

# U3A MANAWATŪ NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF U3A MANAWATŪ

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(as at the time of printing)

Peter Emms, Liz Nicholls, Warren Nicholls,  
Brenda Wallis



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## Chairperson's Report to the AGM Sep'24

Having been appointed Chairperson of the U3A Manawatū by the incoming committee in October 2023, I have the pleasure of presenting my report for the year ending September 2024.

The committee has continued to meet monthly except in January, and since February we have been meeting in the Society of Friends' Meeting House in College St rather than in members' houses. Checking through the minutes, I have to say that most of the matters discussed and decided are probably not of sufficient interest to make their way into an annual report. Has everyone paid their subscription? Who will speak in this seminar series? Do we approve of these payments for printing and posting? But, that said, most of what I shall now report would not have happened without the efforts of the committee and its members.

A couple of matters that are noteworthy are that our revised Constitution and re-registration under the Incorporated Societies Act (2022) were officially accepted on 14 November 2023 and that we now supply a report on one of our groups for each issue of Grey Power Manawatu's quarterly publication.

A pressing concern for the committee, as yet unresolved, has been the difficulty in finding a successor to our long-standing and greatly appreciated Treasurer, Ron Paddock, who will be leaving Palmerston North at the end of the year. Under Ron's guidance, and as confirmed by our reviewer, Alan Martin, the finances of the organisation are in good health. Two other committee members are standing down (Janet Black, who has managed the U3A's publicity, and Sue Stirling), and I would like to thank them both very much for their service to the U3A.

After deleting non-subscribers in July this year, the membership of the U3A Manawatū stands at 269 (as of 9 September) though there still seem to be a few group participants who are not paid up U3A

members. There are currently about 40 learning groups affiliated to the U3A Manawatū, about the same as this time last year. Some are of long standing and others recently established or revitalised. Ten new or renewed groups were proposed at the beginning of the year. Most groups are meeting regularly though, as is natural, a few are struggling to get enough members.

Under the guidance of Stu Schwartz, who was seconded to the committee for this role, the Science, Technology and Environment group has been very successfully revived as Sci-Tech. This group meets in a member's garage, and the committee purchased 20 folding chairs to make the seating more comfortable. The committee is always keen to receive proposals for new groups, and the most recently established began meeting in July.

We have held two afternoon teas (November 2023 and June 2024) for the committee and group coordinators, but since not all of the latter have been able to attend, I would like to take this opportunity to express the committee's gratitude to the coordinators for their work in organising and running the groups.

Over the past year, Stuart Birks and the committee have organised two highly successful public seminar series, each with four sessions: "Approaching End of Life" in Spring 2023 and "Entertainment" (focussing on the arts and culture scene in Palmerston North) in Autumn 2024. These talks were well attended, and we are most grateful to the speakers for sharing their time and expertise. Stuart and Mike Lawrence are currently preparing the Spring 2024 series called "Manawatū Memories: Reflecting on the Past, Embracing the Future".

In sum, the U3A Manawatū is in great shape and continues to provide good company, entertainment, and intellectual stimulation for its members and the wider community.

Chris van der Krogt





## FROM THE CHAIR

**Chris van der Krogt**

Welcome to the final edition of the Newsletter for 2024.

On 24 September, I attended the 2024 Social Wellbeing Forum to represent the U3A. The forum was hosted by Te Pū Harakeke—Community Collective

Manawatū (see <https://tepuharakeke.org.nz>). The main themes for the morning were housing, the cost of living, and mental health. I joined the latter discussion since the U3A has a lot to offer retired people in the form of friendship and mental stimulation. I was able to talk about what we do, but most of the discussion naturally focussed on the needs of younger people. It is amazing how many voluntary groups there are working for the betterment of our community. A report on the forum is scheduled to be released early next year.

We held our AGM on September 18, at which a new committee was elected with just a few changes from 2023–24. As you will see from my annual report printed elsewhere in this edition of the Newsletter, our branch is flourishing. Since the meeting, one of our members has kindly offered to serve as the new Treasurer and has been co-opted onto the committee to serve in that role.

The spring seminar series, Manawatū Memories: Reflecting on the Past, Embracing the Future, began with a well-attended session presented by staff from the Ian Matheson city archives. Remember that if you miss a session or want to review one, the recorded talks are being posted on the U3A website.

If you have any ideas about new groups for 2025, and especially if you would like to co-ordinate a group, do contact me and check out the advice on our website.

Best wishes for the summer and Christmas season.

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## COMMITTEE for 2024-2025

**Chair:** Chris van der Krogt

**Secretary:** Rosemary Krsinich

**Treasurer:** Ian Boag

Claire Barrett, Stuart Birks,  
Mike Lawrence,  
Stu Schwartz, Anne Spring



This is Malcolm Law's take on "Drinking Coffee in Palmerston North" (Ron Phillips' poem in our last newsletter). Malcolm's poem is of a rather more polemical nature...

## JAVA AND THE PETROL HEADS

by Malcolm Law

The winter wind loves this city's streets,  
As down their broad length it sweeps,  
Scatters the leaves and shakes the trees;  
And, being deaf to all their pleas,  
The citizens give up the fight  
And seek shelter where they might.

Old men gather in coffee bars,  
Where they talk about their new cars.  
(Although, if you are out of luck,  
Someone may mention his old truck.)

*"The world may be going to the dogs,  
What's that to do with gears and cogs?  
Who cares if someone comes up trumps,  
When oil is leaking from our sumps?"*

*"There's a war in Gaza you say?  
Is that the reason why I pay  
More for my petrol at the pump?  
Another cost for us to lump."*

*"The way they raise the price of oil  
Is enough to make my blood boil."  
"So, are electric cars any good?"  
"Nah! You need gas under the hood."*

*"What's all this talk of climate change?  
Ford has brought out a new range.  
Now you can have six types of ute,  
The Raptor really is a beaut."*

*"Don't want you thinking I'm a bore,  
But of one thing you can be sure:  
You'll never see anyone of us.  
Ride a bike or sit on a bus."*

## Margaret Hazelton (1935-2024)



Many of you will remember Margaret Hazelton. We are sad to report that she died on 5th October 2024, in Dunedin. Margaret made a huge contribution to U3A Manawatū. She was the Committee Chairperson from 2010 to 2015). She also coordinated the seminar

series from 2012 to 2019, fronting them with her unique mix of fact and wit. She and her husband (deceased) joined U3A when they retired and were active members in the UK then Australia then NZ.

# Around the groups...

## TRAVEL

by Alastair Johnstone

Somewhere in most of us is a travel bug that is striving to get out and about at every opportunity. This bug will take you to new or revisited places for all manner of reasons, and whether these relate to the culture, art, architecture, geography, human or natural history of that 'place', this U3A Group should spark your interest.

We are an informal small group in whose previous monthly meetings we have shared our experiences and interests in low-key member presentations. While this format will continue to form the backbone and tenor of our gatherings, we plan to occasionally introduce invited speakers, travel professionals and screen travel documentaries to extend our range of interests.

Topics planned for 2025 include the following:

- The land of the Toltecs and Aztecs ... A ramble through central and southeastern Mexico
- Following the Gnu's ... On safari in east Africa
- Discover the Kauri Coast and Hokianga ... the magnificent views from 2 wheels
- Portugal ... tarts and other delights
- Aussie Perth ... an invasion by the sisterhood
- Colours & Coasts of the Pyrenees
- South East Australia by Train ... off the rails again

For information contact the Group Coordinator, Alastair Johnstone. Phone: (021) 885 497 Email: [a.c.johnstone@hotmail.com](mailto:a.c.johnstone@hotmail.com)



Chichen Itza pyramid in Mexico

## LEARNING PROGRAMME

**The Learning Programme for 2025 will be distributed to all members in mid-January.**

The latest version is always available on the website at: <https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz/learning-groups/>

## SILVER SCREEN SELECTIONS

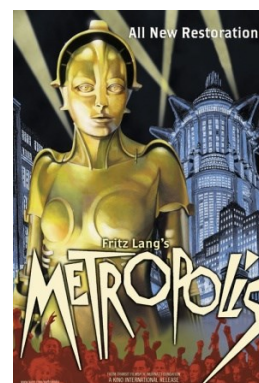
by Graham Slater

This group was set up many years ago and initially met once a month at Eric Clarke's private cinema in Feilding. In the past few years we have taken advantage of a room in the basement of the City Library which has provided us with a more convenient space in the city in which to watch the films. Less travel, but some parking woes which we are working on.

Each month I send out a flyer/poster outlining the general plot etc. of the next screening. I also prepare and present further information on the production and try to identify features and facets of the film for the audience to watch for, to hopefully increase their enjoyment of not just watching but also engaging with the story.

We watch the film and then get a chance to discuss what we have seen. This gives me a good idea of what works for the group, and what doesn't. I try to provide a mix of classic and contemporary films.

Films we have watched recently have been "North by Northwest", "Lemon Tree", "Metropolis" and our next one, a suggestion from one of the group, will be "Shirley Valentine". As our Christmas end-of-year session, we attend a commercial cinema screening and enjoy afternoon tea.



Sorry, I don't have a photo of this group, we carry on most of our activities in the dark!

We have a few vacancies in the group. If this is of interest to you email me on [gandg@inspire.net.nz](mailto:gandg@inspire.net.nz) and we can have a chat about it.

## CALL FOR NEW GROUPS 2025

If you are interested in setting up a new group please contact the Chair, Chris van der Krogt

021 1224701 [delftnz@gmail.com](mailto:delftnz@gmail.com)

Here are a few suggestions meanwhile:

Genealogy, Creating a Photo Book, Antiques and Collectibles, Canasta, Scrabble, Computer Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Geology (rock collecting), Quiz Time, iPad/iPhone, The Internet, YouTube ...

Note that new groups can be set up at any time.

The guidelines can be found on the website at:

<https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz/learning-groups/>



## Whatunga Tararua Volunteer Central's 11th ANNUAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

It is always good to see volunteers recognized for the work they do!

U3A Manawatū Members, **Stu and Phyllis Schwartz** have been involved with SPELADD NZ<sup>1</sup> since it began in 1999 and in June this year were cited for their priceless devotion and support to this organisation. In particular they served on the committee and planned, donated and contributed to all the fundraising art auctions. As well as all this, Phyllis provided learning resources.

<sup>1</sup> SPELADD's aim is to enable those with specific learning difficulties and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder to reach their full potential.

"To perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more difficult with every year"

*E.B. White (1899-1985)*

Please contribute to our newsletter. Contact the Editor:  
Rosemary 326 9598 or [rkrstinich@gmail.com](mailto:rkrstinich@gmail.com)



"Believe it or not, Brian is, at this very moment, actually quite relaxed. That's what his face does when all the rush is over and he can let down his defences and just be himself on Christmas day"

Image courtesy of Michael Leunig

### CHANGES TO CONTACT DETAILS

Please advise Anne Spring, the Membership Secretary, if you have any changes to your contact details to ensure you continue to receive these newsletters and any other information from us.

(Contact Anne 021 190 6322 or [anne.spring35@gmail.com](mailto:anne.spring35@gmail.com))

- Remember to make use of our **WEBSITE**, source of the latest information -  
- and an easy way to subscribe: [u3amanawatu.org.nz](http://u3amanawatu.org.nz) -

## U3A Manawatu

*Life-long learning in retirement*



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