

Learning for Life

Volume 17, Issue 1, February, 2024

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



Tania has over 12+ years of experience with UNICEF in New York, the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) and Geneva, with a focus on humanitarian, fragile, and conflict affected environments. She now works for UNICEF Aotearoa in New Zealand.

As we enter 2024, the world stands at a pivotal juncture. A brighter tomorrow starts with the choices we make today. These choices are not always straightforward or easy, but success is possible. History shows that collaboration can create dramatic change for children. Come and hear about hope and the impact for children that can be made and how you can be involved.

Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- Subscriptions
- Early reminder of AGM
- President's report
- AA Carfit and Staying Safe refresher driving workshops
- DIG group end of year photo
- Speakers for 2024
- Convenors afternoon tea
- Bird watching group
- Funny quotes and cartoons

Subscriptions 2024

Subscriptions are not officially due until 1 April 2024, with the end of our subscription year being 31 March 2024. But to ease the rush of everyone paying all at once and receipts required to be sent to members, Membership Secretary Wendy would appreciate it if you could start paying anytime from now that suits you. The annual subscription is **\$30 per person** and the bank account number is in the newsletter header above. Don't forget to put your initial and family name under 'Reference'.

Thanks to those members who have already paid through to 31 March 2025.

An early reminder that the 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held on May 1st 2024.

President's Report

Greetings to you all

I guess most of you will be underway with your Study Groups now for 2024, and hope you are all enjoying being back. Looking forward to seeing you at our first General Meeting for 2024, at Elim Church, Main Road Stoke on Wednesday 28 February at 10am. Please remember to wear your name badges because we have 11 new members who will be joining us.

Paul, Speaker Co-ordinator, has organised a wonderful speaker, Tania McBride, and you can read her Bio in this Newsletter. (Thanks to Lance Weir for the speaker suggestion). And please see Paul if you would

like to introduce or thank one of our great speakers at any of our five General Meetings this year. Remember we are always keen to hear from you about possible speakers, new groups etc. This is YOUR U3A.

See you on the 28th.

Cheers,
Wendy

AA Carfit and Staying Safe refresher driving workshop

Just giving you a heads up of:

- AA carfit 20 minute safety check in your car (see Flyer below)
- Staying safe refresher driver workshop on Wednesday 6th March at Summerset Richmond Ranges, 1000-1230pm

Call me to book for either of these courses.

Jackie MacIntyre | Community support co-ordinator and driver programmes |

Age Concern Nelson Tasman

62 Oxford Street | Richmond

Ph: (03) 544-7624 ext 4 - 021 195 8108

www.ageconcernnt.org.nz



CarFit in NZ is based on CarFit in USA, which was created by the American Society on Aging and developed in collaboration with AAA (American Automobile Association), AARP and the AOTA (American Occupational Therapy Association)

CarFit - run in association with Age Concern.

It is a Free 20-minute Safety Check in your car. Get correctly & comfortably fitted to drive.



On: Friday 23rd Feb 2024 from 10-3pm

@ Nelson Suburbs Football Carpark, Saxton Field

To Book: Please call Jackie on 021 195 8108



Members of the DIG group pose for a group photo at their final meeting for 2023.

Speakers for 2024 U3A meetings

Our thanks to Paul Lunberg for arranging these interesting speakers for the year ahead.

Date	Person	Topic
28- Feb-24	Tania McBride	Tania has experienced many activities with UNICEF
1 May AGM	Brad Cadwallader	Brad manages the NZ Tree Register, which would also traverse the notable and historic trees of Nelson/Tasman
26-Jun-24	Rick Keissig of Kimer Med	Rick will talk about the under appreciated aspects of viruses and their treatment, including how they are involved in a surprising number of human and animal health issues
28-Aug-24	Nigel Costley	Nigel is an excellent speaker on many topics, and he has also written a book about the Edwin Fox, which many of us have seen in Picton. His talk will be fascinating.
23-Oct-24	Peter Butler, Health Post Nature Trust	You may have seen Peter on Country Calendar. He is creating a safe environment for seabirds to breed along the cliffs and dunes, and other native species to flourish in the forests and wetlands.

Convenors afternoon tea

As we have done each year, we hold a Convenors ‘Thank You’ at the end of the year, to show our appreciation, because without convenors opening their homes or leading Study Groups, U3A would not have much purpose for our ongoing learning and socialising.

A record number of Convenors and Committee (34) attended on Saturday 2 December and it was great to have new Convenors join us.

Study Group Co-ordinator, Steven Shaw, led a discussion centred around how essential it is for Convenors to keep Steve up to date with group numbers. Convenors must email Steve when someone leaves the group, because that is the only way he knows about vacancies, for the many new members we have joining U3A. It can get really difficult for him, when he has new people joining U3A and there are no groups with vacancies.

Much discussion took place regarding waiting lists. These are difficult to keep track of, so there was consensus, that rather than keeping waiting lists, when there are vacancies in groups advised by the Convenors, Steve will email all U3A members, and the vacancy is on a "first come, first served basis". Also, it was thought fair to give a vacancy to a new member, not in any groups, rather than someone who is already in five or so groups.

Afternoon tea followed, and thanks to the catering subcommittee - Anne White, Hilary Carpenter and Helen Gowland for their organisation.

Wendy

Some serious discussion over a cuppa!



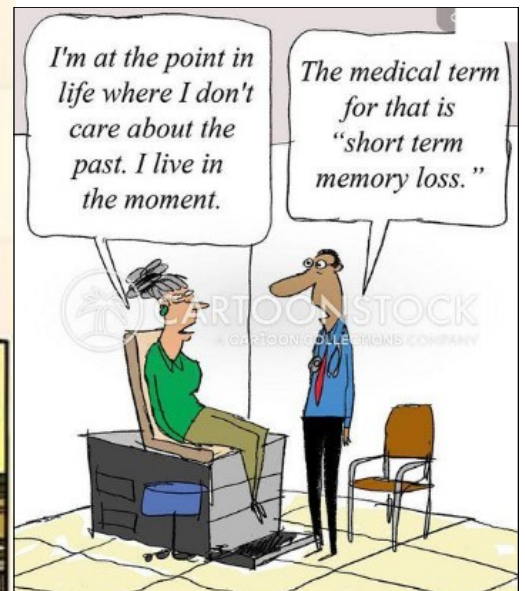
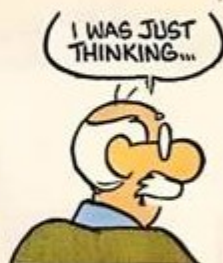
More photos from the Convenors afternoon tea.



ARE WE THERE YET?



The placement of these cartoons on the same page as photos of "older" people is pure coincidence. —Ed.



Bird watching at Rough Island

Our first outing for 2024 was on Nelson Anniversary Day in perfect weather. We parked on Rough Island just across the bridge to Rabbit Island and were hoping to see an elusive banded rail, as a few are known to live in the rushes on the tidal mudflats on either side of the embankment. Walking across the bridge, our small group of five observed the usual ducks, shags, kingfishers and white-faced herons, but best was the line-up of welcome swallows perched on a piece of driftwood and waiting to be photographed.

Further on we moved quietly and soon I spotted a banded rail feeding on the mud, then it moved out of sight in rushes just below the road. A short while later Gordon and I were standing together when he whispered “There it is” and sure enough it had re-appeared just a few metres away. I managed to get several photos before it disappeared, reappearing shortly after as it darted away. A bit later Gordon and Ruth saw another adult with a chick which was exciting for them.

By now the day was heating up so we returned to our cars and drove the short distance to a convenient coffee cart for sustenance and to discuss our observations. Although we often see the same bird species on our outings, we never tire watching them, plus there is always the unexpected to keep us on our toes.

Trevor Lewis, Convenor



The banded rail, best sighting of the day.



Bird watchers watching!



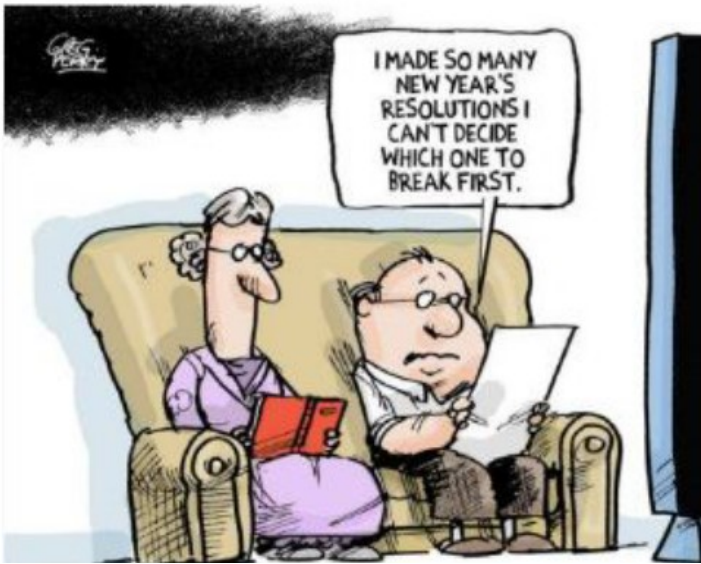
Welcome swallows waiting!

From the Listeners “Funniest Quotes”:

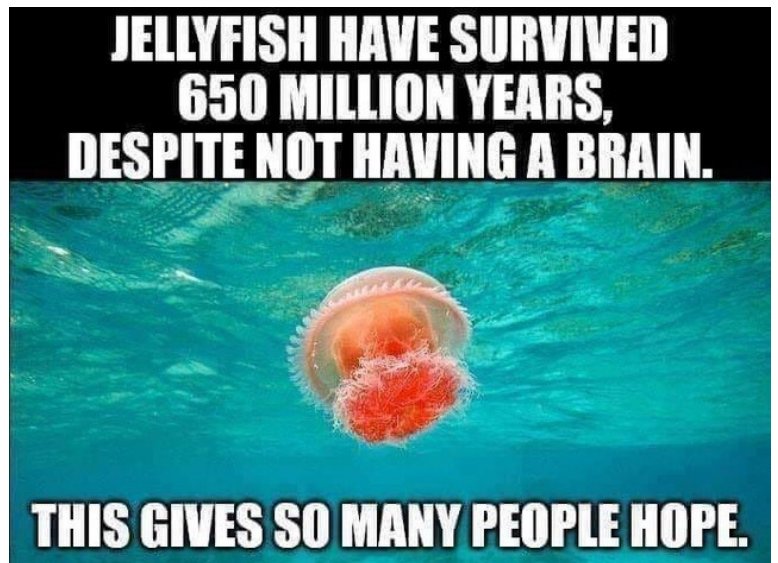
“How many people work here? About half of them.” Quip about the United Nations quoted on RNZ.

“The only function of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable.” John Kenneth Galbraith quoted in *The Economist*.

“What we learn from history is that we do not learn from history.” GWF Hegel quoted in *The Week*.



Did you know that
"Dammit I'm Mad"
spelled backwards is
"Dammit I'm Mad"



“Growing old is inevitable. Growing up is optional.”

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, and photographs help to make the newsletter more interesting and colourful.

Deadline for articles for the April newsletter is Monday 8th April.

Trevor Lewis