



U3A WARKWORTH *Learning is forever*

www.u3a.co.nz

Newsletter June - July 2007

From the President

I've been thinking about 'choices' recently.

At the May meeting of the Play Reading interest group, we finished reading Willy Russell's excellent play, *Educating Rita*. Most of us remember with fondness the film version of the play.

It is very well written and in the closing scene Rita explains to her tutor, Frank, how she has discovered that she now has the opportunity to make choices in her life.

For Rita this means that for the first time in her life she can take control of her destiny, and she is exhilarated with the power that this has given her.

Choices.....

We're making them all the time, aren't we?

Sometimes we're hardly aware of them, other times it is the complete opposite. And for most of us, unlike Rita, we have had the privilege of making choices for most of our lives.

We all made an excellent choice when we joined U3A. Let's continue making excellent choices!

Lorna Laxon, President.

Editor's Desk

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of one of our members, possibly our oldest, who celebrated her 94th birthday recently.

Kit Sullivan died on Mother's Day, Sunday 13th May surrounded by her family.

A requiem mass was held for her at the Holy Name Catholic Church on Wednesday 16th May. Over the years Kit was actively involved in the local community and of course in several U3A groups including History, Music and Poetry.

She will be sadly missed by her family and all her friends in U3A.

Monica Boorer has taken on the important role as Almoner, so if you know of any member who is ill, or who may need a sympathetic ear, please talk to her. Monica's contact details of those all Office Holders are on the last page of the newsletter. Several members have commented how impressed they were with our speakers at the last General Meeting. Barry Ferguson elegantly presented snapshots of his interesting life in New Zealand, London, Stockholm, New York and now Mahurangi West.

Dr Warwick Palmer, in his usual caring manner, talked about recognising the early signs of 'stroke' and 'heart attack' and highlighted the importance of taking immediate action to minimise damage to the brain or heart. See the note at the end of the newsletter.

Alan Spicer, Editor.

U3A WINTER LUNCHEON



Monday June 11 at 11:15 a.m.
(Please note later than usual start time)
At the Masonic Lodge on the car park.

Join us for a delicious lunch, complementary mulled wine,
good company, and a thought-provoking, fun program.

**Space is limited - so to be assured of a place, and to help with catering
arrangements, please send \$10-00 now to:**

Warkworth U3A, P O Box 520, Warkworth.

Or phone your Group Convenor

(N.B. Balance of costs over \$10 will be subsidised from 'kitty')

DUTY GROUP- Book Talk Group

CONVENOR: - Judith Larsen - Phone: 425-0571

(The hall will be open from 10:30 to allow the Duty Group etc. to set up)

GROUP NEWS

Writing Stories Of Your Life Group

The last two meetings of the group, were as usual interesting. We had the information about a book of the 'Sea Of Faith' written by a friend, who also wrote about Philosophy, and that bad philosophy, not helpful and thinking will win.

Another member wrote about time in America with her husband, and a second one about how one can become an American citizen with night school classes, and questions

asked by a judge before being sworn in. Plus her talk about lovely flowers to children about NZ children. And the fact that wives of ex servicemen from America, can remain American citizens.

An ex teacher wrote about going to teach in a rural area, then changed to another school to become the first teacher for new students.

Her pleasure of teaching had her carry on for years, and she moved to Auckland to be closer to her family, which for her was a good life time with friends, even after marrying.

An old nurse is still writing about her career, and wrote about how she could buy a house with a big mortgage. She carried on with the next issue, of changing her nursing aspect, and worked again as a government servant, and visited every industry in an area, to offer her occupational health nursing care, to prove the value for them. It went well, and she was sent to Australia to talk about it all over there at a conference in Adelaide. With more to come next time. Another lady kindly wrote about how she learned to type when she was 17 in Wellington, and the affects of the war in England, where her parents came from. She wrote another about the state of Germany after the war as well, with tourists here on holiday after marriage and on honeymoon that she met. This group continues with many fewer members now, and would welcome anyone to join us.

Submitted by: Sue Greenstreet

The Mediaeval History Group has had a series of stories of interesting people in this year's meetings.

In February Linda Moore gave us a further talk on The Reformation. We had had a previous introduction to this fascinating subject but it covers a great deal of ground and we were happy to go further into its remarkable effect both in England and in Europe during the 16th century.

In March Chris Hoogerwerf gave us a talk about Rembrandt, the famous Dutch painter and etcher, who lived from 1606 to 1669. The son of a miller he became one of the most prolific artists of any period, his output including portraits, landscapes and large groups. He settled in Amsterdam and established his reputation with "The Anatomy Lesson" in 1632, a portrait of a doctor lecturing his young medical students. "The Night Watch" is perhaps his best known picture, although it was not well received at the time.

In April Joan Earl-Daniels delved into the strange prescriptions used by our ancestors when she talked about "Mediaeval Medicine". Our forebears didn't have much fun as not only did they have to cope with the various ailments we suffer, such as toothache, earache and headaches but they also had to cope with "monstrous nocturnal manifestations" and goblin visitations! However there was usually someone in the village who acted as a leecher or a healer who would prescribe a remedy from plants and flowers found in the woodlands, or growing nearby. Some of these plants were said to have magic properties which must have been quite a help in ridding the patient of the 'devil sickness' which made a man 'bleared of the eye' and with a 'quaking of the sinews'.

In May Anne Todd had us all sitting on the edge of our seats as she recited the story of The Gunpowder Plot! I wonder how many people actually know the story of how Guido Fawkes and his compatriots decided to take many barrels of gunpowder down to the cellars beneath Parliament in an endeavour to blow up the King (James) and those who they deemed traitors to the true faith. When they were discovered the relief that the king was safe was celebrated by the building of bonfires throughout the country. And we still build bonfires on 5th November each year – some 400 years later!

Submitted by: Joan Earl-Daniels

Current Affairs Group

Our group meets to discuss recent events that have irked or pleased us. As the speakers get into their stride airing their opinion, listeners may be provoked to agree or disagree with the speaker, highlighting the very purpose of the meeting, thus creating interest in the happenings of our daily round.

Twelve members attended our first meeting this year at Elaine's home. Our meeting times were confirmed...The third Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

The first meeting touched on Global Warming. Driving in Warkworth and the hazards of the Hill Street intersection, together with the influx of holiday traffic especially on State Highway 1. We found no solution to the problems but we each did have our say. One member raised a few eyebrows remarking in favour of Road Tolls.

The New Zealand Herald article 'A Great Place for Kids' and our lagging behind where it matters most, provoked lively comments. Nutrition in Schools caused comment and questions as to how such a scheme could be implemented. Linked to this subject, Folic acid and its benefits was mentioned.

Pat brought to our attention an article in the Listener entitled 'Nobel enterprise'. The 2006 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Bangladeshi economist Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank that he founded. Through this organisation, tiny loans are made to poor people to fund home improvements, small business funding, installing solar panels and other self-help ventures. Interest-free loans have also been provided to 45,000 beggars. 97% of the 6.5 million borrowers are women and 99% of the loans are repaid. This initiative is helping some of the poorest people in the world who would not have access to funds to improve their lives from normal sources.

Elaine spoke of a new book to mark the Queen and Prince Phillip's diamond wedding anniversary. Contained in the book – the young Victoria described Albert as “so excessively handsome, with such beautiful blue eyes, and exquisite nose, and such a pretty mouth with a delicate moustachio and slight, but very slight whiskers”. How love can blind one's eyes! The book is entitled '5 Gold Rings'

How often when we read or listen to the news that some item jars or pleases our senses just enough to make us exclaim remarks like “What utter rubbish!” or “I could not agree more!” Well, you can air your approbation or disapproval quite freely at our meetings, often to discover the satisfaction that you are not alone with such thoughts.

Submitted by Jean Knight.

One of the **Music Appreciation** members - Beverley Tipling - went to her son's wedding in Latvia recently and returned with a video of the church service and wedding reception.

Not being well versed in Latvian religious music, the group thought it would be educational to view the video at a future meeting. One thing led to another and we decided to come dressed as for a wedding to get into the spirit of things; then Beverley bought a wedding cake and I thought it would nice to have some champagne with it and so it ended it up being quite an occasion.

To add further to the festive atmosphere, one of our members - Ngaire Sharp - had her 90th birthday this month (May) and so we celebrated that as well.

Submitted by Pip Perrins.

PROPOSED NEW GROUP

Watercolour Painting.

Learn simple techniques for beginners, or explore ideas with other friendly artists.

Discover the magic way that colour moves and blends.

Learn to look at nature, and yourself.

For personal growth - in a warm home studio

If you have always dreamed of becoming a painter, make the choice now to contact;

Yvonne Elliott

6 Cotterell St, Leigh

Phone 422-6653---to express interest

Reminder about Group News submissions for future newsletters:

August Newsletter: Jazz Listening, N.Z. Art Appreciation, Ancient History.

October Newsletter: Philosophy Group, Play Reading Group.

The deadline for inclusion of items in the August Newsletter is 21st July. (Please email to: editor@u3a.co.nz or post to P.O. Box 444, Warkworth, 1241)

DAIRY NOTES:

Next General meeting:

Monday 13th August

U3A International Conference, 19 - 21 November 2007, Christchurch

For more information:

Here is the web page address: <http://u3a.netfirms.com/Conference.htm>

(Please note, there is no 'www' in this address.)

STROKE WARNING SIGNS

A bystander can recognise a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S * Ask the individual to **SMILE** .

T * Ask the person to **TALK** Speak a simple sentence (coherently) (i.e. . . It is sunny out today).

R * Ask him or her to **RAISE BOTH ARMS** .

*Remember S*T*R**

Also, ask the person to '**stick**' **out their tongue**. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other that can also be an indication of a stroke.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, remain calm and call 111 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

If you live in a rural area make sure your property entrance is readily identifiable from the road at night, particularly with your correct road number.

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

U3A WARKWORTH STUDY GROUP MEETINGS

Key	STUDY GROUP	Convenor	Phone	Time	Date	June	Date	July
anh	Ancient History	Jim McKinlay	422-9063	9:30 a.m.	1 st	"Polynesian Settlement – 1" 14 Kitty Fraser Lane, Omaha	6 th	"Polynesian Settlement – 2" 49 Willjames Ave, Algies
bot	Book Talk	Judith Larsen	425-0571	10:00 a.m.	5 th	209 Sharp Rd, Matakana	3 rd	16a Waimana Place, Point Wells
cua	Current Affairs	Elaine Ellison-Smith	425-9138	2:00 p.m.	21 st	7 David William Place, Warkworth	19 th	14 Kasper St, Warkworth
fia	Film Appreciation	Beulah Heaven	425-6545	Varies	25 th	Contact Beulah	23 rd	Contact Beulah
for	Food For Thought	Anthea McKergow	422-6219	1:30 p.m.	27 th	Topic TBA 23 Ariki Drive, Snells Beach	25 th	"Bread" 22a Westpark Glen, Warkworth
jal	Jazz Listening	Val Couling	425-5766	2:00 p.m.	18 th	"The Artistry and Mastery of Jazz Singing" 25 Gordon Craig Place, Algies Bay	16 th	Topic TBA 8 Torea Rd, Matakana
meh	Mediaeval History	Chris Hoogerwerf	425-5022	9:30 a.m.	15 th	"Robert the Bruce" 26 Alnwick St, Warkworth	13 th	"Tamurlaine the Great" 1 Rivendell Place, Warkworth
mua	Music Appreciation	Pip Perrins	425-0383	1:30 p.m.	7 th	"History of Western Music – 2" 26 Alnwick St, Warkworth	5 th	Topic TBA 8 Westpark Glen, Warkworth
nza	NZ Art Appreciation	Deb Green	422-7785	10:00 a.m.	6 th	Hope Gibbons, Pat Turney Galleries Sharp Rd	4 th	"Jewellery" 54 Ashton Rd, Whangateau
phi	Philosophy	Prof. Ray Bradley	422-9222	10:00 a.m.	13 th	"Nature or Nurture?" with John Patrick Heron's Flight Vineyard, Sharp Rd	11 th	"Does God Exist? -1 – The Bible" Heron's Flight Vineyard
plr	Play Reading	Rita Rowsell & Mike Glover	425-6078 425-9897	9:30 a.m.	12 th	"A midsummer Night's Dream" 19 Puriri Place, Brick Bay	10 th	"Dream -2" 19 Puriri Place, Brick Bay
por	Poetry Reading	Colleen Kangwai	425-4333	1:30 p.m.	20 th	"John Donne" 38 Kawau View Rd, Snells Beach	18 th	Topic TBA 5 Deerness Cres, Algies Bay
wrs	Writing Stories of Your Life	Joan Romano	425-5517	1:30 p.m.	11 th	35 Alnwick St, Warkworth	9 th	35 Alnwick St, Warkworth. (To be confirmed)
Wcp	Watercolour Painting	Yvonne Elliott	422-6653			If you are interested in joining this proposed group, Please contact Yvonne Elliott		