u3a Manawatū

Quarterly Newsletter

November 2026



THE FUTURE OF CITIES?

Spring Seminar Series - see page 2



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

(as at late October 2026)

Alan Alach
Tim Brown
Greer Robertson-Brown
Andrew Crooks
Shelley Davenport
Lindsey Dickson
Paul Dickson
Sandra Greenall
Isabelle Pettigrew

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Chair - p2
Spring Seminar Series - p2
Committee matters - p3
Around the Groups - p4, 5, 6, 7
"Mind Games" - p5
Call for Newsletter Editor - p8
Contact details - p9

Changes to your contact details

If you have any changes to your contact details please advise Anne Spring, the Membership Secretary, anne.spring35@gmail.com or 021 190 6322. This will ensure you continue to receive these newsletters and any other information from us.

Email, phone and postal address

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u3amanawatu@gmail.com

Phone:
021 122 4701 (Chair - Chris)

Post:
4 Bryant Street, Palmerston North 4412

Contributions to our newsletter

We would love you to contribute to our newsletter! Please contact the Editor, Rosemary Krsinich, rkrsinich@gmail.com or 326 9598

FROM THE CHAIR



Chris van der Krogt
Chair
U3A Manawatū

Welcome to the final Newsletter for 2026.

On September 16, 28 U3A members attended the AGM: not a huge proportion of our membership, but a very good attendance, nonetheless. The main item of business was the election of the committee for the coming year. We now have a nine-member committee with two new members: Peter Emms and Irene Thomas. Irene has taken up the position of secretary.

As noted in my annual report, Rosemary Krsinich has retired after ten years as secretary and nine as editor of the newsletter. We are all thankful to Rosemary for her long and exceptionally capable service to the organization. Her record is unlikely to be beaten as the current constitution sets a five-year limit on officeholders (as long as we can recruit new people!).

We have had a great year with nearly 40 groups and two popular public seminar series in the City Library. I trust you will agree with me that the U3A has provided great opportunities for social engagement, entertainment, and learning in 2026.

At this time of year, we begin to prepare a schedule of learning groups for 2027. Many will simply continue from this year, but I would be very happy to hear from anyone who would like to propose and co-ordinate a new group based on their own interest or expertise. We can offer plenty of guidance if you have not done this before.

May you all have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Chris van der Krogt

Spring 2026 Seminar Series
The Future of Cities

Where: Palmerston North Central Library
When: Wednesdays 1.30 to 2.45 pm

28th October: A place for nature in the city
Dr Aisling Gallagher, School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University

4th November: Infrastructures of care
Professor Kelly Dombroski, School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University

11th November: The future of planning: values, technology and change
Dr Joanna Ross, School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University

18th November: Age-friendly cities
Professor Imran Muhammad, School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University

See the flyer on the Seminars page of our website https://www.u3amanawatu.org.nz/seminars/ for more details.

Note that the audio recordings and PowerPoint presentations of the Spring 2026 seminar series will be available on the Seminars page afterwards.



I have really loved my time as Committee Secretary since 2017 and Newsletter Editor since 2018. It has been such a pleasure to be involved in this wonderful organisation, and I'm so grateful for the friendships, shared experiences and opportunities it has brought. Although I'm saying farewell to these roles, I look forward to staying involved as an active member of U3A Manawatū and continuing to enjoy the warmth, friendship and wonderful spirit of this special community for many years to come!

Rosemary Krsinich

Committee matters

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT TO AGM 2026

It is my honour to present, for the third time now, an annual report for the U3A Manawatū for the year ending September 2026.

Membership of the U3A is quite steady: we currently have 267 paid-up members compared to 253 last year and 269 in 2024. The current membership includes 54 new members who joined since 1 January. Almost one third (93) are men and about two thirds (174) are women.

Over the past year, we have held two series of Wednesday afternoon public seminars, on "Linguistics and Languages" (22 October to 12 November last year) and on "Food and Society" (6 to 27 May 2026). Both series proved very popular, and we are grateful to the City Library for hosting them and to Stuart Birks for his huge efforts in recruiting speakers and organizing the seminars. Stuart has been serving in this role since 2019, most recently with help from Mike Lawrence.

We introduced nine new learning groups this year, and altogether 39 groups have operated through the year. These vary hugely in subject matter, so I would encourage members to look carefully at the list of options from time to time, but especially when the hardcopy is sent out at the beginning of the year. I often meet people who say, "I didn't know we had a group for that topic".

The local Grey Power magazine has been publishing profiles on individual groups in each issue, and I wrote an introduction to the U3A for the Winter issue of the local Age Concern magazine. We also leave pamphlets in strategic places around town to promote the U3A, and brief details can be found on several websites.

Members will have received four copies of the Newsletter since our last AGM, and these remain available on our website.

The Committee and group co-ordinators have met together for afternoon teas twice over the past year, on 19 November 2025 and 17 June this year. These occasions provide an opportunity to meet each other and compare notes. Our many groups seem to be running smoothly.

Meanwhile the Committee itself has continued to meet monthly. In June this year, we co-opted Irene Thomas and hope that she will continue to serve as an elected member, taking up the role of Secretary.

We will be sorry to lose our long-standing Secretary Rosemary Krsinich, who is stepping down from the Committee – of which she has been a member since 2016. Rosemary has given exceptional service to our organization, preparing agendas and minutes, reminding committee members when tasks were due, editing and producing the Newsletter (since 2018), and always keeping on top of everything with cheerfulness and efficiency.

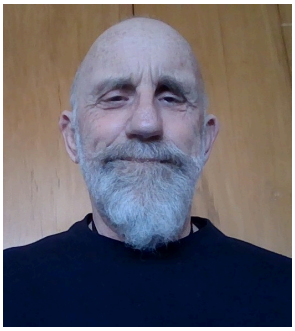
Chris van der Krogt
Chair, Manawatū U3A



Your new committee around the table from front left: Irene Thomas (Secretary), Stu Schwartz, Anne Spring, Stuart Birks, Ian Boag (Treasurer), Claire Barrett, Mike Lawrence. Missing: Chris van der Krogt (Chair) the photographer, and Peter Emms (below)



Chris van der Krogt



Peter Emms

AROUND THE GROUPS

Make 2027 the year of new interests!
Set up a group!

Do you have an interest, hobby or topic you'd love to share? Now's the time to turn your idea into a new U3A Manawatū interest group!

U3A is all about lifelong learning, sharing knowledge and enjoying the company of like-minded people. We'd love to see new groups develop in 2027, offering members fresh opportunities to learn, connect and explore together.

Perhaps you enjoy music, languages or games. Maybe there's a subject you've always wanted to explore with others. Whatever your interest, you don't need to be an expert — just enthusiastic and willing to bring people together.

You could be the person who sparks something exciting! Starting a group doesn't have to be complicated, and you won't be expected to do it all alone.

DON'T JUST WISH FOR A NEW GROUP — HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN!

If you have an idea, no matter how big or small, contact Chris van der Krogt, U3A Manawatū Chairperson, to discuss it. A quick conversation could be the first step towards creating a group that others will love being part of.

Let's make 2027 a year of new interests, new friendships and new learning opportunities. Your idea could be just what another member has been waiting for!

Setting up new groups
Any U3A member can set up a group so if you have an idea for one, contact Chris van der Krogt to discuss it (see contact information on back page). There are also some general guidelines on our website on how to set up and run a group.

HIDDEN MEMORIES:
WRITING OUR MEMOIRS 3
by Kathriona Benvie: Group Coordinator

Our group would like to have another member. We are a well established group who meet once a month but not on a set day each month. We write our personal story (memoir) on a theme each month chosen by the group at the previous meeting. When we meet we read out our story to the rest of the group. We comment on each other's work but we don't critique it.

Contact Kathriona for further information: 027 605 1911 or timandkj@yahoo.co.nz

FILM GROUP
by Mary Procter: Group Coordinator

The film group set up about 3 years ago and has 10 members. Members don't always attend each film but those that come have a great chat before and after the movie - though sometimes we leave the movie out completely! We've seen some great movies and some terrible ones, but it's always good company.

The Film Group meets fortnightly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month to view a current movie. We have coffee before and/or lunch afterwards. Many members of the group choose to come to one movie per month and that is fine.

Contact Mary Procter, 027 676 4476 or maryprocter@hotmail.com



Mary (centre) with other group members

AROUND THE GROUPS (continued)

SILVER SCREENS

by Graeme Slater: Group Coordinator

This group meets in the Oroua room at the city library monthly to watch an assorted array of films. We meet at 12.30 to enable screening to be completed in time to take advantage of the PNCC senior parking scheme; this avoids the parking tickets.

Recently we have just completed a season of films celebrating the works of the late Sam Neill. We watched The hilarious "Death in Brunswick"; an enjoyable film called "The Dish" which was a tale about the US space mission to put men on the moon in 1969; "The Sting" and "On The Waterfront".

Other films we have watched recently have been "Came a Hot Friday", "A River Runs Through it", "1984", "A Star is Born" and Hunt for the Wilder People"

The final one of the Sam Neill series was "Cinema of Unease", the documentary film written and directed by Sam to celebrate 100 years of cinema. This also became a talk about pioneers and the early days of film industry.



Some Silver Screens members at a recent viewing: enthralled!

Joining a group
If there is no space available ask the Group Coordinator to be put on a waiting list.

I circulate a flyer each month advising what the film will be and containing some information about it. Before each screening we have a talk about information relating to the film and its production. I point out things to watch out for while the film is running.

Afterwards we get to talk about what we have seen and if it was enjoyed, etc.

We celebrate the end of each year with a screening at Focal Point Cinema where we share lunch then watch a recently released film with a cinema to ourselves.

The group has a membership of 30 with 18 to 20 attending most screenings.

We have some space for a few new members. If you are interested in joining the group contact me: Graham Slater, gandg@inspire.net.nz.

"MIND GAMES"

Solution to puzzle in the August 2026 Newsletter:

'A Crossword in Code'

S	O	M	E	W	H	E	R	E
O	H	O	■	O	■	D	E	W
U	■	R	O	D	E	O	■	E
R	O	E	■	E	■	M	R	S
■	W	■	W	H	O	■	U	■
M	E	T	■	O	■	M	E	T
O	■	H	O	U	S	E	■	R
T	H	O	■	S	■	S	H	E
H	O	R	S	E	S	H	O	E

PHOTOGRAPHY

by Hilary Laracy: Group Coordinator

The Photography Group is an informal group for both amateurs and experts, using a range of cameras from large multi-lens cameras to compacts and phones. The meetings are held at 2 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in a private home, where photos are shown via a laptop onto the TV screen (from USBs). The aim of the group is to enjoy sharing each other's photos and to learn from each other – we share thoughts about the photos and sometimes make suggestions as to how to enhance them or achieve different effects. Some members have fun with editing and AI and may demonstrate some of the amazing things you can do with photos. Occasionally we have a field trip or visit a photographic exhibition.

We have a different theme each month, selected by group members, and you can either go out and take photos and/or show some from your existing collections. Some examples of past topics are: Street Photography, Red, Night Photography, Gates, Black & White photography, Doors, Depth of Field, and Up. Group members are free to use their imaginations, and it is always interesting to see the different interpretations of the same topic.

We sometimes watch a video on an aspect of photography, and the meeting ends with a chat and afternoon tea.

We have room for new members – so if you are interested, contact Hilary by email: hils.keith@xtra.co.nz

More members' photographs on Page 7 ...



Blue



Bridges



Water

AROUND THE GROUPS

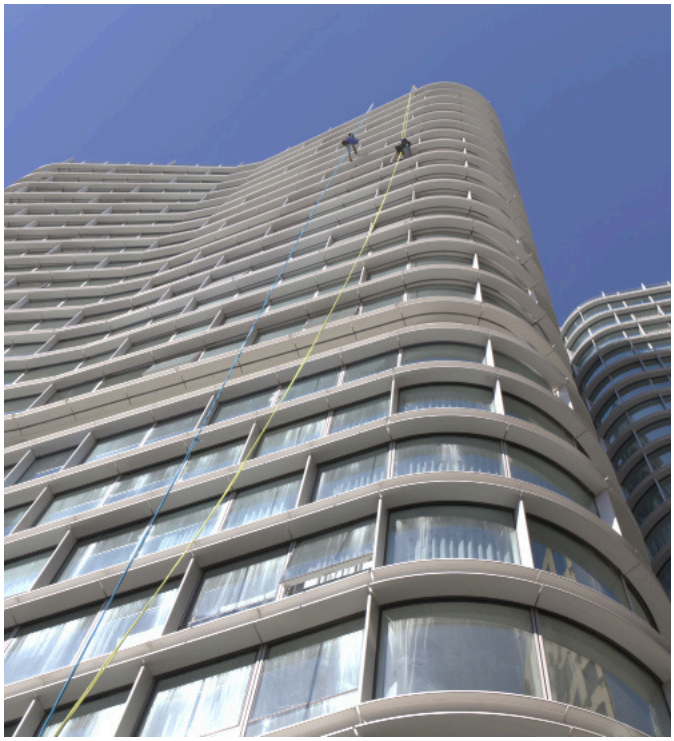
PHOTOGRAPHY (continued)



Old cottages



Stained glass



Up



Water 2



Cycles



Newsletter Editor

Could You Be Our Next Newsletter Editor?

U3A Manawatū is looking for a new Newsletter Editor!

Do you enjoy putting words and pictures together to share news, stories and activities with others? Here's an opportunity to contribute to our U3A community in a rewarding and creative way.

Our newsletter is published quarterly and keeps members informed about U3A news, group activities, upcoming events and the many interesting things happening within our organisation.

You don't need to be a professional editor. A reasonable eye for detail, some computer skills and a willingness to bring together contributions from members are all that's needed. Most importantly, we're looking for someone who would enjoy helping keep our members connected and informed.

If you would like to take on this role, or simply find out more about what's involved, we'd love to hear from you.

Interested? Please contact the U3A Manawatū Chairperson, Chris van der Krogt, for more information.

Help us keep our newsletter going and our U3A community connected!



A U3A member asked the newsletter editor, "What have you learned from editing the newsletter?"
"An enormous amount!" she replied.
"Such as?"
"How to use a computer, how to crop photographs, how to correct grammar, how to organise a page and how to remain calm under pressure."
"That's impressive! Anything else?"
*"Yes. I've learned that the words 'just a little change' are the **most frightening** words in the English language!"*

How much work is involved?

The workload is likely to be concentrated around the four publication dates rather than spread evenly throughout the year. The editor needs to allow time to collect contributions, prepare the newsletter, proofread it and arrange distribution.

The editor does not need to write every article personally. Much of the content can come from members and activity groups.

What skills are helpful?

Reasonable computer skills and confidence using word-processing or newsletter-layout software.

Good written English and an eye for detail.

Organisation and the ability to meet deadlines.

Friendly communication skills and a willingness to encourage contributions.

An interest in keeping the U3A Manawatū community informed and connected.

The most important thing: this is a voluntary service to the U3A community, not a professional publishing job. A willing, organised person who enjoys working with people and presenting information clearly could do it very well.

Remember to make use of our website, source of the latest information and an easy way to subscribe: u3amanawatu.org.nz



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