



**U3A WARKWORTH** ~ *Learning is forever*

P O Box 520 Warkworth 0910

www.u3a.co.nz



## NEWSLETTER

*Easter : Apr-May 2012*

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### Chats from the Chair – Valma Gidman

**G**reetings all,

Well, at the ripe old age of eighty I have, quite suddenly, done some things I have never done before and found them quite exciting. Let me tell you about them.

As we had a free day recently, Ernie and I decided that, at last, we would go and see the refurbished Auckland Art Gallery. I contacted my sister and brother-in-law and arranged to meet them there. (Judy is a member of North-West U3A and we don't meet that often.) Then we decided that, instead of driving into the City, we would drive to Orewa and catch a bus (First No.1). With our Gold Card (First No.2) it cost us nothing and the Express bus got us into Wellesley Street in no time. Wandered up and down Queen Street for a while (quite lovely), then met for lunch at the Gallery. Lunch was nice but very expensive. One item I enjoyed was a "Treasure" consisting of ginseng, honey and smoked lavender! (First No.3).

We spent quite a while on Level 1, enjoying the art work donated to the Art Gallery by an American couple - (the Robertson's, I think) – who had visited New Zealand, enjoyed the country and the people and bequeathed their collection of over 160 original art works to the Auckland Art Gallery in gratitude. How's that for an act of altruism? I saw my first original Renoir (First No.4), which was my favourite I think. Then, (First No.5) we entered the box of mirrors! I will say no more about that except to recommend you try it too – an amazing experience!

The bus trip home was much more circuitous, but still enjoyable, and what we saved in petrol and parking costs made the adventure well worthwhile.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting, 16<sup>th</sup> April at Totara Park. Kia Ora.,

Valma

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### Have You Paid Your Subscription?

Subscriptions for the year 2012 are due and the Treasurer reports that only 50% have been paid to date. Receipt of the Newsletter and attendance at study groups is dependent on current membership. If you have not paid please send your subscription (\$20 single/ \$35 couple) to :

The Treasurer, U3A Warkworth, PO Box 520, Warkworth

## RECENT SPEAKERS

### GENERAL MEETING:

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012  
10am Totara Park

Duty Group: Art Appreciation

Mini speaker: Frances Sullivan

Main Speaker: Rae Roadley, journalist  
and author

"Love at the End of the Road" is a beautifully written account of how Rae, a city dweller originally, found love in the country. It is also the story of the historic house Batley on the Kaipara Harbour. Rae will be talking about her life and Batley - not to be missed!

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

Next general meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> June and the Play Reading group will be on duty.

Quentin Jukes from Homebuilders Family Services in Warkworth, explained the work that the organization does in North Rodney. He emphasized the importance of 'Communication' whether within a relationship between two people, or within a family.

The core service is the Family Support Programme where families can get help early in order to create solid foundations for relationships. The counselors use the strengths of families to help solve problems and encourage and mentor the families in order to build confidence and skills to cope with future 'challenges'. They work in the family's home, pacing the work and using a style of approach that best suits the family they are dealing with.

Other services provided are: Youth Counseling helped forty young people last year and Play Therapy is offered to primary age children who have a crisis. A Disability Information Service offers information, classes and support for people and a Boy's Programme for 7 – 10 year old males helps to change negative behaviour patterns. The Living Well on Your Income course and the Parenting course are of real value. Finally The Help Desk provides information to all people who need to know their legal entitlements and responsibilities relating to any benefit from the Superannuation to a Winz benefit.

Eight paid staff assisted by fifteen volunteers run the service which is 40% funded by government, the balance coming from Trusts and donations.

Mona Townson

### INTRODUCING GEOFFREY BOWES

Last year we welcomed Geoffrey Bowes to our U3A as a new member. This year our Committee has welcomed him as Treasurer.

Geoffrey's military career began when he graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1960 and served in Viet Nam and Borneo. He became a parachutist in the SAS (Special Air Service) and a pilot in the Army Air Corps rising to the rank of Colonel. At forty-two he retired from the army and assisted the Air Force as a Wing Commander with the specific task of raising funds for the RNZAF Museum at Wigram.

As the CEO of the Institute of Directors based in Wellington, Geoffrey was responsible for the training of about three hundred senior company directors over the fifteen years he was leading the organisation. He was then invited by the Commonwealth Secretariat to train people in developing countries to gain management skills, develop organisations to foster governance, and to put in place codes of conduct for directors.

He retired from his last directorship in 2009 and a year later moved from the Marlborough Sounds to Snells Beach

Iris Mee

## GROUP REPORTS

### Art Appreciation

What better way to start the New Year than with an away day south to the annual Sculpture



Exhibition at the Botanic Gardens in Manurewa? The day was perfect, not too hot or cold, – like Goldilock’s porridge it was “just right”. Some of the sculptures were so beautiful that you had to touch and feel the smoothness or the texture of their finish. As always the gardens were lovely and well-tended, and, tucked away we found a sheltered area of vibrant hanging begonias which were quite magnificent.

Beulah, Pam and Carmen share a garden seat with “Bird Woman”

Priscilla Lowry’s presentation of “Food as Depicted in Art” kept us enthralled at our at home meeting in March. A professional art historian specialising in the mediaeval period, Priscilla never fails to inform, entertain and remind us that it takes time to read those medieval paintings. The closer the attention and observation, the more you not only see but understand the hidden meanings. Reading the pictures is a learned skill.

Iris Mee



### Ancient History



Field trip to Ruapekapeka and the Mid-North.

On one of February's few sunny mornings, twenty members of the Ancient History and Local History groups led by Jim McKinlay headed north for what was to be a fascinating day to briefly study two totally different men and their legacies.

The first man was Te Ruki Kawiti (1770s to 1854) of Ngati Hine, a prominent Maori Rangatira, who from his youth was trained in leadership and warfare. He and Hone Heke were the most vigorous northern maori leaders who resisted British policies as they affected Maori. He was the military design genius responsible for Ruapekapeka Pa.

Our journey also exposed a few of the significant achievements of the second man in our study, Nathaniel Wilson (1836-1919). He was the father of Portland Cement in New Zealand, progressing from his first Cement Works in Warkworth, to Limestone Island, and finally to the present major facility at Portland on the Whangarei Harbour. We also caught a glimpse of some of his other achievements spanning transport, power generation and housing.

Our first pause was near Kaiwaka, at one of the main overland portage points for canoes plying between Pakiri to the east and the Kaipara Harbour to the west. This is near the site of a major battle in 1825 when Hongi Hika and his Ngapuhi warriors exacted *utu* for their defeat 25 years earlier by Ngati Whatua, at Moremonui in the battle of Te Kai a te Karoro (The Seagulls Feast). In the 1825 Battle of Te Ika a Ranganui, it was Ngāpuhi 's turn for revenge. With their newly gained muskets, the Ngapuhi virtually wiped out the locals, leaving an almost de-populated space which was quickly filled by mainly european settlers seeking timber and farming land.

Just south of Whangarei, Jim pointed out our first glimpse of the eventual evolution of Nathaniel Wilson's achievements – it was the now greatly reduced limestone hill that is presently one of the two sources of limestone for the Golden Bay Cement Works at nearby Portland.

We stopped for lunch at the local museum in Jim's home town, Hikurangi and then explored the quarry that was the source of limestone, which with the local coal, supplied the raw materials for Wilson's Cement at Portland until the early 1960s. >

On the next leg of our trip north, we passed Puhipuhi which was the site of a small mercury mine that supplied the metal for use mainly in military detonators. It was closed after WWII but as was the case with many early mines, left a legacy of local heavy metal pollution.

The farm land we passed through was unseasonably green as we headed for our primary destination, Ruapekapeka Pa, situated high above SH1, to the east, between Towai and Kawakawa. We left our bus at the visitor car park and followed the path the British troops would have taken, up to the Pa site.

Ruapekapeka Pa was the site of one of the last military confrontations between British forces and Maori tribes in the War of the North, a conflict which erupted over British policies unfavourable to Maori.

The pa was the brainchild of Te Ruki Kawiti, who adapted traditional Pa designs to address the overwhelming firepower of the British. It was an ingenious 'bats nest' of tunnels, rifle pits and trenches surrounded by a mighty palisade.

In December 1845, the British arrived at Ruapekapeka Pa, to avenge a major loss to Kawiti and his warriors in a raid near Kaikohe. The pa successfully withstood siege and bombardment for several weeks before Kawiti made a tactical withdrawal, luring some of the British troops into a complex ambush behind the pa.

Eventually, after some time, a peace was forged between the two sides.

The ditch and bank defences of the Pa are still visible, along with one of Kawiti's cannons and the well that supplied water to the defenders. The earthen defences of the advanced British position are also still visible.

Many of Kawiti's Pa design ideas were copied by the British Army in WWI trenches.

We travelled home via Kawakawa where we paused for a 'comfort stop' at Hundertwasser's magical toilets and refreshments. We then took the inland road south through Ngawha, Maungakahia, Pakotai and Titoki with a final detour to catch a glimpse of another of Nathaniel Wilson's endeavours – one of New Zealand's earliest hydro electric power stations that he built to heat the kilns at his Portland Cement Works, and to supply electricity to Whangarei town.

It was a day we will all remember, thanks to the great research and guidance of Jim.

Alan Spicer.

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**T**he History Group has been a part of our U3A for about 10 years. The majority of the founding members are still there and we enjoy our monthly meetings in each other homes. We find interesting subjects from all over the world. From English kings and great Britishers to the Spice Trade, (English & Dutch), Alfred Dreyfus, Tulip Mania, and so on.

We lost some members this year and are looking forward to enlarge our Group again. You are more than welcome to visit us on the 3rd Friday of the month.

Chris Hoogerwerf, Convenor

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### **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

We are so pleased to welcome our new members and hope that you enjoy your time with us at general meetings and in our study groups.

Maurice Copeland, Gwenda Cruickshank, Christine Dormer, Don Dormer, Janette Falconer, Dagma Kammler, Barbara Lupton, Mavis Smeaton, Bob Stevenson, Pam Teare, Norbury Teare, Tricia Ketteringham and Stephanie Mellors.

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| <b>STUDY GROUP</b>              | <b>Convenor</b>  | <b>Phone</b> | <b>Time</b> | <b>Date</b>      | <b>April</b>                         | <b>Date</b>      | <b>May</b>                           |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Ancient History</b>          | Jim McKinlay     | 422-9063     | 9:30 a.m.   | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Stone Tools: A Clovis Point          | 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Refer to Convenor                    |
|                                 |                  |              |             |                  | 9 Bennett St Warkworth               |                  | Refer to Convenor                    |
| <b>Book Talk</b>                | Jenny Noakes     | 425 8647     | 10:00 a.m.  | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 83 Matakana Valley Road Matakana     | 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 65 Anderson Road Matakana            |
|                                 |                  |              |             |                  |                                      |                  |                                      |
| <b>Current Affairs</b>          | Val Strachan     | 425-9497     | 2:00 p.m.   | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 99 Sharp Road Matakana               | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 641 Pukapuka Road Mahurangi West     |
|                                 |                  |              |             |                  |                                      |                  |                                      |
| <b>Food For Thought</b>         | Diane Parton     | 422-0166     | 1:30 p.m.   | 25 <sup>th</sup> | Food intolerances                    | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Refer to Convenor                    |
|                                 |                  |              |             |                  | 441 Mahurangi West Rd Mahurangi West |                  | Refer to Convenor                    |
| <b>Jazz Listening</b>           | Val Couling      | 425-5766     | 2:00 p.m.   | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Bob Ward, the Musician               | 21 <sup>st</sup> | Jazz Jury – bring a CD               |
|                                 |                  |              |             |                  | 5 Matakana Rd Warkworth              |                  | 25 Gordon Craig Place Algies Bay     |
| <b>Local History</b>            | Anthea McKergow  | 422-6219     | 10:00 a.m.  | 24 <sup>th</sup> | Warkworth Medical History            | 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Refer to Convenor                    |
|                                 |                  |              |             |                  | Warkworth Museum                     |                  | Refer to Convenor                    |
| <b>History</b>                  | Chris Hoogerwerf | 425-5022     | 9:30 a.m.   | 20 <sup>th</sup> | Charles Augustine Putin              | 18 <sup>th</sup> | William II of Holland                |
|                                 |                  |              |             |                  | 20 Kahurangi Place Snells Beach      |                  | 8 WILSON RD WARKWORTH                |
| <b>Music Appreciation</b>       | Mary Miller      | 425-6301     | 1:30 p.m.   | 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Desert Island Discs - Pt 2           | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | La Traviata & History of La Traviata |
|                                 |                  |              |             |                  | 32A Rivendell Pl Warkworth           |                  | 14 Coquet St Warkworth               |
| <b>Art Appreciation</b>         | Iris Mee         | 425-7934     | 10:00 a.m.  | 4                | Whimsical Art                        | 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | I Wouldn't Call That Art             |
|                                 |                  |              |             |                  | 8 Harbour View Rd Pt Wells           |                  | 209 Sharp Road Matakana              |
| <b>Play Reading</b>             | Margaret Krey    | 422-6407     | 9:30 a.m.   | 10               | Separate Tables                      | 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Blithe Spirit                        |
|                                 |                  |              |             |                  | 5 Matakana Road Warkworth            |                  | 3 Mason Heights Warkworth            |
| <b>Poetry Reading</b>           | Lorna Laxon      | 422-562      | 1:30 p.m.   | 18               | The Poet Speaks of Art               | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Refer to Convenor                    |
|                                 |                  |              |             |                  | 54 Ashton Rd Whangateau              |                  | 5 Deerness Cres Algies Bay           |
| <b>Developments in Medicine</b> | Sue Stevenson    | 422-0585     | 2pm         | 26               | Scurvy                               | 24 <sup>th</sup> | Ca Cervix                            |
|                                 |                  |              |             |                  | 38 Kawau View Rd Snells Beach        |                  | 4 Mariners Grove Algies Bay          |
| <b>Shakespeare</b>              | Valma Gidman     | 425-869      | 2pm         | 17               | Hamlet                               | 15 <sup>th</sup> | Merchant of Venice                   |
|                                 |                  |              |             |                  | 38 Kawau View Rd Snells Beach        |                  | 9 Hexham St Warkworth                |