



U3A WARKWORTH

Learning is forever

Newsletter – February 2009

From our President

New Year Greetings to all U3A members.

I trust that 2009 will be a year of fulfilment and satisfaction to all of us, in spite of the economic gloom that must inevitably colour our lives.

It's great to have the various disciplines of U3A available to give us intellectual stimulus, physical energy, and emotional reward.

Our February meeting promises those three values when one of our own members, Jim McKinlay, shares with us the significance of the life and ideas of Charles Darwin, whose birthday occurred exactly 200 years ago.

Jim's talk will be preceded by our Annual General Meeting. There are some resignations from the committee, so please consider the possibility of helping in this way - the work isn't onerous and the people are great!

Thank you for your support towards me during my enjoyable two years as president. I know that you will be equally supportive to my successor.

Enjoy the year!

Lorna Laxon

From the Editors Desk:

This newsletter issue is an important one since it covers our AGM.

Our constitution states the Committee should comprise at least 6 members and not more than 10. Nominations shall be called for either the position of President or a committee member.

It is not an onerous task, with short committee meetings every month.

To ensure that our Organisation does not become static, it is vital that new people with their fresh ideas are added to the Committee each year.

A Nomination Form is included should you wish to nominate someone, or put yourself forward.

The future Committee is in your hands.

Also included is a membership nomination form that you may like to give to a friend who could be interested in joining us.

As editors, we always welcome contributions, and ideas that will make this newsletter more interesting and useful to our members.

Please note the nomination receipt deadline of February 5th

Alan Spicer and Chris Field

Diary Notes:

Next General meeting: Monday 20th April. Note our usual second Monday is Easter Monday.

Notice of Motion:

The following motion will be proposed at the AGM.

“That the Annual General Meeting be held at the December General Meeting of each year.”

This motion was unanimously passed at our December 08 Committee meeting.

The reason for this proposed change of AGM date from February to December is to allow the new committee to be up and running at the start of the new year to coincide with the time when the Groups commence their program planning for the year.

The financial year would also run from January to December.

U3A Warkworth

Annual General Meeting

Monday February 9th, 9:45 a.m.

at the New Masonic Hall, Baxter Street

Meeting commences at 10:00 a.m.

DUTY GROUP– Current Affairs Group
CONVENOR: - Val Strachan - Phone: 425-9497

(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 Annual General Meeting
- 10:30 Morning Tea
- 10:45 General Business
- 11:15 Speaker – Jim McKinlay. “Charles Darwin's Birthday”

Jim McKinlay, our speaker is well known as a long-time and very active member.

Jim's talk will touch on the life and work of one of the most important titans of science – Charles Darwin.

Darwin's ideas changed the way that people viewed the living world and cleared the path for the establishment of the many biological sciences that we take for granted today.

Jim's discussion will be an introduction for the mini-group he is proposing to set up to further the study of this brilliant analyst of the natural world.

Last Meeting:

Ilona Rogers:

Ilona 'held us in thrall' from the moment she started talking. She extolled U3A as an excellent movement which stimulated the brain cells, and created friendships. We all agree wholeheartedly, and I, for one, know that I have met more 'soul mates' through being a member of U3A than I ever expected to.

She then spoke about the importance of listening to others, and not being content with superficial chit-chat, but enjoying worthwhile conversation. She reminded us of our youth, and how we appreciated the joy in our lives through activities which led us to live fully in the present moment – before texting was invented .. the latter being a compulsive activity that involves the texter in moving on all the time, rather than relishing the here and now. She was passionate about the importance of using our imagination, of story-telling, of 'let's pretend' as apposed to the second-hand realm of computer games. Arts Festivals she likened to a box of chocolates where one would choose something that was fresh to the taste, and not just be content with the familiar. In other words dare to explore rather than rely on popular entertainment. "Take risks" she beseeched us "try new things".

These observations led naturally into Ilona's championship of the up and coming Auckland Festival.. We were all given a program, and were led through it, page by page, with a detailed introduction to each item. She at no point lingered too long on any particular presentation, but told us enough about each, art, dance, theater, music, to whet our appetites. We concentrated, we listened, we appreciated every moment.

By the time Ilona finally closed the program booklet every one of us felt inspired to support the wonderful, wide ranging celebration of the arts that is The Auckland Festival 2009. Ilona Rogers had achieved her aim, and in doing so had given great pleasure to her appreciative audience.

Submitted by Anne Todd

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

Please let the editor know if you change your email address.

NOMINATION FORM

U3A WARKWORTH - 2009 COMMITTEE

Nominee Name _____

Signature _____

For position of: (tick the appropriate box)

President

or Committee Member

Nominated by:

Name _____

Signature _____

Seconded by:

Name _____

Signature _____

- Please mail this completed form to:

The Secretary, U3A Warkworth, P O Box 520, Warkworth, 0941.

- Completed forms must be received by 5th February 2009.

Group News:

A New Interest Group?

For some time now there has been interest expressed by some members of belonging to a local history group.

With the rich history that the Warkworth district offers, there would be loads of topics to draw on.

If this subject interests you, let's meet for a few minutes following the general meeting on February 9, and we can plan accordingly. If you are unable to be at this meeting, and are interested in joining such a group, please let Lorna Laxon know, Phone 422 3562.

Charles Darwin's Times, Ideas and Impact.

As a follow-on to his talk at the AGM, Jim McKinlay is offering to lead a set of three monthly talks in which a normal sized group of interested members could explore the material and ideas raised at the General meeting under the following headings:

- The world in which Darwin lived.
- Darwin's voyage on the Beagle.
- The theory of evolution and natural selection as it applies to the development of the human species.

We would just set this group up as we have done each of our other groups, but it would differ in that it would have a limited life - just 3 meetings.

Please contact Jim (Ph: 422-9063) if your would like to join this study group.

COMMITTEE 2008

President:	Lorna Laxon	422 3562	lorna.laxon@xtra.co.nz
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U3A WARKWORTH
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Surname:.....

First Name:.....

Address:.....

..... Post code.....

Home Phone:.....

Email:.....

Would you like your newsletter sent by: Email or Post (Circle choice)

Previous Occupations:

Current Interests, Club Involvement, etc.

Indicate the subjects you might be interested in studying:

Are you willing to help as a:

Committee member: Yes No

Group Convenor: Yes No (Circle choice)

Please indicate any particular ways you would be willing to help e.g. access to Computer, Photo Copying, Word Processing, Speaker Contacts, etc.

On the back, please write something about yourself.