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## U3A WARKWORTH

*Learning is forever*

### June - July 2008

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the time of year when I find it difficult to keep track of everybody! Some are lying low with bothersome lurgies, while other more fortunate souls are flitting off shore for sunshine, temporary new horizons and family occasions.

Iris Mee, our immediate past president, leaves for Canada at the beginning of June - and we won't see her back till November sometime. We wish her well in the interim.

Are you feeling, like me, a tad guilty about the questionnaire in the last news letter that we didn't fill in?

Four worthy members did take the small effort and thought to reply, and you can read the results in this newsletter - well done, you four! Perhaps the rest of us should follow their good example and fill in the form (supplied again with this newsletter), and return it to the committee for their information and future planning.

Go well - and keep well.

**Lorna Laxon, President.**

#### James Heaven

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of James Heaven on the 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Although in failing health for many years James enjoyed the general meetings and the outings with the Movie Group. He was also a tremendous support for his wife Beulah during her many years of being our U3A president.

Beulah and James came to the Warkworth from Auckland twenty years ago when they purchased a cottage at Snells Beach, then later they decided to retire to the area. James had a lifetime love affair with cars and boats and being beachfront at Snells was a joy for him.

We shall miss James's presence and ready wit and send Beulah our sincere sympathy.

### June Luncheon Meeting

Monday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.

(Note starting time is later than usual)

New Masonic Hall, Baxter Street

Meeting commences at 10:30 a.m.

DUTY GROUP- .....Poetry

CONVENOR: - Colleen Kangwai - Phone: 425-4333

(The hall will be open from 9:45 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:-

- 9:45 Duty Group set up
- 10:30 Meeting commences with a glass of Elaine's Mulled Wine, followed by General Business.
- 11:00 Guest Speaker – Captain Peter Usher  
“Naval experiences with the Royal Navy in the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Far East.”

Followed by social time and a delicious finger-food luncheon prepared by Matakana Patisserie.

**There will be a charge of \$10-00 to cover catering costs.  
Please advise your Group Leader if you are attending.**

### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Captain Peter Usher** (Royal Navy and Royal New Zealand Navy –Retired)

Peter is a warm-hearted and entertaining speaker who will share some of his interesting and sometimes hair-raising experiences while on manoeuvres in Mediterranean, Atlantic and Far Eastern waters.

Peter and his family are now living in Tomarata where they are involved in tourism and Peter is also lecturing in nautical subjects at the Mahurangi Technical Institute.

**Not to be missed!**

### **LAST MEETING:**

“I’ll labour night and day,  
To be a pilgrim!”

John Bunyan’s Pilgrim Song closed a fascinating talk by Rev. Mervyn Aitken and his wife Lesley on their experiences while walking the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, at the last General meeting, on 14<sup>th</sup> April.

The presentation, shared between the two “pilgrims” and enlivened with slides of the countryside, the buildings, and the people, followed the Path of St James from St Jean Pied de Port in France, across the Pyrenees to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

We learned that you can walk or ride, go as far or as short a distance as you wish, in a day, a week, a month, or come back next year to do some more, as many Europeans do. There are Refuges every few kilometers, which you cannot book, so the homely but adequate accommodation can sometimes get crowded, but no one is turned away; and there is always a local café offering cheap meals and wine. Scallop shell route-markers, mediaeval villages and churches, and welcoming local people were other attractions on the way, together with an enormous sense of camaraderie among the pilgrims, who walked at their own pace, although always endeavouring to reach the next Refuge before the heat of the afternoon.

The talk gave us an insight into something most of us had never even thought about; it was most worthwhile.

**Report from Linda Moore.**

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

**Maire Layburn:** comes to us from Lowburn near Rangiora, although she had lived in this district previously.

**John Hayward:** will have engineering in common with other members of the club. He has a particular interest in camera and video fields.

**Shirley Shirley:** has and still does play a very active role in many aspects of Warkworth life, as the owner of several businesses, but especially as foundation member and Chairperson of Warkworth Senior Net.

**Maggie Smith:** was a very popular travel agent in Warkworth and is now widely involved in singing and needlework groups locally.

**Russell Smith:** we hope you will enjoy some of what U3A has to offer for your retirement.

**Anne Mansfield:** taught at the Mahurangi College for 20 years and now in retirement looks forward to joining art classes and playing more bridge.

**Julie Dowland:** has been a local dental nurse. She comes from Sandspit and is well known for her embroidery and felt work.

**Sue Simmons:** has been a tutor in computer applications at Northern Business and Waikato Polytechnic. She has wide interests in the local art scene and the Warkworth Museum.

**Dyllis Parry:** will be a very welcome member to our group.

### **GROUP NEWS**

#### **Jazz Listening:**

This year began with Bob Ward leading the group for a few months while I recovered from hip surgery. Bob, a talented jazz trombonist, has played with many bands throughout the world, and his knowledge and anecdotes add another dimension to our meetings. His presentation in February of “Jazz through the Decades” demonstrated the different styles and progressions through the eras.

In March we listened to a CD on “History of Jazz”, presented by Australian, Ray Harris, using voice over band backing.

Last month we listened to a tape of Leonard Bernstein as he explained and demonstrated “What is Jazz?” Although originally recorded in the 1950s, it is still applicable today, and we found that not only was it informative and entertaining, but it created a good sounding-board for further discussion within our group.

In May we viewed and listened to a DVD presentation on “The Language of Jazz” created by Ken Byrnes.

If you are interested in joining our group, we meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 2 p.m. – Contact: Val Couling

**Submitted by: Val Couling**

## Philosophy:

This year our group is considering two philosophical issues:

The first is: "The Immortality of the Soul"

The topic for our March session was "Is there any empirical evidence for survival after death?" and "How good is that evidence"

This was an open discussion meeting where we were invited to study work on some or all of the following topics.

Mediums and séances,  
Apparitions and ghost stories,  
Poltergeists,  
Death-bed experiences,  
Near-death experiences,  
Reincarnation and hypnotic regression.

Some members related their own very personal and sometimes tragic 'paranormal' experiences. Other members suggested that they should examine their experiences after considering the *Law of Large Numbers*, a principal of *Probability Theory*. As expected there were quite divergent views.

The group is presently digesting Professor Ray's paper which he presented in May at the Philosophy in Australasia lecture series at Auckland University.

The paper starts by looking at H.L.Mencken's essay entitled "Memorial Service" that enquires into the whereabouts of the 'Graveyard of the Dead Gods' – all 189 of them! All were gods of the highest standing and dignity--gods of civilized peoples--worshipped and believed in by millions, spanning many millennia. All were theoretically omnipotent, omniscient, and immortal. All now are dead!

Not that they once existed in reality and now do not. Rather that a god dies when no one believes in him, her, or it. Dies when that god disappears from the pantheon of the corresponding religion or when the religion itself disappears.

The question we will consider in future sessions is:

Is there room in that graveyard for more gods?

The second topic we will consider later this year if time allows is: "Do we have Free Will?"

**Submitted by: Alan Spicer**

## Writing Stories of Your Life:

Members of the group read their stories aloud at the monthly meetings and invite constructive criticism from the others, so that we learn from each other.

Belonging to such a group has many advantages. The meetings provide the incentive to write regularly, the exchange of ideas help the creative juices to flow and friendships develop among people of common interest.

We are looking for new members so if you are interested in joining us on the second Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. please contact me.

**Submitted by: Joan Romano**

## Group News submissions for future newsletters:

Ancient History, Play Reading and Poetry Reading groups are invited to submit news for the next newsletter. You will be reminded by Anne Todd. Please email to: [editor@u3a.co.nz](mailto:editor@u3a.co.nz) before mid-July.

## Diary Note:

Next General meeting: Monday August 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

## Response to Questionnaire:

We only received four responses, which is rather disappointing; either the committee is providing everything that members ever wanted (which must be a 'first'), or apathy reigns supreme!

However, in appreciation of the four members who did respond, here are the results:

### Q1. What other subjects would you like covered by study groups?

- Health, common problems, alternatives.
- Geology of this area.
- History of this area.
- Financial & Economic (e.g. financial planning, investing, economics)
- Performing Arts (e.g. classic films, plays)
- 

### Q2. Would you be prepared to act as a convener?

Two respondents volunteered.

### Q3. Is it always necessary to have a speaker at general meetings?

All responded no, but one asked for more 'solo' performances such as 'Miss Haversham'.

### Q4. Would you be prepared to present lectures to groups on any subject

No one volunteered.

### Q5. Any other ideas, suggestions:

Two respondents requested a lower membership fee of \$10 if their newsletters are received by email.

Before any of these responses are developed, we need to establish what level of support any of them may have. So, if you would be prepared to join an interest group dealing with any of the five proposed in response to question 1, please notify any member of the committee, or your study group coordinator.

For those who intended to fill out the survey, but mislaid it, you will find a reprint inside the back cover.

## Committee 2008

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If you have recently changed your email address, or do so in the future, and wish to continue receiving messages, please send an email to:  
[editor@u3a.co.nz](mailto:editor@u3a.co.nz)

**Questionnaire:**

The committee would like to consider the wishes of all members when planning for new study groups and other activities. It would be helpful to us if you could provide feedback via this questionnaire.

1. If there any other subjects you would like to see covered by study groups, what are they?  
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2. Would you be prepared to act as the convener of any group?  
.....
3. Is it always necessary to have a speaker at general meetings? If not what do you suggest as alternatives.  
.....  
.....
4. Would you be willing to present a lecture or series of lectures on areas of potential interest to members, and if so what?  
.....  
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5. Do you have any other ideas or suggestions for us to consider?  
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Please return this questionnaire to: Editor, U3A, P.O. Box 520, Warkworth, 0941, or hand it to a committee member.



U3A.....*Learning is forever*

From: Warkworth U3A, P O Box 520, Warkworth, 0941

**U3A WARKWORTH STUDY GROUP MEETINGS 2008**

STUDY GROUP	Convenor	Phone	Time	June		July	
				Date		Date	
<b>Ancient History</b>	Jim McKinlay	422-9063	9:30 a.m.	6th	Egypt - Pharoahs and Kingdoms 93 Hauri Drive, Warkworth	4th	Egypt - Valley of the Kings 9 Bennett St, Warkworth
<b>Book Talk</b>	Judith Larsen	425-0571	10:00 a.m.	3rd	40 Point Wells Rd, Point Wells	1st	16 Katene Place, Snells Beach
<b>Current Affairs</b>	Val Strachan	425-9497	2:00 p.m.	19th	5 Apollo Place, Snells Beach	17th	35 Rivendell Place, Warkworth
<b>Food For Thought</b>	Anthea McKergow	422-6219	1:30 p.m.	25th 12:00	French Pot-Luck dinner (Note: 12 noon) 1140 Sandspit Rd, Sandspit	23rd	Topic TBA 8 Pipi Lane, Omaha
<b>Jazz Listening</b>	Val Couling	425-5766	2:00 p.m.	16th	CD of choice 32a Rivendell Place, Warkworth	21st	Women Jazz Musicians 5 Matakana Rd, Warkworth
<b>Medieval History</b>	Chris Hoogerwerf	425-5022	9:30 a.m.	20th	The Prosecution of Charles 1st 6 Kaspar St, Warkworth	18th	Topic TBA 20 Kahurangi Place, Snells Beach
<b>Music Appreciation</b>	Beverley Tipling	425-9936	1:30 p.m.	5th	"Yohoma" 1 Hibiscus Coast Ave, Snells Beach	3rd	"H" 14 Coquette St, Warkworth
<b>NZ Art Appreciation</b>	Deb Green	422-7785	10:00 a.m.	4th	Visit to Hungry Creek Art Centre	2nd	Bill Hammond 1 Hibiscus Ave, Snells Beach
<b>Philosophy</b>	Prof. Ray Bradley	422-9222	10:00 a.m.	11th	Investigation of the possibility of belief in "The Ghost in the Machine" Herons Flight, Sharpe Rd, Matakana	9th	Continued from June meeting Herons Flight, Sharpe Rd, Matakana
<b>Play Reading</b>	Anne Todd	425-9746	9:30 a.m.	10th	"Romeo and Juliet" 19 Puriri Place, Brick Bay, Sandspit	8th	"Romeo and Juliet" continued 19 Puriri Place, Brick Bay, Sandspit
<b>Poetry Reading</b>	Colleen Kangwai	425-4333	1:30 p.m.	18th	John O'Donohue 12b Amanda Lane, Snells Beach	16th	"Anon" Poets 38 Kawau View Drive, Snells Beach
<b>Watercolour Painting</b> (Other media OK)	Yvonne Elliott	422-6653	10:00 a.m.		In recess until later in the year		Contact Yvonne if interested
<b>Writing Stories of Your Life</b>	Joan Romano	425-5517	1:30 p.m.	9th	35 Alnwick St, Warkworth	14th	35 Alnwick St, Warkworth