

U3A MANAWATŪ NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF U3A MANAWATŪ

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:

Keith Butler



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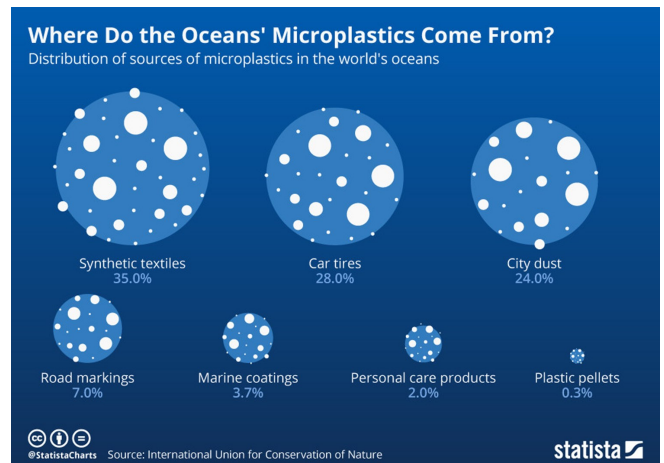
Social Trends

by Chris Phillips

The U3A Manawātū spring seminar series took place at Crossroads Church on four Wednesdays in October/November. The series title was "Social Trends". All four speakers were from Massey University. Once again, the series was assembled and coordinated by Stuart Birks.

In the opening seminar, Associate Professor Imran Muhammad addressed transport planning for an ageing population from a social justice perspective. Currently 18% of the Manawātū region are over 65, and this is projected to rise to 26% by 2053. New Zealand's ageing population has different needs and expectations for transport to maintain wellbeing and independence. Criteria for social wellbeing are being promoted at the international level and central and local governments are responding. Environmental

issues and the nature of towns and cities have to be considered. Political dimensions and public participation are important factors.



Distribution of sources of microplastics in the world's oceans

Synthetic textiles 35% | Car tires 28% | City dust 24% | Road markings 7%
Marine coatings 3.7% | Personal care products 2% | Plastic pellets 0.3%



Associate Professor Trisia Farrelly, in the second seminar, posed the question "is there any such thing as a circular economy for plastics". Plastics are everywhere in the environment and human consumption can lead to health issues. Only 9% of all plastics ever produced have been recycled and 79% are in landfills or are polluting the environment. Recycling has a mixed track record and green alternatives have not yet delivered. The United Nations has set up an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including the marine environment. The cost will need to be borne by producers, and adoption of this will need political will.

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FROM THE CHAIR

Graham Slater

Well, we have seen off 2022 and good riddance to it. I am hopeful that this year will not have so

many impediments for us to negotiate.

The range of variants COVID has up its sleeve remind us that this is not over, but going about activities in a sensible way should ensure we can avoid too much anxiety. I note there were 21,685 new cases notified in one week as at the 9th January.

I hope Christmas and New Year went well and you are all rested and ready to undertake another year of active retirement.

We seem to have missed the worst of the bad weather, it was reserved for those brave enough to go camping up north.

By now you will have received your 2023 Learning Programme and subscription sheet. You will see that this year we are offering 44 Learning Groups to our 285 financial members.

Again, we would welcome suggestions for additional new groups. We have six new groups at the start of this year and it looks like we will have a "walking group" later this year. We offer help and support to establish new groups. Contact me if you have ideas for new groups: gandg@inspire.net.nz or ring 353 0586. They can be set up at any time.

Planning is well underway for our next public seminar series; further information will be circulated as it firms up. The topic will be around the issue of natural hazards which should be interesting in light of the global issues we are seeing at present.

It is important that in this third age of our lives we continue to be involved and participate in activities which provide social contact and mental stimulation. Such activities encourage positive aging while providing personal enrichment.

I look forward to another year of our activities.

DEATH NOTICES

We will be acknowledging deaths of our members on the Notices page of our website.

Please let us know of any of our members who have died recently so we can acknowledge them there. Contact Rosemary Krsinich email rkrsinich@gmail.com or 326 9598

'Social Trends' continued from Page 1...

Professor John O'Neill then examined the shape of NZ state schooling. Education policy is a complex issue. For the last thirty-five years, it has been formed through parental choice and community governance mediated by national benchmark learning outcomes. He asked, "What are the social and economic problems that schools are set up to solve?". Each generation creates its own educational myths and goals, and rival myths emerge. Schooling should teach pupils how to learn and how to discover facts, and examinations can work against this. Moral and social education must also be considered, as must the place of Māori values.

In the final seminar, Associate Professor Margaret Forster reflected on the meaning of New Zealand's newest public holiday. Matariki is a cluster of nine stars whose appearance in the sky marks the start of the Māori New Year. In 2022, Matariki showcased Māori culture on a wide stage, including many national spaces such as Te Papa and the Otago Museum, and locally at places such as The Square and Te Ara Kotahi bridge on the Manawatu River. Margaret also talked about the Haka, which showcases Māori culture on the international stage and the Māori version of the National Anthem, which was initially controversial. Might these developments signal a more open, inclusive and egalitarian society?



Images in this article adapted from speakers' presentations

AUTUMN POEM

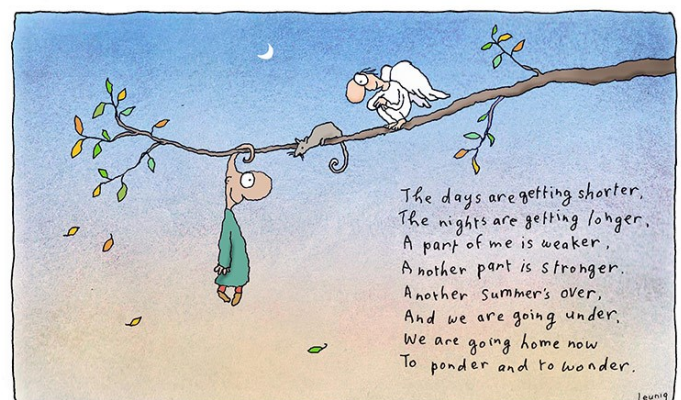


Image and poem courtesy of Michael Leunig

Contributions for a Winter poem are invited. Please send to the Editor, rkrsinich@gmail.com

AROUND THE GROUPS...

NEW PROGRAMME FOR 2023

A printed copy of the 2023 Learning Programme was posted to all members in mid-January. The latest version is always available on the website.

We are always open to suggestions for new groups. If you have any ideas please get in touch with Graham Slater gandg@inspire.net.nz or ring 353 0586. Support and assistance can be provided to set them up.

Six new groups at start of 2023:

- BBC Radio Comedy
- Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas
- Humanism #101
- Moral Questions
- Pre-Industrial Transport
- Understanding Te Reo Māori

BBC Radio Comedy

Goon show style comedy.

Contact the Coordinator: John Ward

contact@gramophoneroom.co.nz or 358 7117

Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas

Large screen video and spectacular, comfortable 3D sound.

Contact the Coordinator: John Ward

contact@gramophoneroom.co.nz or 358 7117

Humanism #101

'A humanist is a good guest at
The Dining Table of Life.'

The Humanist philosopher A.C. Grayling continues:
'humanism denotes not a doctrine or set of teachings, but an attitude, towards the task of thinking about how to live a life worth living, both for the person living it and for its impact on others. And the attitude is, do this thinking on the basis of the best, most sympathetic, most generous and realistic understanding of human nature and the human condition that we can muster. (The Wiley Blackwell Handbook of Humanism Eds: Copson, Grayling).

This course will offer a basic understanding of Humanism. Speakers with other beliefs may be invited to share their belief systems. Sessions will be offered in a seminar discussion format. Issues from readings distributed prior to our meetings will be the focus of our discussions in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Contact the Coordinator: Keith Butler

keithstclairbutler@gmail.com or 021 376 297

Moral Questions

Here are just a few of the issues for discussion. How does morality relate to happiness? Is morality culture-bound? Is it more virtuous to want to be generous than to force yourself? What is the basis for ethics? (If divine will, are virtuous actions so because God says they are or are they intrinsically so?) Ethical action presupposes free will, but are we free? When we decide, how much of the process is conscious? What is the role of mercy or toleration, as opposed to strict justice in judging moral actions? Are intentions relevant or only likely consequences? Is it moral to kill three people in order to save a hundred? Is there an objective basis for so-called human rights?

Contact the Coordinator: Stuart Lawrence

lawrence1054@gmail.com or 022 372 1792

Pre-Industrial Transport:

JOURNEYING FROM THE ORIGINS OF
HUMANITY TO THE INDUSTRIAL AGE

This course explores the many ingenious ways our ancestors got themselves around and transported goods about during the two million years of human existence up to the Industrial Revolution. It is based around illustrated lectures but with plenty of opportunity for discussion.

If you might be interested in going on this journey, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the
Coordinator: James Watson

watson29newbury@gmail.com or 356 2853

Understanding Te Reo Māori

To learn correct pronunciation, origin of words and basics of the language.

Contact the Coordinator: Claire Barrett

x84661@gmail.com or 021 379 035

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AUTUMN 2023 SEMINAR SERIES

Planning is progressing for the next seminar series, provisionally scheduled for four weeks in May. We aim to cover four topics under the general umbrella of Responding to Natural Hazards. More information will be circulated closer to the time.

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' continued from Page 3...

Spaces are likely to be available in the following groups (as at the time of this newsletter going to print). For other groups, contact the coordinator to see if you can be added to their wait list.

- ◆ 10-Pin Bowling
- ◆ Biography
- ◆ Book Discussion Group 2 (on-line enabled)
- ◆ Book Group 2
- ◆ Conversation Pieces (on-line enabled)
- ◆ Cryptic Crossword Beginnings
- ◆ Cryptic Crosswords 2
- ◆ Current Affairs
- ◆ Humanism #101
- ◆ Moral Questions
- ◆ Oral History
- ◆ Philosophy
- ◆ Pre-Industrial Transport
- ◆ Sketching
- ◆ TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design)
- ◆ Travel
- ◆ Write Our Memoirs Too (in Feilding)

plus the ten groups coordinated by John Ward

Please pay your 2023 subscription NOW

You will have received a subscription form in the mid-January posting. Alternatively, you can renew your subscription online:

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

You can download a copy of the groups timetable here:

<https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/U3A-groups-TT-2023.pdf>

U3A Manawatū - the first 20 years. By Carol Phillips

Available from the Heritage Desk, Level 2, City Library.

\$10 (cash only)

We would LOVE you to contribute to our newsletter!

**Please contact the Editor (Rosemary at
326 9598 or rkrsinich@gmail.com)**

**Remember to make
use of our WEBSITE -
source of the latest
information
and an easy way to
subscribe:**

[https://
www.u3amanawatu.org.nz](https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz)

U3A Manawatu

Life-long learning in retirement



U3A MANAWATŪ CONTACT DETAILS

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

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Website: Rosemary Krsinich 326 9598 rkrsinich@gmail.com

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