

## President's Report for AGM Wednesday 22 April 2026

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.

Thanks to **Paul Lunberg**, our Speaker programme organiser. 2025-26 has been no exception to the calibre of speakers Paul has found for us; the most interesting local people to inform and enlighten us.

- Sally Gepp KC and a lawyer specialising in Environmental Law, a huge topic to navigate and clients on both sides - conservation and development, helping developers meet their obligations under law, whilst maintaining conservation protection.
- Dr Donna Swift, Anthropologist, Primate specialist and our own U3A member. Always entertaining and educational, Donna's enthusiasm, energy and love of primates/great apes, keeps us fascinated with her travel experiences whilst highlighting the plight of our endangered close relatives.
- Kirsten Mason - "Inside a Symphony Orchestra". So many of us learned so much from Kirsten's talk about the goings on within the hierarchy of an orchestra, as well as the history and make-up of orchestras. An accomplished pianist herself, and after management roles internationally, she moved to Wellington to be closer to family. Proud parent moment for Andrew and Barbara Mason.
- Andrew Mason - re Information Systems and his international experiences living in many overseas countries and a Payment Systems consultant with Banks in 40 + countries.
- Lindsay Wood's title of his talk to us was intriguing "Catching up from Falling Behind on Getting Ahead"!! Climate change being Lindsay's main topic with some sobering statistics. Lots of discussion afterwards and some interesting reading material suggested for members.

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 2027.

Thank you to our Secretary **Zoe MacAlpine** who took on this role when no one else would come forward, but who now needs to step aside. Thanks Zoe for attending Committee meetings in your role as Secretary.

Treasurer **Jenny Pullen** is a true example of “ask a busy woman to do something” and as Treasurer, another big job within U3A - 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.

**Hilary Carpenter, Our Study Group Co-ordinator** has had a big increase in this Committee role over the last year working with Convenors, and setting up new Study Groups. We now have approximately 72 study groups. It is vital that Convenors keep in touch with Hilary on the comings and goings of members, so she knows where the vacancies are at all times. A huge task - Thank you Hilary.

**Helen Gowland**, Newsletter Editor, taking on this role from Trevor Lewis in June last year. We have enjoyed reading each edition Helen, and the jokes!! Thank you for doing this task for us all.

**Anne White**, our New Members' Welcomer  
All new members get a phone call from Anne, and with 27 new members from January this year alone, that's a big task.  
Life Member Anne is stepping down at this AGM, but will still be a friendly face at the Welcome Desk helping out, along with Jenny, and keeping involved.

**Andrew Mason**, our IT man. 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).  
And Andrew keeps everything up to date, loading documents without ever needing a reminder.

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

**Daphne Hill**, always there when you need a job done. Daphne is coming off the Committee, but in true Daphne style, when she is “this side of the hill”, Daphne will be our Welcoming face at the door, and she is happy to help wherever needed.

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/setting up extra chairs etc. I couldn't do this without you, thanks  
Tones

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

As experienced last year, with more Study Groups and Convenors to thank, we have outgrown Summerset in the Sun.

We have been very thankful to have this venue, free of charge, and organised by Anne White, but sadly, we can no longer fit in there.

We will look for a new venue by November of this year, and the current thinking is this wonderful venue we have now. Convenors, watch this space.

**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.

For a healthy organisation, it is essential that we have new blood. Coming in to my fifth term as President, this must be a priority, especially now as I indicate that I am only doing one more year as President. U3A Presidents' terms have usually been two years.

And nobody has yet come forward to be Vice President during my term. U3A Nelson is your organisation and we are all in this together. Please think about volunteering to stand on Committee and take a role.

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

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

Wendy Cornish  
22 April 2026