

# U3A MANAWATŪ NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF U3A MANAWATŪ

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(as at the time of printing)

Zoe Codd, Alexandra Herbert, Henry Herbert, Carolyn Hodgkiss, Phillip Prujean, Marja Steur



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## Making a difference!



Volunteering in New Zealand can be a rewarding experience that enables you to give back to the community, develop new skills and connect with others who share your passions.

There are volunteer roles in a range of sectors including Animal Welfare, Arts and Culture, Community Services, Disaster and Emergency Support, Education and Training, Environmental Conservation, Healthcare, Retail, Support for Refugees, and Youth Work.

You can find a role through Volunteering New Zealand [🔗](#), local volunteer centres (e.g. Volunteer Central [🔗](#)), online platforms such as SEEK Volunteer [🔗](#), Department of Conservation [🔗](#), New Zealand Red Cross [🔗](#) or direct approach to a specific charity.

Think about your interests and skills to find a role in which you can contribute effectively and be clear about the time commitment and how it fits with your own schedule.

Apart from benefits to the community, there are personal benefits such as community connection, skill development, a sense of well being, belonging and having a voice, and personal and professional motivation.

[🔗 link to the website](#)

**Potential new group:** Is anyone interested in setting up a potluck lunch group for international cuisine? Japanese, Italian, French, Spanish, Mexican, Indian ..... the list goes on! This could run in the same way as our current WFPB potluck lunch group.

Feel free to contact Rosemary to discuss the idea. Phone 326 9598 or email [rkrstinich@gmail.com](mailto:rkrstinich@gmail.com)

### Autumn Seminar Series

#### Making a Difference: The Power of Volunteering in the Manawātū

All members should now have received a copy of the flyer. Copies are available on the website, [here](#).

**VENUE:** Mezzanine Floor  
Central Library  
4 The Square, PN

**TIME:** Wednesdays 1.00 - 2.30 pm

**ADMISSION:** Free

**PROGRAMME:** **7th May:** Gardening to governance, emergency to everyday: volunteering capacity and capability  
**14th May:** Our community's backbone: building a sustainable future  
**21st May:** The joys of volunteering  
**28th May:** Empowering experienced minds: volunteering opportunities at the Manawatu Multicultural Council

After each seminar, the audio recording and PowerPoint presentations will be accessible via the Seminars [page](#) of our website

### CHANGES TO CONTACT DETAILS

if you have any changes to your contact details please advise Anne Spring, the Membership Secretary. This will ensure you continue to receive these newsletters and any other information from us.

(Contact Anne 021 190 6322 or [anne.spring35@gmail.com](mailto:anne.spring35@gmail.com))



## FROM THE CHAIR

Chris van der Kragt

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Newsletter. It was a beautiful summer, but now the exotic-tree leaves are falling, the days are shorter, and the temperature cooler.

Most members have paid

their subs for the year, but if you haven't, please go to <https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz/subscribe/> or, if you prefer, see a committee member at one of the upcoming seminars in the library.

If you're interested in finding out about the U3A in other parts of the country, a new national website has been created by John Ewen of Auckland (<https://www.u3a.nz/>). It's amazing how many branches there are. Many (including ours) have their own websites that are linked to this central site.

We have 36 learning groups currently running (<https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz/learning-groups/>), so if you're interested in joining (another one, contact the group coordinator to see if there is still room. Unfortunately, the Treaty discussion group has gone into recess due to the coordinator's ill-health. We wish him well.

Don't forget that our autumn seminar series on volunteering, "Making a Difference: The Power of Volunteering in the Manawātū", begins on Wednesday 7 May. We'll be holding the talks on the mezzanine floor of the Public Library at 1pm so that we finish in time for the end of free senior parking at 3pm. (Our last series on Manawatu Memories is still available online at <https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz/seminars/presentations/>)

See you there!



Our Committee L to R: Chris van der Kragt, Rosemary Krsinich, Ian Boag, Stuart Birks, Mike Lawrence, Anne Spring, Claire Barrett and Stu Schwartz



## FLY-FISHING

*A touch of whimsy from Corey Taylor, Bruce McKenzie Booksellers*

I spied a pair of spiders  
Sitting in a corner:  
A happy daddy long-legs  
With an arm around his daughter.

Each one held a rod  
From which a line of web was  
Dangling,  
And there -  
All tangled knees and ankles -  
Sat together  
Angling.

They fished up several dust bunnies,  
Some lint  
And someone's crumbs,  
While whittling all the day away  
And twiddling umpteen thumbs.

But it soon became apparent  
That there'd be no catch for dinner,  
As the little spider reeled-in  
An old, rust encrusted zipper.

Daughter giggled so hard  
That she would never forget,  
And daddy clicked his heels like a  
Chuffed leprechaun quartet.

Another day had slipped away;  
Had gone to see its mother.  
The sun then set itself to bed  
And dipped  
Beneath  
The covers.

They packed away the fishing rods  
And folded up the nets,  
Then deftly  
Daddy Long-Legs  
Click-clacked like a packed up tent.

She took him home  
And put him in  
A box of things to mend,  
And there - beside  
Her heart - he stays  
Until the next weekend.



## MEMBERSHIP 2025

**If you haven't already completed your 2025 membership renewal please do so as soon as possible.**



# Around the groups...

## Hidden Memories: Writing our Memoirs 3

by Kathriona Benvie (Group Coordinator)

Our group of memoir writers has been meeting monthly for over 3 years. We took on a new member in 2024 as one member left. We find our group size of six works perfectly for us. However, it can sometimes be difficult to have a set meeting day as some of our group like to travel too! We write to a theme each month- this month is the "most unusual food I have ever eaten" with an opt out to "foods and dieting".

The range of stories that come out each time are so varied and interesting. We are an international group with an American, a Zimbabwean and four Kiwis. We used to have a ten minute impromptu writing session each meeting but that has lapsed this year as the prepared memoirs spark a lot of conversations and two hours easily pass.

See the [Learning Programme](#) for time and contact details

## Biography

by Kevin Smidt (Group Coordinator)

The Biography group continues to meet on the third Monday of each month starting with morning tea at 10:00 am and meeting at each other's homes.

Each member has read a biography or autobiography and summarises it for the group, often leading to a lot of discussion. The biographies discussed have ranged in era from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present time. While many books are about "famous" people such as politicians, actors, writers and business people, some of those about much less well known people have been quite remarkable.

The group could comfortably accommodate 3 or 4 more members.

See the [Learning Programme](#) for time and contact details

## For the Love of Plants

by Heather Martin (Group Coordinator)

The Group meets at the Quaker Hall when not visiting a garden. The programme includes a mix of speakers covering a variety of topics, garden visits, or a group discussion on a subject of interest, e.g. planning a spring/summer garden, garden bugs - good and bad and their control, etc. Members share their knowledge and garden tips and we also have a sharing table. Membership is near capacity. There could be space for one or two more.

See the [Learning Programme](#) for time and contact details

**New groups can be set up at any time. If you are interested in setting up a new group please contact the Chair, Chris van der Krogt, 021 122 4701 or [delftnz@gmail.com](mailto:delftnz@gmail.com)**

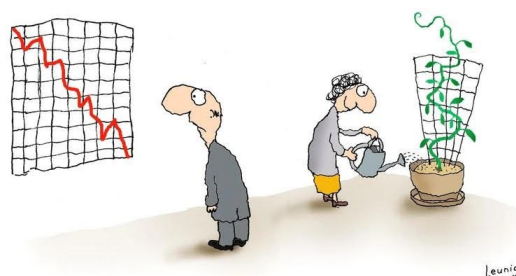


Image courtesy of Michael Leunig

## All About Gardening

by Graeme Siddle (Group Coordinator)

The Group has had a very welcome influx(!) of six new members. Most of us are urban gardeners and so it is both stimulating and useful to see how gardeners are tackling the smaller sections that many of us now have.

We visited Greenhaugh Gardens in February (Napier Road) and enjoyed seeing the wide range of plants and sculptures that Lynne Atkins has there.

Our March activity took us to Waikanae to meet up with our former Coordinator, Marion Soutar who has moved to an apartment in Parkwood Village. It was amazing to see what Marion has achieved in the short time since her arrival.

See the [Learning Programme](#) for time and contact details

## Current Affairs

by Bernard Letts (Group Coordinator)

The Current Affairs Group has started the year with some excellent discussions and our members have learned a lot from the collective comments. We meet twice a month. Each meeting we discuss a current NZ topic and after morning tea we discuss an overseas topic of interest. We sometimes have an extra topic if one has surfaced in the last couple of days. Some members research the topics before our meeting and provide a link for me to distribute to the rest of the members. This does mean that our discussions can be better informed on the day. Members bring different views and research and we learn a lot from each other.

Here are some topics we have discussed this year:

### Overseas:

- ♦ The wars in Ukraine and Gaza
- ♦ Australia's ban on young people under 16 having access to social media.

### New Zealand:

- ♦ The local council and water consultation on options for Palmerston North.
- ♦ What is the state of our health care?
- ♦ Capital Gains Tax.

Currently, we have spaces for a few new people in our group but we do like to keep the numbers to about 20 as this allows all members a good opportunity to contribute their ideas .

See the [Learning Programme](#) for time and contact details





## Silver Screens



by Graeme Slater (Group Coordinator)

This group meets in the viewing room at the city library monthly to watch an esoteric array of films. The group has some input as to choice. We meet at 12.30 to enable screening to be completed in time to take advantage of PNCC senior parking.

Recently we have viewed such films as Dial M for Murder, The Lemon Tree, Smash Palace, Metropolis, and the silent Buster Keaton classic "The General"

A flyer is circulated each month advising what the film will be with some information about it. Before each screening we have a talk about the film and its production, pointing out things to watch for while the film is running. Afterwards we get to talk about what we have seen and if we enjoyed it, etc.

The group has a membership of 30 with 20 attending most screenings. At this stage we are running to capacity for the space we are using but we are happy to have a wait list for people who might be interested.

See the [Learning Programme](#) for time and contact details

## Book Group 2

by Merle Smillie (Group Coordinator)

A group we decided to form  
Lots of reading and fun as the norm  
No need to pay  
As we met through the day  
And our stories would kick up a storm

As we grew from six people to eight  
We decided to have tea and cake  
So our afternoon meeting  
Is like good friends greeting  
And we all enjoy the debate

Our topics are chosen by all  
From murders to trips to Nepal  
But a book about Trump  
Was instantly dumped  
And we all said "What a good call"

See the [Learning Programme](#) for time and contact details

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**Please contact the Editor to contribute to our newsletter. Contact details below.**

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

## U3A Manawatu

*Life-long learning in retirement*



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#### Committee

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