

## Learning for Life

Volume 15, Issue 6, December, 2022

**Our first Members' Meeting for 2023** will be on Wednesday February 22nd from 10 am till 12 noon at **Nelson Suburbs Football Club, Saxton Field, Stoke.**

The speaker is Dr Lance Jennings. Details about his talk will be in the February newsletter.



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## Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- Report on the October speaker
  - President's report
  - From the Study Group Co-ordinator
  - Group reports: Hands in the Garden; Bookcases
  - Scam warning—beware 0900 numbers
  - Some funnies to finish off with
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## Speaker report from our October meeting

### Dr Gareth Parry

There are speakers who entertain us and there are speakers who educate us but it is rare to have speakers who combine both functions in their presentation.

This was the case when Dr Gareth Parry was the keynote speaker at the U3A Public Meeting on Wednesday 26 October. He has a most impressive background as an internationally renowned neurologist who has published more than 140 peer-reviewed articles as well as book chapters with other researchers plus his own books. He is Emeritus Professor and former Head of Neurology at the University of Minnesota, Senior Lecturer at Otago University Medical School and Visiting Consultant Neurologist at Wellington Hospital. In 2009, he was awarded the NZ Order of Merit for services to neurology. He stepped in at the last moment as the advertised speaker, Dr Eric Buenz, had to go to Auckland. Luckily the two men are friends and professional colleagues who have collaborated on a number of topics, especially the effects of lead used in bullets, not only on animal carcasses but also the human body. Gareth spoke knowledgeably, with much good humour, to Eric's slides. Both men, from their research, are warning hunters that eating game meat killed with lead bullets could make them ill. Most hunters use lead ammunition which can leave hundreds of fragments scattered throughout the animal's carcass and could be unknowingly ingesting lead. Overseas studies have detected lead in 10 percent to 50 percent of meat samples tested. Lead-free ammunition typically costs more than lead bullets which often puts hunters off making the switch. Unfortunately their research has resulted in them receiving threats from those who mistakenly believe that their hunting "freedoms" are being eroded. Dr Buenz says hunters are happy to spend many dollars to drive to their hunting destination but not willing to spend an extra dollar or two for the one bullet they might need to harvest the animal. This doesn't make sense as the cost of the bullet in

the entire process of going hunting is really pretty insignificant. Those U3A members present warmly applauded Gareth's presentation with a number telling me that he was one of the better speakers we have heard.

*David Turner*

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### **President's Report, Dec 2022**

Christmas Greetings from our house to yours.

As we reflect on a busy 2022, with General Meetings, Guest Speakers, interesting 'Getting To Know You' talks from our members, and all that you do with your own Study Groups, Tony and I want to wish you all the best for the Festive Season, and let's do it all again in 2023.

Thank you to your hard working Committee, to our Study Group Convenors, many of whom open their homes to members. It was with disappointment that on Saturday 3 December, we had to postpone the Convenors Thank You Afternoon tea due a COVID outbreak at Olive Estate. We will organise a get together in January.

Look forward to seeing you all at our first General Meeting next year on 22 February 2023.

In the meantime, wherever you are, whoever you are with, all the very best for Christmas Day, and every good wish for a happy, healthy, safe start to 2023.

*Wendy Cornish*



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### **From the Study Groups Co-ordinator**

**Congratulations everyone on a highly successful 2022 and here's to an even more fulfilling 2023.**

As Study Groups Co-ordinator, I'd just like to offer my best wishes for the coming holiday season and to thank you all for the enthusiastic commitment you have shown to the many groups we run.

As always at this time of year, a few of those groups will close, but already for 2023 I am gathering names and expressions of interest for new areas of study and enjoyment.

In a few days time, you will receive my last group update for 2022 including the latest offerings from convenors new and old. So please don't hesitate to get back to me at any time for anything that grabs your fancy.

In the meantime, stay safe and see you all in the New Year.

*Steven Shaw*

### **Some more "Lexiphiles":**

Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? . . . He's all right now.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine . . . was fully recovered.

Those who get too big for their britches will be . . .exposed in the end.

When she saw her first strands of gray hair, . . . she thought she'd dye.

Acupuncture: . . . a jab well done



## Hands in the Garden

Here is my tale of woe ... but it does have a happy ending.

I had arranged for my U3A Hands in the Garden group to visit a spectacular private garden in Ruby Bay on 9th November.

Unfortunately, 24-hours before the visit I was struck down with Covid and couldn't share the experience which included having a picnic under the shade of a giant Lime tree overlooking Tasman Bay.

Several members of the group very kindly shared their photographs with me and emailed their gratitude for the opportunity to visit such a beautiful property.

It made me realise what a wonderful group of people they are and how, over just a few years of attending and latterly convening Hands in the Garden, we have all become good friends.

For many of them an appreciation of gardening and plants is all they have in common with each other, but when we get together once a month we combine to make an hospitable, fun and friendly group.

My only regret is that I am unable to add new members to Hands in the Garden. This is simply because it would become unmanageable, especially finding a venue for our after-garden-tour lunch.

I know there are several people in U3A who would love to join a gardening group, whether it be for sharing tips and recommendations, listening to guest speakers or to visit private gardens and commercial growers.

Can I offer to assist someone who would be willing to start-up a new U3A gardening-orientated group. It may seem daunting to convene a new group, but with help it can be made easy and I can assure you it is so rewarding.

If you have the enthusiasm please give me a call: Judy Pittman 03 545 2181 or email [randjpittman@gmail.com](mailto:randjpittman@gmail.com)







*Thanks to Bridget Austin and Sally Mason for these beautiful photos from the Hands in the Garden group.*

### **Bookcases group**

Our Christmas gathering, in Sally and Don's garden, amidst fine food, birdsong, and an incredible and very diverse range of Christmas literary offerings from each of us. The first gathering of the BOOKCASES group was in 2015, and it is growing from strength to strength. The membership continues to change and evolve. This refreshes the group and adds to the wide range of interest and literary journeys experienced by us all. Laughter and sharing our love of reading bonds us into a very special group.

*Sally Mason, Convenor*





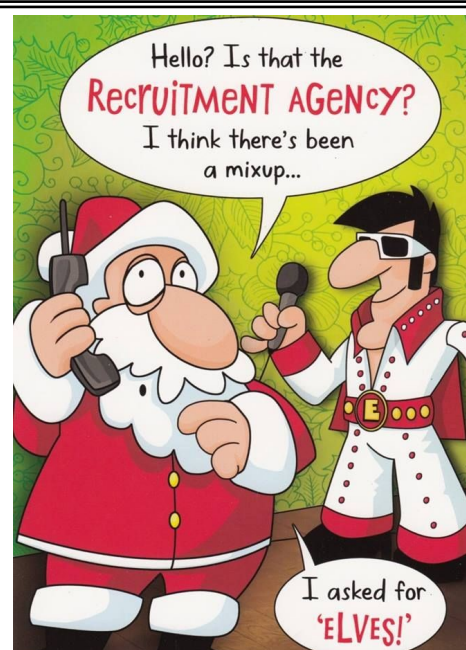
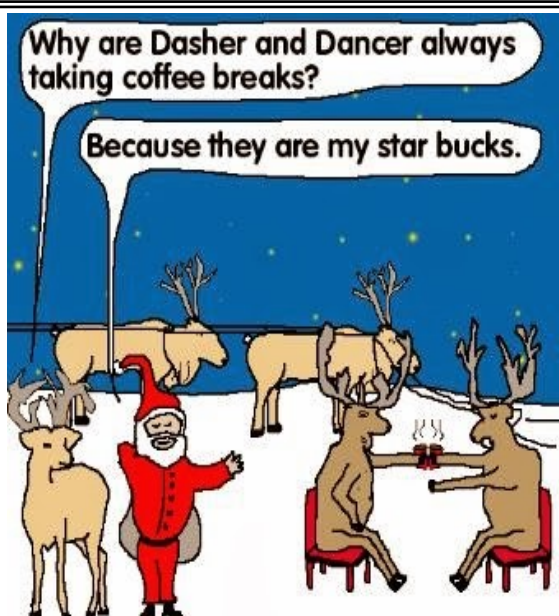
### BEWARE 0900 NUMBERS

A cautionary tale which affected a member from another Association.

An elderly relative (in his 90s) of the member received a phone call asking him to ring them back on the number they gave (an 0900 number). He was trying to be helpful, as they said they were doing a survey on older people. He said that they got him to ring back over several days, and had him on the phone for hours.

When he received his phone bill, he found he had been billed for several hundred additional dollars. The member rang Spark on his behalf and, while they did eventually offer to reduce his bill by 50%, they wouldn't help identify the culprit, wouldn't block 0900 calls on his line, nor take any action against the scammers.

Beware! Don't let the next victim be you. Never ring an 0900 number. These are numbers with heavy cost for each minute, part of which goes to Spark (or whoever your phone provider is) and part to the person holding the number. You will always end up paying heavily for such calls and anyone contacting you and asking you to reply on such a number will almost certainly be a scammer.



### These will tickle you:

Once again, The Washington Post has published the winning submissions to its yearly neologism contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words...and the winners are:

- 1.Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs.
- 2.Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
- 3.Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
- 4.Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
- 5.Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent.
- 6.Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
- 7.Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.
- 8.Gargoyle (n.), gross olive-flavored mouthwash.
- 9.Flatulence (n.) emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
- 10.Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.
- 11.Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.

**From the Editor:** I hope you have enjoyed this final newsletter for 2022.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

*Trevor Lewis*