



U3A Manawatū
Chairperson's Report
September 22nd 2021

I am pleased to present the Chairperson's Report for U3A Manawatū for the year ending September 2021.

It appears that many people have not heard of the U3A or indeed know anything about our organisation. Please take the opportunity to talk to friends about us. U3A is a great way to meet new people, learn about different topics and share ideas and knowledge. There are currently 84 active U3As in NZ. We currently have 353 members across 40 Learning groups in our U3A.

Did you know we have a website? It contains everything we are involved in. There is a "Notice Board" on the site where we try to keep information up to date. Have you been into the website? If not, go and have a look at it (<https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz>).

COVID is not going away any time soon. I urge you to get vaccinated if possible and scan or sign in to wherever you go. We are fortunate to live here where COVID is not rampant. In the words of an ex-Palmerston North icon, John Clarke, "We don't know how lucky we are!"

Our highly successful Autumn seminar series had record attendances. We are looking forward to the Spring series entitled "Quality of Life in the Third Age".

I would like to thank the many U3A members who work behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of each series. There is a great deal of work done to ensure these seminars are interesting, informative, and accessible.

I regret to advise of the passing of Pat Leberman, a U3A stalwart for many years.

I would like to again extend my thanks to the dedicated band of coordinators who organise and facilitate our learning group activities. There are some new groups being floated. (For your homework, go and check them out on the website.)

I would like to again recognize the sterling work of Alan Martin for his review of the Financial Statements in the Performance Report.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the tireless contributions made by Chris Phillips who is standing down after many years of faithful service, including some time in the chair. Chris puts endless hours into activities such as the website and the programme. I am pleased to hear he intends to retain some of these functions from outside the committee. I will miss him, his input, and the strong support he has given me over the years.

We have reached the end of another year in a strong position, financially secure and with a thriving learning community; we are well placed for another successful year of learning together. Stay safe!

Graham Slater, Chairperson, U3A Manawatū