



U3A Manawatū
Chairperson's Report
September 21st, 2022

I am pleased to present the Chairperson's Report for U3A Manawatū for the year ending September 2022.

Well, this has certainly been another year (to forget). I am hoping we are over the worst of the latest outbreak. Numbers seem to be falling at a good rate. As I sit to write this it has been announced that the traffic light system will be lifted as at midnight on 12th September. I think it will be years before we can relax completely, but it will be good to get back to some form of normal.

For some of us this outbreak was an unwelcome intrusion into our lives, and it presented challenges to be overcome.

I was impressed at how well we, as an organization, adapted to the changes and managed to continue group activities at varying levels. Email, Skype, Zoom, Google Meet and the internet generally enabled us to maintain levels of contact and information exchange sufficient to keep some level of communication in operation.

We also successfully utilized YouTube for the public seminars and that proved to be a popular option to keep people engaged.

We have maintained a relatively stable membership despite what has happened around us during the past year, with 275 financial members as at September 2022. We seem to have stabilised at around this number.

Ideas from people considering setting up new groups are always welcome. Guidelines for setting up and maintaining groups are available, as are support and mentoring if required.

Out there are people who may be lonely, may be new to our area, may be newly retired and therefore might like to meet new people and be stimulated by joining a group and learning new things. If you are aware of such people, encourage them to join us.

We will present another public seminar series at Crossroads Church in October so keep an eye open for information on that. 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 activity to ensure these seminars are interesting, informative, and accessible.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the stalwart work of the members of the U3A committee. Also, the Group Coordinators who ensure the learning programme operates smoothly and (usually) continuously.

I would also like to acknowledge the passing of several of our members during the past year. It is difficult to name people without overlooking some of whom I was not aware. Not knowing all our members makes it difficult to keep tabs on losses.

I would be interested to hear from Group Coordinators of losses due to illness, death, or leaving the area. Please drop me an email in such circumstances and we will have a better idea who to acknowledge.

U3A Manawatū is a vibrant organization, providing us with a sense of belonging, helping to focus the mind and enabling social contact with other people. This is your organization, use it well and keep it strong.

The new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 means we will soon need to spend some time reviewing our Constitution.

We are, once again, indebted to Alan Martin for his Review of the Financial Statements in the Performance Report.

We reach 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.

Graham Slater, Chairperson, U3A Manawatū