

U3A MANAWATŪ NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF U3A MANAWATŪ

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(as at the time of printing)

Jane Coad, Vivienne Henderson, Robert Le Heron, Colin Lunt, Margi Mitcalfe, Christine Moss, Sally Pearce, Peggy Pedersen, Kevin Pedley, Marsha Racey-Stilwell, Miles Stilwell, Sheenagh Tinkler



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Another vibrant year ahead!

Spring Seminar Series 2024

by Anne Spring

The topic for U3A Spring Seminar Series 2024 was Manawatū Memories: Reflecting on the past, Embracing the Future. It proved popular and relevant for U3A members for whom memories accumulate and take on special significance. The speakers were professional accumulators of items that have memory value but more importantly value for the social and developmental history of our region.

On the first day Ralph Body and Jaime Ridge, from PN City Archives, explained the history of PN's archives and referenced the pioneering role of the first city archivist, Ian Matheson. There have been at least two moves for the city's archives as the collection keeps growing. Space is a constant issue. Archival material includes books, letters, ephemera, brochures and programmes. These items are unique and, unlike material in libraries and museums, are not for general viewing or circulation. Jaime on the other hand promised to have us 'clutching our pearls' in fright at what she was to reveal. She was referring to the fragility of digital document storage. The technology is constantly changing and once obsolete, stored material can't be readily retrieved. Moreover, the much talked about Cloud Storage has a carbon footprint greater than the airline industry.

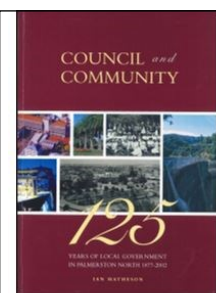
The second in the series was Marilyn Wightman representing the Feilding Coach House Museum. This space was born from the sight of old carriages rotting and neglected on farms and it was thought they deserved preservation given their importance in Feilding's agricultural history. The Coach House benefits from the participation of a lively team of volunteers.

The third day's speakers were John Sendall and Micki Tyler representing the PN Medical Museum. At the moment this museum lacks a permanent home which is unfortunate as it has been a popular attraction, even a drawcard for PN. In its heyday in the early 2000's it occupied a building on the PN hospital campus. Builders had done a good job fitting it out even with a mock pharmacy.



Speakers' display of medical and surgical items at the seminar

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Palmerston North Community Archives



Slide from PN City Archives presentation

COMING UP: Autumn Seminar Series

Making a Difference: The Power of Volunteering in the Manawātū

There are about 480 volunteer groups in the Manawātū covering a broad range of activities. Learn more about this massive sector. Speakers from: Volunteer Central; Environment Network Manawātū; Manawātū Multicultural Council; and specific volunteer groups.

Four consecutive Wednesdays from May 7th 2025, Palmerston North Central Library, 1:00pm start. **(Note the change of venue and start time.)** More details later.



FROM THE CHAIR

Chris van der Krogt

Welcome to another year of intellectual stimulation and meeting people through U3A Manawatū.

As I write this in mid-January, we have enjoyed a week of lovely summer weather – it was a slow start to the season, but

let's hope it stays fine for a while.

If you have not yet re-enrolled for the year, I would encourage you to go to the annual subscription page at u3amanawatu.org.nz/subscribe/ and complete the form online.

So far, we have only one new learning group for 2025 (A Short History of the Self from the Greeks to Neuroscience), but there are another 36 groups resuming from last year. If you have an idea for a group, and especially if you would like to establish one, do contact me and check out the advice on our website.

A few groups started in January, but most will recommence in February. Some are already fully subscribed, but this issue has a list of groups with openings. Remember that the online list of groups is updated as needed.

In May, we will have another autumn seminar series. The speakers this time will represent the voluntary sector in Palmerston North. This year, the seminars will be offered at a new venue, the Mezzanine room of the City Library.

Talks will begin a little earlier than in previous years so that attenders can take advantage of free parking before 3pm. If you are driving to town, make sure you have an up-to-date Senior Parking subscription (the yellow coupons have gone, but you still need to register at the City Council in the Square).

MEMBERSHIP 2025

Please complete your 2025 membership renewal NOW

Guidelines for subscribing were posted with the Learning Programme to all members in mid-January.

NB: if you are paying on behalf of someone else please write their name in the bank payment reference details.

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This museum also housed items of interest from the School Dental Service and as such was one of the first in the world. The speakers brought items of medical and surgical interest and people recalled with a wince the sight of the foot-powered dental drill. The strong message from this session was the need to find a permanent home for this important part of our social history.

For the final session in the series Karis Evans and Cindy Lilburn discussed Te Manawa museum. They noted that Te Manawa is part of a network of museums governed by the 'International Council of Museums' Code of Ethics'. As they say 'hoarding is easy, collecting is hard'. An object may not be worthy of collecting just because it is old or rare. The aim is 'plant the seeds of tomorrow through the stories we share'. To illustrate the point, Karis and Cindy challenged us to consider the worthiness of the inclusion of a playstation into the museum's collection.



- Does it meet either of the primary criteria?
 - Historically significant (people, event, pattern of life)
 - Socially significant (value to a particular group, embodying a belief system)
- Does it meet any secondary criteria?
 - Well-provenanced?
 - Rare or representative?
 - Complete and/or in good condition
 - Suitable for display?

PlayStation. Taken from slide in Te Manawa's presentation

One of the challenges for this museum is to reach beyond the historic European bias. Diversity in ethnicity and social status is required to accurately reflect our society.

So memories, as represented by our speakers, are more than just cosy photos and nice objects. It is reassuring to know that our archivists, curators and librarians are knowledgeable and professional about their task of preserving Manawatū's history.

If you are interested in setting up a new group please contact the Chair:

Chris van der Krogt 021 1224701 delftnz@gmail.com

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/>

We would love you to contribute to our newsletter!

Contact the Editor to discuss:

Rosemary (rkrsinich@gmail.com or 326 9598)

"It is only those who do nothing who make no mistakes"
Peter Kropotkin (1842-1921)

Around the groups...

Poetry for Pleasure

by Geoff Holland (Group Coordinator)

'Poetry is thoughts that breathe, and words that burn'. That is one definition of poetry but, in Poetry for Pleasure you can have your own ideas and choose the poems that speak to you. Each month we have a theme and members bring along several poems that link, loosely quite often, to the theme. The poems are read, discussed and enjoyed. We are a diverse group and you will be presented with poems that are highly structured and poems that are free verse, some even rhyme! Some poets deal with beauty and nature, others rage against injustice. We have had poetry from many countries and cultures and from many different eras: as far back as 850 BCE and as modern as 2024. You will find some poems that are provocative and some that are emotional and some that make you think. Overall the experience is uplifting and as the title says pleasurable. After the poems we have afternoon tea, and more general socializing. The first meeting will set up the programme for the year so that you can search ahead for poems that fit the themes.

See the [Learning Programme](#) for time and contact details.

SPACES IN GROUPS

Of our 37 groups, at mid-January, we have spaces in the following 16. Remember, if a group is full, you can ask the Coordinator to be put on its waitlist. Find meeting times and coordinator details in the [Learning Programme](#).

- ◆ A Short History of the Self from the Greeks to Neuroscience
- ◆ All About Gardening
- ◆ Biography Group
- ◆ Book Group 1
- ◆ Book Group 2
- ◆ Current Affairs
- ◆ Exploring Religion
- ◆ Film Group
- ◆ Making Sense of the Current Debates on the Treaty of Waitangi
- ◆ NZ History
- ◆ Oral History
- ◆ Philosophy
- ◆ Poetry for Pleasure,
- ◆ Silver Screen Selections
- ◆ Travel
- ◆ Write Our Memoirs Too (Feilding)

Write Our Memoirs Too

by Sally Reed (Group Coordinator)

Our Memoirs Group is very informal and friendly. Usually we choose a topic each month, and the following month we present our writings to the group, on the chosen topic. This creates interesting discussion and interaction. We have written many stories pertaining to our families and childhood, of course, but some of our particularly interesting topics have been fashion, challenges at work, changes for the better, and things people say. The group meets in Feilding. Afternoon tea is provided.

See the [Learning Programme](#) for time and contact details.

NEW GROUP: A Short History of the Self from the Greeks to Neuroscience

Group Coordinator: Stuart Lawrence

An investigation of conceptions of the Self through such terms as soul, mind, psyche and consciousness. Detailed notes supplied.

See the [Learning Programme](#) for time and contact details.

Book Group 1

by Sue Stirling (Group Coordinator)

I was incredibly fortunate to join Book Group 1 in the midst of our Covid years. The group managed to survive using Skype through months when we could not meet face to face which says a lot about the strength of the bonds in the group.

What I like about our Book Group is we read a book or a number of books (depending on time restraints) on a topic each month. These topics have ranged hugely over the years; I'll just list a few to give you an idea of the range of genres that's been covered:

Books banned in the past

Food

Scottish crime writers

Trees

Australian women writers

Women in war

Medical

Each month a member introduces a topic and provides the others with a reading list of books. You don't need to follow the script and can always branch out and find books yourself. I find that I can nearly always find books at the public library (a hard copy, eBook or eAudiobook). We set the programme for the year at our January meeting. Each member suggests

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one or two topics which they then research and introduce to the others when it is the month for their topic. Book Group 1 has certainly expanded my reading greatly over the last four years and I thoroughly enjoy the exchange of ideas at our monthly meetings.

See the [Learning Programme](#) for time and contact details.

CHANGES TO CONTACT DETAILS

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

(Contact Anne 021 190 6322 or anne.spring35@gmail.com)

Please note our new email and postal address

(we no longer have a PO Box):

Email: u3amanawatu@gmail.com

Post: 4 Bryant Street, Palmerston North 4412

If you were inspired by Centrepoint Theatre's seminar in our Entertainment Seminar Series last year, here is an opportunity for you...

centrepoint THEATRE

Attic Improv



Welcome to Attic Improv, the most fun you'll have keeping your brain in shape! We'll dive into playful improv games that spark joy, keep your mind sharp, and guarantee a good time.

Cost: \$5 per casual class.

Time: 1.30pm Thursdays.

Term: 13 February to 10 April.

Tutor: Leona Revell.

Designed for Ages 65+



Express your interest:

Email: hello@centrepoint.co.nz

Phone: 06 354 5740.

In person: 280 Church Street, Palmerston North.

- Remember to make use of our WEBSITE, source of the latest information -
- and an easy way to subscribe: u3amanawatu.org.nz -

U3A Manawatu

Life-long learning in retirement



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