



Learning for Life

Volume 18, Issue 3, June, 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 on 25th June from 10am till 12 noon at Elim Church, 625 Main Road, Stoke, Nelson.
The speaker is Donna Swift talking on her trip to the Congo and study of Primates.

AGM Meeting – Speaker Report

By Bill Brett

Our speaker following the AGM meeting on May 7 was Sally Gepp KC, a lawyer specializing in environmental law. Sally explained that environmental law ranged from 'neighbours at war' to 'climate change'. She has clients on both sides – conservation and development - helping developers meet their obligations under the law and maintaining conservation based on science. Sally spent 10 years as an assistant lawyer representing Forrest & Bird before becoming their lead-lawyer. Sally now has 40+ corporate clients.

Sally explained that Environmental Law was complex, multi-layered, subjective, and often confusing.

Sally went on to explain that Environmental Law is a collection of laws, regulations, agreements, and common law, that governs human interest within the environment. Application - Most laws come from statute covering uses applied. Courts interpret the law plus consider the evidence. Minimum standards of justice are applied with regard to rights and liberties.

Common law is historic eg. Smith vs Fonterra.

The RMA currently being reviewed covers what we can do on our land. If it is special, considerations are – does it make a difference; shine a light; analysis; communication, and science.

Environmental Law can be used as a tool to protect the environment eg. Establishing wetlands. Sometimes there is strong conflicting evidence, and it is not possible to agree a solution and a law change may be used. A good example is food security – good food producing land being converted to housing, forestry, solar electricity generation.

Environmental law can also be used to impact climate change action, the ETS, and counter greenwashing.

Sally Gepp's talk was greatly appreciated for the manner in which she clarified Environmental Law and how it is applied.

Yes, English can be weird.

It can be understood through tough thorough thought, though.

Presidents Report.

Greetings to you all, and hope you are managing to stay warm.

Your Committee was delighted to see such a great turnout at our recent AGM. The most in attendance - 155 members present did stretch our Soroptomists caterers, but I hope eventually you all got something to eat and drink. No doubt it was the wonderful speaker, Sally Gepp KC who helped attract such a big attendance.

And for those of you who were not able to be present, you will find all reports from the AGM at the bottom of the **Administration** section on our website - u3anelson.org.nz

As previously advised, we have been experiencing issues with our Mailer system, but our IT people have now fixed this. The technology fix has been complicated, and I won't bore you with the details here, suffice to say, Convenors can now send messages via the Mailer to their Study Group Members and they won't go to your Junk/Spam InBox - we hope!! These emails will come into your Inbox now but will show a "no-reply" address. Convenors will add their email address at the end of their message to you, so if you need to reply to a convenor, don't do it via the "no-reply" message - use the Convenors own email address. I am sure we are all used to getting "no-reply" email messages from various organisations, so U3A mailer now conforms to that way of operating.

"This email address is not monitored. Do not reply to this email address"

To save the load on Committee members, who voluntarily give their time to this great organisation, I have suggested that Committee members answer emails Monday to Friday 9am til 5pm. They are all very conscientious, currently working on U3A matters 24/7, and as they are all valuable to our organisation, I want to try and save them from burnout. So, if you think of something to ask or email about, please be aware that you won't get an answer after 5pm weekdays, Saturday or Sunday.

I hope you think this is a fair way to operate.

- Nine new members since our last meeting; could I remind you to please wear your name badge to our Members' meetings.
- Thanks to new Editor Helen for this Newsletter, her first edition
- Thanks to Hilary, Study Group Cop-ordinator now managing 60 Study Groups
- Thanks to all the Convenors, new and "old" who put your energies into running your Study Groups.

Look forward to seeing you at our next Members' Meeting, Wednesday 25 June, when member Donna Swift will talk to us about her trip to the Congo and study of primates. You may remember Donna's fascinating "Getting To Know You" last year.

Sincerely

Wendy

Sometimes..When I close my
eyes.....
I can't see!



About Our Speaker for the June Meeting.

Donna Swift PhD - Anthropologist, Photographer, Writer, Researcher and Intrepid Traveller

"I have always been the quiet observer standing in the shadows watching and learning.

Canadian by birth, I grew up in rural Ontario where I wandered the woods catching glimpses of bears, wolves and other forest creatives. Inspired by the philosophical beliefs of First Nation People, I became an anthropologist. Now retirement has presented me with the opportunity to return to my love of primatology - the anthropological study of primates.

Picking up a camera only a few years ago, I am on a fascinating journey to view the wildlife and the cultures to be found in the lesser visited corners of the globe.

I look forward to sharing my latest adventure to the Congo"



SPEAKERS

We have been so lucky finding many excellent Speakers for our General Meetings. When we do get someone to address us we all benefit. We once got members of the Committee to introduce them and thank them later - but this was over and above their normal tasks and we felt it was much better for our members to show their appreciation of those who come of their own free will to talk to us.

1. The Introducer :

Someone who does a little research about the Speaker, and can stand on the stage to introduce the person. Perhaps give them a helping hand to get to the rostrum.

2. The Thanker :

Someone who listens and notes what the Speaker talks about and at the end of the talk and questions moves to the stage and publicly thanks the speaker on behalf of everyone in the audience. That person needs to collect the 'Thankyou Card' before the talk and present it after thanking the Speaker. Further this person is requested to write a short description of the talk to be put in the Newsletter, and send this to editor@u3anelson.org.nz.

Please let me know if I can add your name to my list of possible, Paul . - events@u3anelson.org.nz

sprayed my car
with rust remover





Ted Talks
Technology, Entertainment and Design.
Listen to a Ted Talk, discuss it and Then
relax with a cuppa and a bite to eat.



A great group. Our Convenor, Stuart, keeps us up with the latest updates etc. With many discussions to do with iPhones and iPads.....from music to AI. And everything in between. He has the help of the planning group and those in charge of afternoon tea.

iPad/iPhone Group



While looking in the mirror, I see gray hair, fine lines, and eyes that don't sparkle quite the same... and I can't help but think, "They sure don't make mirrors like they used to!"

Sad news - the inventor of auto-correct collapsed in the street yesterday.
He was taken by ambience to the nearest horse piddle.

If you were born between 1930 and 1946, you belong to an incredibly rare group: only 1% of your generation is still alive today. At ages ranging from 77 to 93, your era is a unique time capsule in human history.

Here's why:

You were born into hardship. Your generation climbed out of the Great Depression and bore witness to a world at war. You lived through ration books, saved tin foil, and reused everything — nothing was wasted. You remember the milkman. Fresh milk was delivered to your door. Life was simpler and centred around the basics. Discipline came from both parents and teachers, with no room for excuses.

Your imagination was your playground. Without TVs, you played outside and created entire worlds in your mind from what you heard on the radio. The family gathered around the radio for news or entertainment.

Technology was in its infancy. Phones were communal, calculators were hand-cranked, and newspapers were the primary source of information. Typewriters, not computers, recorded thoughts.

Your childhood was secure. Post-WWII brought a bright future — no terrorism, no internet, no global warming debates. It was a golden era of optimism, innovation, and growth.

You are the last generation to live through a time when:

Black-and-white TVs were cutting-edge.

Highways weren't motorways.

Shopping meant visiting downtown stores.

Polio was a feared disease.

While your parents worked hard to rebuild their lives, you grew up in a world of endless possibilities. You thrived in a time of peace, progress, and security that the world may never see again.

If you're over 77 years old, take pride in having lived through these extraordinary times. You are one of the lucky 1% who can say, "I lived through the best of times."

My granddaughter asked me, "Grama, today I watched someone do 50 pushups - do you think you could do that?" I said, "Of course, sweetheart. Don't want to brag, but I could probably watch someone do 100 pushups."

Our President, Wendy Cornish, has tried her level best to push home the message that we should wear our U3A name badges when we attend meetings. She even came up with the idea of offering a prize draw for those who wore their badge to our general meetings. For a while this seemed to work. However there was always a few who preferred not to cooperate.

But...and this is an important "but", in my opinion....the name badges serve a valuable purpose.

U3A is an organisation serving predominantly older people and as we age it's not uncommon for our memory to fail us. Seeing a name on a badge is a great way to remember each others names.

I belong to four U3A groups, some meet once a week and some once a month. It is a lot to ask of someone whose memory is not as sharp as it once was, to remember every name. Plus when new members come along, do you really expect them to remember all names. Over the last year I have become painfully aware that dementia is likely to affect many of us. There are those for whom it is not immediately obvious they are suffering memory loss but nevertheless they are struggling.

Can I plead with you to take it upon yourself to "be kind" and make life a little easier for these people (and, for others) by wearing your name badges. It is not a lot to ask.

Judy Pittman



Introducing myself...
I am the new editor
Helen Gowland.

The first edition for me has been a learning curve, but I'm sure it will get easier. Thanks to all who have submitted articles. Please keep sending them in.

The deadline for articles in the August newsletter is.... Sunday 10th August