

# U3A MANAWATŪ NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF U3A MANAWATŪ

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

*Val Brannan, Craig and Barbara Irving, Pam Maraku, Raylee Murphy, Patricia Pinfold, Tima Simms*



## IN THIS ISSUE .....

Chairperson's Report to AGM 1  
From the Chair 2  
Idyll - a poem 2  
Around the Groups 3  
Survey of Groups 3-4

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT to AGM (21st September)

I am pleased to present the Chairperson's Report for U3A Manawatu 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Manawatu 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*



## FROM THE CHAIR

Graham Slater

I hope this finds you all well.

With daylight saving, the arrival of Spring and the decline in COVID cases I am

hopeful we are on the road to some stability again. However, we still need to be vigilant. The next OMICRON subvariant BQ1.1 is already raising its head in New Zealand as it is in the rest of the world.

We fortunately seem to have missed the worst of the severe weather which caused so many other regions a great deal of pain.

I am personally thankful to live in this little, out of the way, quiet country at the end of the world where we don't have to suffer all the extremes of climate change, threats of war and conflict, and despot leadership. In the words of John Clarke "We don't know how lucky we are."

We had a good turnout for the AGM held in September. It was good to see so many people in attendance.

U3A is about involvement in learning new things, expanding horizons, sharing skills and experiences, making new friends, helping others to learn, accepting new challenges to show that age need be no barrier to learning or to helping others to learn, and to enjoy.

In October/November the U3A's public Spring Seminar Series, "Social Trends", will be held at the Crossroads Church venue. Once again this will provide an interesting and informative set of free public talks. We will not be streaming these to YouTube this time and look forward to seeing, in person, all those attending.

Any ideas for new Learning Groups are always welcome; just drop me an email. The possibility of a walking group and one to understand te reo Māori have been suggested.

I am once again indebted to the hardworking U3A Committee and the dedicated group of coordinators who keep this entity functioning so well. I would like to welcome new committee member Claire Barrett into the fold.

I would also like to thank our members for their support in another difficult year and wish everyone a nice Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Take care and stay safe.

## IDYLL

**A summer poem by Siegfried Sassoon  
(1886-1967)**

In the grey summer garden I shall find you  
With day-break and the morning hills behind you.  
There will be rain-wet roses; stir of wings;  
And down the wood a thrush that wakes and sings.  
Not from the past you'll come, but from that deep  
Where beauty murmurs to the soul asleep:  
And I shall know the sense of life re-born  
From dreams into the mystery of morn  
Where gloom and brightness meet. And  
standing there  
Till that calm song is done, at last we'll share  
The league-spread, quiring symphonies that are  
Joy in the world, and peace, and dawn's one star.



*We would love some seasonal poems written by members: Autumn for the February newsletter, Winter for May, Spring for August, and Summer for next November. Please send to the Editor at [rkrsinich@gmail.com](mailto:rkrsinich@gmail.com)*

## Your Committee Members for 2022-2023

**CHAIR:** Graham Slater

**TREASURER:** Ron Paddock

**SECRETARY:** Rosemary Krsinich

Claire Barrett, Stuart Birks, Janet Black,  
Stu Schwartz, Merle Smillie, Anne Spring

## SPRING SEMINAR SERIES

### 'Social Trends'

Four Wednesdays 2.15 - 4 pm,

19th October - 9th November

Crossroads Church, 220 Church Street, PN

Details have been circulated but can also be found on the website at

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

Please advise Anne Spring, the Membership Secretary, if you have any changes to your contact details to ensure you continue to receive these newsletters and any other information from us. (See Contact Details Page 4).

**U3A Manawatu—the first 20 years.** By Carol Phillips.  
Available from the Heritage Desk, Level 2, City Library,  
\$10 (cash only)



## SEASON'S GREETINGS!

## AROUND THE GROUPS...

### Sketching

**Pauline Wellwood (Group Coordinator)**

Our Sketching group has been going for about ten years. Although we have had some membership changes over this time we still have some of the original members. The group was started by Eugénie Waldteufel. I took over about 5 years ago. We currently have 14 members who meet on the 3rd Monday of the month, mainly at my house but sometimes, weather permitting, at different venues. Te Manawa Art Gallery, Victoria Esplanade and Ashhurst Bridge are just a few of these. We begin our meetings with a show-and-tell of anything we have done over the month and then will do a sketching exercise or finish something we are working on. We are a social group and really enjoy our monthly sessions. At the moment, with Covid still around, and social distancing, 14 members is enough.



### CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:

#### Understanding te reo Māori

**Claire Barrett**

If you are interested in joining a group with regard to understanding te reo Māori please contact Claire on 021 379 035 or email [x84661@gmail.com](mailto:x84661@gmail.com) to let her know what it is you would like covered, e.g. pronunciation, origin of words, place names, etc.

It is envisaged this group will commence in 2023 with venue, dates and times to be advised.

#### HOW ABOUT LAUNCHING A NEW LEARNING GROUP IN 2023?

Work on assembling the 2023 programme is underway. Five new learning groups were established in 2022 and there is always room for more. The possibilities are endless!

If you would like to offer a group or discuss an idea please contact Graham Slater at [gandg@inspire.net.nz](mailto:gandg@inspire.net.nz) or 353 0586.

Guidelines for new groups are available at <https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz/learning-groups/>

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](http://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz)

### SURVEY OF GROUPS

**Rosemary Krsinich**

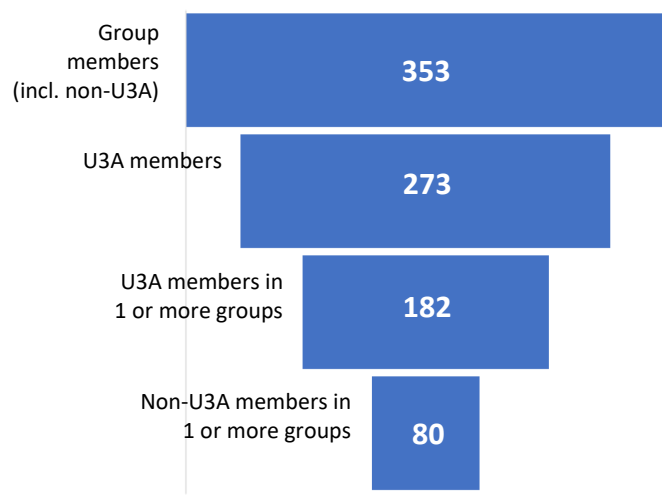
In August this year, the Committee undertook a "snapshot" survey of the 31 groups operating in 2022. Due to COVID, many of these groups had had interruptions to normal operations and the numbers attending were lower than usual.

As of 14th August we had 273 financial members, 182 (66.6%) of whom were registered in one or more groups. **Question 1:** Why are 91 (33.4%) of our U3A members not enrolled in any groups?

Disturbingly, we also had 80 people attending one or more groups who were not financial members.

**Question 2:** Why do we have so many non-U3A members in our groups?

#### U3A member/non-member participation in groups:



Continued on Page 4



## Survey of Groups (continued from Page 3)

**Answer 1:** Perhaps the U3A members not enrolled in any groups just wish to identify with, and show support for, the U3A? Or perhaps they are on a waiting list for a particular group?

**Answer 2:** Some previous U3A members have not renewed their subscriptions. Reasons for non-renewal could include (i) uncertainty about what will happen with Covid during the year, (ii) IT hesitancy (in subscribing and paying on-line), (iii) membership benefits continuing for the first six months of the year (e.g. postings, group participation).

Some people have not joined the U3A at all. Reasons could include (i) some people hear about and join a group without realizing they need to be U3A members, (ii) some large groups invite friends and guests to attend. Ideally, these people would be

asked to become U3A members if they decide to attend more than one meeting.

### ***We are interested to hear your opinions!***

Another outcome of the survey was an indication of which groups had places available (as at early August), namely: Art Appreciation; Biography; Book Group 2; Book Discussion Group 2 (on-line enabled); 10-Pin Bowling; Collectors' Circle; Cryptic Crosswords Beginnings; Cryptic Crosswords 1; Current Affairs; Conversation Pieces (on-line enabled); Philosophy; Photography; Recording and Broadcasting; Science, Technology and Environment; Silver Screen Selections; TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design); and Travel.

Details on these groups can be found in the Learning Programme:

<https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz/learning-groups/>

- Remember to make use of our WEBSITE, source of the latest information -  
- and an easy way to subscribe: [u3amanawatu.org.nz](https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz) -

## U3A Manawatu

*Life-long learning in retirement*



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## U3A MANAWATŪ CONTACT DETAILS

**Mail:** PO Box 9076, Palmerston North 4441. **Email:** [u3aman@gmail.com](mailto:u3aman@gmail.com). **Website:** [www.u3amanawatu.org.nz](http://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz)

### Committee

**Chairperson:** Graham Slater 353 0586 [gandg@inspire.net.nz](mailto:gandg@inspire.net.nz)

**Secretary/Newsletter:** Rosemary Krsinich 326 9598 [rkrsinich@gmail.com](mailto:rkrsinich@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Ron Paddock 357 5857 [smallfield48@gmail.com](mailto:smallfield48@gmail.com)

**Membership Secretary (including changes to address/email):** Anne Spring 021 190 6322 [u3aman@gmail.com](mailto:u3aman@gmail.com)

**Learning Groups:** Graham Slater 353 0586 [gandg@inspire.net.nz](mailto:gandg@inspire.net.nz), Janet Black 356 6251 [janblack@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janblack@xtra.co.nz)

**Seminars:** Stuart Birks 021 204 7903 [kstuartbirks@gmail.com](mailto:kstuartbirks@gmail.com)

**Website:** Rosemary Krsinich 326 9598 [rkrsinich@gmail.com](mailto:rkrsinich@gmail.com)

**Social Events:** Janet Black 356 6251 [janblack@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janblack@xtra.co.nz), Merle Smillie 357 0778 [merleiansmillie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:merleiansmillie@xtra.co.nz)

**Technical Equipment:** Graham Slater 353 0586 [gandg@inspire.net.nz](mailto:gandg@inspire.net.nz)

**Enquiries:** Graham Slater 353 0586 [gandg@inspire.net.nz](mailto:gandg@inspire.net.nz)

**Promotion:** Merle Smillie 357 0778 [merleiansmillie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:merleiansmillie@xtra.co.nz), Janet Black 356 6251 [janblack@xtra.co.nz](mailto:janblack@xtra.co.nz)

**Constitution Working Group:** Claire Barrett 021 379 035 [x84661@gmail.com](mailto:x84661@gmail.com)

**Other:** Stu Schwartz 359 4423 [finearts@taylor-jensen.co.nz](mailto:finearts@taylor-jensen.co.nz)

### Other contributors

**Website:** Chris Phillips 021 206 9684 [chrisphillips@inspire.net.nz](mailto:chrisphillips@inspire.net.nz)