



**U3A WARKWORTH** *Learning is forever*

[www.u3a.co.nz](http://www.u3a.co.nz)

## Newsletter December 2006

### From the President

From all accounts the mid-winter informal luncheon was a winner with members mixing well and enjoying the mulled wine and finger food. Many thanks to Lorna and Elaine for organising such a successful event - the first of its kind.

The Helen Moulder presentation of *Playing Miss Haversham* at the October meeting was just superb. Seldom have we had such quality entertainment in Warkworth at 10am on a Monday morning! Helen stayed with me overnight and she was a joy to have as a guest. We all wish her well as she takes *Miss Haversham* around New Zealand and later to Australia.

Please give consideration to joining our next year's committee. Happily we have a nomination for president, plus one for the committee from one of our inaugural members who has had other commitments over the years. We are delighted, but would like a further two new members to make things run smoothly and allow for people being on holiday or sick. It is not an onerous task to serve on the committee but it is necessary to have a few people out there directing operations! Think about it please and if it is possible for you to help, contact a committee member well before the AGM in February.

Another reminder! If you know of one of our members who is sick please contact the almoner. Beulah currently plays this role but that will change with her retirement from the committee in February. Watch for next year's almoner!

Recently I attended the U3A Auckland Network Meeting and saw some brochures about the U3A International Conference to be held in Christchurch in November 2007. The subject will be *The World Ahead – From Here to Where?* They have good speakers lined up, Christchurch is lovely in the spring and, being an international conference, there will be overseas visitors particularly from Australia. I hope to attend and it would be great if there were others from Warkworth.

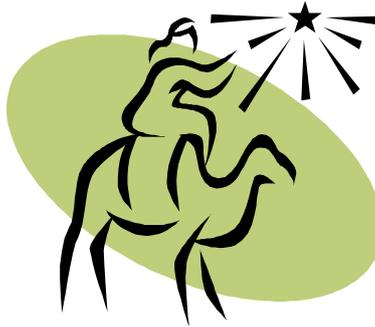
It was to be my last Network meeting but they have asked me to be their president next year. This proposal was a surprise (not to say a shock!) and I am still mulling over the idea, but as it has always been a pleasure rather than a chore to attend the meetings, the odds are in favour of an acceptance.

I look forward to seeing you at the final meeting for the year on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Iris Mee  
President

## DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

### CHRISTMAS CONNECTIONS\*



**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 9.45 am at the New Masonic Hall**  
(The entrance is on top floor of Council/New World car park building)  
Note that spaces in the parking building can be scarce.

**Meeting Commences at 10 a.m.**

**DUTY GROUP**– Current Affairs Group  
CONVENOR: - Elaine Ellison-Smith, phone 425-9138

The programme will be as follows:-

9:15 a.m.	Duty Group arrives to set up
9:45 a.m.	Assemble
10:00 a.m.	Welcome
	<b>Christmas Connections - part 1</b>
10.40 a.m.	Coffee and Christmas mince pies
11:00 a.m.	<b>Christmas Connections – part 2.</b>

**NB:** *The Duty Group should prepare the room for the Meeting attend to morning tea and re-instate the room after the meeting The Hall will be open from 9.15 a.m.*

**\*CHRISTMAS CONNECTIONS** will be a festive ‘collaboration’ from members of all our Study Groups who will be talking/singing/dancing on a Christmas theme. It’s going to be lots of fun, with lots of thoughts and ideas for the Festive Season.

## **GROUP NEWS**

Meetings of Groups for December are as usual, not arranged or will be informal. If you are unsure what's happening with your Group, contact your convenor. The next series of Group meetings start in February 2007. Linda will be in touch with Group Convenors in January for meeting details which will be published in the next newsletter at the end of January.

## **NZ ART APPRECIATION GROUP**

The Art Group had an enjoyable and relaxed meeting day at Leigh for their October meeting. Both speakers gave highly colourful and informative talks of their interesting lives,

Judy Magee who has been a local potter over the past 30 years now lives in Leigh but over the past 16 years has worked with her husband Kevin to promote their pottery in Rarotonga. This meant buying a house and living there for six months of each year. Her well documented photographic record together with anecdotes of a very different lifestyle, as well as the very interesting home they now live in delighted the group. The adaptability to fire work and try different glazes under a huge variety of conditions over the span of her working life proved a challenge and much ingenuity and was most interesting. Yvonne Williams warmly welcomed the group to sit at her 'big table' for a pot luck lunch. This proved to be a convivial way of listening to our speaker. She spoke of her 25 years on Kawau Is. and her life there as an artist. During the past two years she has helped her husband care-take on Pakatoa Island. Her description of this very different type of Island culture with the variety of wildlife and the colourful characters that passed by was obviously a source of inspiration for painting. After lunch we all visited the upstairs studio to see her Art work.

As an interlude between speakers Ina had written a potted history of early Leigh settlers and their lives which was used for a short ramble around the very scenic and historic Leigh cemetery.

**Contributed by Ina Shaw.**

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

Life-long learning is the theme of U3A, and our group enjoy the togetherness and the listening to each other's stories.

Everyone has an interesting story to tell, sometimes it is a trip up the Nile, or the Yangtze, or just a camping trip. Others give excerpts from life, full of its joys and sorrows.

Stories written for grandchildren who have no idea of washing days that took a day with family sheets first, colours next etc. and the marvellous joy when hand wringers became available, and then the ultimate joy of a washing machine.

Ex teachers and nurses of our era, enjoy re-living their careers and letting us all know how our world has changed in their stories.

Our group of eight, meet on a monthly basis in a private home, and we would warmly welcome any new comers.

**Contributed by Sue Greenstreet.**

## **Diary notes:**

**Next General Meeting and 2007 AGM** will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2007. The deadline for inclusion of items in the next Newsletter (due out in January) is 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2007.