



U3A WARKWORTH

*Learning is forever*

## Newsletter – December 2008

### *From the President*

Christmas gets earlier every year - doesn't it?

It seems to me that many final events for the year are held in November rather than December, so by the time mid December arrives a strange peace descends....for a few days anyway.

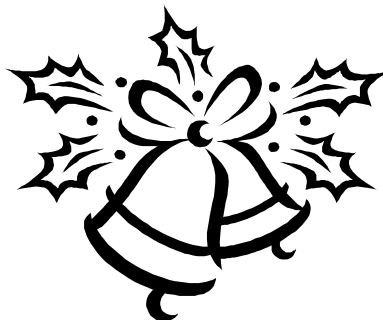
Whatever the case, I trust that you will all be able to enjoy quality time with loved ones over the Christmas period. May it be a time of laughter and love, of enjoyable occasions and happy memories.

And for an event that is sure to be 'an enjoyable occasion' and will provide us all with 'happy memories', do come to our final general meeting for 2008, details of which are in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you there.

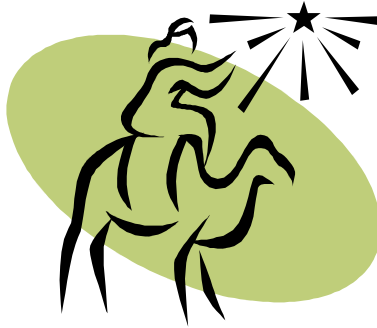
Christmas greetings from your U3A Committee,

*Lorna Laxon, President.*



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# December General Meeting



**Monday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:45 a.m.  
at the New Masonic Hall, Baxter Street**

**Meeting commences at 10:00 a.m.**

DUTY GROUP– Book Group  
CONVENOR: - Judith Larsen - Phone: 425-0571

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

## **Meeting programme:-**

9:15 Duty Group set up

9:45 Assemble

10:00 General Business

Mini Speaker – Jim McGlasan: Opua Dry Dock Project

10:40 Morning tea with a Christmas Flavour

11:00 Guest Speaker – Ilona Rodgers: A Surprise!

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**Our final meeting on December 8** starts at 10am as usual in the New Masonic Hall. And it includes two speakers and a morning tea with a Christmas flavour.

One of our own newer members, Jim McGlashan, will tell us about the Opuia drydock and how he came to be involved in this project.

Our main speaker will be Ilona Rodgers, who is well known to many for her acting roles on the stage and TV. Ilona is a local resident but is still very involved with events in Auckland, especially the Auckland Festival to be held early in 2009. She will tell us about the many aspects of this festival, as well as sharing her experiences as a New Zealand actress.

## **Last Meeting**

### **SHIP AHOY!**

A panel presentation of "Our Maritime Heritage", followed by a lengthy question time, fascinated the audience at the last U3A General Meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Hugh McKergow, speaking on the Big Omaha Wharf restoration, Carol Ramage, a descendant, speaking about the Meiklejohn Shipyard, and Peter Thompson, speaking about the "Jane Gifford", were chaired by John Hager. The presentation was supported by many photos of ships built and working hereabouts, with some of the people involved.

Why this area? Sir George Grey, of Kawau Island fame, recommended the area as having plenty of timber, rivers to bring the trees down and to float the boats, lots of massive pohutukawa (for the curvy bits); the workers seem to have come off local farms or passing ships!

Hundreds of ships, mostly schooners and scows, were built on the lower reaches of the Mahurangi and Omaha rivers, many of them working between here and Auckland. Carol Ramage gave us an overview of the work in general; Peter Thompson spoke of one of the ships, the "Jane Gifford", which luckily for us is currently being restored, while Hugh McKergow explained the processes behind the reconstruction of some of the shore-based facilities for ships.

The panel brought local history and modern interest in it to life – this was a busy area in the nineteenth century, and we must maintain this heritage.

From: Linda Moore

## **Group News:**

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT GROUP**

Our June meeting was an experiment.

We decided to have a pot-luck lunch based on French food. It was held at my home on a very wet day, but with glasses of French bubbly in our hands the scene was set for a very enjoyable time.

We started with French Onion Soup and followed this with Coq au Vin, 2 Quiches {one being Quiche Lorraine}, Potato gratin Dauphinois, Ratatouille, Cassoulet, and a selection of rolls and French Onion Bread. Desert was Crepes du Pommès, Tarte Citron and Mousse au Chocolat.

Over tea and coffee each member spoke for a few minutes about the region of France their dish came from and it's history, and described the recipe.

We enjoyed this lunch so much that we followed the same format for our November meeting, this time based on Mexican food. Many of our members were apprehensive about the hot chillies in the recipes, but in the end some of those dishes turned out quite bland!

The Margaritas were a pleasant surprise and a new experience for many.

Another successful gastronomic meeting.

From: Anthea McKergow

### **New Members from Ina Shaw:**

Dianne Thompson has lived in this area for many years and has been a Speech/Language therapist for both Auckland and Tai Tokerau areas. Together with her husband Barry they developed a nashi pear orchard and market garden. Dianne has also spent a number of years in BC Canada where she started a Speech/Language Therapy service.

Roger Grace is a self-employed marine biologist who works from Leigh. He also works professionally in Marine Conservation. A major interest for Roger is underwater photography which he puts to good use in another interest where he is active with the Whangateau Harbour Group.

Maggie Power, who with her husband Roger has spent many years holidaying in the area has now permanently moved to Sandspit Rd from Auckland. Maggie has joined the Music Group and is interested in spinning and is keen to meet lots of new friends.

## Diary Notes:

Next General meeting: Monday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2009

Great News!!.....Helen Moulder is returning to entertain us early next year...watch this space.

### COMMITTEE 2008

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