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U3A WARKWORTH

Learning is forever

Newsletter August 2008

From the President

I am writing this president's comment to you on a dull drizzling morning. I had decided beforehand that I would NOT mention the weather - but as I let my mind wander on to the activities, events and developments that occur at this time of the year, I realised reluctantly that the seasons play a huge role in these matters.

It certainly is a good time for cleaning up old cupboards, enjoying that cuppa with a good neighbour or friend, taking in one of the excellent films that we can enjoy down the road at Matakana, and between the showers having a brisk walk, enjoying the contrast of the familiar winter scenes which look so much gentler in the winter months.

And of course, there is a the joy of researching that U3A topic that you possibly agreed to do for your next interest meeting!

A warm thank you to all of you who keep 'the home fires burning' in the U3A establishment of Warkworth...a suitable metaphor at present, I think!

Keep well, keep warm, keep happy.

P.S. I am moving into my new house in a couple of weeks time. My new address will be 8 Kowhai View, (off the new extension of Alnwick St, off Pulham Rd) Warkworth.

New phone number: 422-3562.

Lorna Laxon, President.

August 2008 General Meeting

Monday August 11th, 10:00 a.m.

New Masonic Hall, Baxter Street

Meeting commences at 10:00 a.m.

DUTY GROUP– Ancient History Group

CONVENOR: - Jim McKinlay - Phone: 422-9063

(The hall will be open from 9:15 a.m. to allow the Duty Group to prepare the room and attend to morning tea. Please also clean-up and re-instate the room after the meeting)

Meeting programme:-

9:15 Duty Group set up.

10:00 Meeting commences - General Business.

10:30 Morning tea.

11:00 Guest Speaker – Dr Louise Nicholson

“Research into areas of the brain affected by Parkinsons, Epilepsy, Huntingdons and Alzheimers”

Guest speaker:

Associate Professor Louise Nicholson is the principal investigator of the Molecular Neuroanatomy Laboratory in the Department of Anatomy with Radiology at the Auckland School of Medicine, Auckland University. Her research programme embraces a number of broad projects investigating the role of specific receptors in neurodegeneration, particularly in late onset diseases.

Louise's current research includes:

- Parkinson's disease progression.
- Pathogenesis, detection and treatment of perinatal injury.
- Spinal cord repair-blocking the main side-effects of intervention.

Louise is a speaker not to be missed!

Our Last meeting

The most recent General Meeting, the Lunch, was a real success. The mulled wine warmed our social contacts early in the piece (much appreciated on such a disagreeable day) and the lunch that followed the address was enjoyed by about 60 members.

Anyone not there missed a very successful morning; it was a greatly appreciated social occasion, that clearly should be repeated.

The address by Captain Peter Usher, in the middle of the morning, was ideally suited to the occasion. Capt. Usher gave us a light-hearted, anecdotal talk, based on his early experiences in the Royal Navy, in ships big and small. We learnt some serious facts about (eg) warships, Polaris missiles, and naval training at Dartmouth, but there were many humorous accounts of ships' dogs or close calls with junks in Hong Kong harbour, naval etiquette and obligatory nick-names such as "Dusty" Miller and "Dicky" Bird.

Capt. Usher said what we all must have been thinking, that "Life was a lot of fun for officers." It certainly sounded it!

Report from Linda Moore.

Group News

Play Reading Group - Submitted by Anne Todd:

The Play Reading Group has concentrated on serious drama so far this year.

For our first two meetings we read Ibsen's 'A Doll's House'. This proved so worthwhile that we decided that, having purchased the books, we might do worse than read a second of this powerful dramatist's plays. We therefore launched into 'Hedda Gabler', agreeing that it was compelling theatre, but even more darkly sombre than 'A Doll's House'.

Ibsen, therefore was to give place to Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'. Thus from February to July our group has been immersed in tragedy! As we closed our books on the final line..."For never was a story of more woe / than this of Juliet and her Romeo"... The unanimous cry was now for comedy.

'The Curious Savage' by John Patrick is, therefore our choice for August.

Discussion after our sharing is always lively, for the group thoroughly enjoys the experience of reading worthwhile plays aloud in the company of like-minded U3A members.

Poetry Group - Submitted by Pip Perrins:

We kicked off the year with "Great Last Lines" as our topic. What makes a last line great? Is one woman's great last line another woman's damp squib? If so, justify your opinion. A lively debate ensued and no-one came to blows. Success all round.

Does WW2 poetry differ from that of the Great War? Yes, very much so; less descriptive of the actual horrors and more wide-ranging in its tones: dry humour, youthful exuberance and under-statement all used to great effect. A sobering subject yet strangely enjoyable as poetry.

Can't be bothered to read the complete works of Wordsworth and Coleridge? Then let's watch a BBC film of their lives instead! Very entertaining but how much of it was true and how much "artistic licence" was invoked by Auntie Beeb? Either way, that Wordsworth chap was a pretty rum cove for all his Daffodils on Westminster Bridge.

Fancy tying your brain into knots? Then come along to a 4 page poem by Anne Michaels: stunning use of metaphor and beautiful natural imagery interspersed with dense, unfathomable pronouncements on love, life and man's inhumanity to man. IQ of 150 required. No time-wasters please.

And finally, may we say a fond farewell to John Andrew, our brave lone male of the group. We hope that Robbie Burns is keeping you good company, John, wherever you are.

Ancient History Group - Submitted by Jim McKinlay:

The Ancient History group, which meets on the first Friday of each month, continues in good health, and at its July meeting welcomed two new members, Jim and Jan McGlashan.

We have always worked to a fairly loose definition of the word 'ancient', but we have now decided to embark upon a programme of study of aspects of life in Ancient Egypt - the land of pyramids, tombs and mummies, hieroglyphs, pharaohs and priestly religions, and its remarkable life-giving river. We also intend to look into the lives of the the ordinary people whose labours made possible this remarkable empire, the longest lasting empire the world has ever seen.

Members will carry out researches into their agreed topics and speak on this to the group, but we also have some DVDs, which will enable us to gain a better visual understanding of Ancient Egypt.

We intend to conclude this study with a look at the rise of the Muslim religion and its spread through the area from its genesis in the deserts of Yeman and the Arabian peninsula to its conquest in the middle Ages of the

vast area from Spain and southern France, through the Balkans to China, and through most of northern area of Africa, and eventually eastwards to modern Indonesia.

In addition, we will continue to take advantage of the journeys overseas by members. They usually return with a new enthusiasm for the history of the countries to which they have travelled, and eager to share it with our group. We anticipate this programme will take us through into 2009.

Medieval History Group - Submitted by Chris Field:

Now re-named 'History' Group to reflect our expanded range of interest beyond just that of the medieval period.

Currently, our group has vacancies for a few active new members. If you have an interest in any aspects of world history it may be worth visiting us as a guest. Our period of interest is between the 11th and 17th centuries and over recent meetings we have covered such topics as:

- The Black Death
- Medieval Medicine,
- Jamestown 1607
- Charles 1st
- Robert the Bruce
- The Tudor Navies
- The Tyrannicide of Charles 1
- Trial and Execution of the Regicides.

The subjects we choose are all within the knowledge, experience, or research capabilities of our group members.

Please come along to one of our meetings, or ring Chris Hoogerwerf on 425 5022.

Diary Note:

Next General meeting: Monday, October 13th

Auckland University - Centre for Continuing Education

Beat those winter blues and save the airfare but still experience the excitement of another culture and country by enrolling in a Continuing Education course this winter season.

Here is a list of just a few of the open-access courses.

Voyage en France: Join us on a virtual tour of France which will provide you with an overview of French history and the characteristics and diversity of the regions in France. We will look at the landscape, language and lifestyle variations that combine to shape and influence these regional differences and with this as a background.

France a Tour of (G)astronomic Proportions: To the French, "du pain, du vin et du fromage", is said to be the door to paradise, but there is much more to French gastronomy than the pleasure of having a good meal. It is the key to understanding the rich cultural and geographical diversity of France.

South American Travels: From the Inca Trail and Che Guevara to the Present Day.

Silk - Secret Lives and Social History: The story of silk is one of high adventure, piracy and power, unbelievable wealth and grinding poverty. This course focuses on real people, their history, their lives, work, politics, social conditions and fashions.

For information and to enroll go to:

www.cce.auckland.ac.nz/cce/continuing/

Committee 2008

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If you would like your next U3A Newsletter sent by email instead of by post please send an email to: editor@u3a.co.nz with YES written in the subject line.

U3A WARKWORTH STUDY GROUP MEETINGS 2008

STUDY GROUP	Convenor	Phone	Time	Date	August	Date	September
Ancient History	Jim McKinlay	422-9063	9:30 a.m.	1st	"Ancient Egypt" video 120 Perry Rd, Warkworth	5th	"The Valley of The Kings" venue T.B.A.
Book Talk	Judith Larsen	425-0571	10:00 a.m.	5th	At Mairi Leyburn's 10 Courtney Place, Matakana	2nd	At Rose Sheat's 15 Will James Ave, Algies Bay
Current Affairs	Val Strachan	425-9497	2:00 p.m.	21st	At 91 Matakana Valley Rd, Matakana Ph: 422-9965	18th	At 241 Point Wells Rd, Point Wells Ph: 422-7374
Food For Thought	Anthea McKergow	422-6219	1:30 p.m.	27th	At Rose Sheat's 15 Will James Ave, Algies Bay	24th	At Clare Sim's 2 Merepai Place, Snells Beach
Jazz Listening	Val Couling	425-5766	2:00 p.m.	18th	"History of Jazz" DVD 25 Gordon Craig Place, Algies Bay	15th	"Jazz Piano" 25 Gordon Craig Place, Algies Bay
History	Chris Hoogerwerf	425-5022	9:30 a.m.	15th	10-minute 'vignettes' 20 Kahurangi Place, Snells Beach	19th	"The spice Trade" 1/10 Pound St, Warkworth
Music Appreciation	Beverley Tipling	425-9936	1:30 p.m.	7th	"Y" 199 Omaha Flats Rd	4th	"G" 14 Coquette St, Warkworth
Art Appreciation	Deb Green	422-7785	10:00 a.m.	6th	"Colour" 58 Point Wells Rd, Point Wells	3rd	T.B.A
Philosophy	Prof. Ray Bradley	422-9222	10:00 a.m.	13th	"Scientific problems with the notion of survival" Heron's Flight Vineyard, Sharpe Rd, Matakana	10th	"Logical & Conceptual problems with the notion of survival" Heron's Flight Vineyard, Sharpe Rd.
Play Reading	Anne Todd	425-9746	9:30 a.m.	12th	"The Curious Savage" by John Patrick 19 Puriri Place, Brick Bay	9th	Subject T.B.A. 19 Puriri Place, Brick Bay
Poetry Reading	Colleen Kangwai	425-4333	1:30 p.m.	20th	Hone Tuwhare 19 Puriri Place, Brick Bay	17th	Elizabeth Allen 5 Dearness Crescent, Algies Bay
Watercolour Painting	Yvonne Elliott	422-6653	10:00 a.m.		In recess		In recess
Writing Stories of Your Life	Joan Romano	425-5517	1:30 p.m.	11th	At 35 Alnwick St, Warkworth	8th	At 35 Alnwick St, Warkworth