

U3A MANAWATŪ NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF U3A MANAWATŪ

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

As at the time of printing we have the following new members:

Ian Boag, Liz Chandler, Jinny Dawson, Neil Mullooly, Liz Wharton, John Tweedie



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How we are faring under Omicron



U3A Manawātū GROUPS & SEMINARS

In mid-April the committee contacted the Group Coordinators to see how their groups have been getting on under the Covid-19 Omicron restrictions. Now these restrictions are easing up it is hoped that groups will be able to get back into normal operation.

We are also able to offer another exciting
SEMINAR SERIES (more info on Page 2)

GROUPS

Art Appreciation

coordinated by Anne Cameron

The group met for the first time this year in April in the Evelyn Rawlins room in Square Edge which they plan to use for the rest of the year. They discussed some art exhibitions members had managed to get to including Rita Angus, Hilma af Klimt, and Hundertwasser. The group is full but there are enough names on the waiting list for another group to be formed. This will need a coordinator.

Biography

coordinated by Alan Martin

The group has maintained its normal operation.

Book Discussion Group – ‘21 Lessons for the 21st Century’

coordinated by Stuart Birks

This new group started up in early April. It promises to provide some fascinating discussion. The group is currently full but Stuart can take expressions of interest with the possibility of forming a second group.

Book Group 1

coordinated by Carol Phillips

The book group is going well with six members who have been meeting via Skype very successfully. The group members have decided to continue meeting using Skype for now.

Book Group 2

coordinated by Merle Smillie

There are eight members in the group and the numbers have been the same for a couple of years. Not everyone makes the meeting every month, but they email each other and stay connected. In February although they didn't have their meeting some of the members met by the river for a picnic and a catch up. This month will be their first meeting for the year and Merle expects everyone is looking forward to meeting again.

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Please contribute to our newsletter! Contact the Editor: Rosemary on 326 9598 or rkrsinich@gmail.com



FROM THE CHAIR

Graham Slater

Greetings! 2022 has certainly been a bit topsy turvy. As I sit down to write this, I note we have just shifted from

Red to Orange in our traffic light system. It is good to see the number of Omicron infections reducing. Let us hope this trend continues.

Most of our learning groups have been in some form of hibernation for a time and I hope we can now begin to see a gradual recommencement of activities. I personally miss the interaction in the groups in which I participate.

As Easter is a time of to celebrate new beginnings (and Easter eggs), I am hopeful that this is also the start of getting our lives back to normal, whatever that means now.

If you are feeling isolated and cut off from life, take this opportunity to get back out there and enjoy life again.

I don't think for one moment that we are through the challenges COVID is going to throw at us, but I think we are in a good place to cautiously re-launch our lives. I suspect there are more mutations and variants to come.

The U3A Autumn Seminar Series, entitled 'Impressions on Nature' will be our main emphasis on getting back underway. The free series of four talks will be held on May 11th, 18th, 25th and June 1st. Once again these will be held at the Crossroads Church in Church Street starting at 2.15pm each day. There is, again, an interesting and diverse line-up of speakers. We are planning to stream these live again in case people can't get there in person, would like to watch them remotely from home, or see them again. You will have received the flyer for the series by email or post in mid-April. This includes details on speakers and topics and the URL for the live streaming/YouTube option.

Our membership numbers have slipped a little, probably due to much of our operation having been suspended during COVID. We intend to begin a membership drive to recover the numbers as we progress.

Once again, I would like to seek your input as to possible new Learning Groups. We currently have 37 active groups but are always on the lookout to expand our offerings. If you have an idea for a new group please contact me via email and we will see if we can get it running.

AUTUMN SEMINAR SERIES

Impressions on Nature

Crossroads Church

220 Church Street

Wednesdays 2.15—4 pm

Diverse views of nature, impacts on the environment, the policy scene, what can we expect?

May 11th: He Tatai Whenua: Case studies of mātuaranga Māori in relation to our land.

May 18th: Human-wildlife conflict and the biodiversity crisis: why we must care.

May 25th: The forgotten poetry of the colonial environment.

June 1st: Changing meanings of 'the environment' in New Zealand.

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

Social distancing and mask wearing is encouraged for the protection of our more vulnerable members.

Full details are available in the flyer on the website:
<https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz/seminars/>



New Zealand from the International Space Station

2022 SUBSCRIPTIONS

We need your support to remain viable!

If you have not already paid your subscription you can do this online at:

<https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz/subscribe/>

or contact Anne Spring, our Membership Secretary, for a printed form. Phone 021 190 6322.

Please let Anne know if you wish to relinquish your membership.

U3A Manawatū - the first 20 years

by Carol Phillips

75 pages including 10 pages of colour photographs.

Can be bought for \$10 per copy from (i) Rosemary (ring 326 9598), (ii) the Heritage Desk, Level 2, City Library, or (iii) at one of our events.

How we are faring under Omicron (continued from Page 1)

Collectors' Circle

coordinated by Stuart Schwartz

No change except for dwindling numbers possibly due to Covid. Stuart cancelled the March meeting after the two previous meetings only attracted two or three members. Hopefully the April meeting will attract more members.

The Crosswords groups (4)

coordinated by Mike Carter

There are currently no people in the Beginnings group. The others are going fine. Mike could take one or two new people at the beginner/moderate experience level, or if there is enough interest he could reactivate the Beginnings group. Otherwise, all is going well.

Current Affairs

coordinated by Bernard Letts

Current Affairs is currently operational though they have reduced attendance because of social distancing restrictions. Membership has been maintained and the group remains enthusiastic. There are currently approximately twenty members with an attendance of about fourteen.

For the Love of Plants

coordinated by Heather Martin

Heather feels this is running well, with twenty members and three on the waiting list. They will meet again in April, having missed meeting in March. She has noticed a sudden increased interest in gardening and the only issue is the slight struggle to limit the numbers. They meet in the Quaker Hall and for the sake of seating and to keep the meeting to a time limit there is the need to limit the numbers.

Hidden Memories: Writing Our Memoirs 3

coordinated by Mary Proctor

There are six in the group, and they will be meeting in April for the first time this year. Six is a good size for the group as it gives everyone time to read what they have written then discuss it.

New Zealand History

coordinated by Graham Slater

This group has not met face-to-face since the Omicron wave hit. Graham has kept in touch with the group via email and each month sent an URL link to a NZ historical site or event in an effort to keep the group engaged. He suggested any input or feedback on the item could be done on a round robin email and some people have indeed done that. A number of members of the group have emailed him to agree with the decision to meet again once things settle down. He has not had any negative comments

about this. At this stage the plan is to launch activities again in May providing current trends with the outbreak continue.

Philosophy

coordinated by Alan Cameron

This group, which meets in the Hokowhitu Village Centre, didn't start again until 8th April due to Covid restrictions. This first meeting was reasonably well attended with 12 members. However, it is anticipated future sessions may have fewer numbers due to continuing Covid concerns and the resumption of foreign travel. We plan to continue to meet twice a month.

Photography

coordinated by Hilary Laracy

The group has continued to run as normal, with good participation, meeting monthly at Hilary's house. Members have been taking photographs between meetings then bringing them to the meetings for discussion. There have been no field trips or visits to photography exhibitions so far this year.

Poetry for Pleasure

coordinated by Gloria Slater

This group has been meeting via email during the current Omicron wave. It is not ideal but does enable members to continue to exchange and discuss poems. Hopefully the group will be able to meet face-to-face again in May. Most members of the group are engaged in the email circuit and to date there have been no negative comments about the lack of meetings.

Recording and Broadcasting

coordinated by Stuart Birks

This group, which could alternatively be called 'Oral History', is ticking along fine and has some new members.

Science, Technology and Environment

coordinated by Brian Tapper

Brian made the decision late in January that, in view of the modellers' predictions of the spread of the Omicron variant and the high chance of moving to Phase 2 requirements of 'Red Light' precautions for meetings, it would be wise to suspend group meetings until May at least. In fact, the spread was wider and sharper than predicted. Now that Omicron looks to be reaching a plateau or valley, he plans to start meetings again in May. Most members supported this decision. This is a large group and meetings will continue to be held in the larger meeting room where social distancing is possible.

How we are faring under Omicron (continued from Page 3)

Silver Screen Selections

coordinated by Graham Slater

This group has not yet had a viewing in 2022 owing to the Omicron outbreak. Each month Graham has emailed the group with a link to a short film for them to watch at home. He plans to recommence activities in May. He has had only positive feedback to his decision not to meet to date.

Sketching

coordinated by Pauline Wellwood

The group is managing well. Members had their meetings so far this year at outside settings such as the Square or the Esplanade. Their March meeting was at the Art Gallery and this was enjoyed by all. The April meeting was not held as it was on Easter Monday. They will meet again in May.

TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design)

coordinated by Graham Slater

This group has yet to gather any members despite Graham's efforts to get it underway. He plans to more proactively recruit members.

10 Pin Bowling

coordinated by Janet Black

The group has started meeting monthly at Bowlarama. The numbers are small, but the participants are enthusiastic - a lot of learning is occurring. Janet is still getting enquiries so hopefully numbers will increase.

Travel

coordinated by Christine McArthur

Members have started meeting in person again, but numbers are down, possibly because there have been limited opportunities to travel.

Travel Writing

coordinated by Maureen Scott

This is a small, social group which Maureen holds once a month in her Julia Wallace home. Being a small group, they didn't feel the need to stop meeting although they discussed whether to wear masks. Several members come from outside Julia Wallace.

The Video/Music groups (9)

coordinated by John Ward

All nine groups are suspended until the health risks drop. However, John has arranged for Kevin Smidt (022 406 9819) to run a weekly people's choice Zoom session. Each Tuesday, something (music or film for example) is presented, then he asks what people would like for the following week. This could be a good option for people who cannot attend meetings.

WFPB Lunch

coordinated by Rosemary Krsinich

Members took turns to host lunches in January and February. They decided not to meet in March as some of the members were finally able to take long planned trips away. The group is currently full.

Write Your Memoirs

coordinated by Carol Phillips

There are currently 7 people in this group. As some members have not been keen to use Skype, the group has not met so far this year. Writing has been circulated by email.

Write our Memoirs Too

coordinated by Sally Reed

The group of six will meet in April for the first time this year. There are two members who travel from New Plymouth. The group enjoys the social side of the group as much as the writing.

U3A MANAWATŪ CONTACT DETAILS

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