



**Learning for Life**

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[www.u3anelson.org.nz](http://www.u3anelson.org.nz)

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**NEW BANK ACCOUNT!! Note our new account number above. We have changed from Westpac to Nelson Building Society. Please delete Westpac from your saved payee.**

### **Presidents Report**

Christmas Greetings from our house to yours

Tony and I hope you have a happy Festive season filled with love, laughter and hopes for a good 2026.

It's been a tough year for many of our members, and we acknowledge your trials and losses throughout

2025. Let's hope for a happy, healthy 2026 for you all.

Your Committee will meet in January, and our first Members' meeting for 2026 is Wednesday 25th February 2026.

**Please note Treasurer Jenny's request for all subscriptions to be paid AFTER 1 April 2026.**

Enjoy the summer weather, see you next year.

Wendy



On 9 December ABC Music Group celebrated their 10th Christmas together, with Roger Haynes as Convenor, and original group members Roger Pittman, Tom Besson, Wendy Cornish and Tony Gimson. Sonia Smith, Diane Goodman and Don Smith have subsequently joined the group.

Each month the Group meets, decides on a wide range of topics, members research who wrote a song, when and something about the band or group, with clips from You Tube played. Much fun and laughter while learning as well. The group also acknowledges musicians and composers who have passed during the previous months.





Andrew Mason was Novembers speaker.  
Here is a round up of his speech.

## ANDREW MASON – A LIFE IN SYSTEMS

Andrew introduced himself as a payment systems consultant, which had occupied the last two decades of a 57-year career in the systems business. In fact his career started in the UK in 1967 as a computer programmer.

He was born in Blackpool, England, his mother's home town, at the end of what was apparently the worst winter in living memory. After that he had a varied childhood as the family moved around the world. By the time he was 19 years old, he had lived, not only in the UK, but also NZ (twice), Zimbabwe and (briefly) Canada. He acquired a BA degree from Canterbury University while still in his teens, after which he rejoined his family in England.

He decided against further university studies in favour of taking up what was then a very new profession, computer programming (an obvious career for a History graduate!), and got a job in Bracknell near Reading. It was there that he met and married Kiwi Barbara. Shortly after getting married they moved to a posting with Andrew's employer to Zagreb in Croatia, where he worked as a customer support technical consultant. They were there for several years, then moved to the Gulf, first to Kuwait then Dubai. In 1979 they returned to NZ – this time for good.

He continued working for the same company in Wellington until 1993 when he was made redundant. By this time he was working on computer applications in areas such as intelligence analysis, expert systems and various military applications. On redundancy he decided to have a go at being self-employed as a business systems consultant and carried out contracts for a wide variety of Government agencies.

In the late 1990s, through a series of coincidences he started working in the area of payment systems (which he defined as "everything related to the movement of money from payer to payee"). It was while working on a contract for the Jamaican central bank that he met the head of the World Bank's Payment Systems Development Group, who invited him to help develop the National Payments System strategy for the Palestine Monetary Authority in 2007. From then he carried out payment systems-related work in over 40 countries until finally retiring in mid-2024.



- What happened to the man who stole an Advent calendar? He got 25 days.
- Who hides in a bakery at Christmas? A mince spy.
- What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinselitis.
- What's the best Christmas present? A broken drum - you just can't beat it.
- What do angry mice send each other at Christmas? Cross mouse cards.
- Who beats his chest and swings from Christmas cake to Christmas cake? Tarzipan.

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?  
*Claustrophobia!*

Why does Santa have three gardens?  
*So he can 'ho ho ho'!*

Why did Santa go to the doctor?  
*Because of his bad "elf"!*

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?  
*Because he had a low "elf" esteem!*

What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?  
*A Holly Davidson!*



## Convenors Thank you Afternoon Tea

Thank you to the 48 Convenors, plus Committee, who attended the Thank You Afternoon tea on Saturday 22 November, and thanks to all Convenors who apologised when they couldn't be there.

Summerset in the Sun Lounge has suited us so well over the years, and thanks to Committee member and resident, Anne White for organising the facility for us. But as the last event proved, we have grown out of the venue, which means harder to get car parking as well, but your Committee will be looking at other larger venues for next year. Apologies for the squashed/spread out seating, which meant that it was hard to hear people speaking. But we hope you enjoyed chatting with other Convenors over afternoon tea.

Thanks again to ALL Convenors for what you do for U3A. We wouldn't have such successful Study Groups without you.

Much appreciated

Wendy



Wendy thanking the Convenors.



Anne organising tea, coffee and juice to go with the delicious selection of food.



Hilary, the Study Group Co-ordinator also thanking the Convenors.



Jenny presenting Wendy with a Gift Basket for a job well done.

It doesn't matter if you're tall or short, thin or fat, rich or poor. At the end of the day.....

It's Night.

Greetings to you all.

In my capacity as Treasurer of U3A Nelson, I am undertaking the realignment of the payment of your annual membership subscription to correspond with our next Financial Year commencing on 1st April 2026.

For this reason, I am asking you to please pay your 2026/27 subscription of \$30.00 **after the 1st April 2026.**

I would really appreciate your assistance.

**Many thanks**

Jenny Pullen  
Treasurer

I would like to say a big thanks to all who contributed items for the Newsletter. Please keep them coming. It's a great way to keep everyone informed about what is happening in the Club. With over 60 groups there must be plenty of photos and news.

I enjoy editing the Newsletter. It's been a big learning curve, given me a couple of headaches, a few spelling mistakes....darn predictive text, and many chuckles. Looking forward to the first Newsletter for 2026.....



Helen

**The deadline for articles is 10th Feb.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL**

*And a*

**AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR**



What happens to elves when they're naughty?

Santa gives them the sack.



What is Santa's favourite reality show?

Prancing with the Stars.