

U3A MANAWATŪ NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF U3A MANAWATŪ

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

At the time of going to press, we would like to welcome the following new members:

*Chris Horwood
Nola Harris*



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We have a new website!

U3A Manawatu

Life-long learning in retirement



Part of the Home Page showing the navigation bar

NEW WEBSITE

by Chris Phillips

Nine years ago a website for U3A Manawatu was set up using a Google tool called Blogger. The site has served as an information resource, especially for new or prospective members. It is however a 'blog' rather than a full-blown website, and is limited in the functions it provides.

At that time only a handful of U3As in New Zealand had a web presence, but the picture is rather different today. Of the 83 U3As currently listed on the umbrella U3A New Zealand website, almost half now have a local website of some kind.

The U3A Manawatu website has been replaced by a new and bigger version. The new site is easier to navigate and provides a number of enhanced

features. Enquiry and subscription forms are available for completion online. A noticeboard is provided for the display of news items, and photographs are presented in a gallery.

The new website has been constructed using WordPress, the world's most widely used web creation tool. It is being hosted free of charge by local ISP Inspire Net, a service they provide for not-for-profit organisations. The new site can be accessed at www.u3amanawatu.org.nz. A link to the new site has been installed on the old site. Please test drive it, and then bookmark it!

If you elected to receive this newsletter by mail, it will be in black and white. A colour copy can be downloaded from our website at www.u3amanawatu.org.nz



FROM THE CHAIR

Graham Slater

Greetings. I have been elected as the Chair of the U3A Manawatū. It is my first duty to acknowledge Carol Phillips for the sterling service she provided for the past three years. On your behalf, I would like to thank Carol. She will be a hard act to follow.

I would like to welcome three new members of the U3A committee, Janet Black, Chris Phillips, and Stuart Birks. Along with existing members we look to have another effective team.

I would like to acknowledge all our group coordinators for all their hard work throughout the year. These people are the backbone of the organisation. Without them we could not make this work.

Our Spring seminar series “Impact” is currently running. An audience of 92 people attended the first session, presented by Richard Shaw from Massey University. I hope the rest of the series continues to attract similar levels of attendance. I would like to thank Margaret Hazelton for all her hard work to put yet another series together. Also, thanks to all those who assisted in undertaking the tasks required to present such an event on the day.

2018 has been another busy and successful year. We have gained a number of new members and regretfully lost some long serving ones with the deaths of Rolf Panny and Freda Larsen.

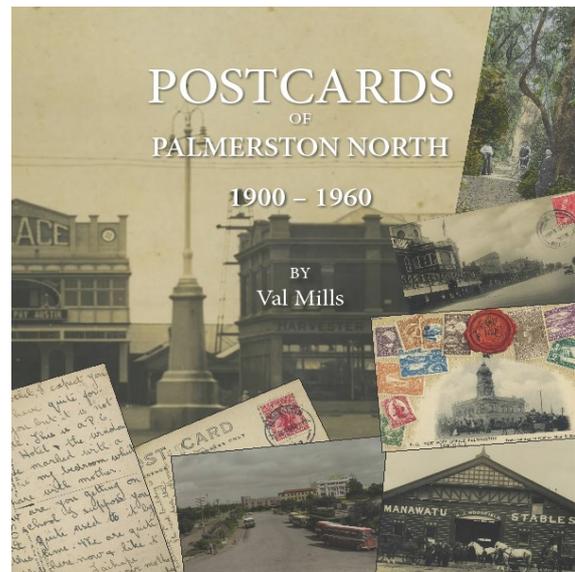
As we approach the end of the year I would like to wish you all a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and New Year. I look forward to another exciting and eventful year in 2019.

AGM 2018

The AGM was held at the Quaker Meeting House on 12th September. 27 members were present. Carol Phillips presented her Chairperson’s Report. Note that: Gloria Slater’s guidelines for setting up a new group are now available; Ron Paddock stepped in as Treasurer when Jenny Edwards left in early June and presented a very healthy Performance Report incorporating our Financial Statements; a new committee was elected; the idea was raised to develop a NZ-wide U3A community for sharing issues and ideas face-to-face (perhaps a conference). One issue, currently under discussion world-wide, is that of how to involve members who may no longer be mobile. Carol was thanked for her excellent work as chairperson over the last three years.

(Note that copies of the documents referred to are available on the website or by contacting the Secretary.)

The AGM was followed by a very interesting presentation from one of our members, Val Mills, on her book “Postcards of Palmerston North, 1900-1960”. This book shows what Palmerston North was like in the first half of the last century through postcard images and accompanying historical text. It will appeal to a wide audience including those who grew up in the city and those with an interest in observing what life was like in the past.



Front cover

Val is a member of the New Zealand Postcard Society. Postcards were introduced to NZ in the late 1890s. The book explores part of the city’s social history, with themes such as business, transport, worship, education and recreation, as well as the general development of the town.

The book was launched at the PN Public Library on 30th October and will be available from Bruce McKenzie in George Street from 31st October.

Val’s previous publications are “West End the Best End, School Memories from the 1950s” (2012), and “Down at the Baths: The Story of the Palmerston North Municipal Baths 1917-1966” (2017) - Manawatu Heritage Trust’s “Best Manawatu Local History Book 2015-2017”. Val is a member of the U3A NZ History and Write Your Memoirs groups.

OUR COMMITTEE

At the first committee meeting after the AGM, Graham Slater was appointed Chairperson, Rosemary Krsinich Secretary, and Ron Paddock Treasurer. Other members of the committee are: Stuart Birks, Janet Black, Cherry Gordon, Larry Haist, Chris Phillips and Stu Schwartz. Various responsibilities were allocated, some to members outside the committee. See Page 4 for further details.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS GROUPS

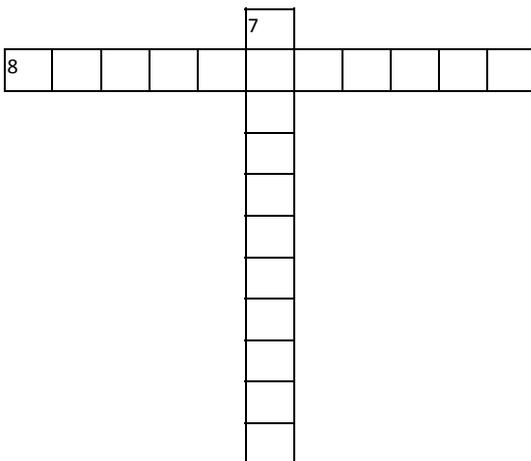
by Mike Carter

Cryptic crossword solvers fall into two classes. Some like to start with the first clue and work systematically down the list. Others (including the members of our three U3A cryptic crossword groups) prefer to scan the clues of the current challenge and seek inspiration wherever they find it. Soon cries sound around the table: "I think 8 across may be an anagram of 'dearest USSR'", or "How about 7 down - does anyone know the names of some Hitchcock films", and so on. Very few clues succeed in baffling our collective wits, and we have great fun trying to fathom the strange workings of the minds of the various puzzle setters that we encounter.

Here are those two clues. Can you complete the solutions? (Answers later on this page).

8 across: Harbour no doubt about dearest USSR? (4, 7)

7 down: Hitchcock classic shows routes taken by violent madmen. (11)



There are currently three cryptic crosswords groups available at different levels of difficulty. Please contact Mike Carter (phone 357 3941 or email m.carter@inspire.net.nz) for more details.

Contributions to this quarterly newsletter are very welcome!
Published at the beginning of Feb, May, Aug and Nov.
Please contact the Editor to discuss content and deadlines (Rosemary at 326 9598 or rkrsinich@gmail.com)

ANSWERS to Cryptic Crossword clues:

8 across: rest assured (anagram)
7 down: ("Psychopaths" + path)

THE CLOWN

by John Garner

*I love you clown
You make no pretence
To being other than you are
You make others happy
And when you're sad
We feel your sadness*

*How is it ... ?
That beneath the powdered rouged cheeks
And tartan pattern of your baggy dress
You never show us who you are
Philosopher and King
In a mask of wit and sheer fun
Wiser than us all.*

*How well Shakespeare portrayed the clown
A derisive jester looking on
While heads of state play out their role
More foolishly than any fool.*

CALL FOR NEW GROUPS FOR 2019

Four new learning groups were created in 2018 bringing the total number of groups available to 34, but with our ever growing membership (342 at last count) there is always room for more. The possibilities are endless! What are YOU interested in? The 2019 Learning Group Programme is currently being assembled. If you have ideas and would like to offer a group, please contact the Learning Groups Programme coordinator Chris Phillips (phone 358 1991 or email chrisphillips@inspire.net.nz) by early December so we can get the Programme distributed as early as possible in the new year.

Note that Gloria Slater's very helpful guidelines for setting up a new group are available on the website or by contacting the Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2019

Subscription forms will be mailed out in January along with the 2019 Learning Groups Programme. You can also subscribe via our website at www.u3amanawatu.org.nz.

Note that subscriptions run for the Calendar year, i.e. January to December. The cost remains the same for 2019 at \$15 for a single person or \$25 for a couple.



FREDA LARSEN

by Larry Haist

Freda Larsen, Cumbrian by birth and Palmerstonian after marriage, was one of the original members of our U3A. She was active in the current events group and the symposium group until a couple of months ago, and while mobile was a long-standing and original member of the philosophy group. She was proud of her socialism and Quakerism, finding time for real politics and living by the Quaker testimonies. She read the papers and listened to the National programme. She spoke of the hunger marchers, the suffragists through the eyes of the previous generation, the war, nursing in a fever hospital, her husband who flew and bombed during the war and the effect that had had, her daughters and son, the Labour Party, Best Years under Brian Ibell and now David Beer, Quaker meeting, the social issues of the day. She had been active in the fight to become nuclear free and long-serving in the Citizens Advice

Bureau, Samaritans, and many other social and political groups. She was the last but one of the war brides here, of which she wrote a history a few years ago.

About six weeks before she died on her 98th birthday – with her daughters in for the celebration – she developed shingles in the base of her skull. The pain was excruciating and eventually she told staff at Brightwater Home (Freda insisted that it was a not-for-profit facility she went to after needing constant care) she no longer wanted to see them. She had been happy with her care there. She had just finished oral histories for local heritage purposes and I think for the National Library. Her mind and memory were superb and her interest in the news avid until the shingles set in. A memorial service for her brought contributions from the last few decades, but those who knew her before that were almost all gone. She missed these former friends, and in return we will now miss her. Goodbye Friend.

CLUBS DAY FOR 60+

On Thursday 26th July, we participated in the PNCC Library Clubs Day for 60+, organized by the Library's Senior Services Coordinator.

62 PN clubs with a social focus and "life-long curiosity" at their heart took the opportunity to present their offerings, over several floors of the library, to senior members of the community, showing them what is available, what they are about, and providing them with a place to sign up as new members, friends or supporters.

Carol Phillips gave a two minute talk at a venue on the ground floor, and she and Chris handled numerous inquiries at our desk on the mezzanine



Chris Phillips on the desk

floor. Jill Gibson provided the display and Graham Slater set up a continuous Power Point presentation.

Almost 60 copies of our learning programme were handed out in the two hours of the event; there was considerable interest.

U3A MANAWATŪ CONTACT DETAILS

Mail: PO Box 9076, Palmerston North 4441. **Email:** u3amanawatu@gmail.com. **Website:** www.u3amanawatu.org.nz

Committee

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Social Events: Janet Black 356 6251 janblack@xtra.co.nz

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Other contributors

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Social Events: Bev Charlton 356 0094, Alison Fraser

Promotional Displays: Jill Gibson 354 0994