

U3A MANAWATŪ NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF U3A MANAWATŪ

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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

Doug Houlbrooke, Arne Comrie, Geoffrey Barnes, Ruth Holland, Hilary Laracy, Marja Steur, Christine Treeby, John Kirkland and partner, Peter and Rosemary Te Rangī, Sande Ramage, Mike Stone, Phyllis Schwartz, Isobel and Peter Wilson, Geoffrey and Robyn Harcombe, and Helen Allan.



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Handing on the mike

by Chris Phillips

Over the past twelve years, U3A Manawatu has offered two seminar series each year. Topics have been many and varied, and have included social issues, other countries and cultures, education, science and technology, and the arts. Attendances have grown to around one hundred.

In the early years, series were coordinated variously by Bryan Ibell, John Garner, Reuben Leberman, Dianne Haist, Fred Symes and myself. Remarkably, over the past seven years, the spring and autumn seminar series have been planned and coordinated by just one person – Margaret Hazelton.



Margaret Hazelton

Since arriving in Palmerston North from Durham, England ten years ago, Margaret has put enormous energy into U3A Manawatu, including a five-year term as committee chairperson. Over recent years she has been a familiar figure at the mike, fronting the seminars with her unique mix of factual information and witty observations.

Each seminar series requires months of planning and preparation, from the original idea, through the

identification of possible speakers and the pinning down of dates, to the publicity and the organisation of the venue. Margaret’s seminar series have covered a wide range of topics and a diverse mix of speakers, many drawn from Massey University.

Margaret recalls that the first year of organising the seminars provided a steep learning curve. The vagaries of the initial responses from potential speakers led her to ‘divergent thinking and novel approaches’. Margaret says she had been constantly delighted and amazed by the enthusiasm of the experts, and their generosity in giving time in a busy life. The seminars have provided her with seven unforgettable years. She is delighted to pass the baton on to Stuart Birks.

So, thank-you Margaret - we will think fondly of your extraordinary contribution to the seminar series. You will indeed be a hard act to follow.

FOOTNOTE: Margaret is leaving Palmerston North in September to move to Dunedin, where her son, Martin, is taking up a senior academic position at Otago University.

We welcome your ideas for future seminar topics or speakers!

**Please contact Stuart Birks or any member of the committee.
(See contact details on Page 4).**



FROM THE CHAIR

Graham Slater

Welcome to an exciting programme for 2019, now well underway.

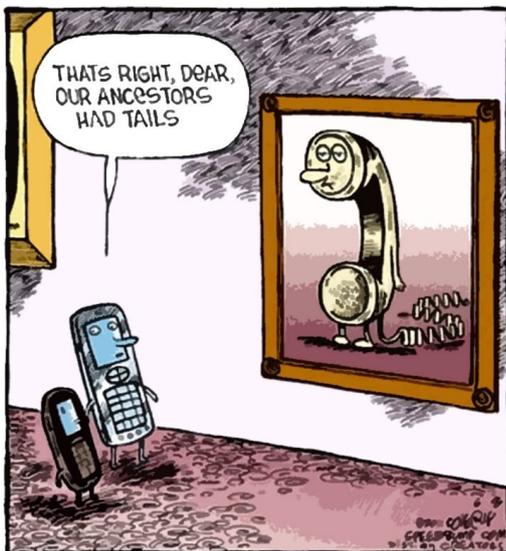
As we despatch the latest version of daylight saving and the weather begins to cool a bit, I hope that everyone takes care of themselves. Remember your flu shots!

At this point in time we have 334 members on our books, but only 274 are paid up. This is ongoing. We begin the year with 36 learning groups.

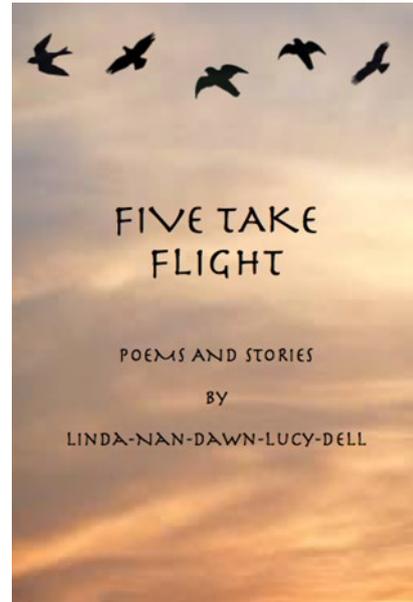
There are five new groups although two of them have spun off from existing ones. There is a second **Book Group** as the demand for places exceeded capacity. There is also a second beginners' group for those interested in **Cryptic Crosswords**, but find it difficult to make sense of them. This group could make itself obsolete if it is highly successful! The good thing about this is that there should constantly be places available as people join or form more advanced groups.

The other new groups cover **Classical Ballet, TV Drama Series** and **Russia and the West**. If you have any ideas for new groups please let me know. If there is enough interest and a coordinator to start them up, new groups can be formed at any time. We have support and resources available to help new groups to set up if required.

We are currently in the final planning stages for the next autumn seminar series. This is due to begin on Wednesday May 8th at the Cross Roads Church at 2.15pm and run for 4 consecutive Wednesdays. The topic this time will be Ethics and four speakers will explore the topic from different points of view discussing the question, "Is there a right and wrong?"



That's right, dear. Our ancestors had tails.



U3A Manawatū members Dell Panny, Nan Kinross and Lucy Marsden, with two other writers, have published a book of poems and short stories.

Copies will be available for purchase shortly from Bruce McKenzie Booksellers, price \$15.

Ed: cover design by Chris Phillips

DATES FOR DIARIES

Autumn Seminar Series:

"Ethics: is there a right and wrong?"

2.15 to 4 pm at Cross Roads Church, 220 Church St, PN

- May 8th** Towards more fortunate experiments.
Dr Brian Finch
- May 15th** Does religion provide an adequate basis for morality?
Dr Chris van der Krogt
- May 22nd** Assessing ethical conundrums in UN peacekeeping.
Dr Bethan Greener
- May 29th** Ethics in health - a cultural perspective.
Dr Geoffrey Kira

Admission free. Gold coin for tea/coffee and biscuits.

You should have received a flyer giving details of the series. A copy can be downloaded from our website via the link [here](#).

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

AROUND THE GROUPS...

SCIENCE FOR ALL

by Brian Tapper

Science keeps changing our world and our view of our knowledge. At U3A Science for All we have an opportunity to learn of things both established and new. Many of our every day technologies are based on some scientific research and discovery. It doesn't stop. We are an open group meeting on the third Friday afternoon of the month, with occasional extra meetings. Generally we have an invited speaker, often a researcher in the Manawatū. And the informal discussions and questions are appreciated by our guests.

Both social and natural sciences are in our scope. In February, a discussion led by Prof. Jim Carmody, from the University of Massachusetts Medical School on "Easing the Anxiety of Being Human" gave us insight into research on neural and psychological mechanisms with mind-body medicine in clinical settings.

The March meeting took us into the world of marine mammals. In particular, we looked at the various anatomical adaptations of their heads for their environments, locating and feeding systems. What do you know about the dugongs of northern Australia? (Do you know they are related to elephants?) And what do you know about the complex anatomy of the echo location system in the head of toothed whales?

Coming up will be topics about cancer in animals, how some birds fly during migrations, what's new in astronomy and whatever science topics you suggest that we can organise.

Just remember we are an open group and any U3A member can be on our email list, no obligations, by contacting Brian Tapper at tapper@inspire.net.nz.



Dugong

Contributions to this quarterly newsletter are very welcome!

Published at the beginning of February, May, August and November.

Please contact the Editor to discuss content and deadlines:

(Rosemary at 326 9598 or rkrsinich@gmail.com)

TRAVEL GROUP

by Jacque Aldridge

The Travel Group started off 2019 with a discussion about widening the topics. Usually we are led by speakers who tell us their adventures along with maps, photos and postcards.

This year we have added the new topic of "different modes of travel" such as train trips and cruise ships. Val Mills last year talked about The Ghan, and Annette and Tom Barry talked about a cruise in French Polynesia. More to come!

We also noted that living in a new country is quite different from being a tourist.

Our first presenters for 2019 were Judith and Don Barsanti who spent time in Lucca in Italy, from where Don's grandfather came. An excellent talk. It was very interesting and moving to hear how wars and poverty impact people; group members shared their own stories.

In March, Pauline Wellwood gave a great talk about her time living in Saudi Arabia as a young nurse from Britain.

Call for expressions of interest: PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

by Hilary Laracy

I am proposing the setting up a photography group. I would like to understand more about my digital camera and how to take better photos, and see this group as one in which members can share ideas and learn from each other. Of course it would be great to have some members who already know a bit about photography! The group would be for those with all types of digital cameras, including phone cameras. If you are interested in such a group, please email Hilary Laracy at hils.keith@xtra.co.nz (preferably), or phone 358 6155.

ANOTHER REDUCTION IN TRUST

by Larry Haist

Our personal computers and cell phones, without which we find it increasingly difficult to do some things, need some care not to become used against us. While there is no need to be paranoid, just careful, money and personal information can be used to our disadvantage. It was sobering to listen to the story of someone in Palmerston North whose bank account, the savings of him and his wife, was cleaned out in spite of great care, with no reimbursement from the bank.

One good site that gives advice and support about potential financial loss is netsafe.org.nz. (Thanks for the site reference, Chris and Rosemary.) Some of the problems I have avoided in the main on my home computer include: viruses (I have a continually updated virus checker), scams that come by email (either false links to web pages or in attachments (don't open what you have the least suspicion about), and emails from friends with links because their email address or computer is being used to send links or attachments without their knowledge. Some scams are mentioned in the media, but those I've seen personally include requests to pay spurious invoices, requests for bank account information, requests for help in moving money, extortion requests based on supposed hacking of my computer, links to follow because I have done something – that I have not – including entering a contest and winning a promotion. I could go on.

Thanks, Reuben, for the suggestion that we take these attempts to scam us more seriously. His concern was based on his getting a request for information toward a supposed IRD refund. I have made it a rule not to reply to any email mentioning money unless it is a confirmation of a (rare) online

purchase. At our house, we changed phone numbers to slow down sales calls including suggestions that our computer had problems. (Don't allow remote access to your computer unless it is to some agency you really know.) Another ploy by a U3A member was to change his email address. That largely stopped the junk mail that often included scams and related mail. Changing an email address is much more difficult since so much is tied to it. Delete any email that looks iffy. Oh, and when you ask for a web site, it is best to make sure your browser includes "https" at the start of the address. You might use, for example, "https everywhere". Sorry, you'll have to look that one up. (Ed: [https everywhere](https://www.https-everywhere.com)).

The wild west of the internet is forcing us into little silos of only what we trust. If we take basic precautions, we can be more open and enjoy the internet worlds available to us at a very reasonable cost. If you are scammed, remember that you are not alone, and that you are not particularly thick or gullible. And remember to look at netsafe.org.nz



U3A MANAWATŪ CONTACT DETAILS

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