



Learning for Life

Volume 18, Issue 2, April, 2025

www.u3anelson.org.nz

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NEW BANK ACCOUNT!! Note our new account number above. We have changed from Westpac to Nelson Building Society. Please delete Westpac from your saved payees.

Our next Members' Meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 7th May** from 10 am till 12 noon at Elim Church, 625 Main Road, Stoke, Nelson. **The speaker is Sally Gepp KC.**

Topic: Environmental law - from neighbours at war to the climate crisis

Outline: Sally will talk on the broad scope of environmental law and the challenges faced in using law as a tool to protect the environment, covering some key Court cases including several she has been involved in. Sally will also outline the work of Lawyers for Climate Action.

About Sally Gepp: Sally is a Nelson-based barrister who specialises in resource management and environmental law. She acts for developers, government agencies, iwi and NGOs on a wide range of resource management issues, and has appeared regularly at all hearing levels from Council hearings through to the Supreme Court. Sally also lectures in resource management law at Victoria University of Wellington. Sally is also a member of the New Zealand Conservation Authority and a board member of Lawyers for Climate Action. Sally is the first Nelson lawyer to be appointed to the rank of King's Counsel.



Sally Gepp KC

Barrister

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Topics covered in this Newsletter:

- President's report
 - Speaker report from February
 - Subscriptions due notice
 - Report on Positive Ageing expo
 - Hands in the Garden
 - Your key U3A contacts
 - "Getting to know you" - Anne White
 - Creating a Study Group
 - Explore Nelson walking group
 - Funnies
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President's Report

Greetings to you all - what a mild autumn we have had so far, although lots of rain. Cooler temps are nice but the small showing of snow on the mountains reminds us of what is around the corner!!!

Looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 7 May, 10am at Elim Theatre, when we will start the meeting with the formal AGM, then Notices and then our speaker after morning tea. Because it is our AGM, we do record apologies, so please send those to me, if you are unable to attend.

tonyandwendy@extra.co.nz . Thanks

Please wear your name badges, as we have 27 new members. New member name badges will be at the Welcome Desk.

See you then,

Wendy

Speaker report from our February meeting

Members at the first U3A Public Meeting for 2025 had the most magical and entertaining session from this lively, animated speaker, Gwen Daly. She has packed more into her life than most of us could in several lifetimes.

Her warmth and charm enthralled us as she told us vignettes from her life story illustrated by slides. The twists and turns she encountered in her career and the various countries she has lived in were told to us in an engaging way, leaving us wanting to know more.

At one stage she was a nanny to Diana Dors (Britain's answer to Marilyn Monroe in the 1950s and '60s.) As well, she has been an actress, a script writer, film director and theatre producer. She is also a trained therapeutic counsellor.

Two short films that she has been involved with concluded an outstanding presentation.

Gwen can be contacted at: gwendalydover@gmail.com

U3A Member subscriptions were due on 31 March 2025 for the coming year to 31 March 2026

- Thank you to everyone who paid after the last two reminders, but as at the time of writing this for the Newsletter, there are still quite a few members who are **now overdue**.
- Remember, we do not send out invoices.
- It is your responsibility to pay on or before 31 March each year.
- Thanks to everyone who updated their payee information. Only a handful paid to the old Westpac account, and that money has been retrieved.
- To those who are now overdue, please pay \$30 to our **U3A Nelson NBS Richmond account number 03 1354 0657098 00**

If you are not sure whether you have paid or not, happy for you to email me at tonyandwendy@extra.co.nz to check to see if your name is on the "naughty list"!!!!

Thanks

Wendy

Positive Ageing Expo

Grateful thanks to the wonderful team (Jocelyn Bell, Judy Pittman, Roz Jackson, Donna Swift, Beverley Mockett, Paulene Huston and Hanne Bjorkland) who answered my call at our last Members' Meeting, to be part of the Roster on the U3A stand at the Positive Ageing Expo on Saturday 5 April.

Thanks to Jocelyn who did a double shift, and Donna who handled all enquiries on her own when Hanne was unable to be with us.

Always good to 'wave the U3A banner', so people learn more about our great organisation. There was lots of interest and interacting with the public.

Wendy



Hands in the Garden U3A

Our first visit for 2025 was to the Mapua Wetlands Walk. Our lovely host Judy Mitchell greeted us on a sunny morning at adjacent Aranui Park and walked us across a field and through an old wooden gate to the starting point. She had mowed the paths especially for our visit. On a picnic table she had notes about the wetland and two baskets of pears for us to enjoy.

The Mapua Wetlands is one hectare of swamp forest re-creation started in 2005. What was going to be a brief walk turned into two hours of revelation at the number and size of native trees especially the kahikatea, the ponds and even the cutty grass which we all remembered as children. This is a very special place of which the community of Mapua is proud.

Lunch was a picnic under the trees in Aranui Park. If you are interested in going to see the wetland email Judy at judympua@gmail.com

Ruth Allison



At the gate to the Mapua Wetlands Walk

Your key U3A Contacts

Is your enquiry about **Study Groups?**

Message **study@u3anelson.org.nz**

Is your enquiry about **Membership or Annual Subscriptions?**

Message **membership@u3anelson.org.nz**

Often when Study Group Co-ordinator Hilary, or Newsletter Editor Trevor send out a message to U3A members, they get sent all manner of enquiries, and most relate to Membership.

So please ensure that you message the specific emails above, to make sure that your enquiry can be processed more easily.

Wendy

Getting to Know You - “My Story “ - Anne White

My life has been fairly “nomadic” so always “where to start”.

My early roots were Timaru and family holidays were often spent here in Nelson camping at Tahuna beach and visiting great Aunts who lived in Manuka Street.

A move to Auckland in my second- year secondary was a bit of a culture shock. My Dad had completed his Post Grad in Dentistry and Timaru did not have the population to support a specialist practice.

My decision to go nursing after leaving school set me up with a career for life. After Graduation a friend and I sailed to the U.K, and met up with 3 other girls and shared a flat in London until I got married to an Englishman that I had met in N.Z.

We lived in a delightful cottage in Hertfordshire so my “overseas” experience was somewhat curtailed. Peter was always unsettled in his work so when the opportunity to work in Australia came up it was 3/4s of the way back to N.Z. Three years later and with a second baby on the way in was time to “come home”.

Life was rather unsettled as my husband was never happy in his work so when the opportunity came up to buy a small lifestyle just out of Auckland we moved again and over the years became totally “Self-sufficient” and developed a small mushroom farm. It was a great environment for the children to grow up in. However, that was not to last for economic reasons and the next major move was to a “7 day a week” dairy grocery in Taupo.

Some 3 years later in was yet another move and my husband had a trip back to the U.K. A separation eventually followed and in 2000 (having bought a small house in Nelson with a view to settling here) I travelled back to the U.K. with a friend and with agency nursing to financially support me, had the opportunity to travel extensively.

My return in 2002 to my new location, the opportunity to further study (this time in Travel and tourism) which led to work as a Tour driver for a local company and be employed till Covid brought the world to a halt has been a journey worthwhile.

I joined U3A in 2007 as an opportunity to meet people and hopefully catch up on knowledge in areas of interest and it has more than filled my expectations, plus I have had the privilege of being a committee member. I moved to Summerset in the Sun in 2014, a good decision at the time and all things being well, look forward to a busy and interesting life.

Anne White

Create a Study Group Today - You don't need to be an Expert

Are you passionate about a topic?

Are you curious about a topic and want to explore it?

Want to connect with like-minded individuals?

We make it easy for you -

Choose a topic you're passionate about - a long list of previous U3A groups is available to inspire you.

Write a short description for the website so that potential members know what they're signing up for and of course to advertise the group. Give some thought even to the name of the group to reflect the content/activity/angle and to attract participants.

Decide the ideal number of participants you'd like.

Email me with your proposal study@u3anelson.org.nz and I will enter the group on the system, advertise it among the membership and keep you posted about numbers.

Finally, contact each of the interested members to work out days, times, venue, structure. Many groups meet at the home of the convenor, but often it's rotated among members. Or if your group has more than 8 members you might hire a venue such as a room at the library (hire charge met by U3A). You might like to convene at outdoor venues: for instance garden visits, cinema outings, or walking routes.

Planning the content of sessions can be done by all in the group. In the first session, groups usually discuss and settle on a programme at least for several meetings with different members taking responsibility for preparing and running a session. **The more interactive sessions are, the more enjoyable they will be.**

You don't need to be an expert or a teacher! All you need is an interest in the topic and a desire to learn more. You can use teaching aids like YouTube videos, music CDs, podcast recordings or guest speakers. (We have a large selection of DVDs and CDs available for convenors. See the lists on our website, <https://www.u3anelson.org.nz/u3a-administration/> in the 'Resources for Members' section.)

Hilary Carpenter

U3A Study Group Coordinator

Explore Nelson Walking Group - a couple of last minute photos from the walk on 17th April, at the top of the Richmond Reservoir Walk. This group has vacancies so contact study@u3anelson.org.nz if you are interested. Rosalie Johnson is the convenor.



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; & 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.

Today I saw a woman talking to her cat, she really thought the cat understood. I told my dog when I got home... we both had a good laugh.

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 Sunday 8th June.**

Finally, having now completed 6 years as editor, it is time to hand over to Helen Gowland who has kindly offered to carry on with production of this newsletter. Knowing Helen, I'm sure she will do an excellent job. For myself, it hasn't been too onerous, it has helped to keep my brain ticking over, and it has always been satisfying to send out the finished publication every two months.

My best wishes to all members,

Trevor Lewis