

President's report for AGM Wednesday 3 May 2023

One year ago - 4 May last year, our first meeting for some months due to COVID and no large gatherings, we met at Saxton Football club, and a year later, with increased membership, here we are back at Elim, where I hope you will be able to see and hear better, with big screens and elevated stage.

What does the past year look like?

Thanks to Paul Lunberg, our Speaker Programme organiser, we have heard some wonderful speakers this past year who have enlightened and informed us.

- Gareth Parry, recreational hunting and lead bullets leaching into wild meat, soils and water ways.
- David Melville, yearly godwit migration
- Lucinda Blackley-Jimson, CEO, Nelson Museum update about new building programme to extend the Museum.
- Sandy Stevens from Stoke who has helped the poor in some of the toughest countries,
- Assoc Prof Lance Jennings/Virologist- "World Viruses and What now after COVID"

It's great to have speakers organised for rest of the year's General Meetings.

We have learned about many of our members' past lives, with our "Getting to Know You" addition and as time permits at each General Meeting, we will continue with that segment, which I am sure you have all enjoyed.

At the end of last year, with the disbanding of SeniorNet Nelson after 30 years, we were pleased to be able to offer the opportunity for Senior Net members to continue their groups and interests within the organisational framework of U3A. DIG and iPG - are now U3A groups and offered spaces to U3A members to join these already established groups.

Many Senior Net members were already U3A members and we had pleasure in welcoming a further 60 new members to U3A, 39 of whom came over from SNN.

This of course all adds to the pressure of Study Groups. Steven Shaw, our wonderful Study Group Co-ordinator is an apology for today. He hasn't run away due to the pressure of his job, but has gone to visit family in UK.

Steve is always happy to hear from members about ideas for new Study groups. Thanks in absentia Steve. And Paul will be handling Steve's role in the interim.

There are no words enough to thank Secretary Bill Brett and Treasurer Allison Robertson, for staying on an extra year, to support me. I am so very grateful. Their knowledge is infinite, Bill particularly with his guidance on Constitutional matters.

Newsletter Editor Extraordinaire Trevor Lewis, & Jocelyn, our trusty proof reader. Grateful thanks to you both, and we are SO lucky, Trevor is available for another year.

Anne White, our New Members Welcomer, Badge holder Thanks Anne for all you do.

Nan Turner, standing down from the Committee - thanks Nan for being our Publicity person- looking after our TWEMs - those without emails, who Nan posts the Newsletter to.

Jenny Pullen, Financial Reviewer 2023 Accounts & Welcomer, thank you Jenny for all you do!

David Wright, our IT man- always there when we need you, and updating our U3A website, which I am sure you will all agree, is very easy to navigate now.

And thanks to Committee members, Judy Pittman/Welcomer/Convenor, Andrew Mason and outgoing Immediate Past President David Turner.

Your Committee serves happily and voluntarily and that's to be applauded.
I am SO grateful for these people who have made my job easy, and fun.
Thank you to every Committee member for all you have done this year.

Soroptomists thank you ladies, - and win win supporting your on going community work with women and children and our way to support their work.

And thanks to our group convenors - without you, we wouldn't have our Study groups, opening your homes for our continuing lifelong learning. We would be lost without your enthusiasm for your groups.

On a personal note - the dude, always busy, helping at General Meetings, a great sounding board at home, wearing Tony Gimson name badge, is President's Wingman.
I couldn't do this without your love and support. Thanks Tones

Last but not least you, the members of U3A. Thank you for your continued support and friendship. We're always available to hear your thoughts and comments.
U3A is your organisation and we are all in this together.

Move adoption of my report - Seconded Paul Lunberg
Vote that President's report be accepted - all in favour -aye
Passed unanimously