

## President's Report for AGM Wednesday 1 May 2024

It's always a time of reflection writing this report and looking back at the past U3A year - another year of learning in our Study Groups, socialising and meeting new friends.

**Many** people make this organisation what it is - and I wish to acknowledge those people now, because without them, there would be no U3A.

Thanks to Paul Lunberg, our Speaker programme organiser. Paul weaves his magic and finds the most interesting local people to speak, enlighten and inform us, and 2023-24 has been no exception.

- Jason Balla from Nelson Civic Choir spoke and if you remember, sang at our AGM on 3 May 2023, his passion for what he does shining through.
- Gerard Hindmarsh, local author talking about his latest and final book on the Kahurangi area brought record numbers to hear his wonderful stories.
- Emma Stevens spoke to us in August about her teaching life in Alaska, the culture, and introduced her trilogy of books.
- Paul Deacon, local Artist and Mariner spoke to us in October of his time on the high seas.
- Tania McBride from UNICEF told us in February, of her work in far-flung places and how it is for aid workers in the midst of wars currently.

Such a variety of informative speakers, and Paul has the speakers organised for the rest of the year's General Meetings, Thank you Paul.

We haven't had much time this past year for our "Getting to Know You" addition to our meetings, but as time permits at each General Meeting, we will continue with this segment.

We did however have time recently to hear from Les Cook, Convenor of the Creative Writing Group, about a trip with his group to Collingwood. A humorous piece of writing we all enjoyed.

Our Study Group Co-ordinator Steven Shaw has done, and continues to do a fantastic job, working with Convenors, and encouraging members to think about setting up new Study Groups. Steve isn't here today, he's on a bike ride, having a well-earned break.

But this time last year, we had 38 Study Groups, he now manages 47, and with two new groups in the pipeline.

This is a huge task and Steve has done this job so ably for the past five years - but whilst happy to continue for the coming year, he will call time in May 2025. SGC is an essential role, communicating with Convenors, and we are indebted to Steve for all his work. Thank you Steve in absentia.

Secretary Zoe MacAlpine stepped in to her role August 2023, after our last AGM and we are very fortunate to have her on our Committee. Thanks Zoe.

Treasurer Jenny Pullen is a true example of “ask a busy woman to do something” and I am personally thankful for your guidance and support, Jenny and the time you give to U3A, especially with everything else you do in the Community.

Newsletter Editor Trevor Lewis and Jocelyn, our trusty proof reader. Thank to you both, and we are SO lucky Trevor has extended his service to U3A for one more year having done his role for almost 5 years.

Anne White, our New Members Welcomer/Badge holder.

All new members get a phone call from Anne, no mean feat, with 35 new members from May 2023 AGM and a further 38 new members this year from January 2024 to now. And along with Jenny, is the face at the front desk greeting people. Thanks Anne for all you do.

David Wright, our IT man - always there when we need you, and now, with Andrew Mason, working alongside David, we have a great IT team, and I'm sure you will agree, our website is very easy to navigate. And all you need to know, is at [u3anelson.org.nz](http://u3anelson.org.nz).

David joined our Committee in May 2018, 6 years of service, and will step down at the end of the U3A 2025 year. Thank you David, and Andrew who is stepping in. Thank you Andrew for your role as Financial Reviewer also.

Judy Pittman, has handled all our Publicity, as well as being a Convenor of three Study Groups. Judy is standing down from this role and we thank her for all she has done on the Committee.

Committee members Hilary Carpenter and Helen Gowland, are always on hand for whatever task they are asked to complete, Catering sub-Committee, along with Anne White, and Hilary has been such an asset, along with Jenny and Andrew, on the Incorporated Society sub-Committee.

Thank you to all the Committee for your willingness to do whatever is required. Your Committee serves happily and voluntarily - that's to be applauded, and I am SO grateful for these people, who have made my job easy and fun.

Soproptomists - thank you ladies for our morning teas five times a year - and win win fundraiser for you and U3A supporting your on going work with women and children in the community.

Thanks to our Study Group convenors - without you we wouldn't have study groups. Your commitment to co-ordinating group members and opening your homes for our continuing lifelong learning is much appreciated. Thank you.

On a personal note - to Tony, wearing the President's Wingman badge - always busy, helping at meetings, a supportive sounding board. I couldn't do this without your love and support, thanks Tony.

In April we "waved the U3A Banner" at the Positive Ageing Expo at Headingly Centre, and spoke to many people about U3A . My thanks to Roger and Judy Pittman, Jenni and Colin Bell, Hilary Carpenter, Helen MacKellar and Di Goodman for helping me at our stand.

We will be looking for new Committee members at the end of this current U3A year. There is **still a vacancy for Vice President!** Think about joining this happy band of people - we will need you in a year's time!.

And 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.

I move adoption of my report/Presidents report be accepted -  
All in favour - aye

Wendy Cornish