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U3A WARKWORTH

Learning is forever

Newsletter – October 2009

From our President

Over the last few years I've tried a few on-line educational courses, some of them providing formally recognised qualifications on completion. What surprised me was the extensive use of 'open book' answer availability when completing each exercise. I appreciate there are situations when this is appropriate, but would have thought that to test for the absorption of information would best be served without reference to the course material. So on a recent course I did it my way and relied on memory.....oh dear! Not a good result; still, it doesn't seem to matter, the programme kindly advised me that I could try again, and again, and again, until I achieved the required pass %. Maybe it was a course designed by Dr. Pita Sharples that I had stumbled on? Is there value in achieving such a result so easily; is this a better way of learning? It's certainly less painful than my old school's methodology of, answer correctly or get flogged! Oh, happy days I think not; just imagine what would have happened had one opened a reference book to assist during an exam!

The other problems I have with on-line education, are the relative isolation and personal dedication required to work on one's own. It's certainly more socially beneficial to learn in groups and one is committed to attend. That's why U3A works so well isn't it?

Enjoy your U3A.

Christopher Field, President

Warkworth U3A Archives Book

Joan Earl-Daniels has taken over as archivist from Ina Shaw and 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.

Please contact Joan on 425 8827

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. 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, contact Editor, Alan Spicer (Ph:422-2685)

Diary Notes

Next General meeting: Monday 12th October

AGM: Monday 14th December

Reminder

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

U3A General Meeting

Monday 12th October
10:00 am.

Totara Park Community Hall, Melwood Drive, Warkworth
(Please consider car pooling – it is more cost effective and environmentally friendly)

Duty Group – Poetry Group
Contact – Colleen Kangwai, Phone: 425 4333

The hall will be open at 9:30 am. 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
- 10:15 Mini-Speaker
- 10:30 Morning tea
- 11:00 Guest Speaker – Dr. Clinton Anderson

Speaker:

Doctor Clinton Anderson is one of our local GP's and well known and respected by many of us in U3A.

He will be talking about various current topics of public health, with particular reference to those in our age groups.

Last Meeting:

Peter Usher. Life as a Naval Officer, August 10th

This was Peters' second visit to Warkworth U3A and he regaled us with a continuation of his first one, concerning life in the Royal Navy...and what a life it was!

The variety of ships that he joined, the variety of roles that he filled, was fascinating and a total 'eye-opener' for a land-lubber like myself.

One of the aspects of life on board ship that was surprising, was the eccentricity of many of the officers. Their behaviour was, to say the least, unusual. On shore leave once, for instance, two of them sampled the local mead with gusto and lost all sense of direction, ending up entangled in a live electric fence; they couldn't understand why their legs were jerking and flashing.

Peter has a keen sense of humour and one of his stories concerned his feeling unwell. He saw a medic and was diagnosed as having glandular fever. "It is known as the kissing disease", he was told and "the only other patient was a seventy-two year old spinster". "I sincerely hoped that she had recovered" confessed First Lieutenant Usher of HMS Beagle.

After many years and many ships, Peter was offered a job in oilfields. He accepted and so ended his career in the Royal Navy.

Submitted by Anne Todd

Group News:

The Play Reading Group report

We remain a 'Happy Band of Pilgrims' despite losing two of our long-standing members. We shall miss them both as their contribution was valuable. However, the general standard of reading skills has improved hugely over the year and we remain buoyant and enthusiastic.

2009 has seen a wide range of plays chosen, from Shakespeare to Oscar Wilde and Alan Ayckbourne. If we have a problem it is the obtaining of scripts. For instance, one source applied to for copies of a George Bernard Shaw responded "Oh we don't have any of that old-fashioned stuff". Luckily one of our members discovered that the warehouse in Snells has a printing facility, which provided ten copies of

'A Conversation' – the last play of David Williamson's Trilogy, for \$20, where a play copied elsewhere in 2008 cost \$70!
Mike and Rhona Glover are now in Wellington and their house in Brick Bay is for sale. They provided an invaluable permanent venue for we play-readers and we miss their generosity and good humour.
I shall be retiring as group convenor in 2010 after an enjoyable two years and Margaret Krey has agreed to take over the position; we shall be in good hands.

Poetry Group Report

We are a small group of people who seem to have a fascination with language – and how it can be turned into poetry.
This year started with a very unusual topic – Khoi-san poetry, which comes from the Bushmen of South Africa.
Next was a topic about Poems in Translation, which provoked discussion about whether translated poems could ever be as good as the original.
Overall we decided the translator could add a further dimension to the poem.
Some poets write in their second language – a NZ/Bulgarian poet does this very successfully.
Another NZ poet wrote poems in the style of the Chinese Tang Dynasty poets, but describing NZ landscape and characters.
The NZ theme continued with a further 3 modern NZ poets. Some of their poems were quite challenging, but we could relate to their local colour and humour.
Last month was the turn of an English poet W.W. Gibson, who wrote about WW1 and that era.
This month we will have a “pot pourri” of poems which will be a free choice!
A highlight of the year was participating in the Montana Poetry Day at Snells Beach Library.

Convenor: Colleen Kangwai

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.

Please let the Editor (Alan Spicer, email: editor@u3a.co.nz) know if you change your email address, phone number, or postal address so that we can update our membership database.

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

COMMITTEE 2009

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