



U3A WARKWORTH

P O Box 520
Warkworth

Learning is forever



Winter June - July 2011

NEWSLETTER - From our President - Beulah Heaven

I have just threaded a needle!
Without glasses, without a magnifying glass even!

Anyone who knows me knows I don't darn, embroider or sew. In my student days my friends pleaded to put up hems or sew on buttons for me, just to avoid looking at the kak-handed way I tried to do things. Nowadays, without those friends, I tend to wait until I have so few buttons on things that they go straight to Hospice. So it was with considerable surprise that when a new jacket lost a button, and I found said button, had a rush of blood to the head and searched out a needle and thread of reasonable colour, that I found I could see the eye of the needle.

What I'm really saying is, 'Thank God for Southern Cross!' I've had cataracts removed and suddenly I can wear normal sunglasses again. And the remarkable gift of better sight has been restored to me.

I've always donated a little something to the Fred Hollows' Foundation. But I stopped donating to the Salvation Army after they closed their school children's camps. And now the beneficiary of my small enough beneficence will have to be Fred Hollows' Foundation or the Foundation for the Blind. My sight was never all that bad, but better sight has been such a revelation to me that I am overcome by the thought of those who don't have Health Insurance.

What an absolute miracle for those people who are blind or so close to it, and are suddenly able to see again. And in some places it is being done for such a modest sum that to be able to help them is indeed a privilege. My gratitude is huge! I have indeed seized the day!

Preparations for winter are everywhere and we've had our first fires. The hens are moulting. Warm jackets are out of the closet. Jim Hickey tells us Jack Frost is about. So it's a good opportunity to join an extra U3A group and make some new friends.

At our August meeting, however, we are going to celebrate Spring!! We'll have our normal meeting but there will be a partially sponsored lunch. It will cost members \$10 each and we would like to get numbers and commitment as soon as possible. If it is easy for you, you may pay your \$10 at the June meeting. (refundable if you have to cop out). We plan to use the same caterer who was so popular at our last year's Christmas function. As the very switched-on Scrabble Group has booked our normal Christmas meeting spot we have decided to celebrate the Spring instead.

All good wishes, and keep your umbrella handy.

Beulah

GENERAL MEETING

Monday 13th June 2011 at 10a.m.

Totara Park Community Hall, Melwood Drive, Warkworth

Duty Group – Food for Thought – Convenor Diane Parton - Ph 422 0166

The hall will be open to allow the Duty Group to prepare the seating in the Games Room at 9.45 and set up and serve morning tea. Please also clean up and reinstate the room after the meeting.

Meeting Programme:-

09.45	Duty Group set up
10.00	General Business
10.30	Mini Speaker – Alan Boniface – St John's Ambulance
10.45	Morning Tea
11.00	Guest Speaker - Paul Decker of the Mahurangi Technical Institute
1200	Closure

Next Meeting - Monday August 8th at 10a.m. and there is a catered lunch to follow the meeting – register and/or pay the \$10 pp charge at the June meeting.

Duty Groups for the 2011

Feb 14	Ancient History
Apr 11	Book Talk
Jun 13	Food for Thought
Aug 08	Jazz Listening
Oct 10	Local History

Welcome to New Members

We are pleased to welcome two new members, Ellen Williams and Marjorie Gould.

Our Treasurer is Baffled

On 27th January someone paid their \$20 subscription online giving a reference of 0480/4800000000/002 but there was no name. If this could be you, please check your bank records and contact Frances Sullivan-Phone 422-2033

RECENT SPEAKER - IN SEARCH OF THE TAIKO

At the April meeting the main talk was given by Mrs Linda MacDonald, from Hoteo North, well known in the district as a fig and quince lifestyle orchardist. Linda, a former secondary school Biology teacher, gave a vivid account of her trip to the Chatham Islands with the “2003 Taiko expedition”, as a volunteer under the Royal Society of New Zealand Teacher Fellowship scheme. The Taiko (*Pterodroma magentae*) is the world’s most endangered seabird, with probably only a few hundred individuals existing. This critically endangered petrel nests only in the Chathams in burrows in the ground, thus making it vulnerable to introduced predators. Linda volunteered to work at the Taiko field camp (a group of leaking, cold corrugated iron sheds in a hard to access location in a remote corner of the Chathams), at the beginning of the Taiko season (September/October) when the petrels return from the sea to establish/refurbish their burrows, before going out to sea to feed, and then return to nest in November.



As Linda described her field work, which took place at night (when the birds come in to land), we mentally felt the fierce gusts of wind, the driving rain, and donned wet weather gear, gumboots, over-trousers, parkas, and many layers of clothing, to keep the cold of the Chathams at bay. A bird is initially attracted by a search light beam, and when seen, hand held torches are focussed on the bird inducing it to land nearby in the scrub and bush. Once captured the bird is tagged (if new), a blood sample may be taken (to work out its family relatives), and if appropriate a small transmitter is attached so its burrow can be located. The goal of the research and work is to understand the birds’ biology and to help numbers to increase long term by protecting habitats.

An interesting footnote is how the species name (*magentae*) of this petrel arose. A Spanish ship “The Magenta” sailing midway between New Zealand and Chile in the south Pacific in the mid-nineteenth century saw and shot an unknown petrel seabird. The specimen was subsequently exhibited in a Spanish museum after taxidermy, but no other similar birds have ever been reported. DNA profiling of the Spanish museum exhibit and the Chatham Islands Taiko recently showed they are the same bird. Hence the name *Pterodroma magenta*. May they go forth and increase.

Dr A Robertson

Some Words of Wisdom from Mahatma Gandhi

No matter how insignificant the thing you have to do, do it as well as you can, give it as much of your care and attention as you would give to the thing you regard as most important. For it will be by those small things that you will be judged.

Religions are different roads converging to the same point. What does it matter that we take different roads so long as we reach the same goal?

The straight path is as difficult as it is simple. Were it not so, all would follow the straight path.

OUR GROUPS REPORT

Current Affairs



Our group started the year with about 18 members and there is sometimes limited time for us to explore in depth each subject raised. However, we manage to have some vigorous debates on a number of topics and there's always food for thought to chew over afterwards.

We sometimes get out into the community to get a more in-depth understanding of certain issues - for instance, last year we visited the Omaha Marae and the Mahurangi Technical Institute. Since members often raise the knotty problems of 'crime and punishment' we are endeavouring to get someone from the Corrections Department to come and talk to us. (Our plan to visit Poremoremo Prison met with a definite 'no!')

Anybody interested in joining our group is welcome to get in touch with the convenor Val Strachan – Phone 425 9497
Val Strachan

Food for Thought



In April we visited the Honey Centre and Ransom's Winery. At the Honey Centre we enjoyed a very informative talk, interspersed with tastings of mead, honey liqueurs, and a wide range of honeys. We also learnt about the antiseptic properties of certain manuka honeys, and some of the wide range of honey products. For afternoon tea we relaxed at the Winery with a glass of wine or coffee and a shared platter of tasty treats.

In our programme for the year we have aimed for variety, flavour and interest. The meetings include outside visits; some presentations in homes; a themed lunch (similar to the Japanese lunch last year which was a great success) and hopefully a demonstration by a chef.

Two new members joined the group this month. However we are still a small group and would love more members to join us. For more information phone or email the convenor, Diane Parton – Phone 422 0166 or parton.a@xtra.co.nz
Diane Parton

Ancient History



The Ancient History group is just completing a very interesting set of presentations and discussion. We decided to have a comparative look at various aspects of life and infrastructure in Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome - education, monumental and official architecture, food, and Rome in Ancient Turkey. The talks were well researched and presented, and wide ranging discussions followed. The final talk in the series is set for our May meeting, and we will then determine our programme for the next few months - members note to come along with ideas about this! We were sorry to hear last month that one of our members, Rita Rowsell, had had a reasonably serious motor accident, but it was a relief to learn that she was by that time recovering with a family member. Looking forward to your being at our next meeting, Rita. We have 17 in our group, and last month we had a visitor

who may decide to join us when he returns from a current overseas trip. This is about the membership limit for the group, as accommodation at our venues is limited.

Jim McKinlay

STUDY GROUP	Convenor	Phone	Time	Date	June	Date	July
Ancient History	Jim McKinlay	422-9063	9:30 a.m.	3rd	No Information –refer to convenor	1	No Information –refer to convenor
					No Information –refer to convenor		No Information –refer to convenor
Book Talk	Hilary Weymouth	422-6683	10:00 a.m.	7th	Book reviews	5th	Book Reviews
					45 Ashmore Cres Warkworth		15 Willjames Ave Algies Bay
Current Affairs	Val Strachan	425-9497	2:00 p.m.	16th	35 Alnwick St Warkworth	21st	19 Jade River PI Warkworth
Food For Thought	Diane Parton	422-0166	1:30 p.m.	22nd	Jellies	27th	Chocolate
					54 Ashton Rd Whangateau		A visit to Bennets of Mangawai
Jazz Listening	Val Couling	425-5766	2:00 p.m.	20 th	Brazilian Influence on Jazz	18th	Live Jazz on a Winter's Afternoon
					25 Gordon Craig PI Algies Bay		25 Gordon Craig PI Algies Bay 2-5pm
Local History	Anthea McKergow	422-6219	10:00 a.m.	28th	Kawau Island	26th	Kawau Is
					54 Ashton Rd Whangateau		54 Ashton Rd Whangateau
History	Chris Hoogerwerf	425-5022	9:30 a.m.	17th	The Highland Clearances	15th	William and Mary
					45 Ashmore Dr Warkworth		45 Ashmore Dr Warkworth
Music Appreciation	Mary Miller	425-6301	1:30 p.m.	2nd	Visit to "The Met"	7th	The letter "S"
					8 Kowhai View Warkworth		1 Hibiscus Ave Snells Beach
Art Appreciation	Iris Mee	425-7934	10:00 a.m.	1 st	The Group of Seven	6th	Galleries in Te Hana and Kaiwaka
					17 View Rd Warkworth		Bus leaving Warkworth at 9.30am
Play Reading	Margaret Krey	4226407	9:30 a.m.	14th	The Outside Edge	12th	Major Barbara
					3 Mason Heights Warkworth		19 Katene PI Snells Beach
Poetry Reading	Colleen Kangwai	425-4333	1:30 p.m.	15th	Landscape	20th	Gabriela Mistral
					19 Panui Tce Snells Beach		12B Amanda Lane Snells Beach
History of Medicine	Sue Stevenson	422-0585	2pm	9th	GP's	14th	Nursing
					45 Ashmore Cres Warkworth		35 Alnwick St Warkworth

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