

## Learning for Life

Volume 17, Issue 2, April, 2024

**Our next AGM and Members' Meeting** will be on Wednesday May 1st from 10 am till 12 noon at Elim Church, 625 Main Road, Stoke, Nelson. The speaker is Brad Cadwallader.

**O**ur next speaker will be excellent, as was our last one. Brad Cadwallader manages the NZ Tree Register and is the expert on notable and historic trees of Nelson and Tasman.

BUT - - there is always a but! We are so lucky to have such quality speakers to visit us and spend their time with us. Why on earth do I have difficulty finding people to introduce the Speakers, which requires a tiny bit of research AND thankers who just have to listen? The thankers are also requested to write a few lines about the talk and present their comment to the Editor of this fine journal [email it to:]

[Editor@u3anelson.org.nz](mailto:Editor@u3anelson.org.nz)

*Please* write to me today and offer to be an **Introducer** or a **Thanker**. Go on, while it is in your mind -> [events@u3anelson.org.nz](mailto:events@u3anelson.org.nz)

Thankyou, *Paul Lunberg*

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### Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- Report on the speaker from the February meeting
- President's report
- U3A Group Etiquette
- Two new groups
- Vacancies in group 'Musical Renditions'
- Positive ageing expo
- 'Hands in the Garden' report
- Funnies

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### Speaker report from the February meeting:

**T**ania McBride from UNICEF Aotearoa spoke at the February 28th meeting of U3A Nelson.

We are privileged to have Tania living and working in NZ, the Pacific region, and conducting brief missions internationally, while living here in Nelson.

Tania brought all her experiences as a teacher, educator and administrator to us in an excellent, concise, in-depth presentation. Her title, "For every child, hope" resonated with me and those in the room.

She has worked in Africa, the Middle East, Switzerland and the US amongst other countries for over 14 years. Gaza, in Palestine was her home for three years and as we see the TV images we can imagine the horrors and situations she experienced as she worked for and with children and their families. We were left, like she is, wondering if that new school we saw in the photo still exists. And, the children, their families, the dedicated teachers? Are they still alive with their yearning for education? Are they hungry each day? Do they have any water? Water! So crucial and vital and we just take it for granted. May we

waste no more of this precious resource.

Tania has carried out humanitarian work in fragile, conflicted areas where aid workers work with the emergency preparedness and response plans that UNICEF has carefully prepared and with the support of so many other UN agencies and non-government organisations.

We were astounded by the figures; companies involved; and Tania's depth of knowledge.

UNICEF was established in 1946 and is working in over 190 countries for the Rights of Children.

Over 37 million children live in displaced situations worldwide, but even those not displaced suffer in many ways. Like children close to us in the Pacific who live without clean water, adequate food, lack of sanitation, lack education and a safe, loving environment.

Education is so important but so many here do not value it. Thank you Tania for all you do and for all you taught us.

Here is the link to UNICEF NZ website if you would like to donate (some members already have):

<https://www.unicef.org.nz/support-us/current-appeals>

*Rosalie Johnson*

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## **President's report**

**G**reetings to all members.

I hope you are enjoying seeing the beautiful autumn colours around our area - stunning.

Thank you for the huge response to my last message re paying subscriptions due on 31 March. I had a busy Easter issuing your receipts to keep up with all the payments made. Good work everyone.

As at 12th April, we still have a number of members who are currently in the Unfinancial section of the data base and these subscriptions are now overdue. When paying your subscription of \$30 per person, the U3A account number is in the top right hand corner of the front page of the newsletter.

If you are unsure of your membership status, please do not hesitate to call me, 027 221 3999 or email [tonyandwendy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tonyandwendy@xtra.co.nz) to check if you have paid, which will save double payments, and Jenny, our Treasurer needing to issue refunds.

Remember, u3anelson.org.nz is our website, and most of the queries you might have, especially re Study Groups, you can find the answers on the website.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next General Meeting, our AGM, at 10am, Elim theatre, Main Rd Stoke on Wed 1st May.

See you soon

*Wendy*

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## **U3A Group Etiquette**

*"I never could have done what I have done without the habits of punctuality, order, and diligence ...."*  
Charles Dickens.

**M**any U3A members would be advised to consider the above quote when it comes to their attendance at interest groups.

**Punctuality.** I can hear members of my Hands in the Garden group groaning and saying things like, "if the cap fits, wear it" and "there's the kettle calling the pot black". Yes, I am guilty of often arriving late to

the very meetings I am convening. Nearly every time it's because I have misjudged the traffic on Wakatu Drive but I can't keep using that as an excuse and I really must allow a full hour to travel from Atawhai to Mapua.

At a recent U3A meeting where I chatted with several other convenors I noted that the most common complaint was about members who fail to reply to the convenor's invitation, or those who leave it until the last minute to indicate if they will or will not be attending. As one of the convenors said, "It's like they're waiting to see if they get a better offer and our meetings are a low priority".

**Order.** When I re-joined the Explore Nelson walking group after a break of 12-months I made sure I wrote "Walk" into my 2024 diary for every Thursday morning. This way, I can avoid making appointments that clash with the walk and, these days, I need all the reminders I can get because, like many in their Third Age, my memory is not as sharp as it used to be.

**Diligence.** Very often the convenor hosts the group in their home and goes to considerable trouble to plan the meeting. The host needs to know how many will be attending so they can lay out the room with sufficient seating and ready the refreshments, if provided. In the case of my Hands in the Garden group and also the Trivia Quiz group I have to book a lunch venue and The Honest Lawyer, respectively. If I tell the venues that 20 are coming and then only 12 turn-up it's not only embarrassing for me, but potentially costly for the venue who may have created extra food for the extra customers expected.

One convenor mentioned that he was fed-up with having to clear-up after groups had left his home. Is it too much to expect that a guest would take their mugs and plates to the kitchen sink? And how about providing a packet of biscuits or cake for the convenor to share with the group. It shouldn't be the convenor who has to feed the group at every meeting.

At the risk of sounding like your mother, remember your manners and common courtesy and make the convenor's role a little easier.

Reply promptly to the convenor's invitation.

Arrive punctually.

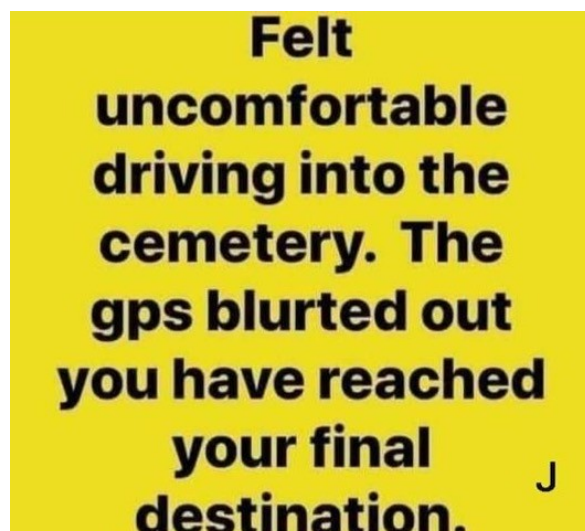
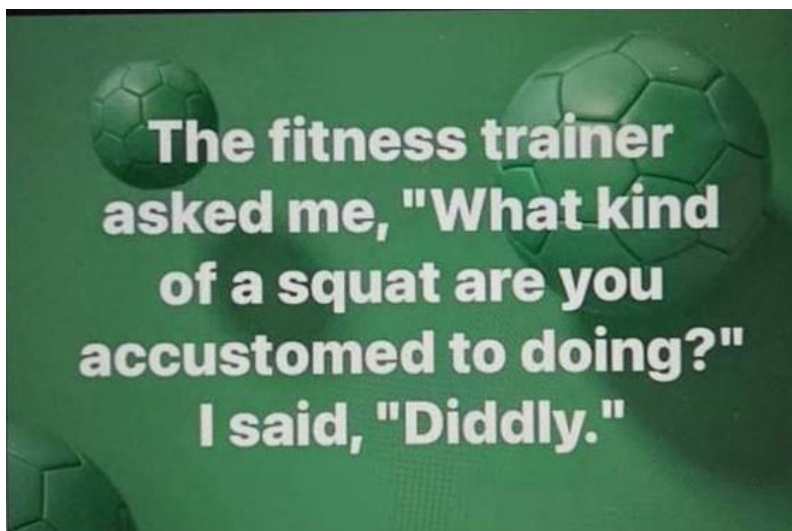
Clear-up at the end of the meeting.

Offer to provide refreshments occasionally, if required.

Make the convenor's job easy.

*Judy Pittman*

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## **New groups:**

### **THE PRIVATE LIVES OF SCIENTISTS.**

This group (with vacancies still) has been looking at some interesting lives. First we looked at the life of perhaps the greatest woman scientist of NZ, but better known in the USA. Beatrice Hill was born in the UK during the Blitz. She was not expected to live. Her parents met in the Moral Rearmament Group and this clearly had an influence on her upbringing. Her father became a Minister in New Plymouth and also became Mayor. Beatrice became a popular dux and lead violinists of the Youth National Orchestra. She switched to study astronomy and cosmology. Married she had problems in continuing her work in Texas where her husband still lives. She had to go her own way and became a great achiever in the area of galaxy creation and destruction. She died early with a melanoma. It was her students that took her attention as she lay dying.

Nikolai Ivanovich Vavilov just has to be a Russian. He was an agronomist trained in the UK. He devoted his life to the study and collection of the seeds of cereal crops back in Russia. He conflicted with the ideas of Trofim Lysenko who he once helped. Stalin backed Lysenko and the application of his ideas led to collective farms, failed ideas, and mass starvation. Vavilov was arrested and subsequently sentenced to death in July 1941. Although his sentence was commuted he died in prison in 1943. Later he was pardoned, his reputation restored, rehabilitated, and hailed as a hero of Soviet Science. His seed bank was protected during WW II and the Siege of Leningrad, becoming the nucleus of other seed banks.

There are images you can get through Google.

*Paul Bieleski.*

### **Singing for Fun**

**T**he benefits of singing are too numerous to list. This group isn't about learning how to sing or read music. It's about singing popular songs together, challenging the brain to learn new songs that the kids sing today, and having fun.

No audition required!

1.30pm each 2nd and 4th Friday. Currently at Kay's home in The Wood.

*Kay Hunter*

### **Vacancies in this group:**

#### **Musical Renditions**

**R**ock, concerto, R&R, medieval, jazz, pop, opera, are a few of the names plucked out of the very long list of musical genres. If your mind is open to exploring the wonderful world of music and the way it is presented, then join us twice monthly at my home in The Wood.

10.30am each 1st and 3rd Monday. One, (or two at a push) vacancies.

*Kay Hunter*

*Singing in the shower is fine until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.*

*How much does a chimney cost? Nothing, it's on the house.*

*My friend said she wouldn't eat cow's tongue because it came out of a cow's mouth. I gave her an egg!*

*My friend Jack says he can communicate with vegetables. That's right...Jack and the beans talk.*

## Positive Ageing Expo

The Positive Ageing Expo, was held on Saturday 6 April at Headingley Centre and was a great success. This event occurs every second year. It was hard to tell how many members of the public attended, but the general consensus was that the turnout was almost double September 2022.

Many organisations were represented and U3A's stand was very busy, handling many enquiries.

My sincere thanks to Di Goodman, Roger and Judy Pittman, Colin and Jeni Bell, Helen Mackellar and Hilary Carpenter for their help throughout the day. We enjoyed talking to people about U3A, Study Groups and General Meetings.

Thanks team, you were awesome.

*Wendy*



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## Hands in the Garden

We all like to dress smartly when we go out, and it's no different when we attend U3A meetings, but in the case of the Hands in the Garden group's visit to the Golden Bay Fruit packhouse in Motueka there was a strict dress code. "Remove all jewellery and wear a hairnet" – and that included the men.

Looking like a Coronation Street Ena Sharples Convention the group had a fascinating guided tour of the packhouse – the largest in New Zealand. Apples destined for export around the world were being sorted and packed using a combination of manual labour and machinery. The technology involved was astounding, including a machine that scans every apple checking for colour, bruising, bugs, blemishes and other faults. Mindful of the quote: "One bad apple can spoil the whole bunch".

*Judy Pittman*



*Inside the packhouse.*



*The group resplendent in their hairnets!*

## Random Thoughts

- We live in a time where intelligent people are silenced so that stupid people won't be offended.
- The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to prove they aren't a robot.
- Still trying to get my head around the fact that 'Take Out' can mean food, dating, or murder.
- The older I get, the more I understand why roosters just scream to start their day.
- How did doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life when the rabbit is always jumping, but only lives for around two years; and the turtle that doesn't exercise at all lives over 200 years? So, rest, chill, eat, drink & enjoy life!
- If only vegetables smelled as good as bacon.
- I woke up this morning, determined to drink less, eat right & exercise. But that was just hours ago when I was younger and full of hope!
- It's weird being the same age as old people.
- I just got a present labelled, 'From Mum and Dad;' and I know darn well Dad has no idea what's inside.
- I have many hidden talents. I just wish I could remember where I hid them.

## Success & Failure:

**“Success is going from failure to failure without a loss of enthusiasm.”**

***Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister.***



## 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 June newsletter is Monday 10th June.**

*Trevor Lewis*