



**U3A WARKWORTH** *Learning is forever*

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

## Newsletter April - May 2007

### From the President

By the time this newsletter reaches you, three months of the year will have passed, and, from feedback from a committee meeting held last week, it is very apparent that the interest groups are well and truly 'up and running.' In fact the new Philosophy group has already exceeded 20 members, which is most encouraging.

At the same meeting there was considerable discussion about the following - how best to integrate new members into our organisation; how best to utilise the talents that we all possess; and how best to present the challenge of an active roll for some of us from time to time.

So may the year go well for all of you.  
Enjoy your shared learning in your

groups and collectively at the general meetings.

And finally here are a few quotations about knowledge (the result of learning) for you to enjoy and reflect upon.

Knowledge is a rich storehouse for the glory of the Creator and the relief of man's estate.

*(Francis Bacon, 1561-1626).*

For knowledge itself is power. *(Bacon)*

It is better to be un-informed than ill-informed. *(Keith Duckworth, 1933)*

Taste all, and hand the knowledge down. *(Gary Snyder, 1930-)*

**Lorna Laxon,**  
**President**

### Editor's Desk

In this edition you will find the first of a series of articles on the U3A movement. The topic covered in this edition is "Starting a new group".

To illustrate what other U3As are doing, here is a list of groups from one Auckland U3A: History of Science, Earth Science, Ecological Studies, Health and Fitness, NZ History, Medical History, Painting, World Religions, Astronomy, Local History, Saving the Planet, German, Latin, etc.

If you are interested in starting or participating in a new group on any topic that we do not presently cover, talk to our Group Coordinator, Linda Moore.

There have been a few changes to some group meeting dates or times, so please take a careful look at the meetings schedule for your group(s).

Included is a reminder account for members with outstanding 2007 subscriptions. If you have any queries about your subscription, please contact Treasurer Jocelyn.

Alan Spicer. [editor@u3a.co.nz](mailto:editor@u3a.co.nz)

## APRIL GENERAL MEETING

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 9.45 am at the New Masonic Hall**  
(The entrance is on top floor of Council/New World car park building)  
N.B. Parking spaces are limited on the roof level of the parking building.

**Meeting Commences at 10:00 am**

**DUTY GROUP– Food for Thought Group**  
CONVENOR: - Anthea McKergow, phone 422-6219

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
	Mini Speaker – “The Golden Hour”
10:40 a.m.	Morning Tea
11:00 a.m.	Guest Speaker – Barry Ferguson
	“Reflections of a born-again Kiwi”

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*

### MINI SPEAKER:

**Grant Broomhall**, who is team leader at the Warkworth St John’s Ambulance, will tell us how to recognise the earliest signs of a heart attack or stroke and how to react during the first ‘Golden Hour’.

### GUEST SPEAKER:

**Barry Ferguson**, is a internationally-known horticulturalist, gardener and flower arranger, who has recently returned to his native New Zealand to live in Mahurangi West.

Following theatre work in London and Scandinavia, he moved to the USA to concentrate on his interest in botany and flowers. He was a frequent lecturer at art museums, civic groups, and garden clubs in the New York metropolitan area and across the United States. He received recognition from the American Horticultural Society for his creative contribution to floral design.

His wonderful book ‘Living with Flowers’ containing stunning examples of his floral art, is a testimony to Barry’s words: “Flowers are as necessary to me as orange juice and six-grain bread”

With Barry as our guest speaker, we are in for a real treat!

## GROUP NEWS

**Reminder about Group News submissions for future newsletters:**

June Newsletter: Mediaeval History, Philosophy, Ancient History groups.

## **Starting a new Group:**

Study Groups are the heart of U3A. The formation of Study Groups should be an ongoing process. And to this end, members are encouraged to suggest new subjects or activities to the Group Coordinator (Linda Moore).

Once sufficient members have expressed interest in a topic, the next step is to find a Group Convenor which is usually someone from within the group. It is desirable, but not essential that the Convenor have some background in the topic so that she or he can provide general guidance to the programme. If not, then assistance from outside may be needed. The success of a group depends on the willingness of its members to undertake study and present material or have a facilitator who is an expert in the topic.

Guidelines for running a group are as follows:-

1. Make a prompt start as members generally wish to finish on time.
2. Discuss administrative matters such as what is to happen at the next meeting, including venue, topic and contributors. This lets people know what is expected of them. Remember that each group is different and the structure is decided by the members and can change from time-to-time.
3. After an opening presentation has been made by the speaker(s) for the day, try to elicit contributions from everyone. Help everyone to participate, particularly reluctant contributors, but do not make anyone feel uncomfortable.
4. Try to keep reasonably to the topic. Diversions can be fun but should not take over.
5. At monthly meetings convenors should report on recent topics and indicate the subject matter for the next meeting. Convenors should appoint a substitute if unable to attend that particular month. Some groups have a 'publicist' who sends a mini-newsletter by email to the members to keep everyone up-to-date.
6. Discuss any difficulties with the Groups Coordinator.

Group leaders are encouraged to serve for a limited period, say 2 years, so that groups evolve and responsibilities are shared around. This may not always be practical, especially with small groups.

## **GROUP REPORTS:**

### **Music Appreciation Group:**

The Music Appreciation Group decided on an extra meeting in December to rehearse our contribution to that month's U3A General Meeting viz "Family at the Beach", a song by Linn Lorkin. One of our members has also been in touch with Linn and she has expressed a willingness to perform for us at one of our future

General Meetings should enough people be interested.

At the Music Group meeting we also brought a favourite piece of music to share and it was noticeable that everyone studiously avoided anything with a Christmas theme. Degrees of homesickness were detected in some of the expats' contributions, however.

Leading from the front, the Convenor hosted the first session of the New Year

and presented a talk on ballet and its music, at one stage breaking into a demonstration of the finer points of barre work. Whether the group was impressed or horrified, it was hard to say but at least we were grateful she didn't come dressed in her tutu. The music, however, was splendid: how can one go wrong with Ravel, Prokofiev, Massenet and Stravinsky even when it did include a piece entitled "The Wet Nurses' Dance"? (It would take a strong stomach and a

### Poetry Reading Group:

"Holiday" was the theme for our first Poetry Group meeting of the year. This gave everyone a chance to search for their favourites.

Beach settings tended to predominate, from John Betjeman's childhood reminiscences of a beach in Cornwall to Anne French's recollections of a broken relationship in the setting of a cruise in Kawau Bay.

This was particularly relevant as she writes of landing on the Beehive (a small island that we could see from our venue). Memories were awakened of 'sand between our toes' (A.A. Milne), of camping (*Fleur Adcock*), Shacks (*Murray Edmond*), mingled with the delights or otherwise of sunbathing:

*I am dissolved within Myself  
and softened like a ripening fruit.  
I swing in a red-hazy void,*

### Film Appreciation Group:

On the 26<sup>th</sup> February, seven of us went to see "Little Miss Sunshine" at the Matakana Cinemas. It's a light hearted 'comedy', one that afforded a few laughs for everyone and a couple of Oscars for the artists. Surely this is the ultimate family movie - a seemingly very dysfunctional family who deep down could not have been more concerned for each other. Quite touchy feely!

well developed sense of humour to choreograph that one).

Next month we're learning about sea shanties. I'm hoping that we'll all turn up in striped tops and bell bottoms and come prepared for a rousing group rendition of "What shall we do with the drunken sailor?"  
Perhaps I'll bring some rum....

**Submitted by Pip Perrins**

*I sway with tides of blind heat.'*  
(John Thompson)

Holiday reading brought forth 'Twas the night before Christmas' by Clement Clark Moore. Would we have heard of Santa and his reindeer if this poem had not captured the imagination of Americans in 1822?  
And our National Holiday was recalled in C. K. Stead's tongue-in-cheek poem 'Waitangi Day'

Next month we are going to study the English Poet Roger McGough.

Come along and enjoy some poetry with us.

**Submitted by Yolande Carter.**

We had lunch at a local cafe and decided to spread our custom around the area as there appear to be a number of cafes worthy of our exploration. Following some discussion, consensus requested the continuation of the group.

**So, the group will continue, and we shall meet the last Monday of the month.**

We'll patronise the local cinema and choice of film will be what is showing at the earliest session of the day. There is no formal membership of the group, though of course this is for U3A members.

Anyone who feels like joining us for a therapeutic opportunity to network or

maybe meet someone new, or just to have company at the movies, is most welcome.

If you have any queries or would like a lift, feel free to give me a call.

**Beulah Heaven, Ph: 425 6545**

## **DAIRY NOTES:**

### **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.)

### **U3A ACT's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday conference – Canberra:**

This year U3A ACT celebrates its 21st Birthday. From its start in 1986, it has grown into one of the largest U3As, in terms of membership numbers, in Australia. We are inviting U3A members from around Australia and New Zealand to come along and help us celebrate.

Celebration 2007, a celebration and conference, will be held on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 September 2007 at The Hellenic Club, Woden, just before Floriade, Canberra's famous annual floral festival which starts on 15 September.

Celebration 2007 has three broad aims: To celebrate the achievements of U3A ACT over the past 21 years; to provide an opportunity for visiting and local U3A members to share in each others' ideas and experiences; and to help our visitors more fully appreciate Australia's National Capital and its attractions.

The program includes two full morning sessions with guest speakers and discussions, one afternoon for visits by delegates to our national institutions, and the second afternoon to allow us to expose our talented performers in a concert.

On the Thursday night it is planned to hold a dinner at the Hellenic Club where there will be good food and entertainment. The winners of the Short Story competition, to be held in conjunction with the Conference, will be announced at this dinner. We hope to have some of the work of our art groups on display at the Hellenic Club.

Registration for Celebration 2007 is now open. More details of Celebration 2007 and the Registration Form are posted on the U3A ACT website:

<http://www.u3acanberra.org.au/> For those without Internet access, a registration brochure is available from Pat Davey on 00 61 2 6293 3009 or email [pattie2@tpg.com.au](mailto:pattie2@tpg.com.au)

The deadline for inclusion of items in the June Newsletter is 23<sup>rd</sup> May. (Email to: [editor@u3a.co.nz](mailto:editor@u3a.co.nz) or post to P.O. Box 444, Warkworth, 1241)

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)

U3A WARKWORTH STUDY GROUP MEETINGS - 2007

STUDY GROUP	Convenor	Phone	Time	Date	April	Date	May
<b>Ancient History</b>	Jim McKinlay	422-9063	9:30 a.m.	13th	Discussion of Museum Visit 19 Katene Place, Snells Beach	4th	Members' contributions Venue TBA
<b>Book Talk</b>	Judith Larsen	425-0571	10:00 a.m.	3rd	At Hillary Weymouth's 33 Cotterell St, Leigh	1st	At Angela Kissling's 654 Takatu Rd, Matakana
<b>Current Affairs</b>	Elaine Ellison-Smith	425-9138	2:00 p.m.	19th	At Pat Kent's 2/5 Walton Ave, Warkworth	17th	At Peggy Gilmore's 99 Sharp Rd, Matakana
<b>Film Appreciation</b>	Beulah Heaven	425-6545	Varies	26th	See article in Newsletter	30th	
<b>Food For Thought</b>	Anthea McKergow	422-6219	1:30 p.m.	25th	No meeting - Public holiday	22nd	Topic TBA at Claire's 2 Merehai Place, Snells Beach
<b>Jazz Listening</b> (See note below)	Val Couling	425-5766	2:00 p.m.	16th	Member contributions - BYO CD - <b>Date change</b> 32a Rivendell Place, Warkworth	21st	Oscar Petersen, at Joan E-D's 1 Rivendell Place, Warkworth
<b>Mediaeval History</b>	Chris Hoogerwerf	425-5022	9:30 a.m.	20th	Joan - Mediaeval Medicine 20 Kahurangi Place, Snells Beach	18th	Anne - The Gunpowder Plot 19 Katene Place, Snells Beach
<b>Music Appreciation</b>	Pip Perrins	425-0383	1:30 p.m.	5th	History of Western Music Pt 1 14 Coquette St, Warkworth	3rd	History of Western Music Pt 2 26 Alnwick St, Warkworth
<b>NZ Art Appreciation</b>	Deb Green	422-7785	10:00 a.m.	4th	N.Z. Glass, at Sue Stevenson's 390 Pukapuka Rd, Mahurangi West	2nd	Visit to American Quilt Exhibition Northcote
<b>Philosophy</b>	Prof. Ray Bradley	422-9222	10:00 a.m.	11th	Rivalry of Religions - logical examination Heron's Flight, Sharp Rd, Matakana	9th	Heron's Flight, Sharp Rd, Matakana
<b>Play Reading</b>	Rita Rowsell & Mike Glover	425-6078 425-9897	9:30 a.m.	10th	"Educating Rita" 38 Kawanu View Rd, Snells Beach	8th	Play TBA 19 Katene Place, Snells Beach
<b>Poetry Reading</b>	Colleen Kangwai	425-4333	1:30 p.m.	18th	N.Z. Spiritual Verse - Pip 16 Coquette St, Warkworth	16th	Blaise Cendrars - Anthea 54 Ashton Rd, Whangateau
<b>Writing Stories of Your Life</b>	Joan Romano	425-5517	1:30 p.m.	16th	At Monica's, 35 Alnwick St, Warkworth <b>NOTE: Date change</b>	14th	At Monica's, 35 Alnwick St, Warkworth
<b>Jazz Listening Note:</b>	Now 3rd Monday, 2 p.m.						