

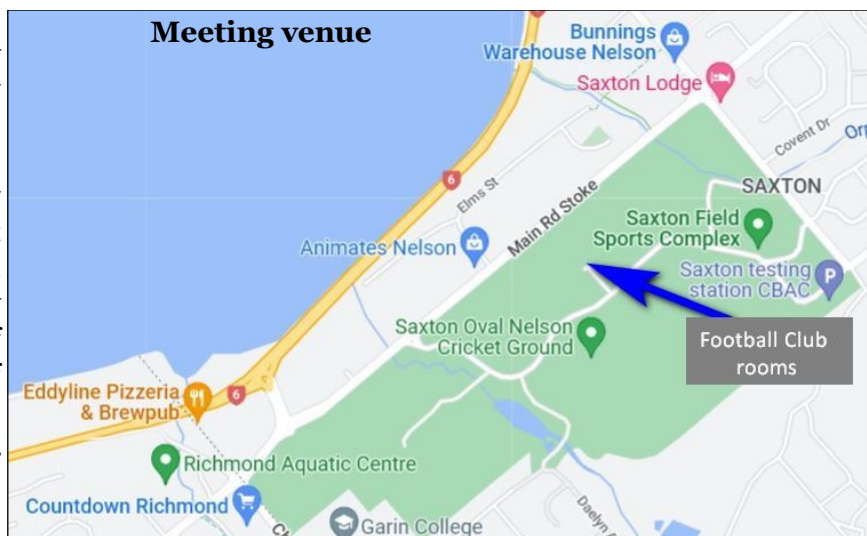
Learning for Life

Volume 15, Issue 5, October, 2022

Our next Members' Meeting will be on Wednesday October 26th from 10 am till 12 noon at **Nelson Suburbs Football Club, Saxton Field, Stoke**. The speaker is Dr Eric Buenz.

Dr Buenz is a keen hunter and New Zealand's expert in lead ecotoxicology. A majority of hunters use lead bullets and these lead bullets have the potential to harm both human and wildlife health. He will share results from two recent research efforts. First, his team has recently completed a nationwide study examining game meat harvested from wild animals for lead contamination. Second, he is currently leading a project with the Department of Conservation, local iwi, the South Island Animal Hospital, the University of California and the University of Melbourne to evaluate the risk to kea, of being poisoned by lead ammunition.

Dr Buenz is an excellent speaker presenting an interesting subject so do come along to this meeting.



Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- President's report
- Accolades for Bill Brett in October issue of NZ Gardener
- Convenors Christmas afternoon tea; Committee members wanted for next year
- Walking group photo and short report
- Positive Ageing Expo report and photos
- Henry Wilson (U3A Creative Writing group) poem "First Snow Fall"
- Do your contact details for our Database need updating?

President's Report

As I write this, we have another gorgeous blue sky, Spring day, after the snow of earlier in the week. Lovely to look at the mountains, but not so good for farmers and those affected by the huge falls down south.

Looking forward to seeing you at our final General Meeting for 2022, on Wednesday 26 October, 10am at Saxton Football clubrooms. It will be another busy morning, hearing from Steven Shaw, our Study Group Co-ordinator and convenors about study groups available. In our "Getting to Know you Segment", we will hear from U3A member, Neil Hammond, who was Head Gardener for Andrew Lloyd Webber. Speaker Programme organiser Paul Lunberg has organised another interesting speaker for us. Lots happening, as well as catching up with new and old friends. See you there.

Wendy Cornish

Convenors Christmas afternoon tea

This event to say thankyou to convenors will be at Summerset in the Sun, 16 Sargeson Street, Stoke on Saturday 3rd December, from 2.0 to 4.0pm. Convenors, mark it on your calendar.

Numbers attending will be required for catering so please get back to Steve or Wendy as soon as you can to confirm you are coming.

Looking ahead

In case you hadn't noticed, the new year is fast approaching and it will be time to elect a new committee. There will be vacancies to fill so please consider putting your name forward. Talk to Wendy if you would like to know more about what it entails.

Following on from our "Getting to know you – Bill Brett" segment at a recent General Meeting, our Bill is again featured in the October issue of NZ Gardener magazine.

There is an article and photo on weed control, but he also features as part of an article about Gillian and Phil, owners of Green Door Garden Centre, Havelock North. As Bill told U3A, garden centres were a new idea some years back, and Bill helped stage many new centres that opened up around New Zealand and overseas. As quoted by Gillian and Phil in the magazine "Fortunately, after owning Green Door for three years, we met consultant Bill Brett – we were growers, we knew nothing about retailing. Bill's vision was so practical and clear. He has become a close and dear friend and there's no way Green Door would be where it is today without his guidance".



Some of the walking group led by Judy Pittman that walks on Thursday morning. We were on the walkway up the side of Saxton Creek, watching a digger scoop out silt deposited in the creek by the recent heavy rain. The house behind puts out homemade daffodils for Daffodil Day each year.

Rosalie Johnson

Confucius Did Not Say -

Lady who goes camping with man must beware of evil intent.

Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion.

Man who runs in front of car gets tired, but man who runs behind car gets exhausted.

Man who eats many prunes get good run for money.

War does not determine who is right; it determines who is left.

Man who drives like hell is bound to get there.

Positive Ageing Expo, Headingley Centre Friday 30 September

I know many of you visited this Expo, where 90 stallholders displayed goods and services available, demonstrating how we can all age positively. We waved the U3A banner and had lots of interest for many people wanting to know about lifelong learning through U3A.

I was very grateful for help from Robyn Gordon, Diane Goodman, Jenny Pullen, Colin R Bell, Phillipa Molloy, Roger Haynes, Judith Hunter and Bronwyn Clement, who all gave their time on the roster, and enjoyed chatting to people.

Wendy



These are some of the cheerful volunteers who looked after our stall on the day



Nick Fry from FENZ spoke to a recent Positive Ageing Forum meeting about fire safety.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand offer free Home Fire Safety Visits to people, family and whanau who require fire safety advice. This includes:

- Checking smoke alarms and providing advice on where they should be installed and how they should be maintained. We can also install alarms that you have purchased.
- Talking through escape plans and ensuring that everyone can get out of the home quickly and safely in the event of a fire, and that you have an agreed safe meeting place.
- Discussing fire safety to ensure we cook, heat and live in our homes safely.

To enquire about a free Home Fire Safety visit you can [enquire online](#), phone 0800 693 473 or call your **local fire station**. If you live in an area with a volunteer brigade there may not be anyone to take your call, so leave a message and they will call you back.

Those attending a recent General Meeting will have been enthralled by the descriptive writing “First Snow Fall”, by Henry Wilson, a member of Les Cook’s U3A Creative Writing group. We sat and listened as Henry read his piece of writing, and had wonderful mind images created by his words. Following that meeting, several members asked if Henry’s poem could be published in the U3A newsletter. Henry readily agreed and this is what he said in his email to Wendy:

“I am grateful and humbled by the response to my poem. As a writer, this is what I always hope for. That I somehow manage to convey what deeply moves me. When this happens the circle is complete. I would also like to have mentioned that my colleague and fellow group member, Les Cook, assisted me with editing the poem. I think that is a fitting endorsement to the value of membership in a creative writing group, where the members support each other to succeed”.

In order for his writing it to fit into the space available, Henry agreed to “First Snow Fall” being paragraphed and set out in a more condensed format. We think you will agree, that by being able to see and read the words, the writing has even more meaning. Thank you Henry

FIRST SNOW FALL

The Winter Witch has arrived, her distant cold indifference draws my warm attention.

Her palette is of atmosphere. Her canvass is of mountains.

She airbrushes the sky with ephemeral freezing mist, adding swathes of bruised cobalt and gunmetal grey.

Enveloping high lonely crags, she also shrouds deep valleys in temporary mystery.

She marches her slow magic along the broken ranges, softening wounded stone with her cool blanket of glistening white crystals, descending.

Then lifting her skirts of voluminous clouds, from peak to peak she dances, revealing a landscape once parched by a long summer, now transformed by her ritual of seasonal change.

Chased along by her co-conspirator the wind, she leaves a portrait in white. An icing of snow, on a many-layered cake.

The silence broken now, I imagine, by a call to arms of garrulous olive kea. The threatened avian artists who, are of a mind to leave, their eulogy of footprints in the witches painting, for one more winter.

Henry Wilson – May 2022

Your contact details for our Database

It has come to our attention that some members contact details e.g. phone numbers, may have changed so if this is you, could you please notify Wendy, Ph. 03 544 2794 or email tonyandwendy@xtra.co.nz and she will update the database. Thank you.

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. Do send photographs too if you have them, to add colour and interest.

Trevor Lewis