

## President's Report for AGM Wednesday 7 May 2025

Writing this report is always a time for reflection, looking back on another U3A year filled with learning in our Study Groups, socialising, and making new friends

Many people contribute to making this organisation what it is, and I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge them—because without their dedication, there would be no U3A Nelson.

The Committee is indebted to the huge tasks undertaken by our Constitution Working Party of Hilary Carpenter, Jenny Pullan and Andrew Mason, who negotiated the requirements of the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022, and along with guidance from member Willem Reuvenkamp, our Certificate of Incorporation was issued to us on 11 March 2025.

Thanks to **Paul Lunberg**, our Speaker programme organiser. 2024-25 has been no exception to the calibre of speakers Paul has found for us; the most interesting local people to inform and enlighten us..

- May 2024 - Brad Cadwallader, gave us his life story and talked about his involvement with the NZ Tree Register for Heritage trees and his tree consultancy expertise for the welfare of trees.
- June - Rick Kiessig, from Kimer Med, talked to us about viruses and how his Nelson lab is working on developing new broad-spectrum antiviral drugs.
- August - Nigel Costley spoke to us about Truby King's life and the formation of Plunket in 1907
- October - Neil Bruce-Miller spoke to us about his life and time living in the Congo in the 70's and 80's.
- February 2025 - Gwen Daly was an entertaining speaker and her topic was "Never Too Old" and she showed us two of her locally produced movies

Thank you Paul and we look forward to the range of speakers you have organised for us for the rest of this year, and into 2026.

With some of our meetings being tied up with our Constitution, there has been limited for the "Getting to Know You" segment of our meetings, but I express my thanks to those who we did get know, especially Donna Swift and the two articles written for the Newsletter by Jocelyn Lewis and Anne White.

Our Study Group Co-ordinator **Steven Shaw** carried out this busy task for us for the last 7 years, but has now had to hand over the baton to **Hilary Carpenter** earlier this year. Steve isn't able to be here today, and he will be

acknowledged at the next meeting he is able to attend.

Hilary has picked up the baton and has run fast with it, doing a fantastic job, while learning the ropes. Working with Convenors, and setting up new Study Groups. We now have 52 study groups. A huge task - Thank you Hilary.

Thank you to our Secretary **Zoe MacAlpine** who continues to minute our meetings and keep our archives in order. Thanks Zoe

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

Newsletter Editor **Trevor Lewis** (and Jocelyn, our trusty proof reader). Thanks to you both, After almost 7 years of doing the Newsletter, Trevor is taking a well-earned retirement. We have enjoyed reading each edition, and the jokes!! We are very fortunate to have Committee member Helen Gowland to follow Trevor, and her first Newsletter will be in June.

**Anne White**, our New Members Welcomer

All new members get a phone call from Anne, and with 34 new members this year alone, that's a big task.

And along with Jenny, Anne is the face at the front desk greeting people. Thanks Anne for all you do.

**David Wright**, our IT man for the last 7 years, always there when we say “help” - David is also taking well-earned retirement, having joined our Committee in 2018, - thank you David - and our IT is continuing to be in good hands with **Andrew Mason** taking over.

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).

Thank you Andrew also for your role as Financial Reviewer also.

Thanks to our **Study Group convenors** - without you we wouldn't have study groups. Your commitment to co-ordinating group members, either with meetings in your own homes, or organising venues for our larger Study Groups, is very much appreciated. . Thank you to **all Convenors**.

On a personal note - **Tony**, thanks for your support, as my Wingman, you're a great sounding board, always got my back, always busy at meetings/parking duty etc. I couldn't do this without you, thanks Tones

**Catering sub-committee** has worked well with Hilary Carpenter, Helen Gowland, and Anne White and every November they are busy organising the Convenors Thank You event at Summerset in the Sun Lounge. Thank you ladies.

Last month, we “waved the U3A Banner” at the Positive Ageing Expo at Headingly Centre, and spoke to many people about U3A Nelson.

My thanks to **Jocelyn Bell, Roz Jackson, Paulene Huston, Donna Swift, Beverley Mockett, Judy Pittman** for helping me at our stand.

**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.

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. My grateful thanks to each one of you.

Coming in to my fourth term as President, for a healthy organisation, it is essential we have new blood.

Nominations have closed for the 2025-2026 Committee.

We are still one short on the Committee and in this day and age of inclusivity, we would love to see another of the male species join us.

And last, but not least, YOU, the members of U3A Nelson. Thank you for your continued participation, support and friendship.

U3A Nelson is your organisation and we are all in this together. We're always available to hear your thoughts and comments.

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

Wendy Cornish  
7 May 2025