



Learning for Life

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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 payee.

Our next Members Meeting

Will be held on 27th August from 10am till 12noon at Elim Church, 625 Main Road, Stoke.

The guest speaker is Kirsten Mason.



Kirsten Mason

Raised and educated in Wellington, Kirsten has worked for many years in a number of senior roles in the music sector. An accomplished pianist (she owns a Beckstein concert grand), she had management roles internationally Paris, London, Detroit, Turin and Shanghai before returning permanently to Wellington some years ago. Since then she has held senior roles with Chamber Music New Zealand, Orchestra Wellington and the NZ Symphony Orchestra and is now Wellington City Council's lead on development of the National Music Centre. She is married to the director of the global design group Icona and they have two daughters.



Collection of wine bottle tops for Kidney Kids

You may have noticed at our general Members Meetings that some members hand me, Treasurer Jenny, a bag containing wine bottle tops ... usually with the added comment that "these are not all mine"!! However, rather than going into rubbish, aluminium wine bottle tops are collected by the Lions Clubs in our area and the proceeds of their recycling are used to provide support and services to children with kidney disease/ disorders and their families in the Canterbury area through a Charitable Trust set up for this purpose.

So, if you are partial to the odd glass of wine 🍷, I would be delighted to receive your bag of bottle tops.

OMG! I finally realize what is wrong with my brain,
On the left side, there's nothing right.
And on the right side, there's nothing left...



I finally did it!

*Bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles.
No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.*



President's Report

Greetings to all members

We hope this newsletter finds you all well and enjoying the thought that spring is just around the corner. Spring flowers out already, and we have fingers crossed that there will be enough daffodils for the forthcoming Daffodil Day on Friday 29 August!

At our recent Committee meeting, we took the usual photos for the website.

As you will see there is the photo of the Officers of U3A (still minus a Vice President), and a photo of your hard working, dedicated Committee. As I mentioned at our last Members' Meeting, all Committee name badges are now bright yellow, so if you want to talk to any one of us, we hopefully will stand out in the crowd!!

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next Members' Meeting - well maybe not ALL of you, as we now have 359 paid up members on the data base!

Please remember your name badges because we will be welcoming new members, and for those new members who will be attending their first meeting, your name badges will be at the Welcome Desk.



Room Hire Costs for Groups

We have recently received a number of requests for assistance with room hire costs for small groups. As we currently have around 60 study groups in our wonderful U3A Nelson organisation, it is unfortunately not financially feasible for us to fund room hire for smaller groups - typically those with 8 members or fewer.

In many cases, groups of this size can usually be accommodated in members' homes.

However, we recognise that this is not always possible, and the Committee is happy to consider requests on a case-by-case basis.

Therefore, any application for room hire reimbursement must be submitted to the Committee for approval in advance.

Donna Swift our speaker in June.

By Drusilla Mason

At the June U3A Nelson meeting, Dr Donna Swift treated members to a presentation that was both entertaining and educational. Donna was born in Canada, and although she started her career as a primatologist, she later moved sideways into social anthropology, doing a Ph.D. in this area at the University of Otago. Then from a Nelson base she became recognised as a New Zealand leader in the field of young women's violent behaviour. Now retired, and lacking a local human family, she decided to return to her early love and go in search of her primate family, particularly the great apes. As she commented, it is a gift to see animals in the wild, and she was keen to photograph and video them, also

She gave us some background to the great apes, a family which includes humans, chimpanzees and bonobos, gorillas, and orangutang, and she explained that chimpanzees and bonobos share 98.8% of their DNA with humans. Last year she tracked mountain gorillas in Rwanda and Uganda, but earlier this year she upped the level of adventure several notches by heading to the Congo Basin in search of the very rare, highly endangered bonobo. Initially, with local guides, Donna tracked bonobos after they had previously been located in the rainforest very early in the morning. Although she saw and heard bonobos in the wild, it was hard to get good images because of their height in the forest canopy and their very dark in colour. So, nothing daunted, she decided to attempt to see bonobos in Lola ya Bonobo Sanctuary which is located on the south side of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Because of the political situation and chaos in DRC this was an exercise fraught with difficulty and danger that involved negotiation and paying bribes at several steps along the way. Eventually she made it to the bonobo sanctuary, with limited time before it closed for the day. Fortunately for us, she was able to capture some wonderful images of these endearing great apes. Bonobos are matriarchal, with the females controlling food supplies and the movements of the group. This is unique among great apes and influences their social dynamics. Interestingly, bonobos use social bonding to reduce tension within the group and share food among members.

Donna's enthusiasm, energy and love of primates is infectious. She took us on a great ride and kept us fascinated with stories and images of her endangered relatives, and educating us about their plight. Thank you, Donna.

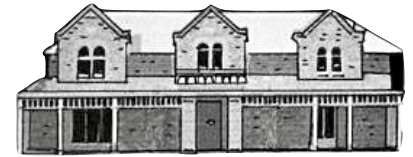


Bonobo Lola Ya

The TRUTH is, that all of the "STUFF" here on earth we work SO hard to buy and accumulate..does NOT mean a thing. At the end of the day...people will be cleaning out our "STUFF", going thru our "STUFF", figuring out what to do with all of our "STUFF"....this "STUFF" we've accumulated in our life. The only thing of VALUE that remains are the MEMORIES and what we deposit into others. May we all learn to spend less time accumulating "STUFF" and spend way more time making MEMORIES.



All ready to enjoy a tour of Isel House.



Hands in the Garden Group



On a cold, slightly wet winter Wednesday, Bruce Taylor of Connings Food Market on McShane Road at Appleby met 23 keen U3A members with coffees and biscuits. Then he gave a detailed, carefully presented talk on the family business that we know as Connings. We were taken to the packing sheds, the onion sorting machine, the automatic seed planting machine and the enormous green houses. It is a very personal, family focussed business which cares for their workers. The quality of the vegetables impressed everyone. Our group thoroughly enjoyed the tour. They were very interested and talked about it all during our lunch at The Grape Escape. I am sure Bruce has made some very loyal customers.



WHY I enjoy the ABC Music Group

I love Sixties pop music and enjoy learning more about it, but I'm not especially interested in classical music. When a new U3A group, ABC (Anything But Classical) was proposed ten years ago, I knew it was for me and was one of the first to join. The amazing range of music members bring to a meeting, expands our knowledge of different artists and types of music. For instance recently, we had folk music from the 15th century and dub music from 21st!

The format of the meeting doesn't change as we are asked to submit a couple of You Tube items each, and a brief introduction which we have researched. After this, the choice is played on a TV which we watch together and all comment on. This format has served us well over the years but now we occasionally add a short music-related You Tube documentary to open the meetings.

Midway, we stop for afternoon tea and towards the end of the meeting, we choose a couple of topics for next month.

Roger Pittman

Trivia Quiz Group #1

Meeting at The Honest Lawyer.

It's not The Chase but it certainly gives the grey matter a workout.

**An older brain isn't slower
-it's just busy sorting through a
lifetime of carefully stored
information**

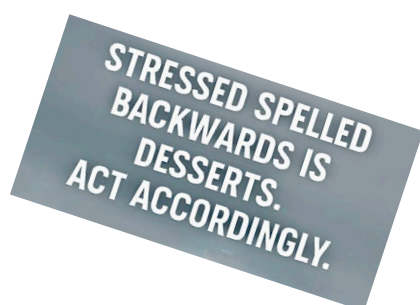


Always room for new study groups

U3A Nelson hit a total this month of 60 active groups, but there's always room for more. These ideas from other centres came via Paul Lunberg.

As always, contact me...Hilary, if you are interested in starting a group and we can talk it through. Hilary Carpenter study@u3anelson.org.nz

U3A MARLBOROUGH	U3A HOBSONVILLE
Barbarians of the Steppes	Breathing and Relaxation
Books and Authors	Craft Creators
Card Making	Current Affairs
Celtic World	Eat Around the World
Classic Films	Exercise to Music
Current Issues	Family History
Documentary Films	Food for Fun
Essential Italy	Gourmet
Foundations of Eastern Civilisation	History and Discoveries
Geological Wonders	International Films
Heroes and Legends	Italian Cooking for Men
How Winston Churchill Changed the World	Maritime Matters
London	Music Seekers
Monet to van Gogh	New Zealand History
My Favourite Universe	News & Views
Play Reading Group	Petanque
Physics in Your Life	Play Reading
Science of Extreme Weather	Science
Scrabble	Story Tellers
Secrets of Great Mystery and Suspense	Theatre and the Arts
Secrets of English Words	
The Great Tours	
Ukelele	
Writing for Grandchildren	



I usually wake up pretty confused. But after coffee, I feel alert and find that I'm much more aware of how confused I am.



Thanks to all who have submitted articles for this Newsletter. Please keep sending them in.

The deadline for articles for the next Newsletter is Monday 13th October.