

## How does that sound?

*Chris Phillips*

The autumn seminar series took place at All Saints Community Centre on four Wednesdays in May. The series examined the world of sound from four different perspectives. For all forms of life, sound is a vital form of communication. It can convey facts, thoughts, ideas, emotions, and personal information. The series was once again the brainchild of Margaret Hazelton.

In opening the series, Graham Slater explored the role of the soundtrack in a feature film. Because film is thought of as primarily a visual medium, it's easy to overlook the integral role of sound in on-screen storytelling. Sound is one of the unseen elements of film. After briefly tracing the history of cinema sound, Graham demonstrated through examples just how much work goes into the creation of a modern film soundtrack, with much of it being created in the studio after the film has been shot.



*A film soundtrack being created by musicians sitting behind the screen, from the days of silent film (Graham Slater)*

Professor Isabel Castro then presented a session on bird talk, with many sonic examples. She reviewed our knowledge of why birds sing and what they are saying when they tweet. Birdsong is made up of syllables and sentences of different frequencies which convey information about predators, their health, their size and their activities, and which stimulate and protect

their mates. Some birds learn new sounds throughout their lives and sounds are often limited to a local bird population.

In the third seminar, Dr Peter Petrucci observed that we can and do assess others based on what they sound like. Drawing on this observation, he visited the world of forensic linguistics and critically examined language evidence from several well-known cases involving questioned authorship. He considered the extent to which language can give someone away in criminal contexts. Members of the audience were invited to participate in placing the dialect of a speaker.

Finally, Professor Leonel Alvarado focussed on representative music styles in Latin America, especially those linked to key social and political events that have shaped the region, including the arrival of immigrants. The music styles include the tango, romantic and revolutionary ballads, salsa, and rock. He examined the coming together of a three-fold heritage, which combines Native American, African and European roots. The arrival of radio, movies and records played key roles in this development.

*Ed: Lionel is a published poet. See P2 for one of his poems.*



**We need helpers for our Spring and Autumn Seminar Series. Please contact Carol Phillips 358 1991 for more information.**

## Spring Seminar Series

### Impact!

- a look at some things which have impacted our world.

2.15 pm on Wednesdays: 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> Oct and 7<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Speaker details and topics will be advised.

### NOTE new venue:

Crossroads Church, 220 Church Street.

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.u3am.blogspot.co.nz](http://www.u3am.blogspot.co.nz).



## From the Chair

*Carol Phillips*

This will be my last column for the newsletter as I will be retiring from the committee at the AGM in September, having spent three enjoyable years as Chair. During that time, I have got to know a wide range of people in U3A and am always impressed by the energy, enthusiasm, creativity and general zest for life of our members. We maintain a wide range of interest groups, from the practical to the esoteric, and manage to put on two stimulating and varied seminar series each year. Our group coordinators are the backbone of U3A, and it is their consistent commitment and enthusiasm to share their interests which allows us to provide such a variety of shared learning experiences. The committee has continued to be very supportive throughout my time as chair, sharing the workload and delivering on their commitments.

So my message to all our members is: stay involved and enjoy the contribution you are already making, but please also consider taking on extra responsibilities, either by starting another learning group, becoming involved with running the seminars, or joining the committee. U3A **is** its members - by members, for members - and the more people you meet and the more activities you are involved with, the richer will be your experience.

Although I shall be vacating the chair, I will still be very involved in U3A and look forward to meeting you at the AGM (September 12<sup>th</sup>), at groups and at coordinators' meetings. Thank you for your support over the last three years and best wishes for the future. And finally – keep warm in what is shaping up to be a rather chilly winter!

### NOTICE of AGM (U3A Manawatū)

The 2018 AGM will be held at 2 pm on Wednesday 12th September at the Quaker Meeting House, 227 College Street

**Speaker:** Val Mills, whose latest book, 'Postcards of Palmerston North, 1900-1960' shows the reader what Palmerston North was like in the first half of last century through postcard images and accompanying historical text.

## Homer's Odyssey of Globalisation

by Leonel Alvarado

Penelope no longer spends her time weaving. She's found a more efficient and more profitable way overseas - that's called outsourcing

Her suitors no longer spend the day depleting her state. Instead, they've been given rosters of potential clients to phone - that's called telemarketing

When Odysseus is back he literally axes his wife's suitors - that's called downsizing.

## Manawatū Conversations

Tune in to Manawatū Public Radio 999 AM on Tuesdays, 1 to 1.30 pm, to hear Stuart Birks, Iola Haggarty and Don Esslemont host "Manawatū Conversations", a show for local people giving recollections of the past, and sometimes opinions of the future. Episodes are available for several weeks afterwards on the website [www.mpr.nz](http://www.mpr.nz) then via the Manawatū Heritage website at [manawatuheritage.pncc.govt.nz](http://manawatuheritage.pncc.govt.nz).

Our very own Freda Larsen spoke on 19th and 26th June about her experiences including those of being a war bride and a member of a Chartist family.

For more information, contact Stuart Birks, Coordinator of the Recording and Broadcasting Group, 021 204 7903.

*Note:* This group holds recording equipment that can be made available to other groups (contact Stuart).

## Gandhi and The King



Sighting Gandhi arriving in his signature loin cloth carrying an enamel mug he had used in the British jails, to have tea with His Majesty and other distinguished guests, a flabbergasted Churchill confronts him with the question: Mr Gandhi, do you think you have sufficient on for the occasion? A smiling Gandhi replies: I am sure The King will have sufficient on for both of us!

*Contributed by Srikanta Chatterjee*

*Ed: Srikanta will be presenting a seminar on Gandhi and the end of the Empire in our Spring Seminar Series.*



## Focus on John Ward & The Gramophone Room

*John Ward, Rosemary Krsinich, Ashleigh Bilby*

John Ward coordinates several groups: Classic Comedy (Members' Choice), British Comedy, Historic Documentaries, Music Appreciation 1 and 2, and Railway Travel. Members recently requested the establishment of two further groups: Serials and 3D; these are underway but the schedule has yet to be finalised. All eight groups are run in The Gramophone Room, which is both the name of the venue and the radio station set up by John in 1999 in his home in Elmira Avenue. The venue offers state-of-the-art wide screen video and 18 phase channel surround sound and can seat up to 40 people comfortably.

The Gramophone Room radio station broadcasts classical music 24/7, drawing on John's extensive collection (tens of thousands) of records, on 106.7 FM and 107.3 FM. On 88.1 FM in PN and Feilding, it plays ballet, opera, choral music, Gilbert and Sullivan, and The Goon Show. John set up his first Gramophone Room in a Transit Hut in 1957. He has a mast on the City Council building and there are signal receivers around the city including the Clock Tower. The classical music played from the Clock Tower seems to have cleared glue sniffers and vandals from the Square ☺.

### How it all began...

*Watch out for an upcoming radio interview with John on Manawatu Conversations, Manawatu Public Radio 999 AM, hosted by U3A Recording and Broadcasting Group.*

John was born in 1937. He was involved in the theatre in Palmerston North where he introduced the tape recorder in 1949 for sound effects for plays as well as recording performances. He also used tape recordings to record concerts in the Opera House, with performances by the likes of the PN Choral Society, Renaissance Singers, and the PN Symphony Orchestra. He taught music extensively in the Central Regions Instrumental Course (CRIC) at PN Boys High from 1976 to 1997. Many of these players went on to proudly join prominent European orchestras. He recorded the performances from the CRIC, as well as numerous music schools throughout the North Island, most notably the Cambridge Music School. For almost 50 years, John has produced tapes for dressage, ice and roller skating, marching, and gymnastics teams.

He served in the Air Force and Army brass bands all over the country for ceremonial services. The Air Force initially approached John to teach Brass, which, with his recording capabilities, led him to introduce recording court martials for the court typists, which was a New Zealand first in 1976. The judge marked his approval of the clarity of these recordings and the resulting transcripts, which led to a precedence taken up by the Army for whom John then set up recordings.

With his construction of the gramophone, John introduced stereo to PN at the Lutheran Hall in July 1958. He constructed 27 stereo amplifiers, based on the Williamson design, for other members of the community prior to travelling to England for two years in the early 60s.

John's first memory of music was dancing in the Central School hall to ballet music from Schubert's Rosamunde in 1942. Later that year, along with the McKeggs in the Repertory Theatre, he featured on stage in the play Daddy Long Legs. In 1943, he performed in the Central School production of Robin Hood, as Little John.

For his services, John was awarded a PNCC Civic Award followed by a Queen's Service Medal.

*"Behind every successful man is a great woman!"* John was married to and backed by Marjory for over 30 years. She encouraged him to set up the radio station and introduced him to the U3A. They raised 8 children and he now has 18 grandchildren.

For more information on any of John's groups please email him at [contact@gramophoneroom.co.nz](mailto:contact@gramophoneroom.co.nz).



*PN Garrison Brass Band 1951. John, at 14, is the shorter of the two tuba players. The band, the oldest institution in PN, was formed by Queen Alexandra's Own army unit in February 1868. John is its Patron. It is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> in the coming Spring, with pageantry to include a military tattoo. Queen Alexandra's Own is still at Linton Camp and celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> in The Square in 2014. They paraded on horseback, commemorating their arrival here after the massive 1855 earthquake, to help clear the scrub and drain the plateau, now known as "The Square".*

## Coordinators' meeting

*Rosemary Krsinich*

On a drizzly Wednesday morning in June, Group Coordinators and Members of the Committee came together for their mid-year meeting and morning tea. This was held at the Quaker Meeting House in College Street. It was one of two meetings held each year for the Group Coordinators to catch up with each other and raise and discuss any issues. As our Chairperson, Carol Phillips, was ill, the discussion was led by Graham Slater.

☞ We are looking for people to help with the Seminar Series. We need a backup for Margaret Hazelton, the Series organiser, and people to help with the wide variety of jobs associated with offering these seminars, including staffing the enquiries desk, setting up chairs, giving votes of thanks, etc.

☞ Nominations are required for new members on the committee. If interested, please contact one of the Committee members for a nomination form.

☞ Cherry Gordon is setting up U3A file archives. Contact her for submission guidelines. Submissions are voluntary.

☞ A huge number of baby boomers are about to enter their "third age". We need to decide how best to deal with this from the point of view of our growth: the number and type of groups offered, possible caps on membership, and how to involve people whose disabilities prevent them from getting to groups.

☞ Anyone with ideas for new groups can call for expressions of interest via the newsletter.

☞ The U3A owns various bits of video and audio equipment to help with the delivery of group material. Graham Slater (353 0586 or [gandg@inspire.net.nz](mailto:gandg@inspire.net.nz)) can tell you what is available and how to book it.

## Book Group news

*Gloria Slater*

We are calling for **expressions of interest** for a second PN book group as the current group has reached capacity. A first meeting will be held on 21 August at 1pm to negotiate the format of future meetings, times, venues, etc. Contact Gloria Slater ([grslater01@gmail.com](mailto:grslater01@gmail.com)) to register interest or for other enquiries.

Contributions to this quarterly newsletter are very welcome!  
Published at the beginning of Feb, May, Aug and Nov.  
Please contact the Editor (326 9598 or [rksinich@gmail.com](mailto:rksinich@gmail.com))

## Travel Group

*Jacque Aldridge*

It's hard to believe that the Travel Group started over three years ago. We had about six people to start, and now there are close to 25 people, with around 15 regulars. We started with members who had been travelling overseas bringing maps and creating a slideshow or sets of photos shown over the TV screen. These presentations were often so professional they were magnificent.

There were times when our once-a-month coincided with a public holiday. Then we'd have a discussion: a favourite NZ place, travel disasters, general discussion of places members have worked or lived. Most recently a guest spoke of growing up in Jamaica.

About twice a year we share a potluck lunch and appreciate our hosts who always go to trouble to make the event enjoyable.

Coming up at Travel Group is a talk about travelling around Palmerston North on an electric bike, and growing up in Zimbabwe.



**"This should keep you going while I'm on vacation."**

## Welcome to new members!

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

Patricia A Macfarlane, Mary and Archie McIntyre, George and Anna Palmer, Sue and Rob Green, Ursula Schneider, Yoko Wakiya, and Craig Ross.

*New Editor: You may have noticed a change in the format of this newsletter. It is not easy to fill Chris Phillips' editorial shoes! Rosemary*

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### Committee

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