



## U3A WARKWORTH

*Learning is forever*

### Newsletter – August 2009

#### *From our President*

The first meeting at our new venue in Totara Park seems to have gone down very well, thanks to the facilities and loan of excellent sound equipment, plus all the very tasty 'plates' of food for our mid-winter lunch.

Our next general meeting there features the second episode in the naval life of Captain Peter Usher RN. Although Winston Churchill famously commented that "naval tradition was based on rum, sodomy and the lash", last year Peter managed to avoid telling us about at least two of them during a highly amusing talk about his early years in the Royal Navy, so we look forward to more daring tales of chasing 'Ruskies and Wrens'. "Pink gins in the wardroom afterwards anyone".

Some of us think it would be good to have 'mini speakers' at future general meetings, so we need volunteers. Many of our members have had unusually interesting lives and we would love them to share some of their memories with us. All we need is five to ten minutes of your time; please do consider volunteering and if you will, ring committee members Lorna, Elaine or Keith.

Further on in this newsletter, you will see details of a new interest group; this is a very good indicator of our growing membership and participation. It also reminds me to mention a couple of 'housekeeping' matters which have caused the odd problem of late.

As you are all aware, some groups are at, or beyond the maximum number that can be accommodated in the average home; also, hosts have to try and assume the number of guests attending and cater accordingly. Therefore, if a member is not going to attend the next meeting of their interest group, please advise the host or group convener. If a member or friend of a member wishes to attend a group meeting, please ask the group convener first.

Enjoy your U3A.

Christopher Field, President

#### Archives Book for Warkworth U3A.

Ina Shaw has volunteered to become our Archivist, and has already started an Archives Book of both past and present people and events. This will become a valuable future resource in addition to the wonderful records of earlier years already compiled by Graham Ryburn.

Ina (Ph: 425-8667) is keen to copy any relevant photos or information members may have, especially from the year 2000 onwards. Photos of activities or people no longer here would be of particular interest.

The Archives book will be available for perusal at every General Meeting.

#### Our Web Site

Do remember to refer to our web site, [www.u3a.co.nz](http://www.u3a.co.nz). There you will find the current newsletter, an archive of newsletters going back to February 2005, current group meeting schedules, and other information about us.

If someone asks you about U3A and in particular Warkworth U3A, our web site is a mine of information.

If you would like to publish a report and photographs about a memorable Group Event on [www.u3a.co.nz](http://www.u3a.co.nz), contact Editor, Alan Spicer, email: [editor@u3a.co.nz](mailto:editor@u3a.co.nz)

Please let the Alan know if you change your email address, phone number, or postal address so that we can update our membership database.

## *U3A General Meeting*

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August  
10:00 a.m.

Totara Park Community Hall, Melwood Drive, Warkworth  
(Please consider car pooling – parking is limited at Totara Park)

Duty Group – Art Appreciation Group  
Contact – Iris Mee, Phone: 425 7934

The hall will be open at 9:30 a.m. to allow the Duty Group to prepare the room and attend to morning tea. Please also clean up and reinstate the room after the meeting.

### Meeting programme:-

- 9:30 Duty Group set up.
- 10:00 General Businesses
- 10:30 A member's snapshot
- 10:45 Morning tea
- 11:15 Guest Speaker – Captain Peter Usher (Retired)  
“Experiences in the Royal Navy continued...”

### *Speaker:*

Capt. Peter Usher (Royal Navy and Royal New Zealand Navy – Retired).

Members will recall that Peter was guest speaker at our June meeting last year and by popular demand he has agreed to continue his story about interesting and amusing tales of his time at sea.

Peter is a warm-hearted and entertaining speaker, now living with his family in Tomarata.

Not to be missed.

### *Last Meeting:*

'The construction of a movie sound track from the ground up'

In the dimly lit meeting hall of Totara Park, the morning peace was suddenly shattered by an 'explosion' of sound. 100 decibels of state of the art sound to be precise, delivered through a 5 : 1 surround sound system. Many in the audience instantly and uncontrollably levitated from their seats, whilst others, suitably equipped, made urgent adjustments to their personal audio enhancement devices.

What could it be; an announcement that rates were going down, pensions were to be doubled? No! Not quite, but something still rather enjoyable; short clips from a new and as yet unreleased NZ film.

Our presenter, Chris Todd, has had a long and distinguished career in the NZ TV and film industry. Currently a dialogue editor working on the movie, he gave us a most instructive guide to the sound aspects of film making and seeing various stages of a film's sound track evolution on Totara Park's 'big screen', via Chris's high spec Apple laptop, was certainly a first for us.

Chris started working in the days of reel-to-reel film and recording tape, when editing was done by physically cutting and splicing with celtape. Trying to find an edited section (called a 'trim') which the director now

wanted reinstated, entailed searching the cutting room floor; often a frustrating experience. Today this process is done from digitally recorded sound, on computers and the 'trims' are all retained in memory. We were also shown inside one of NZ's superb state of the art editing theatres, established for the benefit of our industry by Peter Jackson.

Every film has many sound tracks recorded as dialogue, sound effects, or music, which are mixed together in final editing under the supervision of the producer and director. Dialogue, which is recorded live initially, can often be unacceptable, so is replaced by in-studio recordings.

Setting the relative levels of each, frequently causes disagreement between the editors, and we, the audience, are often left trying to hear the dialogue under a far too powerful music or sound effect track. Most, if not all of us, agreed with Chris' view that greater creative impact can often be made by silence, or dialogue alone.

Let us hope that more directors and producers will be astute enough to reflect this opinion in their productions.

Our thanks and appreciation were given to Chris, and also to Regan at Halls Retravision, for the loan of the superb surround sound system and technical assistance.

I see from Internet advertising that this film 'Under the Mountain' goes on general cinema release from December 10th. Filmed around Auckland and based on a book by Maurice Gee, it stars Sam Neill.

Contributed by Christopher Field

### **Group News:**

#### **Attention Group Conveners:**

There will be a brief meeting of Group Conveners immediately after the August 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Please contact Anne Todd (Ph: 425-9756) if you cannot attend.

#### **Jazz Listening Group.**

The Jazz Listening Group seems to be going from strength to strength, and with the welcome return of two past members and two new members this year, our numbers now stand at 14.

At our May meeting, group members were asked to bring a favourite CD along. We first listened to a selection of Modern Jazz. Although not to everyone's taste, it is interesting to explore and learn about areas of jazz with which we are not so familiar. This was followed by a selection of more traditional jazz, which got the feet tapping.

The June meeting looked at a DVD of the "Life and Music of Benny Goodman." It contained great archive footage of Chicago in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century and told of his early upbringing. It also tracked his rise from nowhere to America's most popular band. He now became known as "The King of Swing." He was the first band playing jazz to appear at the Carnegie Hall, New York, (which had until then been a platform for only symphony and concert orchestras). He was also the first musician to go against the normal entrenched social situation of racial segregation by presenting a group of black and white jazz musicians playing together on the same stage.

In July we will be looking at European Jazz, and will include an eclectic mix of well-known artists from the past and present, including some recent recordings of current bands in the UK.

The Jazz Listening Group meets on the third Monday of the month at 2pm.

Contributed by Val Couling, Convenor.

#### **Local History Group.**

The group, started this year under the leadership of Lorna Laxon with some dozen members, now numbers around twenty. It is an enthusiastic and active group, with many members having long family ties and therefore extensive knowledge of this area, which is to include the entire Mahurangi and Pakiri regions.

Finding so many people with local roots was an unexpected bonus, as well as an immediate resource; happily, these members are willing to share their knowledge. We have already benefited from the extensive information about the Whangateau and Leigh areas of Hugh and Anthea McKergow and Ina Shaw. This has been deepened by Laly Haddon, QSM, Chairman of the Ngati Wai Trust Board, who has spoken to us about the origins of the Leigh hapu of Ngati Manuhiri, and taken us on to the Te Kiri marae, to be addressed by two important members of the hapu. Our group has gained immeasurably from these visits.

We have also gained from visiting the Warkworth Museum and part of the old Warkworth school, which is now privately owned. Cemeteries, too, have played a part in our travels. No, they are not ghoulish and depressing, they are places where one can pay one's respects to people who helped make the Mahurangi area what it is today.

Future meeting topics include the Pakeha history of the Leigh area, a historical walk round Warkworth, and a return visit to the Museum, where we hope to learn how to make the most of their resources.

Contributed by Linda Moore.

#### A New Group:

##### Read and Review.

Some members have expressed an interest in forming a new book-related group, concentrating on discussion of a particular book. It is proposed that this group will discuss one book which has been chosen in advance by a different member each month.

By reading and concentrating on one book it is felt that the book can be reviewed and discussed in more depth.

The group will be limited to 10 people, held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month between 2 and 4 p.m.

Sylvia Diprose will introduce to the first meeting "The Hours" by Michael Cunningham as an example of how the group will work.

If you have an interest in this group please phone Ina Shaw (Ph: 425-8667) , or Elaine Ellison-Smith, after August 2nd (Ph: 425-9138).

#### Starting a new Study Group:

Did you know that any member can start a new Study Group. If you have, or would like to explore a special area of interest, why not start a new group?

The sky is the limit!

Contact the Groups Director (Anne Todd, Ph: 425-9746), or any committee member for more information on how to make it happen.

#### *Diary Notes:*

Next General meeting: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

If you would like future Newsletters sent to you by email instead of by post, please send a blank email to: [yes@u3a.co.nz](mailto:yes@u3a.co.nz)

#### *Reminder:*

*Our general meeting venue has changed to Totara Park Community Hall (off Melwood Drive)*

#### COMMITTEE 2009

President:	Chris Field	422 2247	<a href="mailto:cgf@xtra.co.nz">cgf@xtra.co.nz</a>
Secretary:	Sylvia Diprose	422 0533	<a href="mailto:ks.diprose@xtra.co.nz">ks.diprose@xtra.co.nz</a>
Treasurer:	Eric Toms	425 6335	<a href="mailto:erictoms@clear.net.nz">erictoms@clear.net.nz</a>
Groups director:	Anne Todd	425 9746	
Membership & Archivist:	Ina Shaw	425 8667	<a href="mailto:ina.homewoodcottage@xtra.co.nz">ina.homewoodcottage@xtra.co.nz</a>
Editor:	Alan Spicer	422 2685	<a href="mailto:editor@u3a.co.nz">editor@u3a.co.nz</a>
Social:	Lorna Laxon	422 5362	<a href="mailto:lorna.laxon@xtra.co.nz">lorna.laxon@xtra.co.nz</a>
	Elaine Ellison-Smith	425 9138	<a href="mailto:nevlaine@slingshot.co.nz">nevlaine@slingshot.co.nz</a>
Speakers:	Full committee		
Publicity:	Keith Canning	422 9965	
Almoner:	Monica Boorer	425 8210	

Warkworth U3A, P O Box 520, Warkworth, 0941  
Web site: [www.u3a.co.nz](http://www.u3a.co.nz)

**U3A WARKWORTH STUDY GROUP MEETINGS 2009**

STUDY GROUP	Convenor	Phone	Time	Date	August	Date	September
<b>Ancient History</b>	Jim McKinlay	422-9063	9:30 a.m.	7 <sup>th</sup>	The Silk Route 9 Bennett St, Warkworth	4 <sup>th</sup>	A History of Afghanistan TBA
<b>Book Talk</b>	Mairi Layburn	423-0308	10:00 a.m.	4 <sup>th</sup>	17 View Rd, Warkworth	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 Harbour View Rd, Point Wells
<b>Current Affairs</b>	Val Strachan	425-9497	2:00 p.m.	20 <sup>th</sup>	2/5 Walton Ave, Warkworth	17 <sup>th</sup>	23 Earls Way, Warkworth
<b>Food For Thought</b>	Anthea McKergow	422-6219	1:30 p.m.	26 <sup>th</sup>	TBA 15 Will James Ave, Algies Bay	23 <sup>rd</sup>	TBA 2 Merehai Place, Snells Beach
<b>Jazz Listening</b>	Val Couling	425-5766	2:00 p.m.	17 <sup>th</sup>	A CD track of choice 91 Matakana Valley Rd (Keith Canning's)	21 <sup>st</sup>	A Jazz Music DVD. 199 Omaha Flats Rd (Geoffrey Goodwin's)
<b>Local History</b>	Lorna Laxon	422-3562	10:00 a.m.	25 <sup>th</sup>	Historic Town Walk with Dave Parker	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Warkworth Museum (To be confirmed)
<b>History Anno Domini</b>	Chris Field	422-2247	9:30 a.m.	21 <sup>st</sup>	Art and Science in the Stuart Period Heron's Flight, Sharpe Rd	18 <sup>th</sup>	Napoleon Heron's Flight, Sharpe Rd
<b>Music Appreciation</b>	Beverley Tipling	425-9936	1:30 p.m.	6 <sup>th</sup>	'F' 8 Westpark Glen	3 <sup>rd</sup>	'Carmina Burona' 1 Hibiscus Ave, Snells Beach
<b>Art Appreciation</b>	Iris Mee	425-7934	10:00 a.m.	5 <sup>th</sup>	Rita Angus presentation 1140 Sandspit Rd, Sandspit	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Auckland Art Gallery Rita Angus exhibition (Time TBA)
<b>Philosophy</b>	Prof. Ray Bradley	422-9222	10:00 a.m.	12 <sup>th</sup>	Causal Determinism and Predictability Heron's Flight, Sharpe Rd	9 <sup>th</sup>	Hard Determinism and Libertarianism Heron's Flight, Sharpe Rd
<b>Play Reading</b>	Anne Todd	425-9746	9:30 a.m.	11 <sup>th</sup>	The Merchant of Venice', William Shakespeare 38 Kawau View Rd, Snells Beach	8 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
<b>Poetry Reading</b>	Colleen Kangwai	425-4333	1:30 p.m.	19 <sup>th</sup>	W.W.Gibson 38 Kawau View Drive, Snells Beach	16 <sup>th</sup>	A Potpourri 8 Kowhai View, Warkworth
<b>Read and Review</b>	Elaine Ellison-Smith	425-9138	2.00 p.m.	11 <sup>th</sup>	'The Hours' by Michael Cunningham Reviewed by Sylvia Diprose – Venue TBA	8 <sup>th</sup>	TBA

**Note New Group: Read and Review**