



**U3A WARKWORTH** - *Learning is forever*

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

## **Newsletter for January - February 2007**

### **From the President**

Usually I sit down to write these paragraphs wondering how on earth I will fill the space with words of wisdom – always difficult to find. And this, my last letter as your president is no different, except that I am anxious that you should know that it has been a pleasure for me to be president of U3A Warkworth and I thank you for the friendship and the encouragement I have had from you all. It has been a positive experience and I shall miss the association with the Committee whilst still being happy to support my successor if needed.

I am encouraged to think that as president of U3A Auckland Network I will still be able to bring you news of what others are doing in the region and perhaps glean new ideas from them. As the Warkworth delegate to Network I have attended the three monthly meetings in Auckland over the last two years and found them to be worthwhile

and informative. Now as president of Network I shall play a different role.

So - time brings changes and maybe that brief insight we had at the December meeting will serve to bring before you the activities of other groups you may consider joining. It is healthy to see convenors changing and new leaders emerging this year.

With the new cinemas at Matakana about to open, our Film Group is disbanding, it being no longer necessary to take cars loaded with moviegoers down to the Bridgeway. Thank you, Beulah for organising that group for so long. A new Philosophy Group has been mooted and there have been enthusiastic expressions of interest, so maybe it will be a case of one door closing and another opening.

Best wishes for 2007.  
Iris Mee , President

### **Editor's Desk**

This issue is an important one since it covers items such as our AGM on February 13<sup>th</sup>, the need for nominations for the 2007 Committee and payment of the annual subscription (same as last year) which is now due.

You will see this issue includes sections relating to nominations and subscriptions which require your prompt input and action so that our U3A can continue to run smoothly.

Alan Spicer, Editor.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 9.45 am 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**– Stories of Your Life Group  
CONVENOR: - Joan Romano – Phone 425-5517

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.	AGM Commences
10.30 a.m.	Morning Tea
10:45 a.m.	General Business
11:15 a.m.	Guest Speaker – ‘The Brick Bay Sculpture Trail’

**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*

### NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2007 COMMITTEE

Our constitution states the Committee should comprise at least 6 members and not more than 10. Nominations shall be called for either the position of President or a committee member.

At our recent Committee Meeting, six of the present Committee members indicated a willingness to continue and two (Secretary Ken and Beulah), plus President Iris are retiring.

It is not an onerous job with short committee meetings every two months. To ensure that our Organisation does not become static, it is vital that new people with their new ideas are added to the Committee each year.

A Nomination Form is included should you wish to nominate someone, or put yourself forward.

The future Committee is in your hands.

Please note the nomination receipt deadline of February 7<sup>th</sup>

### GUEST SPEAKER:

The newly-opened Brick Bay Sculpture Trail, located in a unique landscape framed by towering native trees, abundant bird life and overlooking the Brick Bay Vineyard will be covered by one of the visionaries behind this wonderful addition to our local cultural and tourist attractions.

## GROUP NEWS

### From Linda Moore, Groups Co-ordinator:

- There will be a brief meeting of new Group Convenors after the AGM for some house-keeping matters.
- Group Convenors, would you please give me a list of your group members as soon as possible.
- Further information about the new Philosophy Study Group with Professor Ray Bradley will be presented at the AGM

### Food for Thought:

As 2006 has been our Groups first year, here is a synopsis of the topics we have discussed.

In February, apart from talking through how we would organise our group, I gave a short talk on the herbal sweeteners Stevia and Angelica.

March was led by Fairlie and Leo on Cinnamon and with other members contributing their research we covered an amazing breadth of information. We finished with a great tasting on cinnamon flavoured goodies.

In April, Beulah gave us a fascinating overview of Turkish food, as well as serving an aperitif of Raki and delicious Helva and Turkish delight.

May was a talk on Pacific food by Christine. I was unable to attend, but hear that she served pineapple, taro, raw fish, coconut dishes and coconut milk.

In June, Lorna gave a very erudite talk on Foods of the Bible. The range of foods mentioned was incredible and we tasted “a mess of potage”, i.e. a yummy lentil stew.

Iris and Ken shared July, with Ken talking on the history of salt, giving fascinating detail into the decline of the sturgeon fish from river pollution, and the resulting escalation in the price of caviar.

Iris spoke on Moroccan food and we viewed the beautiful photos in Julie Le Clerc’s “Moroccan Cooking” which deservedly won a Montana Book prize.

In August Colleen talked on the many aspects of rice – its history, varieties, cultivation and by-products. Since then I have started using rice bran oil which has a higher heat tolerance than other cooking oils before changing its chemical composition. She showed us how to make Goi Cuon (rice paper parcels), an uncooked finger food from Vietnam, which we then enjoyed eating.

Daphne and Monica in September shared with us their memories of “the best and worst of English cooking”. The worst they experienced was at boarding school where ‘boiled baby’ (very solid steam pudding), ‘tragedy of the Alps’ (semolina pudding with a dollop of jam) ‘Ganges mud’ (Chocolate semolina) and ‘Resurrection pudding’ (bread and butter, with all the left-over added) were eaten in desperation!! The best was to sit around a beautifully appointed table to partake of cucumber sandwiches, plum cake and much more.

October was Medieval Food presented by Linda. Most impressive was the menu for Henry V’s Coronation Banquet, which consisted of twenty seven courses – mostly meat dishes including lots of different little birds.

Our November meeting was at the recently refurbished Morris & James Café “Casi”, where we had a relaxed and pleasant lunch to complete a very enjoyable year.

**Contributed by Anthea McKergow.**

**Editor’s note:** After all that, perhaps we should start a Weight Watcher’s Group.

## **NEW GROUP:**

### **Philosophy Study**

**Professor Raymond D. Bradley:** BA, MA, (Univ. NZ), PhD (ANU), Lecturer (Univ. NSW, 58-60), Tutor (Merton College, Oxford Univ., 61), Senior Lecturer (ANU, 62-3), Professor and Chair Philosophy (Univ. Auckland, 64-69), Professor (Simon Fraser Univ., 70-96). Author of 3 books and over 50 journal articles. Publications in Logic, Philosophy of Logic, Metaphysics, Ethics, Environmental Ethics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Physics, Philosophy of Biology, Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophy of Religion.

#### **Proposed topic for 2007: "Does a supernatural God exist?"**

The term "Philosophy" means "love of" (*philo*) "wisdom" (*sophia*). I propose that we focus on acquiring a little of the disciplined kind of critical thinking that the best philosophers in the Western tradition have employed in their own pursuit of wisdom.

We can do this best, not studying Comparative Religion (a "smorgasbord" approach which encourages one to embrace what appeals to one's taste) but by concentrating on a particular topic in some detail, e.g., the question whether God exists, as that topic has been explored by the world's greatest thinkers. Only then can one "educate" one's philosophical tastes and develop criteria for evaluating other "big" questions.

**Proposed subtopics:** how to acquire philosophical wisdom; faith and reason; rival gods and religions; fortuitous circumstances of personal faith; theism, deism, pantheism, agnosticism and atheism; the logical contrariety of rival religions; scriptural revelation; problems of historicity; religious experience; miracles; ontological arguments; cosmological arguments; design arguments; moral arguments; problem of natural evil; problem of moral evil; problem of divine evil.

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

### **Invitation from the Families Commission:**

The members of Warkworth U3A have been invited to join the Families Commission on The Couch (an online panel). Anyone can join and have their say on family-related topics by answering short polls and longer questionnaires. More than 2,700 people have already joined (it's free to join).

The information gathered helps the Families Commission gain a deeper understanding of the issues facing families and gives the Commission a stronger voice to advocate for better policies, services and support for all New Zealand families. The Couch isn't just for families with young children. Families come in all shapes and sizes and the Families Commission wants to hear a range of voices.

An upcoming poll **Ageing and Families: How does it affect you?** is about the contributions older family members make to younger family members and vice versa. We want to know about the ways in which family members make a difference to the lives of each other. This poll will run from mid-January to mid-March 2007.

Join The Couch now and have your say – [www.thecouch.org.nz](http://www.thecouch.org.nz)

**Diary notes:**

1. **The next General Meeting of U3A** will be on 16<sup>th</sup> April. Please note that this is one week later than normal due to Easter. The deadline for inclusion of items in the next Newsletter (due out in March) is 20<sup>th</sup> March.
2. **U3A International Conference 2007** will be held this year in Christchurch on 19-21 November. With its future-orientated focus “The World Ahead – From Here to Where?”, the conference will offer challenging and stimulating presentations relating to major issues facing our lives as both individual and societies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with speakers covering The Environment, Social Issues, and The Arts. For more information go to: <http://u3a.netfirms.com/conference.htm>, or contact the Editor, Alan Spicer.

**If you would like your next newsletter sent by email please send a blank message to: [yes@u3a.co.nz](mailto:yes@u3a.co.nz)**

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM - RENEWAL FOR 2007 YEAR**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Single (\$20)     Tick box

Double (\$35)     Tick box

Subscriptions are the same as last year and are due now.

I wish to receive my newsletters by email                     Tick box

I do not wish to renew my subscription for 2007                     Tick box

Please make your subscription cheque payable to U3A Warkworth.  
Please mail subscription form and cheque to:  
Warkworth U3A, c/o Treasurer, P O Box 520, Warkworth, 0941.

" .....

**NOMINATION FORM**

**U3A WARKWORTH - 2007 COMMITTEE**

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

For position of: (tick the appropriate box)    President        or Committee Member   

Nominated by:

Seconded by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Please mail this completed form to:  
The Secretary, U3A Warkworth, P O Box 520, Warkworth, 0941.
- Completed forms must be received by 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

**U3A WARKWORTH STUDY GROUP MEETINGS 2007**

STUDY GROUP	Convenor	Phone	Time	February		March	
				Date	Date	Date	Date
<b>Ancient History</b>	Jim McKinlay	422-9063	9:30 a.m.	2nd	"Archaeological Sites" 57 Willjames Avenue, Algies Bay	2nd	"The Origin of Runes" 9 Bennett Street, Warkworth
<b>Book Talk</b>	Judith Larsen	425-0571	10:00 a.m.	6th	32a Rivendell Place, Warkworth	6th	57 Willjames Avenue, Algies Bay
<b>Current Affairs</b>	Elaine Ellison-Smith	425-9138	2:00 p.m.	15th	35 Rivendell Place, Warkworth	15th	35 Alnwick St, Warkworth
<b>Film Appreciation</b>	Beulah Heaven	425-6545	Varies	26th	*See note below.		
<b>Food For Thought</b>	Anthea McKergow	422-6219	1:30 p.m.	28th	"Vinegar" 54 Ashton Rd, Whangateau	28th	TBA
<b>Jazz Listening</b>	Graham Ryburn	425-0536	2:00 p.m.	15th	BYO Jazz CD or LP 4 Mellwood Place, Warkworth	15th	TBA
<b>Mediaeval History</b>	Chris Hoogerwerf	425-5022	9:30 a.m.	16th	"Rembrandt van Rijn" 16a Waimanu Place, Point Wells	16th	"Robert the Bruce" 38 Kawau View Rd, Snells Beach
<b>Music Appreciation</b>	Pip Perrins	425-0383	1:30 p.m.	1st	"Music from The Ballet" 16 Coquette St, Warkworth	1st	Subject TBA 32a Rivendell Place, Warkworth
<b>NZ Art Appreciation</b>	Deb Green	422-7785	10:00 a.m.	7th	Brick Bay Sculpture Trail visit 2nd entry on left, Arabella Lane, before Snells Beach	7th	TBA
<b>Play Reading</b>	Rita Rowsell & Mike Glover	425-6078 425-9897	9:30 a.m.	13th	Two 1-act plays 25 Gordon Craig Place, Algies Bay	13th	David Williamson 1-act play 1001 Sandspit Road, Sandspit
<b>Poetry Reading</b>	Yolande Carter	425-5988	1:30 p.m.	21st	BYO - Subject, "Holidays" 19 Panui Place, Snells Beach	21st	Roger McGough 1 Hibiscus Place, Snells Beach
<b>Writing Stories of Your Life</b>	Joan Romano	425-5517	1:30 p.m.	12th	35 Alnwick Street, Warkworth	12th	TBA

\***Film Appreciation:** If there is sufficient interest, Beulah suggests that the Group continue by visiting the new Cinemas at Matakana. Please contact Beulah (425-6545) if this idea appeals.