



Learning for Life

Volume 19 Issue 2 April 2026

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 meeting will be the **Annual General Meeting** on **Wednesday 22nd April**, from 10am till 12noon. This will be held in our new venue at the Whakatu Presbyterian Church in Champion Rd. Richmond.
Our speaker will be **Alan Matthews** talking about a **"Salesman's Tale"**

Overview of talk by Alan Matthews:

During his sales career Alan has worked inside more than 12,000 factories in the UK and has seen how an enormous number of products are made. Alan will be sharing some of his experiences and successes as salesman, and some of the strange ways industrial vacuum cleaners can be used. Some will make you laugh and some will be difficult to believe. He will also give some pointers as to the skills that good sales people possess.

Quiz Group #1 members sharpen their wits and their pencils at the Honest Lawyer.

Sport!
ANIMALS!
Plants!
COUNTRY!



WHAT?
WHICH?
WHEN?
Why?

Whoever? HOW MANY?

Presidents Report

Greetings to all members

At the time of writing this, we hope that you and any family members living near coastal North Island, are safe after the cyclone has gone through.

As you will see from Treasurer Jenny's report, subscriptions of \$30 per member were due from 1 April 2026. Currently, I am busy processing payments and thank you to ALL who have heeded Jenny's call, but as at today, our data base shows that we have 6 pages of Paid Up Members and 6 pages of Unfinancial Members. So, we have a way to go yet.

Looking forward to seeing you at our AGM/Members Meeting on Wednesday 22 April at 10am. PLEASE remember your name badges because we have had 21 new members join us, and it is much better for socialising, for everyone to have their names visible. There is a huge box of name badges which will be at the Welcome Desk, and all new members, your name badges will be waiting for you.

Since sending out the AGM Agenda, we have had another nomination for Committee from Andy Ralphs, adding to the nomination already advertised from Adrian Faulkner.

And just reminding members who are unable to attend, because this is our AGM, apologies are being registered.

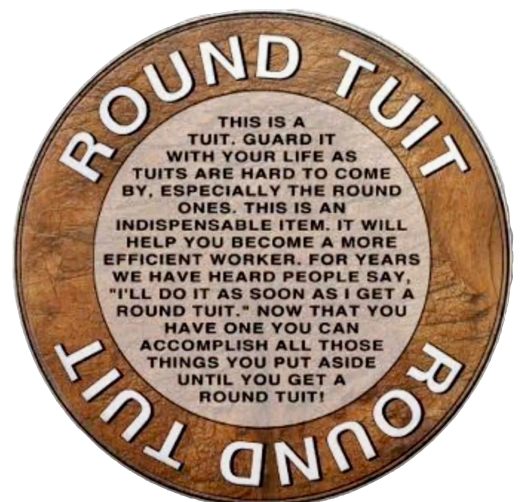
See you on 22nd and let's hope that the Salisbury Road work has been completed, and that the no. 2 Richmond bus from town can stop outside Woolworths. The no. 1 Richmond bus is unaffected, travelling up and down Champion Road. Yesterday at our Garden Group, we were so pleased to see members car pooling. And with petrol costs they way they are currently, taking the bus, or car pooling is a great option.

I will send out a reminder two days before our 22 April meeting, advising if car parking is available next door at the Funeral home.

Cheers
Wendy

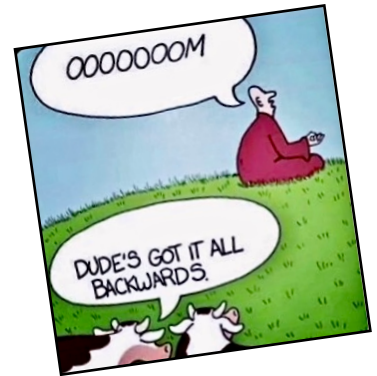
U3A Nelson website is u3anelson.org.nz EVERYTHING you need to know, is on our website. Dates of meetings, Study Group information, Groups with Vacancies, Newsletters, (which have our NBS bank account in the top right-hand corner), also under Administration, minutes and reports from past AGMs and so much more information.

It's worth taking a look and may save us lots of emails we are currently getting. It's great to hear from you, but when we are busy with sub payments, all of your query answers are on the website. Thanks.



How does the man in the moon cut his hair?
Eclipse it.

The Galleries group enjoyed a wonderful visit to Lauren Kitts Hawks Valley sculpture garden. It was a lovely day and the sculptures were most impressive. Attached are a couple of photos taken during the visit. Gordon and Carol Suddaby Convenors



ABC meeting 3 March 2026.

Guest speaker John Dixon, maker of guitars

All guitars made by John are from bits and pieces.

Hubcaps etc sourced from swap meets, op shops, junk shops. Anything useful used from tea spoons, strainers, letter openers, old coins etc all to "bling it up a bit"

- John plays his guitars through a small "Pigs Nose" amplifier from US

John has been making 3 string guitars for over 10 years and has made a few dozen. He is often seen at local markets, Mapua, Motueka etc. and has also appeared on Seven Sharp.

He refers to his guitars by the car hub cap manufacturer, such as 1955 Ford, with a 1973 Holden badge, horse brass and a pea strainer or 1953 Vauxhall and a cigar box guitar, all pictured - John played blues on the guitars he brought to our meeting. Amazing sounds.

Other musicians like Super Chicken, Ry Cooder, and Junior Brown all play similar guitars - check out on YouTube along with "3 string guitar".

- videos,

and Justin Johnston, who plays a shovel guitar.



“Catching Up From Falling Behind On Getting Ahead”.

Lindsay Wood

Lindsay Wood is an Architect with a special Interest in climate change. His recent climate-related activities have included:

1. Collaboration with the Building Research Association of NZ and the Passive House Institute of NZ on embodied carbon
2. Presenting at a wide range of climate-related events including various EU climate conferences.
3. Development of advanced carbon assessment software
4. Sustainability advisor on medium-density housing
5. Numerous related articles, talks and submissions. Through Resilienz, Lindsay assists organisations engaged with the climate crisis, including strategic planning, special projects, professional development and environmental documentation.

Lindsay’s talk was very much a graphic reminder of the two main causes of climate change and effects of these climate changes—methane from ruminant animals and burning fossil fuels. Most people are aware of these but need reminding from time to time. The ice melting, the increasing temperatures, the extremes of weather, floods and sea level rise. Recommended actions to catch up were—

1. Stop eating red meat
2. Stop burning fossil fuels
3. Become energy efficient by transferring away from electricity.

Issues raised since the meeting include natural events that also contribute to climate change —(a) the Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha’apai volcano 2022 (added 7-10% of moisture to the atmosphere) and (b) the cycle of Rossby waves weather effect.

More adaption measures —

1. The progress being made with methane inhibitors (bromoform extract from a red seaweed and the synthetic versions one of which has a very high level of methane reduction. Vaccine inhibitors are also close to market (going through final regulatory approval). Methane inhibiting GM ryegrass is likely to be most effective but is more long term and then only if the current bill passes into law.
2. Other methods of electricity generation e.g. Nuclear, and longer term- nuclear fusion.

Obstacles to progress—

- (a) False and misleading information from both deniers & doomsdayers – spread by social media and mainstream media.
- (b) Action against climate change is well down the list of priorities in terms of changing buying habits and lifestyle of consumers.
- (c) Some people have concluded that with New Zealand at 0.17% of global emissions, reducing this to zero would realistically make no difference to climate change. Perhaps focus on the things we can control to adapt to the new order.

A large subject that needs more discussion. Recommended reading for balanced science-based action (and dismissing of myths)

Not the End of the World – Dr Hannah Ritchie –

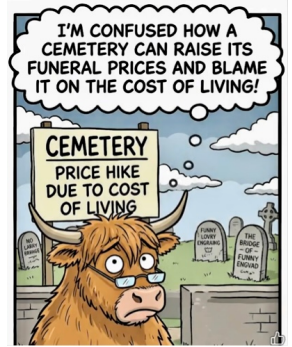
Snr researcher at Oxford University and Head of Our World of Data

Ending Hunger – The Quest to feed the World without Destroying it – Anthony Warner – biologist

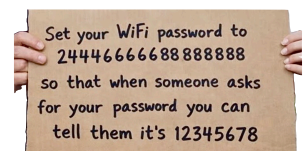
Seeds of Science – How we got it Wrong with GMO’s – Mark Lynas – Award winning UK Science writer.

All these books have references to the science that backs conclusions quoted.

Bill Brett



Monday - Greg
Tuesday - Ian
Wednesday - Greg
Thursday - Ian
Friday - Greg
Saturday - Ian
Sunday - Greg
The Gregorian calendar



TED Talks



WE sit there knowing some of the talks will be excellent while others - - well – see the cartoon!

WE get underway at 9.30 with a planned list of about 6 possible talks to watch. However some talks are so interesting we may spend the rest of the morning either discussing it or finding other commentary on the same topic. We don't stick just to TED talks either, there is so much informed debate on the net and we really benefit from it

Typically the videos are about 15 minutes long although we have occasionally spent 50 minutes on one. And the subjects we choose are wide ranging. As the Convenor I get a weekly TED suggestion from them and check we haven't watched it before – then add it to my *long* list. The discussion is perhaps the most enjoyable part as we can hear the views of our friends and try to determine our personal views. The popularity of the group is clear as there are two TED Talks groups – and they are both full, indeed they have been for some time. SO - - - how about setting one up at your place? I'll gladly share my lists with you..... Paul of TED Talks 2.

Minor changes to our Constitution

It has been brought to our attention that two minor changes need to be made in our Constitution, as follow, and these were approved by the Committee at our 25 March meeting.

Subscriptions and fees (on Page 8)

The annual subscription and any other change of fees for membership for the (~~then-current~~) next financial year shall be set by resolution of an Annual General Meeting.

(Explanation to this is that "Our Financial Year commences on the 1st April, & subscriptions start coming in then but our AGM is not held until after that date, when it would then be too late, so any increases would need to be set for the following Financial Year).

And then the insertion of the the following paragraph after the above change -

For existing members, the current subscription fee is due in April of the current financial year.

(Explanation to this is that this detail is totally missing from the current Constitution so there is no instruction for when existing members should pay their annual subscription fee).

Thanks everyone who contributed to this Newsletter. There are now 72 groups, so let's hear from a few more.
The deadline for items in the next newsletter is the 9th June 2026.



Many thanks to those who have paid to date and a gentle (!) reminder that your \$30.00 annual subscription is due now.