

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 Wednesday 26th August, from 10am till 12 noon. This will be held at the Whakatu Presbyterian Church on Champion Rd in Richmond. Our guest speaker will be Willem Reuvecamp.

About Willem Reuvecamp

Our speaker for August is Willem Reuvecamp, who is the convener of the U3A Ancient Empires and Civilisations group. Willem grew up in the Netherlands, got a Dutch law degree in 1970, was conscripted by the Dutch Army for 18 months, and then started work as a lawyer in the insurance industry and later as a law lecturer in a tertiary institution in the Netherlands. He became very concerned about the future in Europe during the 1970s, when the cold war was escalating and both the Eastern European Warsaw pact countries and the Western European NATO alliances started to install cruise missiles in Belgium, the UK and Germany, and emigrated with his young family to New Zealand in 1980.

His continental law degree was not recognised here and he had to redo the top 3 years of the New Zealand law degree to be able to practise here. He obtained his cross credits while working full time as a law lecturer at Wellington Polytechnic, where he taught company and business law to students of 18 - 40 years in the Certificate of Commerce and ACA accountancy and NZ Institute of Management courses. More or less what he also used to do in the Netherlands.

In 1988 Willem was admitted to the Bar in New Zealand and could start practising as a lawyer here. He specialised in banking and commercial law and became a partner of Morrison Morpeth in Wellington. Then moved to Auckland and joined the national law firm of Simpson Grierson there for 3 years. In 2008 he became an independent legal consultant and joined the Disputes Tribunal in 2011 as an adjudicator for 8 years. He therefore made full circle: teaching law, practising law, and mediating and deciding legal disputes. He retired in 2020 and joined us in Richmond for a quieter life after more than 50 years in the law.

About the talk:

Some personal experiences after immigrating and adjusting to New Zealand.

High level overview of general areas of law and the Courts and Tribunals.

Short introduction to Citizens Advice Bureau's free services in Nelson, Richmond and Motueka and its website and the difference with the Community Law Centre.

Benefits and risks of using Internet and AI for personal legal issues.

High level overview of the Disputes Tribunal process and what disputes you can use it for.

Comparison with other alternative specialist complaints procedures and need to check time limits and area they operate in.

Focus on the informality, limited cost and absence of the need for lawyers in the Disputes Tribunal, but need for some clear preparation of submissions and evidence.

Emphasis on accessibility and turn-around times.

What to do afterwards if the Tribunal's order is in your favour.

From the President

Dear Members

As I write this, we have had a cold and wet spell, so hope you are all managing to keep warm and enjoying your Study Groups.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next Members Meeting on Wednesday 26th August, when we will welcome some new members. Your new name tags will be at the Welcome Desk.

As usual, I will send out a message advising parking, two days before the meeting.

*All the best
Wendy*



*A day without coffee is like.....
Just kidding, I have no idea.*



**Why was 6 afraid?
Cos 7 8 9.**



*What do you call a Roman Emperor with a cold?
Julius Sneezer.*



Summary of Adrian Faulkner's talk at the June Meeting.



In 1991 yachtsman Adrian Faulkner sailed out of Nelson on his yacht 'Mandala' and for the next 8 years he cruised the western Pacific, the Mediterranean and Indian ocean as far as Madagascar. Adrian, with a variety of crew mates, spent considerable time in SE Asia between 10o N and 10o S because of the excellent sailing conditions. He eventually sailed about 6500 km across the Indian Ocean (via Salmon Atoll and Mayotte Island in the Comores) from Malaysia/Indonesia to Madagascar. Adrian illustrated his talk with photos of the people and places he visited, including the traditional boats they used.

A major highlight of Adrian's talk was linking his adventure to the early exploration of the Pacific and the migration to Madagascar, both from Indonesian/Borneo region. The Polynesian Māori reached our country about 1200 AD while the immigrants to Madagascar arrived about 500 AD. Adrian suggested the latter probably followed old trade routes of the Romans, Indian and Arab traders. He also touched on the Alfred Wallace's studies in the Indonesian area in the mid-1800s; these studies, along with Darwin's research, led to the theory of evolution.

It was apparent from Adrian's talk that he had had wonderful adventures and that he was fascinated on how he was following in the footsteps of much earlier explorers. I am sure that many of our members gained new insights from his interesting talk.

Dr Don Mead

ANTIQUES, VINTAGE and RETRO GROUP

Yet again, we had a very vibrant and interesting AVR (Antiques, Vintage and Retro) study group Each month we either visit a place of interest or we meet at a member's house and bring along our personal items and heirlooms for us all to ooh and aah over, talk about and learn where they came from. It's always very interesting, informative and thought provoking. We learn something new and fascinating about where an item is from or how the person acquired it Some can be valuable and some are quirky and amusing, some are heirlooms and some are more modern.

AVR is a great U3A study group, guaranteed to keep us coming back for more.

Although this group is about art, ornaments, books, clothes and collections, we find ourselves learning about each other, our childhoods, likes and dislikes and warm friendships have emerged ... part of the advantage of U3A.

At this meeting we were lucky enough to view Roger Pittman's vast record collection of 60's music. As a dedicated collector, Roger has a wealth of knowledge and gave us a fascinating insight to the music of that era.

Unfortunately, at this time there are no vacancies in the Antiques, Vintage & Retro group but if you are interested in going onto a waiting list please contact our Convenor, Judy Pittman.



I said I was good at making decisions.
I didn't say the decisions I made were good.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit.
Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

AI in the U3A Walking Group

During our U3A walking group, Malcolm Cunningham, Andy Ralphs and I were talking about the Louisiana swamps in the Southern United States. I was recalling that Judy and I had crossed over the Tallahachie River in Louisiana. It was on a train journey we made in 2024 from New Orleans to Chicago. The Tallahachie Bridge had special significance to me as I remember it from the 1967 Bobbie Gentry song, "Ode to Billy Joe".

You may remember the story behind the song. A family are discussing at the dinner table why Billy Joe McAllister mysteriously jumped off the Tallahachie Bridge and it included the disjointed lyrics:

"It's sad to hear about Billy Joe - pass the biscuits please..."

The song was originally too long, running to seven minutes and causing Capitol Records to drop some verses: it wouldn't fit on a 7"45rpm vinyl disc. There did exist a longer version with a couple more verses on an LP, but it still left the listener with questions about what happened in this mystery story.

I challenged Malcolm Cunningham and Andy Ralphs, who had been experimenting with AI music composition, to create even more verses.

This is one of my photos and the date stamp shows it was taken on the 3rd of June: coincidentally the same date mentioned in Bobby Gentry's song.

Andy, scholar that he is, created at least a dozen new verses using AI. Encouraged by the new lyrics, Malcolm used AI to produce a "southern" sounding female melody, with a voice not dissimilar to Bobby Gentry. We'll never know exactly what happened on the bridge or in the muddy waters below, but by-golly, it makes a great song!! The original song, in case you haven't heard it.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaRaclzZSPo&list=RDHaRaclzZSPo&start)

[v=HaRaclzZSPo&list=RDHaRaclzZSPo&start](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaRaclzZSPo&list=RDHaRaclzZSPo&start)

And here is the AI version, which has many more verses, but still a mystery.

<https://suno.com/song/cf85281e-1933-4a2a-933c-aedcabe96375?sh=7sq4jGvvAUGJwjRb>

Roger Pittman



🎵 THE SINGALONG GROUP 🎵

This group has been singing weekly for many years now and I was wondering why it has become such an important part of my life? So I asked some members why they keep coming back week after week. Bruce says "I could easily stay home and sing to the tv, and I do. But there's something truly enjoyable about singing with others that can't be replicated on your own. God only knows it's not about singing well (hear hear says Kay). For me, it's about singing without judgement and for the sheer pleasure of singing as part of a group." John says, "My wife and I go to the singing group because we both enjoy singing in a friendly and sociable environment. We enjoy the diverse taste of song choices which has vastly improved our knowledge of what the music means to the composer. It is the highlight of our week." From Issy, "Of course our Friday Singalong is All Around Good 'Fuzzies,' and has expanded my musical listening options 100%. So grateful to the host for bringing us together." And from Deborah, "I never thought joining a singing group would give me so much pleasure. Making friends with like minded people and doing something we all enjoy is a wonderful way to end the week. I look forward to every Friday with enthusiasm. And a great cuppa and bikkies from our hostess is a bonus . . . Wouldn't miss it for the world." For me, who went the classical way and avoided pop music for decades and decades, it's the fun and pure enjoyment of singing together, remembering the old songs and the challenge of learning something new. I'm continually amazed that when a new song comes along, just singing it once, there it is, fixed in my memory. For this aging person, who relies on lists all around the house, that's extraordinary!

With the help of YouTube's songs and lyrics, there's always lots of the old favourites, perhaps something political, classical, rock 'n roll, hip hop, country, folk and usually, something a bit daft. The members don't know it yet, but this Friday, along with their own choices, we'll be accompanying a clown with a golden voice singing Lorde's 'Royal.' Something partly classical, Ed Sheeran and Andrea Bocelli singing Perfect Symphony. Something spiritual, Sweet Sweet Spirit. Something from our youth, 'Mrs Brown you've got a lovely daughter..' Something new, Ardijah's 'Silly Love Songs.' Something country, 'Hillbilly Rock, Hillbilly Roll' by the Woodpeckers. And another 25ish more songs. We get through around 30 songs each week. There are so many wonderful songs out there we'll never get through them all. Always happy to have new members. Come try us out! Kay Hunter.



Message to all U3A members from Hilary

U3A Nelson Study Groups Update 14 August 2026

Group News

Just 85 days until voting day in NZ ...

I'm lucky to be part of a group taking a close look into the main party policies this time around. A vacancy has just arisen - come and join us and be an enlightened voter!

New Zealand Current Affairs

Convenor: Christine Hands and Julian Siggers

1st and 3rd Fridays 10am. At the convenor's home in Nelson.

Explore the important issues shaping New Zealand through discussion and shared learning. At each meeting, each member researches and presents a different aspect of a current topic—including historical background, the issues involved, and the current party proposals to address these issues e.g. the economy, health, education, infrastructure, etc —before taking part in a respectful group discussion. The emphasis is on understanding the facts, considering diverse perspectives, and encouraging thoughtful, non-partisan conversation.

Over the Front Fence Walking Group

Convenor: Phillipa Molloy

Tuesday morning from 0930 - 1130ish 22nd and 29th Sept and 6th October Meeting in September/October 2026 the group wanders the streets, Council walkways and parks of Stoke where we pause to look at, and enjoy people's front (or back) gardens. A reasonable level of fitness is required for one of the destinations we plan to visit as it includes a short but steep climb with a stile to get over a fence.

22nd and 29th Sept and 6th October with 13th October as a back up if we are rained off on one of the other dates.

My outdoor temperature gauge says 17.5c today - Spring is close!

Time to join a walking group - U3A has a total of three and there are vacancies in two of them:-

Discover Nelson/Tasman Walks

Convenor: Neil Hammond

Alternate Wednesdays commencing 2nd September, 9.30am - Noon

Each member of the group takes a turn to select an interesting route. We walk for an hour or so at an intermediate level, then meet for a coffee at a local cafe.



The Discover Nelson/Tasman Walks Group

Taking their first group walk to the Wakapuaka Cemetery.

And what have we got for 2027 speakers?

The U3A Committee is, in itself, an enjoyable group to belong to. I have the fun task of finding speakers for our Members Meetings.

Fun? Did I hear you say?? It is actually, as Nelson region has so many experts both practising and retired. This year's speakers have been absolutely excellent and we now have a full list for next year - let me give you an overview.

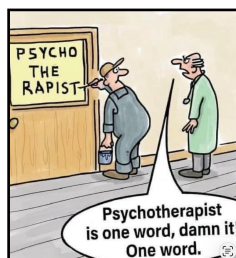
We heard a little from John Etherington in May and he kicks off the year, February 2027 telling us about his work in Africa bringing planned forestry to the local communities.

April, a nationally recognised journalist Rob Harley has a talk called 'True Grit' — he's a tough character too!

June, a very well known person in Nelson and excellent speaker - Royce McGlashen, whose pottery and art are recognised throughout the country.

August, we will hear the author of 'He Puāwai: A Natural History of New Zealand Flowers' by Philip Garnock-Jones. October, our last meeting for the year, Dr. Christopher Bennett, from Pohara, known for his work on the Golden Bay Affordable Housing project, but more for his cycling adventures as an Endurance Cyclist!

So there you have it - a mixed bag of topics for 2027- all which will delight those in the University of the Third Age!!
Paul Lunberg



Just a reminder.....

Please give clear instructions for anything submitted to this newsletter. 😊

New Age Concern aBus Outings

SEPT	Visit to Nelson South island model railway exhibit (NB \$10 entry) at Warnes stadium Stoke. Two departure points	Sat 5 Sept	R2	Departs: From Nsn Halifax st	11.1
			R1	Departs: From Rmd IC	11
OCT	Age Concern 50th - International day of older persons. IDOP at Founders. 4 departure points and Change to IDOP free eBus to Founders.	Thurs 1 October	R1	Departs: From Stoke IC to Nsn	10.41
			R3	Departs: From Atawhai at 4 Sq to Founders	10.18
			R4	Departs: From The Brook valley Holiday pk to Nsn	10.3
			R6	Departs: From Wakefield via Rmd IC to Nsn	8.57
NOV	Nsn Bus Hub to Nelson Junction. Coffee at Little Engine Eatery. (NB There is a 600m walk from bus stops and crossing 2 roads)	Wed 4th Nov	R2	Departs: From Nsn Bus Hub	9.35
DEC	Visit & explore Isel Park house & Gardens. Two departure points	Tuesday 1st Dec	R1	Departs: From Nsn IC	9.51
			R1	Departs: From Rmd Interchange	9.58

Here are the NEW Age Concern eBus outings. It is a list of the outings for information only (in brief). I will send you a poster for advertising purposes approx. 2 weeks prior to each upcoming outing. If you require a poster by a certain timeframe - please let me know

The Age Concern eBus mantra is 'Grab a friend and your Bee card (or purchase from councils or local library) and come along for the ride with Age Concern. Whether someone wishes to come on an outing or are thinking

Please forward this eBus outing to anyone interested. To find out about updates and next outings please refer to our website or facebook page.

•Jackie Macintyre | Community Engagement Facilitator
Age Concern Nelson Tasman | 62 Oxford Street, Richmond 7020
Mobile 021 195 8108 | Email jackie@acnt.org.nz |

From Donna Swift



21 Days and 20 Nights

As a retired anthropologist, I continue to be immersed in the study of culture and wildlife, with a particular passion for photographing primates in remote and lesser-visited locations.

This deep connection to both the people and wildlife of Africa has shaped my belief that age and physical limitations should never restrict our sense of adventure. I invite you to join me for an unforgettable journey through Uganda's stunning landscapes, where we'll experience a true bucket-list adventure together.



Thanks to everyone who contributed to this Newsletter.
The deadline for the next newsletter is **October 12th.**



Anyone that can spell drawer backwards....will get a reward. 😊