



U3A WARKWORTH

Learning is forever

Newsletter **October – November 2008**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

After our rather dreary winter, isn't it a joy to see the vibrant colours that herald the fact that spring has arrived! And for all of us in the Warkworth area that means Kowhai blossoms.

I have recently moved into a new Warkworth street called Kowhai View – and yes, today as the sun moved around to the west, it lit up the golden tints amongst the bush clad bank of the Mahurangi River.

I look forward to seeing you at the general meeting on October 13th. Just as Louise Nicholson's talk in July was so outstanding, so our maritime panel promises to be another winner. See you there.

Lorna Laxon, President

EDITORS DESK

Our Newsletter Editor Alan Spicer is taking a long vacation in Europe; currently touring parts of Holland by bicycle.

The main presentation at our next General meeting will be of particular attraction to those of us with interests in local history and boats; I urge you to try to attend, not just for the educational benefit, but also because the social aspect of these meetings can be very rewarding. Please note the changed agenda format for this meeting.

Providing a regular supply of suitable and interesting speakers is quite a difficult task for our committee. If you know any suitable 'candidates' it would help us enormously, so please give it some thought and let any of us know your suggestions.

Also, please take a look at the item 'U3A Online Course Forward Program', as it gives you an extra dimension to membership, with professional coverage of additional areas of interest.

Chris Field, Editor

DIARY NOTE

Our Next General Meeting is on Monday 13th October, and the December General Meeting will be on Monday 8th December.

LAST MEETING

Our August speaker was Associate Professor Dr Louise Nicholson, neuroscientist. It proved to be a most interesting, if highly technical discourse, given by an expert on her subject. We were told of the painstaking research done by herself and her collaborator, Colin Green, on brain disorders such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Huntington's and Epilepsy, and how to improve their treatment.

They have discovered that cells in the human body can talk to each other! I tried to imagine their conversations..... "How are you feeling, little friend?" - "Slightly off form right now".....but almost immediately Dr Nicholson explained (and there was no fantasy in what she had to tell us) that the distance between one cell and another is known as a Gap-Junction. Dealing with these can improve the health of the sufferer, and significant research is being undertaken on modulating these Gap-Junctions.

At no time did she 'talk down' to us. We were treated as intelligent folk who wanted to be informed, to learn from her expertise.

Dr Nicholson is involved in something that can really 'make a difference'. She and Colin Green believe absolutely in what they are doing. They are devoting their lives to developing ideas that can help others; dedication of the highest order.

There was only one piece of information that I found difficult to come to terms with.... "And what was that?" you ask. It was the fact that sheep's brains are surprisingly similar to human ones. It explains a lot don't you think? But I'm not sure that I relish the thought.

Anne Todd, Groups Director

U3A ONLINE FORWARD PROGRAM

This is an international service of U3A accessed via the Internet, which allows you to choose your area of study from a list of courses. These include:

Genealogy Online, The Frozen Continent: Antarctica, Botany for Knowledge and Enjoyment, Writing for Pleasure, Autobiography and Journaling, Human Biology, The Shaping of the Modern Mind, The Evolution of Life on Earth, Introduction to Western Philosophy, The Romans, Regions of the World, Renaissance Italy, Food for Thought, Astronomy, Design in Your Life.

Many other courses are in the development stage. Should you be suitably qualified, U3A Online is also seeking additional volunteer Course leaders.

To access information on this facility go to: **u3aonline.org.au**

The courses are offered with a Course leader, from whom you have the benefit of help and support, and the opportunity to make contact with other participants via a Discussion Forum. There are timetables with specific start dates to observe; these are listed against each course on the website.

The entire portfolio of courses is also available in the self-paced mode. You can enrol at any time and have access to the course for twelve months so that you can proceed through the units at your leisure.

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Monday October 13th, 9:45 a.m. at the New Masonic Hall, Baxter Street

Meeting commences at 10:00 a.m.

**DUTY GROUP– Music Appreciation Group
CONVENOR: - Beverley Tipling - Phone: 425-9936**

Meeting programme: - ‘Our Maritime Heritage’

**9:15 Duty Group set up
9:45 Assemble
10:00 Morning tea and view maritime photographs
10:30 General Business followed by ‘Maritime Heritage’**

GUEST SPEAKERS

For this meeting we will have a group of local specialists, each providing their own knowledge of ‘Our Maritime Heritage’.

Our guest specialists include:

Peter Thompson, from the Jane Gifford Trust

Hugh McKergow, of Darrogh Boatyards

Carol and James Ramage, of Meiklejohn Boatyard

Photographs and visual aids will be provided by the Warkworth & District Museum.

We may also have other contributors on the day, should negotiations prove fruitful.

POSSIBLE NEW INTEREST GROUPS

The results of our feedback questionnaires over the last few months show there is potential for a number of new interest groups to be formed.

The ones showing the most feedback of interest are:

English Language, Local Geology, Local History, Outings to places of interest, and Film (movies) appreciation.

All other suggested groups received too little support for consideration at this time.

To get any of these groups started, we need group convener for each; nothing will happen without, so if you are prepared to volunteer, please contact Anne Todd, Groups Director.

Chris Field, New Interest Groups Project

GROUP NEWS

Art Appreciation Group, submitted by Deb Green

The Art Appreciation Group has enjoyed another year where the members have been able to appreciate and learn more about many forms of art.

We started the year off with a visit to Zealandia, Terry Stringer's sculpture garden. As usual we enjoyed viewing the sculpture and this time we were privileged to listen to an organ recital by Tim McWhannell.

In April Iris Mee hosted a 'Wood and Stone' morning. We all brought along examples of art in this medium. A feature of these meetings is the variety of the art and the informed discussion that follows.

In May a most interesting morning was spent at Webb's Auction House where we previewed the art which was to be auctioned the following week.

In June we visited the Hungry Creek Art centre. We had a conducted tour of the centre where we saw students at work. This was followed by a talk by Camilla Copely, the art history tutor.

In July Colleen Kangwhai hosted a 'Bill Hammond' morning. The highlight of the morning was a talk by Colleen about the artist and his art.

In August Judy Miller chose the subject of 'Colour' for discussion. We brought along a piece of art where colour was the main influence. A very interesting morning which included a discussion on how colour affects our lives.

Our group meets on the first Wednesday each month.

The deadline for inclusion of items in the December Newsletter is 21st November. (Please email to: editor@u3a.co.nz or post to P.O. Box 444, Warkworth, 0941)

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members:

John Hunt; has been a consultant on rural development and refugee projects in the developing world, and has spent time as a volunteer in India. He has joined our History Anno Domini Group.

Cornelia Theilman; comes from an educational background where she taught English to foreign students. She speaks several languages and may join a number of our groups.

Russell Smith; a retired accountant with an interest in golf, he is now interested in joining one of our history or current affairs groups.

Grevis Goetz; served with the RAF and transferred to become a squadron leader in the RNZAF. He is also an active and long standing minister of the Anglican Church. He is interested in joining one of our history groups.

Margaret Power; has worked in banking and is very interested in classical music. She hopes to join a literature group.

Jenni McGlashan; ran her own business during the 1980's and subsequently with husband Jim, an orchard and then floating dock. Travelling a lot since and now settled as a volunteer running the textile dept. at the museum.

Jim McGlashan; used to be involved in dairying and then an orchard and floating dock at Opuia. Jim is also a volunteer at the museum and Tawharanui Regional Park. Both Jenni and Jim have joined the Ancient History Group.

Juliet Fisher; has been a leading contemporary dancer on the international stage, including New York, London and Scandinavia, and recently established the London School of Contemporary Dance. She now lives at Omaha Beach and is a member of the Philosophy Group. She will be performing for the first time in NZ at TEMPO – New Zealand Festival of Dance on the evenings of October 9th & 10th.

Rae Cullen; has a deep interest in classical music and taught ballet.

Ina Shaw, Membership

COMMITTEE 2008			
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