



**U3A WARKWORTH** *Learning is forever*

Newsletter June - July 2005, #3

## From the President

In April, on a visit to Wellington, I enjoyed attending two Ohariu U3A General Meetings which are held in a small theatre seating two hundred and situated in the CBA. This U3A has two meetings every week: generally the Tuesday speakers seem to be arts or politically orientated and Fridays' subjects lean towards scientific interests. At the first Tuesday meeting I attended, Tom Frewen gave a brief history of TVNZ and his own reporting of matters political from the Beehive. I felt very privileged to be there as a visitor especially when I heard a rumour that members making a last minute dash were being turned away because the theatre was full. On the following Tuesday Christine Bogle, our ex ambassador to Spain spoke about the enlarged EU. Once again the meeting was well-attended.

The May Auckland Network meeting was well-attended in spite of the dreadful weather conditions existing on the day.

Apparently some submissions have already been received for the Regional Art Competition for which entries must be received by the 30<sup>th</sup> June. If you are interested in this competition, remember the closing date and use the form from the last Newsletter.

Meadowbank still have some places available in their Great Scientific Discoveries study group and also in Creative Writing. Phone Barry Thorne 09-575-8999 if you are interested in attending.

It is well into the future but bear in mind that Papatoetoe is hosting an Auckland Regional Conference in May 2006 and they have already lined up some very good speakers. Also, it seems that Christchurch will have a conference in November 2006. There are some interesting U3A activities to look forward to next year.

Iris Mee  
May 2005

## EDITOR'S DESK

As I sit down to compile this newsletter I am humbled by the wealth of knowledge and experience displayed by our members through the Groups they have formed and participate in. The recording of Life Stories, study of music, art, play and poetry reading (to mention just a few) confirms that U3A's theme "learning is forever" is alive and well in Warkworth.

The Jim McKinlay inspired series starting next month in the Ancient History Group based on Ronald Wright's "A Short History of Progress" should be very stimulating. Since the 70's I've been a bit of a 'computer geek', so I thought I'd let you know about the wonderful "21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning for Older People" modules run by U3A Online. This virtual 'University of the third Age' allows older people to study a wide range of

courses such as Italian Art, Autobiography, Antarctica, Astronomy, Genealogy, Western Philosophy, Religions of the World...the list goes on with 32 at last count All you need is a computer, a printer and basic internet know-how.

I have enrolled for the course on Digital Imaging and am finding it very helpful.

U3AOnline is a joint venture between U3A enthusiasts in Australia and the UK. Some courses can be taken at your own pace and others take place over a fixed time period with a virtual group with members that could be spread over the world.

The enrolment fees per course are about \$20A and the web site is hosted by Griffith University in Brisbane.

You may like to have a look at their web site at [www.u3aonline.org](http://www.u3aonline.org)

If you have not yet taken the plunge into the digital world, I urge you to join the local Senior Net group and you will soon discover a whole new universe of knowledge right in your own home, plus the speed and convenience of email to keep you in touch with friends and family where ever they are.

## **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 9:45 a.m. at the New Masonic Hall**  
(The entrance is on top floor of Council/New World car park building)

10.00 am Meeting Commences

**DUTY GROUP**– Current Affairs Group  
**CONVENOR:** Peggy Gillman– ph.422-9434

The programme will be as follows:-

9:15 a.m.	Duty Group arrive to set up
9:45 a.m.	Assemble
10:00 a.m.	General Business
	Mini Speaker – Dorothy Goudie
10:40 a.m.	Morning tea
11:00 a.m.	Main Speaker – Captain John Briand

**NB:** *It would be appreciated if the Duty Group could also assist with the room preparation for the Meeting The Hall will be open from 9.15 a.m.*

### **SPEAKERS**

#### **Dorothy Goudie.**

Dorothy has lived in the area for 40 years and has been on the Community Centre Project Committee for 12 years. She is a well-known local business person with a keen interest in local affairs.

Dorothy will be talking about the Warkworth Community Centre Project.

This far-sited project has the potential to enhance the lives of present and future generations of the residents of Warkworth and surrounding districts. A scale model of the Centre will be on display.

### **Captain John Briand.**

Is a retired shipmaster now living in Whangaparaoa.

The subject of his talk will be about his involvement in the rescue of 983 passengers and crew during the fire and abandonment of the passenger vessel 'Achille Lauro'. This vessel caught fire in the Indian Ocean in November 1994. At the time, Capt. Briand was Captain of the Ultra large crude carrier 'Lima', which was selected to be the command vessel for the rescue effort.

John's talk will be enhanced with a 'Power Point' visual presentation including some very dramatic images of the stricken vessel just hours before she sank.

Prior to immigrating to New Zealand with his wife Brenda in October 1996, he served 33 years with Shell Tankers trading world-wide. A year later, he resumed his seagoing career in a junior officer rank with Silver Fern Shipping of Wellington – on their coastal tanker 'Taiko'. The refinery at Marsden Point was to become his second home, as this is where the tanker loaded the products for distribution around New Zealand ports. The 'Taiko' was also to become a part of his life for the next 7 years. He worked his way back up through the ranks for the second time to finish his final voyage as relief Master for a short period.

John retired in January 2004 after 45 years in the merchant navy.

Now his interests are linked with the Gulf Harbour Yacht Club as Safety Officer, and as secretary for the Whangaparaoa branch of the National Party. He now understands that you don't actually start working until you've retired!

John promises us a very different presentation of events which still hold many very personal memories for both Brenda and him.

*Special request: Does anyone have access to a data projector that we can use. Capt. Briand needs one for display of his PowerPoint presentation. Please contact Beulah Heaven @ 425-6545 if you can help.*

### **GROUP NEWS:**

**MUSIC APPRECIATION** - (minimum entrance requirement: 2 ears)

The music group regulars just about fit into one another's homes these days; we number 16 in total and most of the group turn up most of the time. Don't let that put you off giving us a try some time though - you'd be made most welcome.

So far this year we've had a music quiz (so now we all know who Terpsichore was, don't we?); an inter-active lesson on Synaesthesia. When you listen to a piece of music what colours, shapes, pictures do you see? We discovered that we're all very different in this respect and heaven knows what a psychiatrist would have made of our ramblings. In April we had Musical Allsorts where everyone brings a piece of music to share with the group and so we get to hear something new to us as well as re-visiting old favourites. In the months to come we'll be studying the Quintet and the Overture and possibly taking a trip down memory lane with a fresh look at Nursery Rhymes.

(Contributed by Pip Perrins)

### **FILM APPRECIATION - (formerly Gallivanter)**

Owing to the impracticality of announcing two months in advance the films which the group will view, certain changes need to be made. The Cinema simply cannot guarantee so far in advance if specific film programming or timing will be adhered to.

So, it has been decided that the group will continue to convene on the second THURSDAY of the month. By the first Thursday of the month the programme will be decided and details may be obtained from the Convener. All U3A members are welcome to join the group, which leaves Warkworth at 9.45am and carpools to the Cinema, which is usually the Bridgeway at Northcote Point.

(Contributed by Beulah Heaven)

### **ANCIENT HISTORY**

It has been proposed by Jim McKinlay that the group should work chapter by chapter through Ronald Wright's "A Short History of Progress", a much-acclaimed book containing the Massey Lectures of 2004, and sponsored by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Wright's thesis is that history is cyclical, and we can learn from the mistakes of past civilizations. He is concerned that the present growth is unsustainable, and can only lead to disaster for future generations – unless mankind can profit from the lessons of the past. Thus he investigates several important groups including the Mesopotamian and Roman societies; it is expected that the monthly presentations should stimulate lively discussion.

(Contributed by Linda Moore)

### **WRITING STORIES OF YOUR LIFE**

At present this group has thirteen participants who meet on the second Monday of every month at a member's house in Warkworth. (Thanks to you know who.)

Our two page stories offer a variety of topics and settings as well as covering all the emotions. While the writings are not life stories, they do give an insight into the lives of the writers, such as pioneer or nursing experiences. The stories are sympathetic and often very funny.

Criticism does not rear its ugly head; neither do we discuss each others stories outside the group.

At present our numbers are at the maximum to work comfortably, but if anybody is interested, another group could be formed without too much effort. Remember effort is good for the brain.

(Contributed by Averil Lovegrove)

### **POETRY GROUP**

This year we have an enthusiastic group of poetry lovers who enjoy reading, listening to the words and discussing the ideas in poetry.

So far, we have studied a New Zealand poet, Ruth Dallas, an Australian one, Judith Wright, and a session on dramatic monologues.

One of our members has an interest in Chinese poetry and calligraphy. Our session on that subject was a fascinating experience. It even extended to what we had for afternoon tea!

We have some good discussions and enjoy discovering new ideas and ways they can be expressed.

(Contributed by Yolande Carter)

### **OPERA APPRECIATION**

Jim McKinlay is getting more mobile by the day after his surgery and is now almost ready to launch the Opera group, probably in July. If you are interested in joining the group, his phone number is 422-9063.

### **RECENT SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES (proposed)**

Linda Moore would like to hear from any members interested in forming a group with a focus on recent discoveries in the sciences. Please phone her at 425-4959 if you would like to be involved in this fascinating area of study.

### **KOWHAI FESTIVAL - READERS & WRITERS SEMINAR**

The Kowhai Festival organisers are keen to have a special day during the 2005 Festival (01/09 Oct) featuring Readers and Writers. Dave Parker, the Festival Coordinator would like to talk to anyone interested in taking part, or helping with this event.

Dave's phone number is 425 7303 at the Events Warkworth office, 9 Falls Street.

### **DIARY NOTES**

The next General Meeting of U3A will be on 8<sup>th</sup> August. The deadline for inclusion of items in the next Newsletter (due out in August) is 25<sup>th</sup> July.

#### COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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