



# Life-long Learning with U3A Manawatū

## 2024

Through its learning groups, U3A Manawatū provides opportunities for reading, research, discussions and field trips. The atmosphere for learning is informal and friendly. There are no compulsory activities or examinations, and costs are minimal. Meetings are held in private homes, libraries, community centres, art galleries, etc.

Annual membership costs \$15 (or \$25 for a couple) and provides access to the learning groups listed overleaf, subject to places being available. Note that some groups incur small charges for venue hire, materials, etc.

To find out more, visit the U3A Manawatū web site <https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz>, or contact Chris on 021 122 4701, or at [u3aman@gmail.com](mailto:u3aman@gmail.com). To join U3A Manawatū, complete the annual subscription form available on the web site, or request a printed copy.

For more information on the groups listed, including meeting venues, and to check that additional members can be accommodated, please contact group coordinators. The latest version of this document, which is updated as changes occur through the year, is available on the website.

## **New Groups**

### **ALL ABOUT GARDENING**

Gardeners, gardening and gardens. Visits to members' and other gardens. Meetings feature Plant of the Month and our garden stories.

**Meets first Thursday of each month at 1:30pm.**

*Coordinator: Graeme Siddle mobile 021 257 5356 [g.l.siddle@gmail.com](mailto:g.l.siddle@gmail.com)*

### **AGEING WELL**

Small group discussion on issues arising from the Spring 2023 seminar series – how can we plan ahead?

**Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10am. Commences February**

*Contact: Stuart Birks, ph. 021 204 7903. [kstuartbirks@gmail.com](mailto:kstuartbirks@gmail.com)*

### **EUROPEAN FASCISM TO 1945**

A lecture series on fascism in Europe from its beginnings to 1945, focussing on particular nations and themes.

**Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 2pm. Commences February**

*Coordinator: James Watson, Ph. 356 2853. [watson29newbury@gmail.com](mailto:watson29newbury@gmail.com)*

### **EXPLORING RELIGION**

Talks and discussions on religious topics both historical and contemporary.

Participants may or may not consider themselves religious; the only requirement is an interest in exploring religious beliefs and practices.

**Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 2pm. Commences February**

*Co-ordinator: Chris van der Krogt, Ph. 021 122 4701. [delftnz@gmail.com](mailto:delftnz@gmail.com)*

### **FILM GROUP**

Viewing one current movie each month, meeting a fortnight later to discuss.

**Meets – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday morning each month.**

*Coordinator: Mary Procter, ph. 027 676 4476. [maryprocter@hotmail.com](mailto:maryprocter@hotmail.com)*

### **MAKING SENSE OF THE CURRENT DEBATES ON THE TREATY OF WAITANGI**

A series of five sessions. The aim is to enlarge our understanding of a complex subject.

**Meets fourth Wednesday of the month at 10 am. Commences July.**

*Coordinator: Rod Holm ph 021 029 66 983. [ad.rjholm@outlook.com](mailto:ad.rjholm@outlook.com)*

### **OPERA**

Led by John Ward. Large screen TV, Blu-ray DVD's and surround sound. 11 selected operas by Italian and French composers (with English subtitles).

**Meets monthly on a Friday afternoon. See pp.7-8 for more details.**

*Co-ordinator: Kevin Smidt, ph 022 406 9819. [kevinroaming@hotmail.com](mailto:kevinroaming@hotmail.com)*

### **RUSSIA AND THE WEST**

From early contacts through to Putin. Detailed notes supplied.

**Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month at 10:00am. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Stuart Lawrence, ph. 022 372 1792. [lawrence1054@gmail.com](mailto:lawrence1054@gmail.com)*

## SCI-TECH

You don't have to be a scientist to enjoy this group. What is essential, though, is an enquiring mind and a wish to better understand how science works.

**Meets 3rd Friday each month, 2pm. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Stu Schwartz, ph. 359 4423. [finearts@taylor-jensen.co.nz](mailto:finearts@taylor-jensen.co.nz)*

## Established Groups

### 10-PIN BOWLING

This group gets together for social 10-pin bowling.

**Meets third Wednesday each month, 10am. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Janet Black, ph. 027 276 3955. [janblack2013@icloud.com](mailto:janblack2013@icloud.com)*

### ART APPRECIATION

Explore the visual arts through discussion, talks, and gallery visits.

**Meets 2nd Thursday each month, 1-3pm. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Lyn Low, ph. 027 230 1416. [lynlow@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lynlow@xtra.co.nz)*

### BIOGRAPHY

Any life is interesting and our biography reviews range across the spectrum.

**Meets 3rd Monday each month, 10am. Commences January.**

*Coordinator: Alan Martin, ph. 357 3125. [alanohmartin@gmail.com](mailto:alanohmartin@gmail.com)*

### BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

This group will discuss a chapter a month from Jordan Peterson's *12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos*. This is an opportunity for relaxed, small group, speculative conversation.

**Meets first Tuesday each month, 10am. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Stuart Birks, ph. 021 204 7903. [kstuartbirks@gmail.com](mailto:kstuartbirks@gmail.com)*

### BOOK GROUP 1

Expand your literary horizons. Lively discussion on a wide range of themes and genres.

**Meets 2nd Tuesday each month at 1.30pm. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Carol Phillips, ph. 021 055 9164. [carolphillips@inspire.net.nz](mailto:carolphillips@inspire.net.nz)*

### BOOK GROUP 2

Continuing monthly lively book discussions – fun whilst stretching literary horizons.

**Meets 3rd Tuesday each month at 1pm (full). Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Merle Smillie, ph. 357 0778. [merleiansmillie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:merleiansmillie@xtra.co.nz)*

### CLASSIC BALLET

Led by John Ward. Large screen video and spectacular, comfortable 3D sound.

**Meets monthly on a Thursday afternoon. See pp.7-8 for dates and times.**

*Coordinator: Kevin Smidt, ph 022 406 9819. [kevinroaming@hotmail.com](mailto:kevinroaming@hotmail.com)*

### COMEDY

Led by John Ward.

**Meets monthly on a Tuesday afternoon. See pp.7-8 for dates and times.**

*Coordinator: Kevin Smidt, ph 022 406 9819. [kevinroaming@hotmail.com](mailto:kevinroaming@hotmail.com)*

## **CRYPTIC CROSSWORD BEGINNINGS**

For those who would like to tackle cryptic crosswords but find it hard to make sense of them.

**Meets 1st Monday each month, 10am. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Mike Carter, ph. 357 3941. [m.carter@inspire.net.nz](mailto:m.carter@inspire.net.nz)*

## **CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS 1 (in Feilding)**

Putting our minds together to solve the mysteries of cryptic crosswords.

**Meets 2nd Monday each month, 2pm. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Mike Carter, ph. 357 3941. [m.carter@inspire.net.nz](mailto:m.carter@inspire.net.nz)*

## **CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS 2**

Putting our minds together to solve the mysteries of cryptic crosswords.

**Meets 4th Monday each month, 2pm. Commences January.**

*Coordinator: Mike Carter, ph. 357 3941. [m.carter@inspire.net.nz](mailto:m.carter@inspire.net.nz)*

## **CRYPTIC CROSSWORD CHALLENGES**

This group provides a forum for meeting, and solving, the challenges of really hard crosswords.

**Meets 3rd Monday each month, 1.30pm. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Mike Carter, ph. 357 3941. [m.carter@inspire.net.nz](mailto:m.carter@inspire.net.nz)*

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Passionate conversation, debate and argument on affairs of the day.

**Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month, 10am-12noon. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Bernard Letts, ph. 357 0727. [joan.bernard@xtra.co.nz](mailto:joan.bernard@xtra.co.nz)*

## **FOR THE LOVE OF PLANTS**

Exploring the diverse world of plants and gardens. Topics negotiated and include visits, speakers and discussion.

**Meets 4th Thursday each month, 1-3.30pm. Commences January.**

*Coordinator: Heather Martin, ph. 357 3125. [ellalinem@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:ellalinem@yahoo.co.nz)*

## **HIDDEN MEMORIES: WRITING OUR MEMOIRS 3**

Sharing and recording our memories and stories.

**Meets at a negotiated time each month, 2.30pm. Commences January.**

*Coordinator: Kathriona Benvie ph. 027 605 1911 [timandkj@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:timandkj@yahoo.co.nz)*

## **MUSIC APPRECIATION**

Led by John Ward. Large screen video and spectacular, comfortable 3D sound.

**Meets monthly on a Monday afternoon. See pp.7-8 for dates and times.**

*Coordinator: Kevin Smidt, ph 022 406 9819. [kevinroaming@hotmail.com](mailto:kevinroaming@hotmail.com)*

## **NEW ZEALAND HISTORY**

A mix of invited speakers and presentations by the group.

**Meets 1st Thursday each month, 10.00am. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Graham Slater, ph. 353 0586. [gandg@inspire.net.nz](mailto:gandg@inspire.net.nz)*

### **ORAL HISTORY (was Recording and Broadcasting)**

A group for people interested in recording oral history for radio broadcast and public archives.

**Meets 2nd Friday each month, 10am. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Stuart Birks, ph. 021 204 7903. [kstuartbirks@gmail.com](mailto:kstuartbirks@gmail.com)*

### **PHILOSOPHY**

Philosophical discourse engaging members in critical thinking, based on selections of short texts.

**Meets 2nd and 4th Fridays each month, 2-4pm. Commences March.**

*Coordinator: Alan Cameron, ph. 358 3848. [aacameron@xtra.co.nz](mailto:aacameron@xtra.co.nz)*

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

For photographers at all levels to share photos with a monthly theme, and to learn from each other how to get the best out of our cameras (or phones).

**Meets 3rd Tuesday each month, 2pm. Commences January.**

*Coordinator: Hilary Laracy, ph. 027 4460 388. [hils.keith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hils.keith@xtra.co.nz)*

### **POETRY FOR PLEASURE**

Each month, group members select and read poetry of their choice around a negotiated theme.

**Meets 1st Monday each month, 1pm. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Gloria Slater, ph. 353 0586. [grslater01@gmail.com](mailto:grslater01@gmail.com)*

### **RAILWAY TRAVEL**

Led by John Ward. Historical and modern. Large screen video and spectacular, comfortable 3D sound.

**Meets monthly on a Wednesday afternoon. See pp.7-8 for dates and times.**

*Coordinator: Kevin Smidt, ph 022 406 9819. [kevinroaming@hotmail.com](mailto:kevinroaming@hotmail.com)*

### **SILVER SCREEN SELECTIONS**

Watch and discuss a selection of classic movies each month.

**Meets 3rd Thursday each month, 1pm. Commences February.**

*Coordinator Graham Slater, ph. 353 0586. [g\\_andg@inspire.net.nz](mailto:g_andg@inspire.net.nz)*

### **SKETCHING**

Tell a story with pictures. Adventures in graphite and other materials.

**Meets 3rd Monday each month, 10am. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Pauline Wellwood, ph. 356 1977. [dandpwellwood@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:dandpwellwood@slingshot.co.nz)*

### **TED (TECHNOLOGY, ENTERTAINMENT AND DESIGN)**

An online offering for members no longer mobile. Monthly notification of a YouTube TED talk, followed by email or other online discussion forum.

**Meets first Monday morning of each month. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Graham Slater, ph. 353 0586. [gandg@inspire.net.nz](mailto:gandg@inspire.net.nz)*

## **TRAVEL**

Illustrated presentations by group members and invited speakers share diverse travel experiences and opportunities taken from all corners of the globe.

**Meets: The 4th Thursday each month at 2.00pm apart from January 2025 when we will meet on the 5th Thursday."**

*Coordinator: Alastair Johnstone. Phone: (021) 885 497, [a.c.johnstone@hotmail.com](mailto:a.c.johnstone@hotmail.com)*

## **TRAVEL WRITING**

We choose a topic and next month share what we wrote.

**Meets 2nd Monday each month, 10am. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Maureen Scott, ph. 357 9379. [mandlscott@hotmail.com](mailto:mandlscott@hotmail.com)*

## **UNDERSTANDING TE REO MĀORI**

To learn correct pronunciation, origin of words and basics of the language.

**Meets 2nd Wednesday each month at 10:00am. Commences February.**

*Coordinator: Anne Spring, ph. 021 190 6322. [anne.spring35@gmail.com](mailto:anne.spring35@gmail.com)*

## **WFPB LUNCH**

Extend your culinary repertoire. Bring a Whole-Food, Plant-Based dish to share and a copy of the recipe for each member. Limited to 7 members.

**Meets 4th Tuesday each month, 12 noon. Commences January.**

*Coordinator: Rosemary Krsinich, ph. 326 9598. [rkrsinich@gmail.com](mailto:rkrsinich@gmail.com)*

## **WRITE OUR MEMOIRS TOO (in Feilding)**

Share and record your memories and stories.

**Meets 3rd Thursday each month, 2pm. Commences January.**

*Coordinator: Sally Reed, ph. 027 628 8002. [sally.reed@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sally.reed@xtra.co.nz)*

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**U3A 2024**  
**Groups led by John Ward**

**Orchestral Classical Music, Comedy, Rail Travel, Ballet and, new this year:**

**Opera**

11 selected operas by Italian and French composers (with English subtitles). Large screen video and spectacular 3D sound. Opera group members will be given details of the individual operas at the first meeting.

Co-ordinator: Kevin Smidt at 022 406 9819 or [kevinroaming@hotmail.com](mailto:kevinroaming@hotmail.com)

Leader: John Ward at 027 445 5299 or [contact@gramophoneroom.co.nz](mailto:contact@gramophoneroom.co.nz)

Opera is always at 1:30 pm. Other programmes are at 2 pm during Daylight Saving Time and at 1:30 pm during Standard (Winter) Time.

<b>February 2024</b>				
5/02/24	Mon	2:00	Music	
6/02/24	Tue	2:00	Comedy	
7/02/24	Wed	2:00	Railway Travel	
8/02/24	Thu	2:00	Classical Ballet	
9/02/24	Fri	<b>1:30</b>	Opera	<b>Aida (160 min)</b>
<b>March 2024</b>				
4/03/24	Mon	2:00	Music	
5/03/24	Tue	2:00	Comedy	
6/03/24	Wed	2:00	Railway Travel	
7/03/24	Thu	2:00	Classical Ballet	
8/03/24	Fri	<b>1:30</b>	Opera	<b>Don Giovanni (185 min)</b>
<b>April 2024</b>				
1/04/24	Mon	2:00	Music	<b>Easter Monday</b>
2/04/24	Tue	2:00	Comedy	
3/04/24	Wed	2:00	Railway Travel	
4/04/24	Thu	2:00	Classical Ballet	
5/04/24	Fri	<b>1:30</b>	Opera	<b>La Bohème (147 min)</b>
7/04/24	Sun			<b>End Daylight Saving</b>
<b>May 2024</b>				
29/04/24	Mon	1:30	Music	
30/04/24	Tue	1:30	Comedy	
1/05/24	Wed	1:30	Railway Travel	
2/05/24	Thu	1:30	Classical Ballet	
3/05/24	Fri	<b>1:30</b>	Opera	<b>Madam Butterfly (134 min)</b>
<b>June 2024</b>				
3/06/24	Mon	1:30	Music	<b>King's Birthday</b>
4/06/24	Tue	1:30	Comedy	
5/06/24	Wed	1:30	Railway Travel	
6/06/24	Thu	1:30	Classical Ballet	
7/06/24	Fri	<b>1:30</b>	Opera	<b>Rigoletto (116 min)</b>

<b>July 2024</b>			
1/07/24	Mon	1:30	Music
2/07/24	Tue	1:30	Comedy
3/07/24	Wed	1:30	Railway Travel
4/07/24	Thu	1:30	Classical Ballet
5/07/24	Fri	<b>1:30</b>	Opera <b>Tosca (120 min)</b>
<b>August 2024</b>			
5/08/24	Mon	1:30	Music
6/08/24	Tue	1:30	Comedy
7/08/24	Wed	1:30	Railway Travel
8/08/24	Thu	1:30	Classical Ballet
9/08/24	Fri	<b>1:30</b>	Opera <b>Lucia di Lammermoor (137 min)</b>
<b>September 2024</b>			
2/09/24	Mon	1:30	Music
3/09/24	Tue	1:30	Comedy
4/09/24	Wed	1:30	Railway Travel
5/09/24	Thu	1:30	Classical Ballet
6/09/24	Fri	<b>1:30</b>	Opera <b>La Traviata (133 min)</b>
<b>October 2024 (DST)</b>			
30/09/24	Mon	<b>2:00</b>	Music
1/10/24	Tue	2:00	Comedy
2/10/24	Wed	2:00	Railway Travel
3/10/24	Thu	2:00	Classical Ballet
4/10/24	Fri	<b>1:30</b>	Opera <b>Il Trovatore (133 min)</b>
<b>November 2024</b>			
4/11/24	Mon	2:00	Music
5/11/24	Tue	2:00	Comedy
6/11/24	Wed	2:00	Railway Travel
7/11/24	Thu	2:00	Classical Ballet
8/11/24	Fri	<b>1:30</b>	Opera <b>Carmen (163 min)</b>
<b>December 2024</b>			
2/12/24	Mon	2:00	Music
3/12/24	Tue	2:00	Comedy
4/12/24	Wed	2:00	Railway Travel
5/12/24	Thu	2:00	Classical Ballet
6/12/24	Fri	<b>1:30</b>	Opera <b>Marriage of Figaro (180 min)</b>

All these sessions are in one week at the beginning of a month. This means that for example in 2024 the “First” Monday of October is actually the last Monday of September.

Please note also that except for Opera which starts at 1:30 year-round, the other groups start at 2 pm during Summer time and 1:30 during standard time.