region" - Monday 8th August

In spite of the morning being grey and chilly, five of our group met at Melrose House car park. First we crossed Upper Trafalgar Street to wander through the splendid trees growing in the historic cemetery. Apart from one kereru and an occasional blackbird, birds were absent until we came on a tui feeding on nectar from Camelias that were flowering. It ignored our presence so David and I had a ball photographing it. Soon we were all feeling the cold so retired back to Melrose House for a welcome coffee and a chat. Revived we were soon outside again exploring the grounds of Melrose House, especially the wonderful patch of native bush in the bottom corner. Here we heard though didn't see a grey warbler and were entertained by a fantail flitting around feeding on insects. Later we observed it working its way up the trunk of a tree, apparently finding insects on the bark.

A satisfying though chilly way to spend a morning.

Trevor Lewis, Convenor



10 REASONS WHY ENGLISH IS WEIRD

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.

NURSE CAME IN AND SAID DOC, THERE'S A MAN IN THE WAITING ROOM WHO THINKS HE'S INVISIBLE, WHAT SHOULD I TELL HIM? THE DOCTOR SAID TELL HIM I CAN'T SEE HIM TODAY.

I have an impressive bank of knowledge. But I can't remember the password to my account.



~ Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

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 Sunday 9th October.**

Trevor Lewis