



U3A WARKWORTH *Learning is forever*

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Newsletter June - July 2006, #3

From the President

As I head into winter there is a temptation to close in, go into a mental huddle and dream of sunshine and warm days. Perhaps it is time to focus on something new – a new skill, a new study, perhaps a new holiday or even the completion of a project deferred. Most of us have one or two of them! Today is dreary and overcast but on the plus side I have begun a new mission, I have enjoyed the company and conversation of friends and can still delight in the glorious liquid amber, vibrant with red and orange at the bottom of my garden. (It is in a very sheltered position and with a bit of luck those leaves will be there for some time.)

Your Committee has set to work with a will to provide interesting speakers and keep the wheels of U3A Warkworth turning smoothly. The mid-winter lunch has been deferred until August to allow for the assessment of numbers likely to attend and catering decisions. The reports from the Study Groups are an in-depth look at what is taking place within the groups and I thank those responsible for their time and effort in writing them.

Roll on winter! Spring will surely follow.

Iris Mee
President

Editor's Desk

Firstly, can I say thanks to all contributors to this month's newsletter my task as Editor has been made so easy by everyone sending me their input well in advance of the publishing time...Thanks!

Secondly, if anyone has any items relevant to our membership that they would like included in future news letters or on our web site, please send them to me.

Now that about half of the membership is on our email list, urgent messages or other information can be sent very easily.

Alan Spicer. editor@u3a.co.nz

Diary notes:

1. **Warkworth U3A Winter Lunch:** 14th August.
2. The deadline for inclusion of items in the August Newsletter is 20th July.
(Email to: editor@u3a.co.nz or post to P.O. Box 444, Warkworth, 1241)

JUNE GENERAL MEETING

Monday 12th June, 9.45 am at the New Masonic Hall

(The entrance is on top floor of Council/New World car park building)

N.B. Don't count on spaces being available on the roof level of the parking building.

Meeting Commences at 10:00 am

DUTY GROUP– Book Talk Group

CONVENOR: - Lorraine Edwards, phone 422-7071

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.	General Business
	First two Mini Speakers
	“Our Winter Tales – Part 1”
10.40 a.m.	Morning Tea
11:00 a.m.	Second two Mini Speakers
	“Our Winter Tales – Part 2”

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.*

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Our four speakers this month are current Warkworth U3A members who will follow the theme “Our Winter Tales”, each from their own perspective.

Guaranteed to delight the soul and warm the heart!

WINTER LUNCH:

August 14th, New Masonic Hall

As requested by a majority of members, a Winter Lunch will replace the previous Christmas Lunch as our main social event for the year.

Start time is 11:30 a.m. with a mulled wine (or two), followed by a delicious light lunch.

This will be the ideal time to better get to know fellow members outside your normal study groups, and it is FREE!

To plan the catering, please phone or email before August 4th:

Elaine Ellison-Smith. Ph: 425-9138, email: nevlaine@xtra.co.nz

Lorna Laxon. Ph: 422 7840, email: lorna.laxon@xtra.co.nz

**August 14th, 11:30 am. Please mark this date in your diary now.
(Duty Group is Current Affairs)**

GROUP NEWS

Reminder about Group News submissions for future newsletters:

July Newsletter: Mediaeval History, Play Reading groups.

September Newsletter: Film Appreciation, NZ Art Appreciation, Jazz Listening.

November Newsletter: Writing Stories of your life group.

From Book Talk:

This is not the kind of group where everyone reads the same book and then comes together to discuss it in some detail, but rather a melting pot of good book ideas and recommendations.

Each member is encouraged to talk about a book they are currently reading or have read recently (for who, these days, can talk lucidly about a book they read a few years ago?) and review it succinctly: author; title; plot; subject matter and themes; writing style and – a very recent innovation - marks out of ten.

Most books get the thumbs up and some books lead to group discussion; the last couple of months, for example, have

found us musing on sex without love, osteoporosis and why it was that we couldn't think of the names of any female philosophers.

Fact and fiction, classics and contemporary, plays and foreign language translations are all tackled with enthusiasm, intelligence and, more often than not, humour. So if there happens to be any U3A members out there at the moment wondering what next to read on holiday / in bed / on the plane / in the bath, they could always ask a Book Talk member for a few recommendations - or perhaps in future newsletters we could publish a list of those books that get the coveted 10 / 10 rating?

Submitted by Pip Perrins.

N.Z. Art Appreciation:

Our meeting on Wednesday June 14th will be a real highlight.

It is a visit to the Auckland War Memorial Museum's unique "Pacific Collection".

Dr Roger Neich, who is Curator of Ethnology at the Museum and Professor of Anthropology at the University of Auckland, will lead our group in an overview of Pacific Art.

Roger has written several books covering Maori figurative painting and Pacific Tapa designs, was a Research Fellow at University of California, Berkley and Curator of the Maori Exhibition at the British Museum in 1966.

Most of us will have wandered through this wonderful collection of taonga without an appreciation of their meaning, their place, and importance to cultures that span several millennia.

If there are any U3A members who are not part of the NZ Art Group who would like to join us on this special visit, (conditional on spaces being available) please contact Berris Spicer (422-2685, or berris@ribbonwoodwarkworth.co.nz).

Deadline for bookings is 6th June.

To avoid parking and traffic hassles, and to minimise costs, we intend to hire a minibus to take us to the museum and back (Charge: Transport \$15.00, entry \$3.00)

Submitted by Berris Spicer.

From Music Appreciation:

There are fifteen members in the Music Group this year, and for most meetings between ten to twelve members are able to attend.

We began the year with a very interesting discussion about the Waltz, presented by Barbara O'Neill. Barbara began by noting the universal connection between music and dance and traced the development of the Waltz from its beginnings as a simple folk dance style to the very sophisticated ballroom waltz form so popular in Europe in the eighteenth century. We heard samples of the waltz through various phases from the 16th century Volta to the modern waltz of the 20th century. The name waltz, incidentally, comes from the French term "volver" - to turn or revolve - which made it quite different from the formal set dances which prevailed in "decent society". It was at first frowned upon and sometimes banned from public dances.

Our second session looked at the development of the Classical Symphony. This was presented by Valma Gidman and provided examples of symphony music from the early 18th century (Johann and Carl Stamitz) to the great works of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. The more modern symphonies may be discussed at a later date.

In April Veronica Harris presented a programme, based loosely on the modern opera "Death of Klinghoffer" by John Adams, a contemporary American composer. As well as some excerpts from a NZR production of the opera, we saw some scenes from DVD of the opera. This was expanded upon by various other excerpts of music which dealt with the same geographical area for the setting of Klinghoffer - the Mediterranean Sea. These were Sea Pictures by Edward Elgar, (specifically a movement called Where Corals Lie), L'escalles (Ports of Call) by Jaques Ibert, and "Sirenes" by Debussy, all very evocative of the music of the Mediterranean cultures. The story of Death of Klinghoffer was recalled and mused upon as a piece of modern history which was within the recollection of all of us.

Our next session will be called "Meaningful Lyrics" which will be sure to lead to stories of significant moments for all of us with the emphasis of the importance of music at different times in our lives. Our group continues to enjoy a wide range of musical experiences and informative and enjoyable moments and we look forward to each session with keen anticipation.

Submitted by Valma Gidman

Why not visit a new Group? – You may become a convert.

If you would like your next newsletter sent by email please send a blank message to:
yes@u3a.co.nz

Visit your Web Site: www.u3a.co.nz

"A man should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine painting every day of his life."
- Goethe
From Gloria Swanson

U3A WARKWORTH STUDY GROUP MEETINGS

June - July 2006

STUDY GROUP	Convenor	Phone	Time	Date	June	Date	July
Ancient History	Jim McKinlay	422-9063	9:30 a.m.	2nd	Jim on early Polynesian Botany and Agriculture chez Mildred, 9 Bennett St, Warkworth	7th	Veronica on DNA in the population chez Linda, 38 Kawau View Rd, Snells Beach
Book Talk	Lorraine Edwards	422-7071	10:00 a.m.	6th	chez Gloria 12b Amanda Lane, Snells Beach	4th	chez Beulah 23 Ariki Drive, Snells Beach
Current Affairs	Elaine Ellison-Smith	425-9138	2:00 p.m.	15th	chez Moira Andrew 14 Kasper St, Warkworth (off Hill St)	20th	chez Monica 35 Alnwick St, Warkworth
Film Appreciation	Beulah Heaven	425-6545	Varies	26th	Phone Beulah if interested	24th	Phone Beulah if interested
Food for thought	Anthea McKergow	422-6219	1:30 p.m.	28th	Lorna Barclay "Foods in the Bible" 15a Walton Rd, Warkworth	26th	chez Iris, 1001 Sandspit Rd, Sandspit North African Food; Ken - Salt
Jazz Listening	Graham Ryburn	425-0536	2:00 p.m.	15th	Jazz Piano 4 Mellwood Drive, Warkworth	18th	Smooth Jazz 4 Mellwood Drive, Warkworth.
Mediaeval History	Chris Hoogerwerf	425-5022	9:30 a.m.	16th	Helen on James I chez Linda, 38 Kawau View Rd, Snells Beach	21st	Linda on Printing chez Joan, 1 Rivendell Place, Warkworth
Music Appreciation	Valma Gidman (Pip is in UK)	425-9869	1:30 p.m.	1st	Bring something unusual chez Val, 32a Rivendell Place, Warkworth	6th	Subject TBC chez, 14 Coquette St, Warkworth
NZ Art Appreciation	Berris Spicer	422-2685	10:00 a.m.	14th *	Auckland Museum - Pacific Arts Prof. Roger Neish (Contact Berris for transport)	5th	Textiles: Hand & machine embroidery, felting chez Colleen, 1 Hibiscus Ave, Snells Beach
Play Reading	Iris Mee & Lorna Laxton	425-7934 422-7840	9:30 a.m.	13th	Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" chez Linda, 38 Kawau View Rd, Snells Beach	11th	"Twelfth Night" continued Venue TBA
Poetry Reading	Yolande Carter	425-5988	1:30 p.m.	21st	Longfellow chez Moira, 14 Kasper St, Warkworth	19th	Robert Frost 12 Amanda Lane, Snells Beach
Writing Stories of Your Life	Joan Romano	425-5517	1:30 p.m.	12th	chez Monica 35 Alnwick St, Warkworth	10th	chez Monica 35 Alnwick St, Warkworth

* Note: NZ Art Group change of usual date for June