

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 22nd October from 10am till 12noon at Elim Church, 625 Main Road, Stoke.

Our guest speaker is Andrew Mason and he will talk on 'Information Systems'.



It will revolve around my international experiences. - living variously in UK, NZ and Zimbabwe as a child; going back to UK after graduating from U of Canterbury and taking up programming; leaving UK with new wife (Barbara) in 1970 to live in Yugoslavia, Germany, Kuwait and UAE; return to NZ in late 1979; skip over boring years in Wellington....; start new international career in early 2000s as a payment systems consultant, in which capacity I have worked with (mainly) central banks in 40+ countries. Some of the more interesting assignments have included Palestine, Albania, Iraq, Honduras, Georgia, Bangladesh, Nepal, PNG, Timor-Leste, Rwanda, Burundi. Not too many hair-raising experiences fortunately but plenty of fun among the hard work.



One of our newest groups is the Pool/ Snooker group. This has proved to be very popular. This is at the 2nd meeting....Malcolm and Jane playing a game.

If you can't sleep at night,
It's usually because you're awake. 😊

**Broken pencils
are pointless**



KIRSTEN MASON.... our August speaker.

Kirsten Mason 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 gave a fascinating introduction to the history and make up of orchestras. Early on she thanked the members of the U3A for being the demographic which tended to be the backbone of the Arts.

She said that music has been with us thousands of years, but that the modern orchestra really developed around 400 years ago, during the Renaissance. Then, composers did not identify the instruments that would play the individual parts. In the 17th century a number of different string instruments replaced the Viol. At that time the organist/harpsichordist was the leader of the orchestra; the conductor did not emerge until 19th-century.

Mozart expected people to talk during performances of his music, which I find appalling. During an early era of the orchestra the Claque was introduced; it involved paid professional performers applauding, women fainting and men rescuing them to make the event more interesting.

Mahler arranged for the audience not to applaud between every single piece. The jazz music fraternity has not yet caught up with this. She explained about the hierarchical nature of the orchestra and that core players have tenure in the orchestra; then, depending on the performance, the orchestra is filled out by casual players. In New Zealand, because there are not a huge number of orchestral performers available, sometimes Australian musicians are brought in to fill casual gaps

Bowing of the string instruments, apart from the double bass, is co-ordinated to avoid people poking each other. She said that wind instruments often play a variety of instruments during a concert. Another interesting fact is that there should be normally be four horns, but there are sometimes 5; the fifth is the bumper/utility horn who plays long "boring" notes, to save the senior horn player from having to play them. Percussionists are multitalented, playing many instruments, including musical bones.

The conductor provides time keeping, volume guidance and the overall vision.

As a longtime fan of all sorts of music it was fascinating for me and the rest of the audience to learn so much and I thank both Kirsten and her dad, Andrew, for the talk.

Andy Ralphs



Presidents Report.

Greetings one and all

Hope you are enjoying the start of Spring as much as we are, the garden a blaze of colour with camellias and rhododendrons - my favourite time of year.

Looking forward to seeing you at our last Members' Meeting for 2025 on Wednesday 22 October, 10am at Elim Theatre, Main Road, Stoke.

As there have been 13 new members since our last Members' Meeting, can you please remember to wear your name badge, which makes it easier and friendlier for our new members.

New members - your name badges will be waiting for you at the Welcome Desk.

As 2025 draws to a close, planning is underway for our 5 Members' Meetings for 2026. More news in the final Newsletter for 2025, in December.

Wendy



Our Thursday Nelson Explorer group met at the Waahi Taakaro Golf Course up the Maitai Valley Road. The name Waahi Taakaro means Recreation and what an apt name for this beautiful parkland course and setting accompanied by beautiful birdsong.

It was a cool crisp but beautifully clear morning and surprisingly many of our walkers commented that they had never ventured this far up the valley. After a brief description of the history of the Golf Course and the Maitai Valley surrounds we set off on the well-defined tree-lined pathway edging along the river and the golf course. The pathway is shared by walkers, cyclists and of course golfers. If golfers are 'teeing off' then it is customary to wait until they have completed before continuing.

The photo was taken by the replacement foot bridge to the main Golf course near the main entrance. This bridge, opened in January 2024 after the previous footbridge was swept away four months earlier by a once-in-100-year flood. Following completion of the walk we met back at the Suter cafe for refreshments.



DIG Digital Imagery Group



The Digital Imagery Group (DIG) had guest speakers from the SandBox...tech group in the Nelson Library. They showed a video and gave a talk about AI. Was well received by members and a most interesting talk.

Have you got a technical problem and need help? The Library has a tech group, a great place to go and it costs nothing.

WHY IS IRELAND
THE RICHEST
COUNTRY?
THEIR CAPITAL IS
ALWAYS DUBLIN



Remember those days
when people used to write diaries
and got mad when someone read
them....
Now they put everything on
Facebook and get mad when
people don't read them.....



Apparently you can't use "beef
stew" as a password...
It's not stroganoff. 🍲🔒

"Today, I'm doing NOTHING because I started doing it
yesterday and I'm not finished. And I'm certainly not a
QUITTER."

RSVP

Surely we all know what is expected of us if we see "RSVP" at the bottom of an invitation, whether it be an invitation to a wedding, a party or a baby shower?

It would seem that many members of U3A can't be bothered to reply when an RSVP is required.

Previously I have written re remind members to wear their name badges and to turn up on time for meetings.

Consider this Number 3 in a series that could be called "The U3A Guide to Good Manners"

Not every Convenor asks for a reply, but those who do, have their reasons for needing to know how many people will be attending their meeting

For example, I like to know how many will be attending the #1 Trivia Quiz because I have to print the required number of answer sheets and picture questions.

Also I like to be able to offer a place in the Quiz for members who are on our Group's waiting list. If I don't know if you will be attending or not, I can't invite new members.

In smaller groups, it is a common courtesy to let whoever is hosting the meeting know if you will be attending so they can arrange the furniture in their homes, and prepare enough for a tea or coffee break.

If the host or Group Convenor hasn't received a reply to the invitation it can lead to a lot of waiting at the start of a meeting for that one person who couldn't be bothered to reply.

Are they coming or aren't they?

Can I suggest that when you receive an invitation to a U3A Study group meeting, it's a good habit to check your diary to see if you are able to attend, write the meeting time in your diary and reply straight away to the Convenor. It's so easy to forget when meetings are scheduled, so reply promptly before it goes out of your head.

Convenors have also been encouraged to send out a reminder one or two days before the meeting, so there is really no excuse to not reply.

Common courtesy costs nothing.

Judy Pittman



Antique, vintage and Retro Group.

Members of the group
admiring the polish in Iain
Clark's collection of brass.



Thanks to all who have submitted articles for this Newsletter.

Please keep sending them in as this keeps the newsletter interesting and informative.

The deadline for articles in the next Newsletter is Monday 9th December.

A Bit of History

U3A Nelson in Retrospect

1991 A course for Senior Women is organised by Faith Williamson and held at Nelson Polytech. Pat Wilkinson, Eve Emsley and Lois Morgan and others are the founding committee and establish a U3A Nelson study group. Eve Emsley is U3A Nelson Convenor. An Art History group, continuing to meet in 2017, joins U3A Nelson as one of the first groups after Val Gardiner comes back from completing an art course in Auckland. Harry Naylor and Albert Jones's long-standing Astronomy group meets for the first time.

1992 A trial programme is held in the winter term offering topics of World Religion and Enjoying Poetry. The founding group decides to start small and let U3A develop in its own way. Bill and Faith Williamson run a group on The History of Glass.

1993 U3A Nelson receives a setting-up grant of \$800 from the Aged Lottery, under the umbrella of Aged Concern. Pat Wilkinson visits Dewsbury U3A in Yorkshire and learns about how U3A works there. One rule she brings home is that U3A must not invite speakers from outside their group as the members must do the research and presentations, the emphasis being on participation. The Groups are offered on a term by term basis and The Hearing Association rooms are used for coffee mornings twice a year. In June an interview with U3A members Lois Morgan and Jack Scurr appears in the Nelson Mail.

1994 U3A becomes a Voluntary Organisation entitled to tax exemption.

1995 Meetings are still held in Hearing House, where over the winter a gold coin is required to keep the heater going but it doesn't work!

1996 The Sunday Luncheon club begins. Coffee morning speakers include Christopher Vine, and Mrs Jean Coultard, President of Nelson Genealogical Society. The venue changes to the Presbyterian Church Hall in Nile Street with 70-80 members attending.

1997 Marian Ring becomes Convenor in June. Coffee mornings increase to three a year and the venue is now the Red Cross Rooms. The end-of-year meeting is held in the Victory Room at the Trafalgar Centre. The art group coloured in the pamphlets to make them more attractive for library display.

1998 The first AGM is held. Marian Ring the Co-ordinator presents the first Annual Report. Groups have grown to fourteen. Val Gardiner's group on Pre-European Nelson includes the study of the Continental Drift, Geology, Archaeology, and Maori History of the area. By now there are groups studying History, Travel, Music, English Literature, and much more.

I found this on Google and it was a really interesting read. Decided to add it to the Newsletter.

If any other members want to read more, just Google.....

History of U3A in Nelson.