

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2025

I have the pleasure of presenting the annual report on the U3A Manawatū for the year ending September 2025.

As of 12 September, we have 253 paid-up members – a very small decrease on the 269 we had at this time last year. There are 96 men and 157 women.

We currently have about 36 learning groups as compared with some 40 last year. In July, the committee agreed to set up a fund from which group co-ordinators can be reimbursed up to \$50 to cover the cost of inviting a guest speaker to one of their meetings.

On 20 November 2024 and 18 June 2025, we held afternoon teas for the committee and group co-ordinators. These have proved useful opportunities to share ideas and get to know each other.

As in previous years, we have held two public seminar series over the past year, organized principally by Stuart Birks and Mike Lawrence in spring 2024 and autumn 2025. The first of these was entitled “Manawatū Memories: Reflecting on the past, Embracing the Future” and the second was “Making a Difference: The Power of Volunteering in the Manawatū”. There are reviews of these seminars by Anne Spring in the February and August 2025 newsletters. This year’s autumn series was kindly hosted by the City Library and professionally recorded courtesy of Manawatū People’s Radio. Our next spring series is scheduled for October-November this year and will deal with “Linguistics and Languages”.

In time for the autumn 2025 seminar series, Stu Schwartz on behalf of the committee commissioned two large mayfly banners (see the August 2025 newsletter). These use the official U3A style logo developed by the U3A in the UK. On the subject of publicity, Rosemary Krsinich has continued to edit our informative quarterly newsletter now using the Canva Premium program supplied without charge to registered charities (back issues are online). We continue to supply a report on one of our groups for the quarterly *Grey Power Manawatu*. In August, I was interviewed by Ann Atkinson on Manawatū People’s Radio about the U3A and its activities.

Apart from a break in January, your committee has met monthly in the Friends’ Meeting House in College St. The committee elected at the 2024 AGM lacked a candidate for treasurer, but in October we co-opted Ian Boag to carry out this role.

We are conscious that as the Constitution allows committee members to serve for a maximum of five consecutive years from September 2023, most of us will have to step down by September 2028. To maintain continuity and collective memory, it is important that at least some new committee members are elected before then.

Chris van der Krogt, Chairperson

September 2025