

Learning for Life

Volume 16, Issue 3, June 2023

Our next Members' Meeting will be on June 28th from 10 am till 12 noon at Elim Church, 625 Main Road, Stoke, Nelson. The speaker is Gerard Hindmarsh.

Gerard will be well known to many as local author, journalist and regular Out West columnist for the Nelson Mail/Stuff. Born in Wellington, he trained as a cartographer before shifting to Golden Bay in 1976, where he worked in various jobs before a shift into journalism in 1991. Since then, his award-winning feature work has appeared in numerous publications both in New Zealand and overseas and his long-running Outsider series on Radio Live attracted a loyal following also.

Building on the success of his books '*Kahurangi Calling*' and '*Kahurangi Stories*', he will be talking and presenting a slideshow about his latest offering '*Kahurangi out West*', the final in this trilogy of stories from the backcountry of Northwest Nelson. Highly readable and engaging, '*Kahurangi Out West*' weaves together the best stories about a remarkable corner of New Zealand.

Books will be available on the day at \$40 each.

Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- ◇ President's report
- ◇ Name badges—reminder
- ◇ Parking at Elim Church for general meetings
- ◇ Committee for the year
- ◇ Speaker report from our last meeting
- ◇ Group etiquette
- ◇ Judy Hiener, Life Member
- ◇ Steve's overseas trip...so far
- ◇ Group 'Movies to cheer'

President's report

Greetings U3Aers

Hope you are all enjoying what has been a gentle start into the first few days of winter. Many thanks to Jenny Pullen for becoming our new Treasurer and for chasing unfinancial members. There are still a few members yet to pay. Please email me if you are not sure if you have paid or not, as we have had several double payments which have required refunds. Still trying to trace the payment made 21 February from H. Champion, as we have no member by that family name. If whoever this is or if anyone knows who this is please let me know. Thanks.

See the notice re Name Badges below - and to try and encourage members to wear their badges, your Committee has decided to have some fun at our 28 June General Meeting. For everyone who remembers to wear their badge, you will be given a raffle ticket at the Theatrette door, to go into the draw for a gift basket. We are hoping this will encourage you to find your lost badge and wear it!!! For those 13 members who requested replacement badges and 5 new members who have joined since the AGM General Meeting, don't worry, your new badge will be waiting at the Welcome Desk. If you have your badge with you, you don't need to wait in the queue, but can go straight to Theatrette door and get your raffle ticket on the way past. We are hoping this will be some fun.

Looking forward to seeing you all again and hearing Gerard Hindmarsh at our 28 June meeting.

Wendy

Name Badges

Your U3A name badge is your responsibility and the reason for members to wear them at our bi-monthly General Meetings is because socializing with each other is as much a part of U3A as our Study Groups, and it is so much more friendly if we know each other by name, especially with the expanding number of members.

Having to re-issue replacement badges is time consuming, costly and creates congestion at the Welcome Desk, so, a plea, please look after your name badges and bring them to every General Meeting.

"Housekeeping"

Have you changed your email address, phone number, deleted a landline etc. Please email tonyandwendy@xtra.co.nz with any corrections.

We have found several changes lately, and need to keep our data base up to date.

Thanks

Wendy

Parking at Elim Church for General Meetings

There are 8 carparks and 2 disabled parks available immediately adjacent to the Elim Church building for our meetings. The balance of parking is along either side of the main road.

We have been advised that **under no circumstances** is there to be parking along the fence-line or in the spaces designated for Elim Kids Pick Up and Drop Off which are clearly marked (see photo). This did cause an issue when some of our members parked in these two areas for 2 hours at our AGM. It is expected that with the opening of "Habitat for Humanity" on 13 June, all the road cones outside Elim will be removed.

Elim Church thanks us all for adhering to this request.

Carpooling is a great idea and Elim is on the bus route.

Wendy



Committee for the year

Officers

President - Wendy Cornish

Vice President - (to be appointed from Committee)

Treasurer - Jenny Pullen

Secretary - co-opt/in discussion

Committee

Steven Shaw - Study Group Co-ordinator

Trevor Lewis - Newsletter Editor

Paul Lunberg - Speaker Organiser / Assets Manager

David Wright - IT Co-ordinator

Andrew Mason - IT Support/Reviewer

Anne White - New Member Welcomer/ Catering Sub-Committee

Judy Pittman - Publicity/ TWEMs/Welcomer

Hilary Carpenter - Catering Sub-committee/Welcomer

Helen Gowland - Catering Sub-Committee/Welcomer

From our last meeting—A Hard Act To Follow

“Wow!” What a superb speaker we had at the May AGM! If you were not there you missed out on one of our best speakers ever!

Jason Balla, Director of the Nelson Civic Choir, was a tour de force, taking us on a journey covering the history of choral music from 200 years BC in ancient Greece to specific presentations for events such as King Charles’ Coronation where 12 new pieces have been commissioned including the Coronation Anthem composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Jason is a consummate musical storyteller and interspersed his talk with snippets of appropriate choral works. While he was discussing the opera Peter Grimes by Benjamin Britten (he sang in the chorus of a production in Chicago) he ‘let rip’ with such power and volume that many of us, including me, initially jumped. His accomplishments are varied and many, including MA (Hons) from Oxford, guest organist at Westminster Cathedral, the role of Emperor Altoum in Chicago in Puccini’s Turandot, radio broadcaster in Hong Kong, faculty member of Roosevelt University, Chicago and has performed in more than 1200 opera productions. His Organ and Piano instrumental recital tours have taken him across the world - USA, Germany, the UK and the far East. As well he is in international demand as a vocal coach and accompanist.

Though truly a man of many talents, he believes his finest is being a father of a new baby daughter!

David Turner

Group Etiquette

Sometimes it is important to remind ourselves what makes a good member of a group. So please let me list a few pertinent behaviours:

- We need to arrive on time, or inform the Convenor if we are going to be late or absent
- We need to prepare for the group, for some this may require quite a lot of work. It is unacceptable to attend without having done the task agreed to.
- The Convenor is likely to have gone to some effort for our comfort, it is just good manners to assist clearing up.
- Groups have different methods for refreshments but all should share somehow, perhaps bringing a plate or helping pour!
- Allow others to speak or express their views.

I hope this helps . *Paul*

Notice to Group Convenors

Just to advise that if running your Group incurs a cost for external venue hire, due to larger group numbers, you may apply to the Committee, with full details of hire costs which may be eligible for reimbursement or subsidy from U3A funds.

JUDY HIENER - ESTEEMED LIFE MEMBER – U3A

Judy's contribution to U3A over many years has been acknowledged with a Life Membership award. A certificate was recently presented by U3A President Wendy Cornish at a morning tea gathering at Coastal View retirement home.

Judy hosted and led several U3A *Write Your Life Groups* before concentrating on a *Creative Writing Group* in 2013 through to 2021. Many will remember Judy's farcical parody presentations of two Shakespeare plays at U3A meetings.

Due to degenerating eyesight, Judy was unable to read her pupils' scripts. Despite this, her remarkable memory for detail, her expressive impartation of knowledge, her encouragement and exhortation motivated the *Creative Writing Group* to produce a book of short stories as a tribute to Judy's leadership. Fittingly, the book was titled – '*Words She Cannot See*'.

At the Life Membership presentation, five members of Judy's writing group together with Paul Lunberg and President Wendy paid tribute to Judy's input and commitment to U3A. We were rewarded with some tales from Judy's widespread travels until settling in Nelson where Judy taught English at Nelson College for Girls and, together with her husband Wilhelm opened the Coach Lamps restaurant.

When prompted, Judy reminisced over her 'window dressing apprenticeship', a rather delightful story - "When I left school, I became a window dresser. I was living in King William's Town (South Africa). I applied for a job as an apprentice window dresser. A person would sometimes come along the street and put his face at the window and make faces at me while I was working. After an extensive OE trip prompted by Queen Elizabeth's pending coronation, I got back to South Africa and met up again with the 'face at the window' – Wilhelm. We were soon married."

Congratulations Judy. We, your writing group, are delighted that your incredible contribution has been recognised - Hanne, Les, Patricia, Jan and Henry.



Hanne, Les, Patricia, Judy, Jan, Wendy, Paul and Henry. Photo – Tony (President's Wingman)

Steves trip...so far....

Not too far South of Frankfurt you'll find Tauberbischofsheim. Our esteemed Study Group Coordinator Steve is roaming along the Rhine with Jane and they have hit it right with the weather, the scenery and the magnificent old buildings – they have also through careful pre-trip planning seen some brilliant operas in various famous theatres.

I hope he comes back with his energy cells all recharged!

Paul (see Steve's photos on the next page)



Does this group appeal to you?

Movies to Cheer

Meets 1.30pm, 2nd and 4th Fridays at Kay's home in The Wood.

Why do some movies have you getting out of your seat with a spring in your step and a smile on your face? What makes it work?

A reviewing of some favourite films - classics / rom coms / comedies. No serious films here.

We have room for more in this group.

Kay Hunter and Liz Chinnery-Jack-Bowyer

Finally, to end on a light-hearted note....

1. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of maths disruption.
5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
6. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
8. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
9. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
10. A backward poet writes inverse.
11. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
12. Don't join dangerous cults: Practise safe sects.

Ray and Bob, two government maintenance guys, were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking up. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing. "We're supposed to find the height of the flagpole", said Bob, "But we don't have a ladder." The woman said, "Hand me that wrench out of your toolbox." She loosened a few bolts, and then laid the pole down. She then took a tape measure from their toolbox, took a measurement and announced, "Eighteen feet, six inches" and walked away. Ray shook his head and laughed. "Well, ain't that just like a 'Miss-know-it-all' woman?" he said. "We need the height and she gives us the length!" Ray and Bob are still working for the government. But now they're congressmen.

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 7th August.**

Trevor Lewis