



NEWSLETTER

Spring ~ August - September 2011

Greetings from our President – Beulah Heaven

What have you been doing over these rainy winter months? I have been acquiring a new friend.

About 25 years ago when I lived in Epsom I had two delightful miniature long-haired daschunds called Percy and Priscilla. Their names suited them perfectly, or perhaps they just felt they had to live up to their names. Prissy was precisely that. Whereas Percy was a real lad - he fell in love with a beautiful Dalmatian living almost a kilometre away in Owens Road, and used to constantly risk death to cross both Gillies Ave and Owens Road to visit her. Both those dogs lived long and fruitful lives and both had been named when tiny puppies by my sister-in-law.

Just three weeks ago I took a trip to Whangerei to visit some three-week-old puppies and a couple of days later I called to see my sister-in-law who due to a vicious prognosis had just moved into a retirement village in Auckland. Like all of us, this lady has not been without her faults, but she has always had an unreserved love of cats and dogs. I told her I'd decided to have one of these puppies and asked her to start thinking of names.

Last Sunday when I telephoned the Village to arrange a visit I learned that my sister-in-law had become really ill and could not take my call. I asked to leave her a message that I'd be down to see her on Wednesday and that I'd be bringing a photograph of the puppy. Said puppy is what we used to call a mongrel, the result of a natural mating between the scruffiest little chocolate Poodle male you could

imagine and one of those rather solid looking black Labradors.

It was just yesterday that I visited. Poor sister-in-law is now in a hospital bed, with cot-sides and oxygen tubes and lapsing in and out of consciousness. I sat her up a little bit, gave her a drink and handed her the photograph of this little fat golden bundle. It took her eyes a minute or so to focus, and when they did the most beautiful smile transformed her face. "She's lovely," she said. "What's her name?" I told her that it was up to her, that I'd asked her to be thinking of one. She was quiet for a little while and I thought she'd dropped off to sleep. "What do you think of Polly?" I asked.

"No" she said. "Not elegant enough". And once again she was quiet for quite some time. Then she said, without opening her eyes "Paddle." "PADDLE?" I asked, taken somewhat aback. "Yes" she said. "Paddle."

"Right," I said after a little pause. "Paddle, it is!" "She's lovely" said sister-in-law again. Dozed off to sleep and didn't wake up again before I left the room.

So at the end of August when I drive up to Whangerei to pick up my latest puppy, I shall carry with me the memory of that lovely smile as Paddle gained her new name. And I shall be looking forward to the trials and joys that a new life brings to a house.

May I wish to all, the happiest of Springs

Beulah

GENERAL MEETING:

Monday 8th August, 10am Totara Park
Duty Group: Jazz Listening

Mini speaker: Frances Sullivan ~
Oxfam Walk

Main Speaker: Barry Ferguson
~Floral Artist ~ "NZ to NY"

:At the closure of the meeting
there will be a catered lunch in
the lounge room (\$10pp) Payt
may be made on the day but
advance registration is
essential. Please phone
Frances : 422033 by 4th August.

Duty Group are asked to set up seating
and tea preparation before the meeting
and to clean up and reinstate the room
afterwards.

TRAVELERS' TALES

WWhere were you ten years ago on 9/11?

WWe were in Bukhara, with a large group
from New Zealand, led by Tim Round to
explore part of the historic Silk Road.

The journey had been long and tiring; we had
arrived the night before, and spent an enjoyable
day relaxing and sight-seeing. Returning to our
hotel, we saw the TV coverage of the day's events,
and shared the emotions evoked by it.

Tim, our organiser had led some meticulously
planned tours to less usual destinations, and prior
to this had always found alternative routes when
necessary. When our visas for Pakistan suddenly
became invalid we had many group meetings,
insurance policies were checked and we became
increasingly aware of our own precarious situation
and our proximity to Afghanistan.

Meanwhile we travelled by road, to marvel at the wonders of Samarkand and enjoy the scenic drive to Tashkent, where we spent a few uneasy days. Henry and I accepted the offer of evacuation by air and another group continued to Kyrgyzstan with Tim, only to find they could not enter China.

We were driven to Tashkent airport, where facilities and sanitation were basic. We waited anxiously at check-in and wondered if we would ever see our luggage again. In contrast to the Tashkent airport, the plane of Uzbekistan Airlines was up to international standards and the flight to Kuala Lumpur was uneventful. Waiting for a flight to Auckland, most of us were so exhausted that we slept on the floor of the airport. So endeth this particular travellers tale!

Daphne Halkyard

Schnauzer sitting in Blenheim



MMollie was fourteen weeks old, a black and white ball of fun and fire with sharp eyes, bushy eyebrows and a handsome beard. Caring for her needs for six weeks while her owner was in Europe was mainly a pleasure and I learned to close wardrobe doors properly if I did not want to see shoes, underwear or sweaters fly passed me, held firmly in the determined little mouth of a whirling miniature schnauzer.

To escape and play on the Sutherland Stream Reserve at the rear of the property was great fun and one day she attached herself to a woman walking her dog and went home with them. I was phoned by the Council, collected Mollie, and, relieved at finding her safe and sound, kissed her fondly and told her off soundly. She was not at all contrite but was pleased to be taken home where she climbed into her soft and warm bed and slept soundly for a couple of hours. It had been a long walk!

I felt that I should confess to my temporary neglect of care when my friend arrived home from Europe and she laughed, "I know about that" she said, "While in Italy the Council called my cell phone at 2am and told me to fetch my dog from Wither Road! I guessed what had happened and knew you would be on the run!" Secrets are hard to keep in this age of instant communication.

Iris Mee

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## **SPEAKERS AT OUR LAST MEETING**

### **Fish breeding at Mahurangi College**

**A**n entertaining and informative talk on fresh water fish was given by Iraq-born Dr Tagried Kurwie, the chief scientist for the Mahurangi Technical Institute research department.

Dr Kurwie has been involved with a number of fish breeding programmes and the Short Fin Eel is of real interest for her, as she endeavours to learn how to feed them here in New Zealand. The eels absorb their own egg sacs but seem unable to digest introduced food. However by acclimatising the eel in salt water, then fresh water, and keeping it warm, the condition of the eel is perfect for breeding purposes. When the female eel is 500kg, a hormone (which costs US \$350) is injected and the eel then takes 5-6 weeks to hatch the eggs. The scientists can now breed the Short Fin Eel all year round.

Dr Kurwie has just returned from being involved in an International scientific expedition to the Sargasso Sea, the womb of the European and American freshwater eels. The aim of the 12 scientists was to locate the breeding ground of the European eel. They measured the length and girth, and weighed the larvae and elvers. Eels are an endangered species in Europe and it is estimated that there will be only 5% left in 20 years. It is important that hatcheries are developed to take the pressure off the wild eels and Dr Kurwie is doing more than her share of investigation so that can happen here in New Zealand.

Mona Townson (this article first published in Rodney Times 26<sup>th</sup> June 2011)

*Perch, a fresh water fish, was introduced to New Zealand in 1860 from Ireland. Dr Kurwie has achieved a 95% successful hatching rate for these fish and now is able to market the eggs back to Ireland where they are able to produce the perch all year round, because of their cooler climate. The eggs are placed in bags of oxygen and posted to Ireland two weeks before they are due to hatch.*

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St Johns Ambulance Service

Alan Boniface, Chairman of our local St John Committee spoke to us about the Ambulance Service, its origin and its history. How fortunate we are to have access to such a wonderful service! In our Warkworth area St John established an ambulance station in November 1960 and after much hard work at gaining funds and grants, opened its new building on the main road in 2005. So many of us have been on the receiving end of their care.

There are six paid permanent positions allowing double crewing during the day and at night a volunteer crews alongside a staff member. A new ambulance purchased last October already has a milage showing 380,000km.! There is an average of five callouts per day, mostly involving a trip to North Shore Hospital.

We have just passed St John week and hopefully there has been a good response. Alan told us of the need for volunteers, about the Medic Alert system, and of the option to become a member or supporter of St John. A ride in an ambulance will normally cost you \$75. To be a Supporter, the cost is \$55 per year for a household and \$35 for a single person.

I have decided to join as a single person, and to gift my daughter's family their membership. (And I'm hoping that this will be my insurance for not requiring their service!) How about you?

Beulah Heaven

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**REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS**

**Jazz Listening**

We have had another interesting mix of topics at our group this year, including sharing our CDs of female vocalists, watching DVD clips, and listening to various jazz artists.

Bob Ward, always a fountain of knowledge and raconteur of humorous and fascinating stories about the artists, in March and April, took a look at "Significant Jazz Trumpet Players of the 20th Century". We listened to some rare and historic recordings from as far back as 1900, to the present day. It was also an interesting overview of the technological development in the recording industry, from early gramophone recordings to the CDs of today.

In June, we learned about Brazilian music and musicians, the development of Bossa Nova, and how it influenced the Jazz Scene in North America and the rest of the world.

July saw us having our own mid-winter gathering with drinks and nibbles, while we listened to the sound of the Rodney Jazz Revival, (all but one, members of our group), as they played a selection of Jazz Standards. Who says learning can't be fun?

Val Couling

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H Istory



Our group is no longer confined to the Medieval era for our monthly gatherings. We are free to research and write on a subject that really interests us personally. The result has been that we all enjoy preparing our readings as never before.

In May Nigel Swaffield spoke on tradition being false. . . . for instance Scots' kilts and clans were not to be revered as ages old, but of the Victorian era! This led, as you can imagine, to heated discussion. The April talk was on Robert the Bruce, very thoroughly researched by Linda Moore, and extremely interesting. In May the group were all asked to bring Trivia. . . . this proved to be so trivial that none of the six people present can remember what they themselves spoke about. In June I researched and wrote on the Highland Clearances which resulted in the Gaelic-speaking Sutherland Scots emigrating here to Waipu.

Our group are first class listeners and speakers, thoroughly enjoying each other's' company.

Anne Todd

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**Local History**



Last year we spent three months on the history of Matakana Village so this year we extended our studies to the outlying areas of Big Omaha Valley; the

"gum flats" ( i.e. Omaha Flats and Point Wells ); Takatu and Tawharanui; Glen Eden River and Lower Matakana (Sandspit). Invited speakers were Carol Ramage who told us of the farming activities of the Meiklejohn family, and Bob Bell spoke of the establishment of Lemora Wine by the Migounoff family. Members have otherwise done the research and presented the results to the group.

In June we had our first session on the history of Kawau Island and this will probably be completed in July and then suggested topics are boatbuilding in the local area and the industries of Warkworth.

Some

Some of our members helped with the recording of items brought to the Matakana Heritage Day on June 19th. It was a highly successful event and the help was greatly appreciated. The variety of historical documents and photographs and family stories was fascinating.

Anthea McKergow

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NEW GROUPS

Attention Shakespeare Lovers

Valma Gidman would like to start a monthly Shakespeare study group, to study the plays and sonnets. Acting skills are not required but you should have your own Shakespeare copies. If you are interested please contact Valma on 425 9869 or vegidman@clear.net.nz

Petanque – Anyone interested?, Anyone got a petanque court? (For that matter, does anyone know the rules?)

Maybe this could be a summer activity. (I note that Ponsonby U3A play one morning and one evening a week – just whoever turns up apparently.)

Contact Iris Mee 4257934 or irismee@clear.net.nz

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**BOOK REVIEW**

*Case Histories* by Kate Atkinson is a combination of crime, mystery and humour, and tells the story of three crimes that took place in or around Cambridge (England) between the 1970's and 1990's and of how they all come to the attention of private investigator, Jackson Brodie in 2004.

The three cases involve a child who disappears when sleeping outside in a tent with her sister; a young woman who is stabbed to death whilst working temporarily for her father's law firm and an 18 year old mother who cannot cope with an unhappy marriage and the overwhelming feeling of being trapped.

These are not stories involving descriptions of violence, forensic evidence, police procedure, etc, but of the people involved and how events affected them. It is a very 'character driven' book.

Jackson Brodie is an ex-policeman, divorced with an eight year old daughter that he sees on weekends. Like so many detectives in popular novels, he is a bit world-weary, gets too involved with the characters and has not been too successful as a private investigator. One of the 'laugh out loud' moments in the book is when Jackson is asked by an elderly South African woman to find her lost cat. The only problem is that her cat is called 'Nigger' and she cannot understand why the idea of Jackson walking around the neighbourhood shouting "Nigger" might be difficult.

By the end of the book, a fine thread connecting the three cases is revealed, but you have to read the book to find out how the pieces of the puzzle fall together.

*Case Histories* was so successful that it was followed up by two more Jackson Brodie books: *One Good Turn* and *When Will There Be Good News*. All three have been made into a TV series by the BBC.

Sylvia Diprose

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Sheilagh Sutherland, Geoffrey Bowes and Jane Managh to U3A Warkworth and hope that you enjoy our company and our interest groups.

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| STUDY GROUP                | Convenor         | Phone    | Time       | Date | August                                    | Date | September                                |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------|------------|------|-------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ancient History</b>     | Jim McKinlay     | 422-9063 | 9:30 a.m.  | 5th  | Infrastructure in Ancient Greece and Rome | 2nd  | Daily Life in Ancient Greece and Rome    |
|                            |                  |          |            |      | 5 Apollo Pl Snells Beach                  |      | 26 Bertram St Warkworth                  |
| <b>Book Talk</b>           | Hilary Weymouth  | 422-6683 | 10:00 a.m. | 2nd  | Book reviews                              | 6th  | Book Reviews                             |
|                            |                  |          |            |      | 8 Pipi Lane Omaha                         |      | 99 Sharp Rd Matakana                     |
| <b>Current Affairs</b>     | Val Strachan     | 425-9497 | 2:00 p.m.  | 18th | 5/99 Hauiti Dr Warkworth                  | 15th | 26 Bertram St Warkworth                  |
|                            |                  |          |            |      |                                           |      |                                          |
| <b>Food For Thought</b>    | Diane Parton     | 422-0166 | 1:30 p.m.  | 24th | Napkin Folding                            | 28th | Table Centrepieces/themed dinner parties |
|                            |                  |          |            |      | 8 Pipi Lane Omaha                         |      | 15 Willjames Ave Algies Bay              |
| <b>Jazz Listening</b>      | Val Couling      | 425-5766 | 2:00 p.m.  | 15th | History of Popular Music                  | 19th | Jazz Clarinet                            |
|                            |                  |          |            |      | 25 Gordon Craig Pl Algies Bay             |      | 5 Matakana Rd Warkworth                  |
| <b>Local History</b>       | Anthea McKergow  | 422-6219 | 10:00 a.m. | 23rd | Warkworth Museum                          | 27th | Warkworth Museum                         |
|                            |                  |          |            |      | TBA                                       |      | TBA                                      |
| <b>History</b>             | Chris Hoogerwerf | 425-5022 | 9:30 a.m.  | 19th | History of the Low Countries              | 16th | Alfred Dreyfus                           |
|                            |                  |          |            |      | 20 Kahurangi Pl Snells Beach              |      | 19 Katene Pl Snells Beach                |
| <b>Music Appreciation</b>  | Mary Miller      | 425-6301 | 1:30 p.m.  | 4th  | Rachmaninov                               | 1st  | The Piano                                |
|                            |                  |          |            |      | 14 Coquette St Warkworth                  |      | 26 Bertram St Warkworth                  |
| <b>Art Appreciation</b>    | Iris Mee         | 425-7934 | 10:00 a.m. | 3rd  | Patterns                                  | 7th  | Trip to Aiuckland Art Gallery            |
|                            |                  |          |            |      | 8 harbour View Rd Pt Wells                |      | Bus leaves at 9.30                       |
| <b>Play Reading</b>        | Margaret Krey    | 4226407  | 9:30 a.m.  | 9th  | Major Barbara                             | 13th | Major Barbara                            |
|                            |                  |          |            |      | 19 Katene Place Snells Beach              |      | 3 Heritage Lane Warkworth                |
| <b>Poetry Reading</b>      | Colleen Kangwai  | 425-4333 | 1:30 p.m.  | 17th | Henry Lawson                              | 21st | Environmental Poems                      |
|                            |                  |          |            |      | 882 Sandspit Rd Matakana                  |      | TBA                                      |
| <b>History of Medicine</b> | Sue Stevenson    | 422-0585 | 2pm        | 11th | Development of Brain Surgery              | 8th  | Medieval Medicine –Priscilla Lowry       |
|                            |                  |          |            |      | 641 Pukapuka Rd Mahurangi West            |      | 441 Mahurangi West Rd Mahurangi W        |
|                            |                  |          |            |      |                                           |      |                                          |

**COMMITTEE 2011**

Secretary: Chris Hoogerwerf 425 5022  
 Groups Director: Maggie Power 425 7427  
 Archivist: Joan Earl-Daniels 425 8827  
 Social: Valma Gidman 425 9869  
 Almoner: Chris Hoogerwerf 425 5022  
 New Member Liaison: Shirley Shirley 422 7686

President: Beulah Heaven 425 6545  
 Treasurer: Frances Sullivan 422 2033  
 Membership: Sue Stevenson 422 0585  
 Newsletter Editor: Iris Mee 425 7934  
 Speakers: ( Pam Bosch 425 6384 and  
 ( Beulah Heaven 4256545